

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE, ASHTON UPON MERSEY

England & Wales · Charity number 1133105

## Details

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Other names	ST MARY MAGDALENE PCC, ASHTON ON MERSEY
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-12-03
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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Address	St. Mary Magdalene C of E Church 44 Moss Lane Sale M33 6GD
Phone	01612919283
Email	<a href="mailto:office@stmarysaom.org">office@stmarysaom.org</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.stmarysaom.org">www.stmarysaom.org</a>

## Activities

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

**Activities:** Provision of facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development. Promote Christian values and service by members of the church in and to the community, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole. Provide training and assistance for volunteers who are competent to assist clergy in providing Christian services.

## Classification

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

## Geography

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

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£590,204	£595,390	£586,040	14
2024-12-31	£641,631	£634,292	£591,226	14
2023-12-31	£528,591	£532,733	£579,980	20
2022-12-31	£483,276	£505,812	-	-
2021-12-31	£456,500	£428,266	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>THE REVEREND STEPHEN BRIAN RANKIN</b>	Chair	
ANN MCBURNEY		2016-04-24
Ada Adiuku-Brown		2024-04-28
BRIAN MACFADEN		2015-04-26
Dave Atkinson		2018-04-22
Elaine Christine Jones		2018-04-22
Frances Margaret Hyde		2021-05-02
HELEN ANNE JARVIS		2016-04-24
IAN THWAITES		2021-05-02
JEFFREY MCBURNEY		2015-04-26
JEREMY BARNES		2015-04-26
John Vincent		2024-04-28
Kai-Man Wong		2026-04-26
Karen MacMillan		2023-04-23
Martin Samangaya		2025-04-27
Matthew James Kay		2016-04-24
Michael Harrison		2026-04-26
Peter McIlhagger		2025-05-25
ROSEMARY GILLIAN SIGEE		
Rev Nathan James Gregory		2023-01-06
Rotimi Bajela		2023-04-23
Sarah Kostiuk-Smith		2025-10-20
Yorke Menzies		2023-04-23

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# Accounts

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# YEAR OF IMPACT

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1133105

# 20 25





# MESSAGE FROM NATHAN

This report is a yearly invitation for us to pause and recognise the ways God has been at work among us this year. As a church family, we have sought to remain deeply rooted in God, drawing strength and direction from his presence. We have continued to passionately pursue Jesus and his kingdom, allowing his priorities to shape our worship, our decisions and our mission. As I read the reports and snapshots of the year I am blown away, time and time again, by how it is your decision to live sacrificially, giving time, energy, and resources, that enables others to encounter Jesus' love for themselves. So as much as it is a celebration of what has been achieved, it is also a celebration of you.

Community is a big part of our churches and as you read through this you will get a sense of the vibrancy and authenticity of life we share. We are seeing some of the fruit of the Godly risks we take as we step out with bold faith, trusting God as we go. This is just a snapshot of all that Jesus is doing in and through you, these are your stories, so enjoy and give thanks to God with me for everything he is doing in our lives and the lives of those around us.

*Nathan*

**“THIS IS JUST A  
SNAPSHOT OF ALL  
THAT JESUS IS  
DOING IN AND  
THROUGH YOU,  
THESE ARE YOUR  
STORIES...”**





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# OUR IMPACT

# YEAR IN NUMBERS

## WORSHIP & SPIRITUAL LIFE

737

DIFFERENT WORSHIP SONGS SUNG

AVERAGE NUMBERS TUNING IN  
ONLINE

45

36

PRAYER GATHERINGS

AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE  
ACROSS COMMUNITIES

223

## COMMUNITY & CARE

181

PEOPLE ENGAGED IN

30

DISCIPLESHIP COMMUNITIES

41

PASTORAL VISITS

ATTENDING CONNECTIONS  
EVERY MONTH

35

59

SUMMER SHAKE UP EVENTS

187

PEOPLE SERVING ON

42

VOLUNTEER  
TEAMS

## OUTREACH & MISSION

# 620

JOINED US FOR EASTER

# 110

BIBLES GIVEN OUT

# 142

ENROLLED IN  
ENGLISH CLASSES

# 24

MISSIONS & CHARITIES  
SUPPORTED

# 102

ADULTS ENGAGED IN SWCUT  
CRAFT PROGRAMMES

# 1417

CELEBRATED CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S

## CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

CHILDREN ENGAGED IN SCHOOL  
SUPPORT THROUGH SWCUT

# 48

# 313

STUDENTS EXPERIENCED OUR  
EASTER: ALIVE! MISSION WEEK

# 92

FAMILIES ENGAGED  
IN CATERPILLARS

AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE  
FOR 0-16'S

# 61

# 51

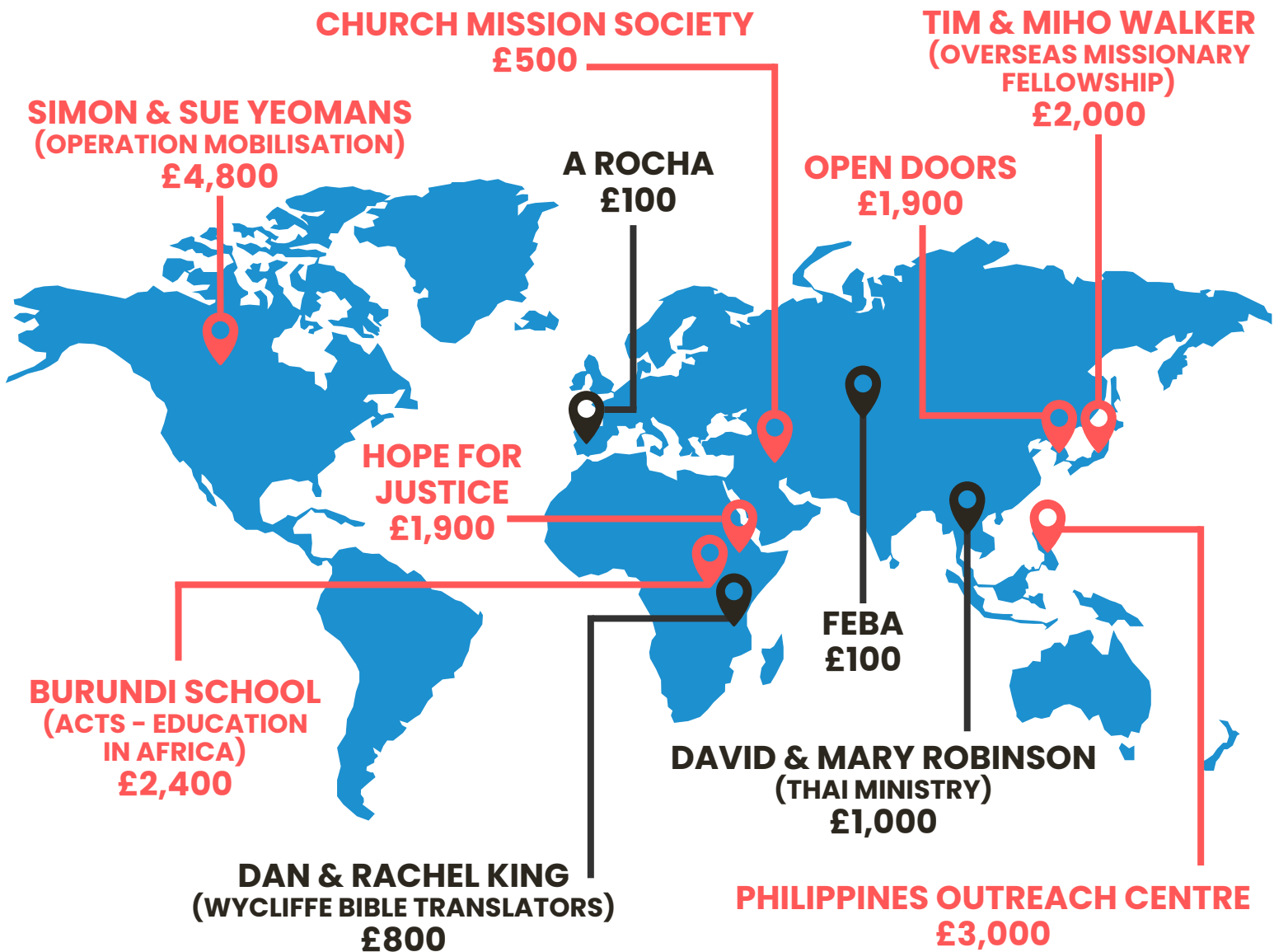
YOUNG PEOPLE REGULARLY  
ENGAGED WITH FUEL:FRIDAYS

# MISSION GIVING

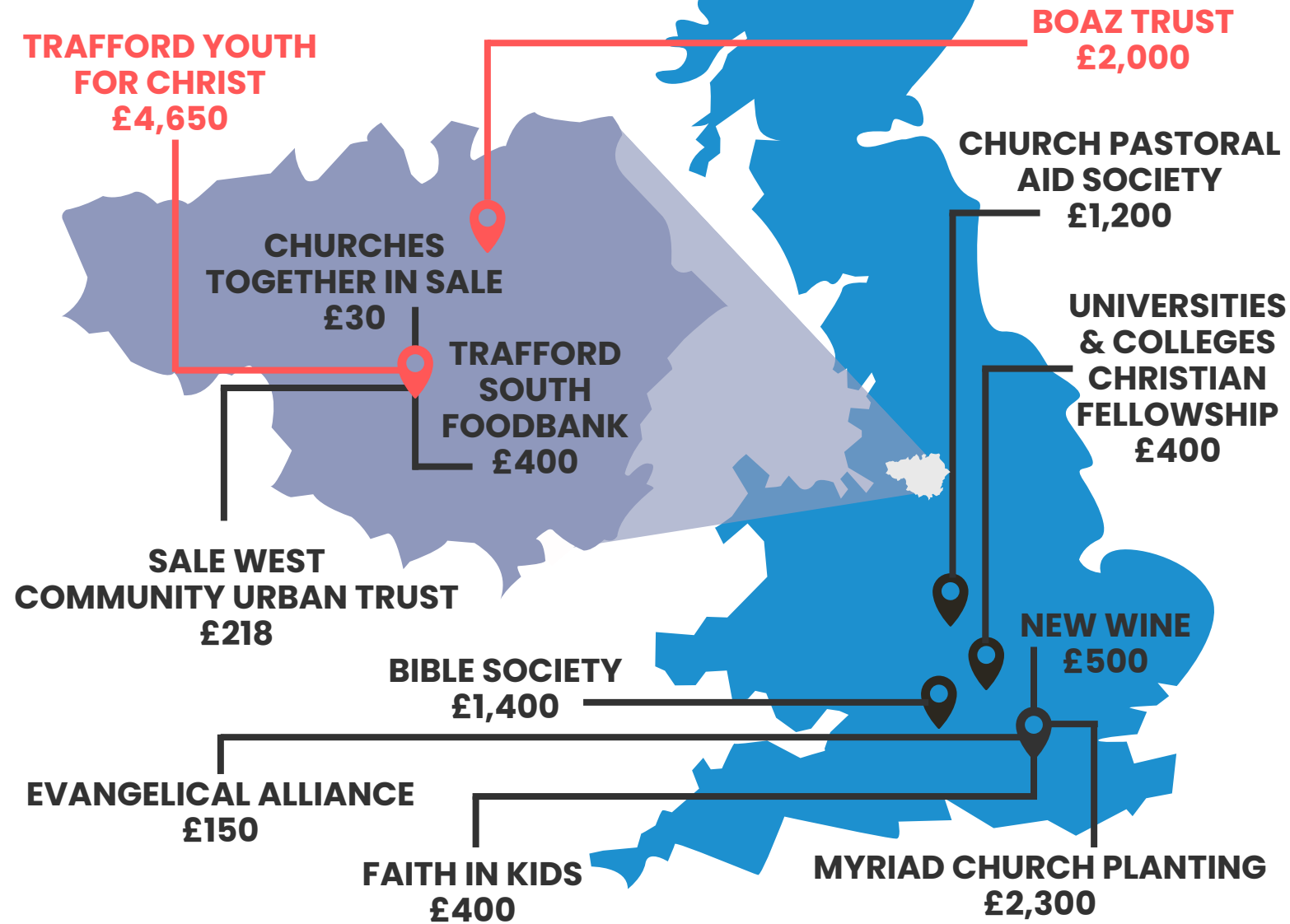
As a church we donate 10% of the giving we receive to missions, both here in the UK and overseas. We see this as our stewardship, or good management, of the money we receive from God, just as we encourage church members to steward their income.

This year we donated £32,148, which is 10% of the previous year's giving. This is where our support was donated in 2025. Our mission partners are shown in red.

## OVERSEAS MISSIONS



# UK MISSIONS



The Missions Committee oversees how we distribute these funds, together with the PCC. Most of the mission budget is given as regular support to organisations and individuals where there is a link with our church. We also retain some funds to allocate flexibly during the year.

From the Christmas Fair we also donated a total of £6,696:

- Acts - Education in Africa - Burundi School £658
- Philippines Outreach Centre £847
- Boaz Trust £1,074
- Trafford Youth for Christ £2,894
- Sale West Community Urban Trust £383
- Oasis Relief Zambia £840

We also gave a grant of £8,233 to Sale West Community Urban Trust.

# STORIES OF IMPACT

"I come here because the team are great! There is something different about this group compared to other toddler groups. I feel loved when I am here."

*(Caterpillars' parent)*

"I serve on the FUEL [youth] team as I love discipleship and helping people learn and grow more confident in God, and partly out of gratitude to God for all the leaders he placed in my life as a teenager and his telling me to pass it on. I have loved watching the group grow in knowledge, enthusiasm and in friendship. Not being with them each week, I see changes each time I attend. They are fun, welcoming and committed to God and becoming committed to each other. It is an honour to be part of the team."

*(Youth Team, FUEL Small Group Leader)*

All Nations feels like a big family. Even though people come from different backgrounds, we are united by our faith in God and our desire to grow closer to Him... we support and encourage one another, just like a family. We learn to love God more deeply and to live in a way that glorifies Him and blesses others. For me, it is a place where my faith grows and where I am constantly reminded to walk closely with God.

*(Lili, the All Nations congregation)*

"I like Junior Church because I enjoy all the games and playing with my friends. I like learning stories from the Bible."

*(Elizabeth, age 5)*

"[The best thing about volunteering is] meeting people from different cultures and backgrounds, watching them help and encourage each other and laughing together."

*(Sheila, volunteer for English Classes)*

"[Connections] is very low key and restful... a bright spot in a gloomy winter!"

*(Beryl on attending Connections)*

"I love meeting with friends [at FUEL] to discuss our faith and the troubles that might come with it."

*(Young person in FUEL)*

"As we shared our Alpha course from business to business through the centre of Sale, we were met with warmth and a genuinely positive response, growing both individually and as a team along the way. Now, as we gather in the open Hiya space in Stanley Square, we're discovering new opportunities to welcome passers-by, trusting that even though church planting isn't always a straight path, God is at work and more people will be drawn to hear the message of Jesus."

*(Danielle, Core Team for Faith Around The Table)*

"I have felt so welcomed and loved as part of the home group. I have been inspired by the Godly wisdom in the room, as well as the lived out faith and testimony. It feels such a safe space where I can be myself without judgement. I also feel able to explore gifting and calling. I'm grateful for the prayers of the group. It has helped us root securely within the fellowship and grow and learn."

*(Wes, Small Group member)*

"Our partnership with St Mary's Church is incredibly important to the life of our school. Through collective worship, and shared events, our pupils gain a deeper understanding of Christian values and the role of faith in the community. The relationship enriches both the spiritual life of the school and the sense of belonging our children feel within the wider parish."

*(Wayne Hitchcock, Headteacher of St Mary's Primary School)*

"[The English Classes] help me to improve my listening and speaking in English. The classes are detailed [and] look after the students with different levels of English. They have conversation class and practical class which are great [to immerse] the students in English learning scenarios that we definitely needed to improve our English."

*(Bryan, English Class Student)*

"[The best thing about volunteering is] meeting the students, making friends, and supporting them with English language and customs."

*(Kathryn, volunteer for English Classes)*

"I like spending time with friends close to God at FUEL."

*(Young person at FUEL)*

"We would like to say a big thank you to the [Faith Around the Table] team who run the coffee mornings here. Your friendly faces, kindness and the time you give really means a lot to everybody in the building. The coffee mornings create a positive, lovely atmosphere and are something people look forward to. Each time lifting their spirit and bringing people together. We really appreciate what you do!"

*(Staff from the Amblehurst Hotel)*

"From the moment I arrived, I was warmly welcomed and made to feel at home. What struck me immediately was how genuine and inviting the people were. I was not treated as an outsider, but as someone already valued. The love, kindness and authenticity of the church family reflected Jesus in a way I had never experienced before..."

...I can honestly say that coming to Sale West Community Church and connecting with the Urban Trust has changed my life. I cannot imagine my life without my church family or my relationship with Jesus. I truly believe He has saved me from many hardships and continues to transform me in mind, body and spirit. I am forever grateful to have found this community, and to have come to know the love of Christ through it."

*(Courtney, Sale West Community Church)*

# MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

## SALE WEST MINISTRIES

WRITTEN BY CAROL DODGSON

As we take a moment to reflect on 2025, we can clearly see how graciously God has been at work among us. What an encouragement this is to us all.

Two particular areas stand out:

**Discipling** – Our ladies' Bible Study group and men's Pizza and Prayer have become foundational spaces for going deeper with God this year. There is a beautiful culture of faithfulness, Scripture, prayer, love, honesty and humility in these gatherings, creating an environment where God is at work and lives are being shaped.

**Community Connections** – Our relationship with Firs Primary School, serving the Sale West estate, has grown significantly this year as we began delivering TLG coaching. This provides a safe and caring space where a child is listened to, valued and encouraged to believe in themselves. Through consistent one-to-one time with our trained volunteer coaches, children are building confidence, resilience and the skills they need to thrive. It is not about fixing problems, but about helping each child recognise their strengths and know that they truly matter.



## DISCIPLESHIP COMMUNITIES

WRITTEN BY ANN MCBURNEY

One highlight of the last year has been seeing the growth in relationships with God and each other within our Discipleship communities. The care and support within groups is a joy to see, alongside a longing to grow in faith together whatever age and stage we are at.

In June 2025 Discipleship Communities took on a new look for a month. Alongside some of our usual small groups and huddles we had one off and weekly events including photography sessions, garden picnics, different styles of prayer, treasure hunt, mind mapping and various courses in church - these are just the ones I saw in action or heard lots about.

These activities were maybe not all in the original plan, but after talking to small group members during and after the events it was a great way to mix and fellowship with other groups and individuals that we rarely cross paths with on a typical Sunday.

**“AN HOUR ON A SUNDAY ISN'T ENOUGH, I NEED TO STRENGTHEN MY BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING THROUGH DISCUSSION AND IN RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS DRAW CLOSER TO JESUS.”**



**“BEING PART OF A SMALL GROUP HELPS ME TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE BETTER. IT BRINGS ME CLOSER TO JESUS THROUGH THE DISCUSSIONS WE HAVE AND ALSO BRINGS OUT THINGS I HADN'T THOUGHT OF. THEN THERE IS THE FUN, FRIENDSHIPS AND FOOD!!”**

# CHURCH PLANTING THROUGH MYRIAD

WRITTEN BY STEVE RANKIN

At its heart, the Myriad Learning Pathway equips ordinary Christians to plant and grow thriving worshipping communities. It combines spiritual formation, practical training, and strong relational support, helping New Worshipping Communities grow well and stay healthy long term. Our recent cohort of seven teams (40 people) brought together lay leaders and clergy united by a desire to see new expressions of church take root.

## 1.

### Pathway Gatherings – Five Key Themes

Over two and a half years, teams attend five two-day Gatherings exploring different stages of church planting, from vision and team-building to growth and multiplication. Sam, vicar of St Barnabas, Hattersley, says,

**“BEING PART OF MYRIAD HAS BEEN SO HELPFUL. IT’S ASKED US THE RIGHT QUESTIONS AND KEPT US ACCOUNTABLE TO THEM, WHICH HAS REALLY HELPED US DEVELOP A HEALTHY CULTURE IN OUR CHURCH. IT’S BEEN SO BENEFICIAL FOR US — AND WE’VE LOVED BEING PART OF IT.”**

This mix of reflection and accountability builds clarity and confidence.



*Church Planting teams at a Myriad Gathering*

## 2.

### Mentoring and Coaching

Each team lead receives regular mentoring from experienced church planters, offering practical, real-world support.

**“MENTORING HAS BEEN ONE OF THE BEST PARTS OF MYRIAD... THE MENTORS HAVE BEEN KIND AND GENEROUS BUT ALSO THOUGHT-PROVOKING, SUPPORTING AND HELPING US ON THIS JOURNEY.”**

*(ANDREW, GLO, OFFERTON)*

# 3.

## Peer Learning and Networking

Teams connect regularly, sharing challenges and successes.

**“I’M A MATHS TEACHER AND TO BE PART OF THIS IS SUCH AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE. I’M SO PRIVILEGED TO BE AMONGST OTHER PEOPLE, OTHER PLANTS, THAT ARE HAVING THE SAME COMPLEXITIES AND DIFFICULTIES AND GROWING TOGETHER IN WHAT WE CAN DO FOR OUR COMMUNITIES. I’M REALLY BLESSED TO BE A PART OF THIS.”**

*(TYRONE, SALE WEST COMMUNITY CHURCH)*

# 4.

## Contextual Learning

Myriad is not one-size-fits-all. Churches learn within their own settings. The All Nations NWC grew from a small discipleship group into a worshipping community of over 30 adults, many coming to faith and being baptised.

**“WE’VE BEEN ABLE TO THINK CAREFULLY AND STRATEGICALLY ABOUT WHAT GOD IS ASKING US TO DO IN THE COMMUNITY. WE HAVE REALLY BENEFITTED FROM BEING A PART OF THE MYRIAD HUB, IT IS JUST FULL OF LIFE, AND WE LOVE COMING TO IT, IT IS SO ENCOURAGING, AND IT HELPS TO POINT US AND KEEP US ON TRACK WITH OUR VISION.”**

*(KEWAL & JOY DASS, ALL NATIONS )*

# 5.

## Ongoing Formation

Formation is woven throughout the pathway through prayer, reflection, and theology.

**“AFTER COVID WE WERE DOWN TO JUST 4 OR 5 PEOPLE, BUT SINCE WE’VE BEEN ON MYRIAD WE’RE UP TO AROUND 25 ADULTS AND, REGULARLY, 15-20 KIDS... WE’VE ALL SEEN MASSIVE STRIDES FORWARD – IT’S VERY EXCITING!”**

*(CAROL, SALE WEST COMMUNITY CHURCH)*

# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

## WRITTEN BY JULIE LOYND

For the CYF Team, our Ministry Highlights over the past year have been continuing to invest in relationships and being able to broaden our outreach work in schools and the local community.

In April 2025 we transformed the church to run our first ever Easter Schools week. We invited over 300 children and their teachers from local primary schools to come and experience the resurrection stories and learn about the key themes. Children were invited to join our reporter as she investigated the claims of Jesus' resurrection, meeting Mary Magdalene, Thomas, Peter and Cleopas' wife to hear their story of their encounters with Jesus. It was an amazing week and enabled us to deepen our relationships with the children and staff at the schools. Since then we have seen an increase in our RE lessons, covering topics such as baptism, calling to ministry, why the Bible is important and ordination. Forest Park Prep invited Julie to be their guest speaker at their Prize Giving service and in September Julie, Janet, Yona and Nathan hosted our first ever coffee morning at St Mary's School to welcome the reception parents.

**PHOTOS (clockwise):**  
*Our "Easter Alive!" cast;*  
*Investigating the evidence with Thomas;*  
*Sitting around the campfire on the beach with Peter;*  
*Visiting Cleopas' home to hear his wife's story.*



Over the last year our 0-4's ministry has grown with the Caterpillars team working hard to build a ministry that serves not only the youngest members of our community, but their parents and carers as well. Their ability to come alongside new mums, dads, grandparents, and other carers has created a safe space for families to gather, feel supported and build friendships with others. Alongside Caterpillars, the team have continued to work alongside families through Tiddlers on a Sunday morning and in February 2026, as a result of the hard work and investment in both ministries, our 0-4's community had their first outreach community event seeing Caterpillars and Tiddlers families meet together for a 'Winter Welly Walk' at Dunham. It was so much fun with fresh air and good conversation while the little ones explored and puddle jumped, fuelled by Janet's endless supply of biscuits!



In the summer at New Wine Festival it was a joy to see community build and friendships form with our children and FUEL. Since then FUEL has grown with increased outreach at church and in local schools. 'FUEL: After School' launched in the Autumn, offering the church cafe as a space for young people to hang out together after school with free hot chocolate and toast. Our lunchtime club at Ashton On Mersey School, was competing with the most popular day in the canteen, "Chip Friday", so we boldly changed the day and have seen an increase in numbers since then. We have welcomed new faces to FUEL: Sundays, and our FUEL: Small Group for Years 10+ is now well established. This spring our FUEL family is looking forward to lots of fun as they go away on retreat with other churches from the Diocese. We are starting to see the real fruit of having a bigger staff team and we are so thankful to God, to our teams and are super excited for the year ahead!



**PHOTOS (anti-clockwise):**  
*Muddy fun on the Winter Welly Walk; FUEL experiencing life as the persecuted church with Open Doors; one of our young people sharing her testimony with others at a youth event; fun at New Wine.*

# OUR YEAR IN PICTURES





# DREAMING

# FORWARDS

**WRITTEN BY NATHAN GREGORY**

As I've read through this year's report, I've found myself smiling again and again. It's full of stories that show how deeply rooted in God this church family is. You can see it in the way people have served, prayed, given, encouraged, and quietly carried one another. You can see it in the way so many of you passionately pursue Jesus and His kingdom in the everyday, not just the big moments. It's been a year of God at work, sometimes in ways we expected, often in ways that surprised us, always in ways that remind us of His faithfulness.

Naturally, the question that follows is: "So what's next? What's the big new vision?" And the honest answer is... it's more of the same. More faithfulness. More generosity. More discipleship. More stepping out with bold faith where the Spirit leads. More building authentic community where people are welcomed, known, and loved. And more of the gentle, everyday witness that helps people discover Jesus for themselves. It might not sound flashy, but until the Spirit says differently we will continue on the same course paying particular attention to investing in children and youth, supporting church planting and our worshipping communities and underpinning everything we do with the discipleship pathway.

The picture that keeps coming to mind is a sailing boat. When a boat is heading in the same direction as the wind, you don't need to tack back and forth, fighting for every bit of progress. You make small, thoughtful adjustments to the sails and let the wind carry you forward. When the wind is behind you, the movement is smoother, steadier, and more responsive.



This year, it feels like the wind of the Spirit has been behind us. Not in a loud or dramatic way, but in that quiet, steady push that comes when a church is aligned with God's heart. We haven't needed to reinvent ourselves. Instead, we've been invited to live sacrificially, to pay attention, to keep trimming the sails, and to stay responsive to where the Spirit is already leading.

As we deepen our worship, strengthen our community and invest in our discipleship we also keep carrying the hope of Jesus into our communities, workplaces, schools, and friendships. We long to see more people encounter Jesus. We long to be a church where invitation feels natural, where welcome is genuine, and where faith is shared with humility and courage.

So the vision for the coming year is simple: keep going. Keep loving, serving, praying, giving, witnessing, and trusting. Keep making small adjustments to the sails. Keep in step with the Spirit. And keep expecting that God will continue to work in us and through us as we follow Him together.

**“SINCE THIS IS THE  
KIND OF LIFE WE  
HAVE CHOSEN, THE  
LIFE OF THE SPIRIT,  
LET US MAKE SURE  
THAT WE DO NOT  
JUST HOLD IT AS AN  
IDEA IN OUR HEADS  
OR A SENTIMENT IN  
OUR HEARTS, BUT  
WORK OUT ITS  
IMPLICATIONS IN  
EVERY DETAIL OF  
OUR LIVES.”**

**GALATIANS 5:25 (MSG)**





# ANNUAL REPORTS

# PCC

# REPORT

**WRITTEN BY EMMA ATKINSON**

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of working with the incumbent, the Revd. Stephen Rankin, in furthering the mission of the church in the whole parish: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church and Church Centre. PCC members and Deanery Synod representatives are elected each year at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Roles on the PCC are then elected at the first PCC meeting following the APCM.

<b>ROLE</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>OFFICE HELD</b>
Incumbent	Revd. Steve Rankin	BM
Associate Vicar	Revd. Nathan Gregory	Chair, S, F
Head of Operations (co-opted)	Emma Atkinson	PCC Secretary, HR, BM, P
Readers	Brian Macfaden	PCC Treasurer, S, F
	Outi Rankin	
Pastoral Workers	Mags Holt	
	Karen MacMillan	
	Ann McBurney	P
Wardens	Peter McIlhagger	S, F
	Yorke Menzies	S, F
Deanery Synod	Dave Atkinson	
	Avtar Diggwa	S, F
	Matthew Kay	
	Jeff McBurney	F, P
	Rosemary Sigee	HR
	Ian Thwaites	M
Elected members	Ada Adiuku-Brown	
	Rotimi Bajela	
	Jeremy Barnes	F
	Joan Heys	F, BM
	Frances Hyde	Vice Chair (Sep 25), S, F, M
	Helen Jarvis	Vice Chair, F
	Elaine Jones	BM, HR, P
	Sarah Kostiuk-Smith	PCC Treasurer (Jan 26), F, BM
	Claire Nathan	
	Martin Samangaya	
	John Vincent	
Co-opted members	Maureen Cain	BM
	Barbara Harper	HR

*(S - Standing committee, F - Finance committee, HR - HR committee, M - Missions committee, BM - Butterflies Management committee, P - Policies Review committee)*

## **PCC MEETINGS**

9 PCC meetings took place during 2025. The APCM took place in April and was held in-person. In addition to these meetings, the Standing Committee met twice. Items discussed at the PCC meetings included:

- Safeguarding reports
- Mission giving
- Approval of youth events
- Maintenance
- Approval of policies
- Ministry updates
- Ephesians Fund
- Butterflies Pre-School
- Church planting
- School Governor appointments

A change in the Benefice Trustees was made as Brian Macfaden stepped down from this role and Martin Samangaya was appointed in his place.

## **BUTTERFLIES PRE-SCHOOL**

It was with great sadness that the PCC made the difficult decision to permanently close Butterflies Pre-School in 2025. Despite ongoing efforts by both the Butterflies Staff and the Management Committee, it became no longer viable to remain open. Staff and children were notified during August. The PCC would like to extend their thanks to those who have served on the management committee and helped steer the pre-school over the years.

## **ELECTORAL ROLL**

The number on the electoral roll at the 2025 APCM in April was 319.

## **STAFFING**

The PCC employs a Head of Operations, Receptionist & Parish Administrator, Data Administrator, Parish Finance Officer, Children, Youth & Families Director, 0-4's Worker, Children's Worker, Youth Worker, Café Manager, Church Centre Caretaker, and Saturday Cleaner. Six staff were employed to run Butterflies Pre-School until the pre-school closed. Two vergers are also included on the payroll on a zero-hours basis.

# WARDEN'S REPORT

WRITTEN BY YORKE MENZIES & PETER MCILHAGGER

## SERVICES

The pattern of three services each Sunday continues, each offering something different to their congregations. The 9:30 service averages around 120 people with approximately 75 at the 11:15 and 30-40 at the 7pm. The wardens want to record their thanks for those who operate the tech desks and act as worship leaders. We give thanks too for Steve, Nathan and Anees for the sound biblical teaching that they, and others who preach, bless us with week by week. The enthusiasm and dedication of our children and youth leaders and volunteers continue to be an inspiration, and the family services provide a wonderful opportunity for us to worship together as one church family. This year we had our first Worship Night, gathering for an evening of prayer and worship together. A heartfelt thank you to our worship team and all who served faithfully, reflecting Christ's love in action. This event was a reminder that when we come together in His name, His presence fills the room.

## EASTER CELEBRATIONS

Easter was another busy season at church with reflective Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services and a joy-filled Easter Sunday service when over 300 joined together to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. A new event this year was Easter Alive in which church was transformed by the Children's Team to host a schools' event retelling events from Holy Week. The Chancel became the Garden at Gethsemane, the Prayer Room became the banks of the Sea of Galilee with Peter's fishing boat and Thomas's and Cleopas' homes were constructed in the main body of the church. Over 300 school children and their teachers listened attentively to eye witness accounts from Mary, Peter, Thomas and Cleopas' wife and became reporters for the Jerusalem Herald.

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

What a blessing it was at Christmas to celebrate together Jesus' birth and the message of true joy and hope. The three Christingle services on Christmas Eve were enjoyed by young and old alike and we are so grateful to the dedicated team who blessed us with the 600 Christingles they had prepared. Over 1,000 people came through the doors over Christmas to join us in worship and admire the beautifully decorated church. Many accepted the offer of a Bible and we pray they are blessed as they read God's word.

## **NEW WINE**

This year we had the biggest numbers we have had, young and old, some returning, some serving on teams, and some there for the first time and being welcomed and looked after by those who have been year on year. This remains a real highlight in the church calendar and thanks go to the many individuals who worked behind the scenes to take the mess tent, transport people, tents, and everything else that is needed for this week away.

## **FABRIC**

In addition to the major building and repair projects we are blessed to have a team of faithful and talented individuals who serve on the maintenance team. Thank you to Norman, Philip and Jonathan who, weekly, tackle the list of requests, whilst implementing upgrades to the lighting and other areas. They work with diligence and good humour, and although much of their work may be invisible to the majority of people, it is invaluable and ensures church is a safe, warm and welcoming place. Thanks are also due to Lorna Hitchen and the team who work tirelessly despite the weather ensuring the flower beds around church are tidy and provide year round colour and interest. Nor must we forget those who keep our church clean and tidy and who make sure the brasses are expertly polished. How blessed we are with the floral displays which bring pleasure to all who enter church and which glorify God's beautiful creation. Thank you for your faithfulness, kindness, and dedication. You are a blessing to our congregation, and we are truly grateful for you. May you know God's blessing as you serve Him.

We were blessed in October with a team of around 40+ people who helped with a clear out and tidy up day and despite horizontal rain we managed to clear out cupboards, deep clean the church centre, and clear some of the outside spaces.

## **TEAMWORK**

We would like to express our deep gratitude to our wonderful assistant wardens, sides people and all those who serve on the refreshments. Week after week, you welcome everyone with a smile, offer a helping hand, and create a warm, inviting atmosphere for worship. You may not always be in the spotlight, but your ministry is essential. You help make our church not just a place of worship, but a place where everyone feels they belong. We are called by God to be a blessing to others and we pray that He will guide us and give us His grace and wisdom as we welcome all who come to church.

## **GOD CALLS US TO BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS**

As we look back at 2025, we are thankful for how God has blessed us, as a church and as individuals. The three new worshipping communities have almost completed their training led by Myriad and all three have experienced God's call and His blessings on their ministries. We were obedient to God's call to invest in Children's and Youth work and we have been amazed as to how He is providing the funds for this and are grateful to all those who have responded to His call. The work continues to flourish: Junior Church is flourishing, Caterpillars continues to welcome new families and Fuel is about to depart on its first retreat in 2026.

We are seeing new people come to church, willing to take Bibles, be baptised, and hungry to hear more about God. The church centre is busy each week with so many activities: over 90 students attend English lessons on Thursdays and we have recently received a grant from North West Strategic Migration Partnership to support these classes as they continue each week. Several Small Groups meet to share fellowship and enjoy refreshments in the café, Connections meets monthly and there is much fun and laughter as quizzes are completed and friendships formed.

God calls each of us to be a blessing to others. He is a Good Master and He equips us for what He has called us to do. Ask Him how He wants you to serve Him in the year ahead. What is He calling and equipping you to do? We have vacancies on pretty much every team in the church and even 30 minutes once a month would be welcomed.



# SAFEGUARDING REPORT

WRITTEN BY MAUREEN CAIN

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). This includes ensuring anyone working with children and/or vulnerable adults are carefully recruited in line with current guidance, undertaking the relevant training and DBS checks.

## 2025 DBS Applications

- 24 DBS checks processed and completed, with none referred to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.
- 11 DBS are awaiting renewal.

## 2025 Safeguarding Training Modules

- 12 people completed the Basic module.
- 9 people completed the Foundation module.
- 2 people completed the Leadership module.
- 2 people completed the Safe Recruitment & People Management module.
- 1 person completed the Domestic Abuse module.
- 1 person completed the Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking module.

During the past year we have sought and taken advice from the Diocese regarding safe practice for adults and the clergy team. This has informed our policies and practice with immediate effect. The two key improvements are:

- Clergy and other Church officers will make appointments to deal with concerns rather than be available at all times. When meeting with individuals already showing troubling concerns, this will be pre-arranged and in a place to enable sightings from adults who are made aware of the situation. Although this is not a common situation we consider it a Safeguarding issue and have taken the advice to be used appropriately.
- Individuals should not be responsible for locking up and securing the church building alone, particularly at night. Arrangements will be made for an accompanying adult to be present and vigilant. This is good Safeguarding practice and is currently our policy and practice.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) and Deputy PSO continue to hold regular Safeguarding meetings with Church Officers, reviewing our practice and aligning our commitment to be a Church in which Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. The PSO has met with our Church plants to review the status and good practice of Safeguarding and remind these leaders to share the message within their groups. We attend Diocesan networking meetings and receive knowledge of updated advice which is necessary and valuable to our continuing growth in our Christian service.

# REPORT

WRITTEN BY IAN THWAITES

The **June 2025 meeting** opened with prayer followed by a talk from Rev Steve Rankin who spoke on the subject of 'CHURCH PLANTING IS NOT NEW'. Churches were planted by people with a vision. The talk opened with 3 themes:

- The gathered church
- The sent church
- Being church

The diocese has a vision to reach the 1.5 million in our diocese who don't yet know Jesus personally. We discussed what constitutes church i.e. the people, not the building, gathering around God's word, worship, pastoral care, prayer, teaching, sharing, discipling, mission and love for one another. Ideas for the future were then discussed. These were:

- Inspire - what?
- Develop - how?
- Implement - doing

The talk concluded with a prayer originally spoken by Sir Francis Drake. I felt that the following two extracts from the prayer summed up what our response should be, *"We ask of thee Lord to push back the horizons of our hopes... To push into the future in strength, courage, hope and love"*.

This was followed by a report by The Bible Society called 'The Quiet Revival'. This report shows that church decline in England and Wales has not only stopped, but the church is actually growing as Gen Z (mainly 18-24 year olds and particularly men) have led an exciting turnaround in church attendance.

Last year The National Churches Trust carried out a survey asking church wardens (or others) to record church attendance numbers and other details with a view to help politicians, the media, and the wider public to better understand the challenges churches face, and to highlight the vital work they do. This involved those who work or volunteer at church, chapel, meeting house, or cathedral from any Christian denomination in the UK.

These responses will provide essential evidence to build a clearer picture - to tell a stronger story about our church and others like it, so that together we can address some of the biggest challenges facing churches and help ensure their future. It will help policy-makers, diocese, and funders, to better target their support, so we can see churches thriving for generations to come.

The **October 2025** meeting was held at Ashley House, St Peters, Hale. Simon Chester, Director of Ministry for the Diocese of Chester lead a facilitated sharing and discussion on vocations and lay ministry, with an aim of actively promoting both ordained and licensed lay ministries, focusing on leaders, pastoral workers and pioneer ministers to support church mission.

The latest meeting in February 2026 was held at St Mary's, Partington. Evening Prayer was led by Rev Jane Mottram after which we then split into small groups for prayer and reflection considering the following points:

- All we had to give thanks for in our ministry and church life over the past few months.
- Reflecting on all we repent for in our church local and national, and naming things that hold us back.
- Praying into all we look forward to this year, new initiatives, faithfulness and growth.

Members found this an insightful and encouraging time and an opportunity to hear and pray into the work of neighbouring churches.

We were left with a quote, often attributed to Oscar Romero who stood up for justice for the poor and was martyred as a consequence then awarded a sainthood, but the quote was actually made by Bishop Ken Untenter in 1979 although it did refer to Oscar Romero and others:

"WE ARE PROPHETS  
OF A FUTURE NOT OUR OWN"

This emphasises that we are the workers, laying foundations and tending, acknowledging that our efforts are often just a step along the way. Like Capability Brown's landscape creations were planted and tended by others who never saw the outcome of the completed project that Capability Brown had envisaged.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

WRITTEN BY BRIAN MACFADEN

We started 2025 with a substantial budget deficit as we continued to develop church planting and significantly extend our children and youth work. During the year we have seen growth in those ministries and a generous response from our congregations to enable it to happen.

Our 2025 income was slightly lower than our expenditure by £5,186 (£11,246 surplus in 2024). At 31st December 2025 we held cash at the bank, including short term deposits, of £184,689. Of that £137,542 is unrestricted and £47,147 is deferred income from the church planting grant.

We give thanks to God for His ongoing provision for his work in Sale and support for missions around the world. We also thank the many people who support His work.

We were assisted by grants of £21,290 from the Glebelands Trust towards stonework repairs and £33,877 of new grants towards our work as listed in note 7.

## COMPARISON TO 2024

Most of the giving we receive comes through regular standing orders and cash collections, and we saw a 17.2% increase from last year (£368,300 in 2025 vs £314,171 in 2024). With inflation of 3.4% over the past 12 months giving increased by 13.4% in real terms. We also received £5,889 in one-off donations (£17,001 in 2024). 14 people started donating regularly to our work during the year, and this financial growth is enabling us to continue growing our work.

Butterflies Pre-School Group had a deficit of £15,365 including redundancy costs (deficit of £7,330 in 2024) due to continuing low child numbers. As that was forecast to continue Butterflies closed at the end of July 2025.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

In 2026 the PCC have approved a budget deficit of £29,000 (compared to £63,000 in 2025) to continue to invest in church planting, children and youth, key priorities across the Church of England. Church planting will be mostly funded by a grant received in 2024. Our congregations responded generously to the vision in 2025 and we trust this will continue as we seek to grow God's work and close the deficit.

We approach the challenges and opportunities of 2026 with confidence in God's continuing provision and your support.

## RESERVES

All charities are expected to hold an appropriate level of reserves, which we use for:

- Working capital to balance our income and expenditure streams.
- Planning ahead by accommodating variations in our income from year to year.
- Meeting maintenance needs and
- Responding to opportunities as they arise.

The PCC has a policy to maintain approximately 3 months of regular expenditure in our reserves. At the end of 2025 our cash reserves were 2.9 months of regular expenditure (2.8 months at end of 2024). This is a satisfactory level.

The trustees are confident that, with continuing regular income from church members, there are sufficient reserves to support ongoing commitments for at least twelve months from the date of approval of these accounts.

## INVESTMENT POLICY

Cash not required for day to day operations is held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Investment Fund.

No funds are held as custodian trustee.



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE  
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY MAGDALENE,  
ASHTON-ON-MERSEY WITH SALE WEST COMMUNITY CHURCH,  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND, DIOCESE OF CHESTER  
Registered Charity No. 1133105**

**Year ended 31 December 2025**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE  
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

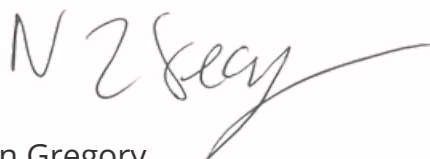
Under charity law, the trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements for each financial year which properly present the state of affairs of the charity and of the excess of income over expenditure for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, generally accepted accounting practice entails that the trustees:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements comply with the trust deed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue its activities.

The trustees are required to act in accordance with the trust deed of the charity, within the framework of trust law. They are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, sufficient to disclose at any time, with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the charity at that time, and to enable the trustees to ensure that, where any statements of accounts are prepared by them under section 132(1) of the Charities Act 2011, as amended by the Charities Act 2022, those statements of accounts comply with the requirements of regulations under that provision. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the PCC



Revd Nathan Gregory

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE  
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY MAGDALENE,  
ASHTON-ON-MERSEY WITH SALE WEST COMMUNITY CHURCH**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

I report to the PCC on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31 December 2025 set out on pages 40 to 47.

**RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT**

As the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"), as amended by the Charities Act 2022.

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT**

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants for England and Wales.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act;  
or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*S. Suchoparek*

Mrs Susan Suchoparek FCA

*24<sup>th</sup> March 2026*

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

### For the year ended 31 December 2025

We implemented a new finance package in 2025 which changed the categories for incoming resources and resources used. The 2024 results have been restated using the new categories.

	Note	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>	2				
Donations & Legacies		399,538	35,277	434,815	428,221
Charitable Activities		83,320	0	83,320	140,695
Investments		4,643	0	4,643	3,864
Trading Activities		51,070	0	51,070	52,452
Other		16,356	0	16,356	20,306
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>554,927</b>	<b>35,277</b>	<b>590,204</b>	<b>645,538</b>
<b>Resources Used</b>	3				
Charitable Activities		447,131	16,355	463,486	527,087
Raising Funds		375	0	375	556
Governance Costs		0	0	0	0
Support		64,892	0	64,892	60,563
Other		51,637	15,000	66,637	46,086
<b>Total resources used</b>		<b>564,035</b>	<b>31,355</b>	<b>595,390</b>	<b>634,292</b>
Net Incoming / Outgoing Resources (before gains/losses)		-9,108	3,922	-5,186	11,246
Investment Gains (or Losses)		0	0	0	0
<b>Net Movement of Funds</b>		<b>-9,108</b>	<b>3,922</b>	<b>-5,186</b>	<b>11,246</b>
Total Funds Brought Forward		591,226	0	591,226	579,980
<b>Total Funds Carried Forward</b>		<b>582,118</b>	<b>3,922</b>	<b>586,040</b>	<b>591,226</b>

## BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	5	437,128	437,128
		<b>£437,128</b>	<b>£437,128</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash		184,689	205,934
Accounts Receivable		21,346	6,992
Prepayments		2,153	2,319
		<b>£208,188</b>	<b>£215,245</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts Payable		-10,553	-2,887
Deferred Income		-48,723	-58,260
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	6	<b>£148,912</b>	<b>£154,098</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>£586,040</b>	<b>£591,226</b>
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Unrestricted		582,118	591,226
Restricted	7	3,922	-
		<b>£586,040</b>	<b>£591,226</b>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 23rd March 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



The Revd Nathan Gregory (Chairman)



Frances Hyde (Vice Chair)

The notes on pages 43 to 47 form part of these accounts.

## CASH FLOW STATEMENT

### for the year ended 31 December 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Deficit/(Surplus) for the year	-5,186	11,246
Adjustments for:		
Interest receivable and similar income	-4,643	-3,864
Interest payable and similar charges	-	-
Accounts Receivable increase(-) / decrease(+)	-14,354	3,198
Prepayments increase(-) / decrease(+)	166	
Accounts Payable increase(+) / decrease(-)	7,666	58,945
Deferred Income increase(+) / decrease(-)	-9,537	
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<b>-£25,888</b>	<b>£69,525</b>
Cash flows from investing activities	4,643	3,864
<b>Net cash from investing activities</b>	<b>£4,643</b>	<b>£3,864</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b> (Interest paid)	-	-
<b>Net cash from financing activities</b>	-	-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	-21,245	73,389
Cash and cash equivalents as at 1 January	205,934	132,545
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December</b>	<b>£184,689</b>	<b>£205,934</b>

### ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand, including short term deposits	184,689	205,934
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>£184,689</b>	<b>£205,934</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## For the year ended 31 December 2025

### NOTE 1 - ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations together with Charities Statement of Recommended Practice Financial Reporting Standards 102 (SORP FRS102).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

#### Funds

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC.

The purpose of any restricted funds is noted in the accounts.

The accounts include transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe an affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

#### Incoming Resources

##### *Voluntary income and capital sources*

Collections are recognised when made.

Amounts receivable under covenant are recognised only when honoured by the covenanter.

Income tax recoverable on covenanted or gift aid donations is recognised when claimable.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its entitlement and the amount due.

Funds raised by a church fair, garden party and similar events are accounted for gross.

Sales from the church bookstalls, Cafe, or other activities are accounted for gross.

##### *Other ordinary income*

Rental income from the letting of church premises is accounted for when earned.

Parochial fees due to the PCC for weddings, funerals etc are accounted for on an event by event basis.

*Income from investment* - Dividends and interest are accounted for when due. Tax recoverable on such income is accrued for on the same basis.

*Investment gains and losses* - Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

#### Application of Resources

*Grants* - Grants and donations are accounted for when paid.

#### Fixed assets

##### *Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings*

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be an inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off.

*Other land and buildings* - Other land and buildings held on behalf of the PCC for its own purposes is valued at cost. No depreciation is charged against such properties but any expenditure on maintenance or minor improvement is written off as incurred. Improvement expenditure in excess of £50,000 is capitalised.

##### *Other fixtures, fitting and office equipment* -

Individual items with a purchase price of £5,000 or less are written off in the period in which the asset is acquired. Equipment with a purchase price of more than £5,000 is depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years.

#### Current assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less any provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Cash includes cash held on deposit either with the Central Board of Finance or at the bank.

## NOTE 2 - INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<b>Donations &amp; Legacies</b>				
Cash Collections	5,459	0	5,459	7,312
Donations, Appeals	5,689	200	5,889	17,001
Gift Aid Tax Recovered	64,249	0	64,249	54,932
Grants	21,290	33,877	55,167	64,207
Legacies	0	0	0	25,530
Regular Giving Gross of Tax	66,144	0	66,144	13,380
Regular Giving Under Gift Aid	236,707	1,200	237,907	245,859
	<u>399,538</u>	<u>35,277</u>	<u>434,815</u>	<u>428,221</u>
<b>Charitable Activities</b>				
Cafe	10,499	0	10,499	14,228
Caterpillars	1,540	0	1,540	1,465
Children and Youth	1,634	0	1,634	0
Church Bookstall	0	0	0	63
Flower Fund	804	0	804	900
Fund Raising	5,877	0	5,877	4,381
Pre-School Group	62,966	0	62,966	118,856
Social Fund	0	0	0	802
	<u>83,320</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>83,320</u>	<u>140,695</u>
<b>Investments</b>				
Bank Interest	4,643	0	4,643	3,864
<b>Trading Activities</b>				
Church Centre Lettings	51,070	0	51,070	52,452
<b>Other</b>				
Administration Service Charges	300	0	300	400
Rent Received	9,600	0	9,600	7,600
Service Fees	2,199	0	2,199	1,856
VAT Recovered	4,257	0	4,257	10,450
	<u>16,356</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>16,356</u>	<u>20,306</u>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>554,927</b>	<b>35,277</b>	<b>590,204</b>	<b>645,538</b>

## NOTE 3 - RESOURCES USED

	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<b>Charitable Activities</b>				
Activities	0	2,308	2,308	91
Administration	9,667	0	9,667	8,937
Cafe Costs	13,582	0	13,582	14,417
Caterpillar Costs	1,749	0	1,749	1,337
Children and Youth Expenses	4,894	0	4,894	2,172
Children and Youth Worker Salaries	81,681	1,400	83,081	63,662
Church and Services Costs	13,841	0	13,841	15,053
Church Bookstall Costs	0	0	0	0
Church Centre Running Costs	39,214	0	39,214	36,360
Church Planting	953	10,147	11,100	2,543
Church Utilities	10,480	0	10,480	10,175
Clergy Expenses	3,612	0	3,612	4,519
Clergy Housing Costs	7,642	0	7,642	7,175
Flower Fund Costs	664	0	664	603
Major Repairs	30,613	0	30,613	84,373
Other Expenditure	1,169	0	1,169	0
Parish Share	144,949	2,500	147,449	143,154
Parish Training and Mission	4,090	0	4,090	6,089
Pre-School Group Costs	78,331	0	78,331	126,186
Social Fund Costs	0	0	0	241
	447,131	16,355	463,486	527,087
<b>Raising Funds</b>				
Fundraising	375	0	375	556
<b>Governance Costs</b>				
Governance Costs	0	0	0	0
<b>Support</b>				
Administration Salaries	64,892	0	64,892	60,563
<b>Other</b>				
Missionary Societies UK and Overseas	37,721	0	37,721	34,777
Secular Charities	13,916	15,000	28,916	11,309
	51,637	15,000	66,637	46,086
<b>Total resources used</b>	<b>564,035</b>	<b>31,355</b>	<b>595,390</b>	<b>634,292</b>

(see note 8)

## NOTE 4 - STAFF COSTS

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages, Salaries, National Insurance and Pensions	228,662	242,953
Payments for notice and redundancy	10,309	0

During the year the PCC employed a Children Youth & Families Director, Children's Worker, Children's Assistant, Youth Worker, Pre-School Group Manager and Assistants (until end of July 2025), Café Manager, Head of Operations, Parish Finance Officer, two Receptionist & Parish Administrators and two Cleaners, none of whom earned £60,000 p.a. or more. Procedures set out in our Conflicts of Interest Policy have been followed in any matter involving a related party to a trustee.

## NOTE 5 - FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

	2025 £	2024 £
Freehold land and buildings – balance at 31 December	437,128	437,128

The freehold land and buildings as at 31 December 2025 comprise the houses located at 23 Rydal Avenue, Sale, and 109 Ascot Avenue, Sale.

## NOTE 6 - ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Fixed Assets	437,128	-	437,128
Current assets	144,990	3,922	148,912
Fund balance at 31/12/25	£582,118	£3,922	£586,040

## NOTE 7 - RESTRICTED FUNDS

Fund Name	Balance at 1/1/2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31/12/2025 £
English Classes	-	6,230	2,308	3,922
Local	-	1,400	1,400	-
Myriad planting	-	2,500	2,500	-
New worshipping communities	-	10,147	10,147	-
Sale West salary	-	15,000	15,000	-

- The English Classes fund is a grant from Manchester City Council towards the English as a Second Language classes we run.
- The Local fund receives income that the donor wishes to be used within our church and not sent to the wider church.
- The Myriad planting fund is a grant from the Sequoia Seed Fund, St Michael le Belfrey, York to support Steve Rankin in setting up a church planting hub in the Chester area.

- The New worshipping communities fund (Plant Fund in the 2024 accounts) manages a grant of £60,000 from St Michael le Belfrey York Northern Church Planting Fund for church planting. It is used to enable our three new worshipping communities. Income is being matched to expenditure.
- The Sale West salary fund is a grant towards salaries at Sale West Community Church from the Northern Church Planting Fund at St Michael le Belfrey, York.

## NOTE 8 - MISSIONARY AND CHARITY GIVING

Missionary Societies UK and Overseas giving is made up of:

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £
Mission Giving	32,148	-
Christmas Fair	6,696	-
Less Sale West Community Urban Trust	-383	-
Less Oasis Relief Zambia – stallholder handled their own funds	-840	-
Plus donation to Children’s Society for Christingle	100	-
	<b>£37,721</b>	-

Secular Charities giving is made up of these payments to Sale West Community Urban Trust:

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £
Regular grant	8,233	-
Christmas fair donation	383	-
Legacy to pay towards salaries	5,300	-
Belfrey Grant for salaries	-	15,000
	<b>£13,916</b>	<b>£15,000</b>

## NOTE 9 - LINKED CHARITY

The PCC is the trustee of an unregistered charity called the All Saints Church of England School, known as the Glebelands Trust. The charity owns a piece of land and property on Glebelands Road Sale which is rented out. Net income is applied at the discretion of the PCC. Total reserves as at 31 December 2025 were £192,694 (£154,472 at 31 December 2024).



# FIND OUT MORE

**PHONE :**

0161 291 9283

**WEBSITE :**

[www.stmarysaom.org](http://www.stmarysaom.org)

**ADDRESS :**

44 Moss Lane, Sale M33 6GD

## OUR TEAM

**LEADERSHIP TEAM:**

**Vicar:** Steve Rankin | [srankin@stmarysaom.org](mailto:srankin@stmarysaom.org)

**Associate Vicar:** Nathan Gregory | [nathan.gregory@stmarysaom.org](mailto:nathan.gregory@stmarysaom.org)

**Curate:** Anees Gill | [anees.gill@stmarysaom.org](mailto:anees.gill@stmarysaom.org)

**Head of Operations:** Emma Atkinson | [operations@stmarysaom.org](mailto:operations@stmarysaom.org)

**Children, Youth & Families Director:** Julie Loynd | [julie.loynd@stmarysaom.org](mailto:julie.loynd@stmarysaom.org)

**MINISTRY TEAM:**

**0-4's Worker:** Janet McIlhagger | [0-4s@stmarysaom.org](mailto:0-4s@stmarysaom.org)

**Youth Worker:** Dave Atkinson | [youth@stmarysaom.org](mailto:youth@stmarysaom.org)

**Sale West Community Engagement:** Carol Dodgson | [caroldodgsonsalewest@gmail.com](mailto:caroldodgsonsalewest@gmail.com)

**SUPPORT TEAM:**

**Parish Administrator:** Carol Martin | [office@stmarysaom.org](mailto:office@stmarysaom.org)

**Finance Officer:** Insook Snudden | [finance@stmarysaom.org](mailto:finance@stmarysaom.org)

**Data Administrator:** Danielle Markland | [danielle.markland@stmarysaom.org](mailto:danielle.markland@stmarysaom.org)

**Treasurer:** Sarah Kostiuik-Smith | [treasurer@stmarysaom.org](mailto:treasurer@stmarysaom.org)



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# Accounts

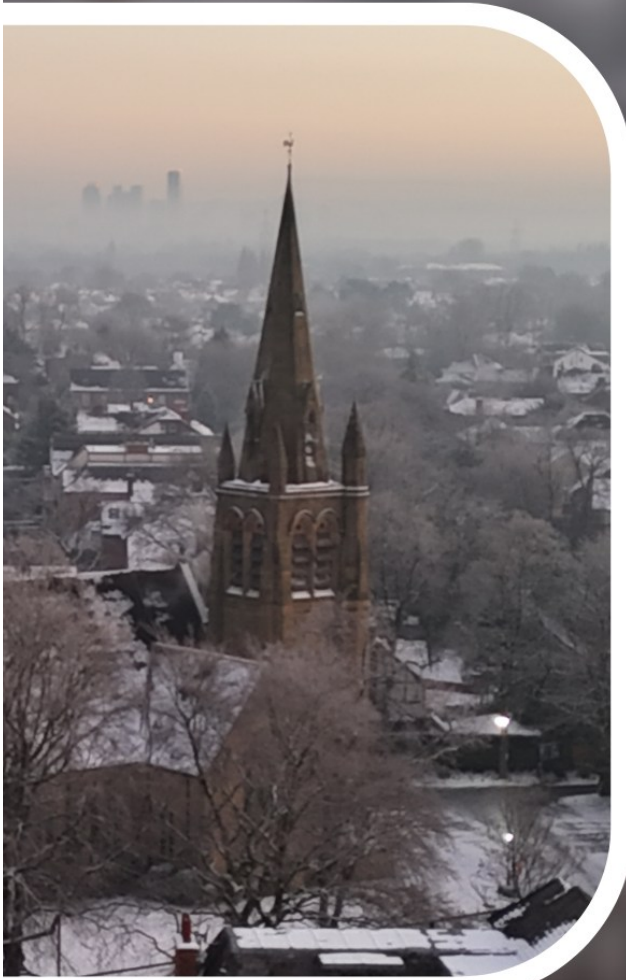
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# 2024

# ANNUAL REPORT

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1133105





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# VICAR'S REPORT

## WRITTEN BY REVD. NATHAN GREGORY

### Do we believe that Jesus and his gospel has the power to change and transform lives?

I do, and hopefully you do to.

It is why we exist; it is why the church is here. But it is good to remind ourselves of that because that truth shapes everything you are about to read in the reports in the following pages. You will read about some wonderful things that are happening within the life of our church, and even then this document won't capture everything that you are doing in response to that truth that Jesus changes lives. So from the outset can I say thank you for being part of this family, and for what you have, and are continuing to, contribute to St Mary's. It can't happen without you.

The reason I started with that question is because we can easily become so focussed on *what* it is we are doing that we forget *why* we do it. So, as you read about everything that is happening please hold onto the why: We believe that Jesus changes and transforms lives, he has with ours, he is continuing to do so, and will continue to in the future. That is why we do what we do.

Romans 1:16-17 says, *I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."* (NIV)

I read these verses in the 'The Voice' translation of the Bible; it is not a translation I would usually use but reading these familiar verses in a different translation challenged me...

Do we believe that Jesus and his gospel has the power to change and transform lives?

*'For I am not the least bit embarrassed about the gospel. I won't shy away from it, because it is God's power to save every person who believes: first the Jew, and then the non-Jew. You see, in the good news, God's restorative justice is revealed. And as we will see, it begins with and ends in faith. As the Scripture declares, "By faith the just will obtain life."' (The Voice)*

St Mary's & Sale West has, for a long time, been a place that has not been ashamed of the gospel but instead has recognised the power of it. If I am honest, I can't say that I have always been in a place to be able to say that 'I am not the least bit embarrassed about the gospel'. There have been times when I have been embarrassed, where I have shied away from presenting Jesus to others. I'm not proud of that. In those times I have always been grateful to be part of churches that have helped to encourage me, refocused me and helped me regain confidence. St Mary's & Sale West is such a place that helps to keep that focus.



*Celebrations for our 150th Anniversary*

In 2024 we celebrated 150 years of St Mary Magdalene's Church, Ashton upon Mersey! It gave us opportunity to look back with thanksgiving for the people who have gone before us: those who did not shy away from talking about Jesus and demonstrating his love, those who may have been known to us personally, and those who were before our time. The fact that we have a church that is active and vibrant today is not something we can or should take for granted. There are many churches in our nation whose story is different and whose buildings are now used for different purposes. So it was with great thankfulness

that we celebrated those who have gone before us, who stood firm and did not shy away.

Amongst those 150th anniversary celebrations

we talked about, and have made significant changes in order that we continue to be a church that does not 'shy away' from the gospel and so that we can reach more people with the good news of Jesus which is the power to save every person who believes. Two areas we particularly focused on (and will continue to) are investing in children, youth and families, and investing in church planting. They are what we believe God has called us to give attention to in this season. So through 2024 we began to put in place people and structures that would enable us to build capacity to grow in these areas.

**Church Planting and Children, Youth and Family ministry... are what we believe God has called us to give attention to in this season.**

One example is that I am writing this report rather than Steve. At the beginning of 2024 Steve and I swapped roles. Steve remains the legal incumbent but we wanted to release him, with his gifts, skills, passions and experience, to focus on the significant area of mission and ministry that is church planting whilst I oversee the day to day running of St Mary's. It has been a real joy to see how much God has done in the last year in our three church plants/new worshipping communities, all at different stages but all moving forward to reach more people with the life transforming good news of Jesus.

At the start of 2024 we had our first Myriad Hub Gathering. Steve and Outi are journeying alongside ten churches as we seek to bless others and it was a privilege for me to observe from the sidelines the ways in which we are able to resource, refresh

and equip other churches, through our involvement with Myriad, as they seek to plant new worshipping communities in their own contexts. This has been something that we as a church have sacrificially given to God in order to bless the wider church. It has been sacrificial because we know that the teams planting our own new worshipping communities could, and have, offered so much to the life of St Mary's,

but releasing them to build capacity in this area has been a joy to be part of.

Another example of how we have built capacity to reach more people is through investment in Children, Youth and Families. At the last APCM Julie had started her new role as Children, Youth & Families Director, but the team wasn't complete. We had Janet, who continues to lead the ministry with 0-4s and their families, but I was still leading the youth work (not ideal!!) and Julie was still doing her old role as Children's Pastor whilst trying to shape her new role. In the course of the last year Yona joined the team, focusing on Junior Church and our work with St Mary's School, and not long afterwards Dave started as our Youth Worker.

The purpose of creating a children and youth team of four people (mix of part and full time) is to enable us to increase the impact we have and reach more children, young people and their families with the life transforming news of Jesus. We have shared, discussed and prayed about the national picture of decline in the number of children being in a place to hear the good news of Jesus and attend church, and we had to acknowledge that the church has perhaps become embarrassed by the gospel and shied

away from it. So we have increased the youth worker role from part time to full time to build capacity to reach out to older youth and to make and build connections with local secondary schools. Yona was brought into the team to release Julie to be able to shape and steer

the vision for our children and youth ministries, to shape the team, to reach out to families, and to build new relationships with primary schools we don't yet have contact with.

Both Church Planting and our investment in Children, Youth and Families acknowledge the fact that we are long passed the time where we can expect people to just turn up to church;



*The Children, Youth & Family Team being commissioned by Nathan and Bishop Sam*

instead we have to go and meet people where they are and take the good news of Jesus to them. We have to be more intentional in the way we do that, not just through planned church programs but in our everyday, day to day life.

A highlight of the year for me was our week of mission with the Anglican Youth Fellowship team from Uganda. During the course of the week they were able to share the good news of Jesus with about 1,000 people, most of whom probably wouldn't encounter it otherwise, through schools visits, taking part in local community groups and the packed concert in our building. Thank you again to those who enabled this to happen.

As my word count runs out I would like us to be thinking about what our personal contribution is to sharing the power of the gospel that transforms lives in the coming year. Firstly, to reflect on the verse from Romans above and ask "what am I doing?". As followers of Jesus it is the responsibility of all of us to make Jesus known. So, I would be really keen for you to email me about how you think we, as the church, can equip, resource, and encourage you to do this better in the places God has called you.

Secondly, let's ask "what am I giving towards the mission?". As we build capacity to reach more people with the life transforming news of Jesus we need to also build our financial capacity. Currently we have a gap of around £60,000 between our regular giving and our

regular expenditure which is obviously something that cannot be maintained. The money we have for our mission and ministry comes from each and every one of us, please do earnestly pray and consider whether you are able to give regularly or increase your giving to the mission and ministry of our church.

And thirdly, prayer is absolutely vital; it is how we stay in step with the Spirit, where we draw our courage, strength and wisdom from. In the last year we have focused more on our corporate prayer life and praying for the mission of the church. Please continue to pray for all God is doing in and through St Mary's, and for our wider communities as we seek transformation in the lives around us. Spending more time in conversation with your loving heavenly father is something you will never regret.

*Nathan Gregory*  
[nathan.gregory@stmarysaom.org](mailto:nathan.gregory@stmarysaom.org)



*(photos clockwise) The Anglican Youth Fellowship Band meeting our young people at FUEL: Fridays, ready for their packed-out concert, performing in the 9.30am Service*

# PCC REPORT

## WRITTEN BY EMMA ATKINSON

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of working with the incumbent, the Revd. Stephen Rankin, in furthering the mission of the church in the whole parish: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church and Church Centre. PCC members and Deanery Synod representatives are elected each year at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Roles on the PCC are then elected at the first PCC meeting following the APCM.

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Office held</b>
Incumbent	Revd Steve Rankin	BM
Associate Vicar	Revd Nathan Gregory	Chair, S, F
Head of Operations (co-opted)	Emma Atkinson	PCC Secretary, HR, BM, P
Readers	Brian Macfaden	PCC Treasurer, S, F
	Outi Rankin	
Pastoral Workers	Mags Holt	
	Karen MacMillan	
	Ann McBurney	P
Wardens	Yorke Menzies	S, F
	John Vaughan	S, F
Deanery Synod	Dave Atkinson	
	Avtar Diggwa	S, F
	Matthew Kay	
	Jeff McBurney	F, P
	Rosemary Sigee	HR
	Ian Thwaites	M
Elected members	Ada Adiuku-Brown	
	Rotimi Bajela	
	Jeremy Barnes	F
	Janet Darlow	
	Joan Heys	Assistant Treasurer, F, BM
	Frances Hyde	M
	Helen Jarvis	Vice Chair, S, F
	Elaine Jones	HR, P
	Claire Nathan	
	Barbara Shimmings	
	John Vincent	
Co-Opted Committee Members	Maureen Cain	BM
	Barbara Harper	HR
	Sarah Kostiuik-Smith	BM

(S - Standing committee, F - Finance committee, HR - HR committee, M - Missions committee, BM - Butterflies Management committee, P - Policies Review committee)

### PCC MEETINGS

9 PCC meetings took place during 2024. The APCM took place in April and was held in-person. Items discussed at the PCC meetings included:

- Safeguarding reports
- Ministry updates
- 150th Anniversary
- Missions giving
- Ephesians Fund
- Glebelands Trust
- Approval of youth events
- Butterflies Pre-School
- School Governor appointments
- Maintenance
- Church planting

### STAFFING

The PCC employs a Head of Operations, Receptionist & Parish Administrator, Data Administrator, Parish Finance Officer, Children, Youth & Families Director, 0-4's Worker, Children's Worker, Youth Worker, Café Manager, Church Centre Caretaker, Saturday Cleaner, and six staff to run the Pre-School Group 'Butterflies'. Two vergers are also included on the payroll on a zero-hours basis.

### ELECTORAL ROLL

The number on the electoral roll at the 2024 APCM in April was 409

## WARDEN'S REPORT

WRITTEN BY JOHN VAUGHAN &amp; YORKE MENZIES

**A Year of Growth and Celebration**

2024 has, as ever, been a year of growth and development but this time with a 150th anniversary thrown in for good measure. The key changes of the development of new worshipping communities and the investment in children and youth ministry will be considered in more detail by others, but we note them here to evidence the dynamic nature of our congregations.

**Services**

The pattern of three services each Sunday continues, each offering something different to their congregations. The 9.30 service averages around 120 people with approximately 75 at the 11.15 and 30-40 at the 7pm. The wardens want to record their thanks for those who operate the tech desks and act as worship leaders. We give



*A packed out Christmas Service*

thanks too for Steve, Nathan and Anees and the sound teaching that they, and those others who preach, offer us each week. The enthusiasm and dedication of our children and youth leaders and volunteers are an inspiration, and we pray for a significant increase in youth participation and engagement. Another pattern of three was the annual Christingle. As previously, Christmas Eve saw three Christingle services. This year we experimented with having one which was not ticketed which seemed a successful idea. Close to 1,000 people came through the doors over Christmas to join in worship and admire the wonderfully decorated church.

**Celebrating Milestones**

Last year, St Mary's celebrated the 150th anniversary of its consecration on 25th March, and we decided to hold a 'Season of Celebration' to mark the occasion. A timeline was set up in church, and we would like to thank

everyone who contributed pictures and written messages. Special thanks also go to Barbara Shimmings, who produced an informative and engaging quiz to help us discover more about the church building.

The celebrations started by serving commemorative cakes at all services held on Palm Sunday. The next major event was a BBQ with a bouncy castle and family games on 4th May. Thank you to the McIlhaggers for their enthusiasm and impeccable organisational skills and vision to make it such an inclusive and fun occasion. The weather was kind, and it was lovely to welcome so many familiar and new faces.

The celebrations continued inside with a joint worship event led by John Vincent. Revd Graeme Skinner kindly returned to deliver the address and shared one of his prayers for the church. There was much flag waving and singing, and it was a memorable and joyous afternoon.

In July, Graham Fosh and the Swing and Swing Again Band entertained us with an uplifting and stylish performance, and once again we celebrated with cake, in true St Mary's fashion. Bishop Sam preached at both morning services on 15th September and brought our celebrations to a close.



*Revd Graeme and Philippa Skinner with us for our 150th Celebrations*

**Fabric**

We are blessed in that the people who designed and built our church knew their trade but after 150 years it shows sign of wear and tear. A substantial sum has been spent this year on external works. These have only recently been completed. There is very little visible to show for this but what has been done should future proof the stonework and guttering for the next decade at least. A second large project was the renewal

of tarmac at the rear of the hall for use by Butterflies. Those are large projects but there are many smaller ones that are undertaken on a weekly basis by the maintenance team. Thanks are due to Norman, Alec and Phil. Alec has this year decided to retire from the role. We give thanks for his faithful service and pray a blessing on him as he moves into new roles. We also thank those who work every Friday keeping the grounds neat and tidy and ensuring that we have colour in the flower beds. The church does not clean itself and a small group of committed people work to ensure that it is clean and tidy, that the brasses shine, and that flowers evidence God's glory. Bless you all.

### **Gratitude to the Team**

The wardens want to thank the sidespersons and assistant wardens, and those on the refreshments rota, who so generously give up their time so that our services and events can take place and our church family, friends, and visitors be welcomed. We can never underestimate the importance of a smile, a warm welcome, and an encouraging word. Thank you to our hardworking team who so selflessly serve God in this important ministry. David Kellett, after many years, has retired from his role. David has been a rock to the current and many previous wardens; cheerful and dependable and a safe pair of hands. Thank you David.

### **Reflecting on God's Faithfulness**

Our focus on developing new worshipping communities and investing in children and youth ministry has been a pivotal aspect of our growth. These initiatives are not just additions to our activities; they are the core of our mission to foster a nurturing environment for future generations of new Christians. God has provided us with so many willing to serve our community and as a result the church and church centre are often busy with a variety of groups such as Sale West Community craft groups, Connections which meets monthly, and the weekly English lessons as well as a number of small groups who all benefit from our facilities.

How blessed we were to be able to reminisce and reflect on our church's history, God's faithfulness and provision, and St Martin's obedience to God's call to plant a church on what were once rhubarb fields. We look forward to the future as we work to ensure we have a healthy, vibrant church that continues to be a faithful witness to Jesus in the next generations.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## WRITTEN BY BRIAN MACFADEN

### FINANCIAL REPORT

At the start of 2024 the PCC again agreed a budget with a substantial deficit as we continued to develop church planting and significantly extend our children and youth work.

During the year we received a grant of £60,000 from St Michael le Belfrey Church York Northern Church Planting Fund which will support church planting for the next three years. We also received a grant of £61,000 from the Glebelands Trust which covered the costs of major stonework repairs and other major maintenance. As a result in 2024 our income exceeded our expenditure by £11,246. At 31st December 2024 we held cash at the bank, including short term deposits, of £205,934. Of that £148,641 is unrestricted and £57,293 is deferred income from the church planting grant.

We give thanks to God for His ongoing provision for his work in Sale and support for missions around the world. We also thank the many people who support His work.

At the same time we recognise that the two grants totalling £121,000 and legacies of £25,530 are one off income and without these we would have had a deficit of £78,000.

### COMPARISON TO 2023

Most of the giving we receive comes through regular standing orders and stewardship envelopes, and we saw a 4.0% increase from last year (£314,171 in 2024 vs £ 302,037 in 2023). This was greater than inflation of 2.5% over the past 12 months. We also received £17,001 in one-off donations (£15,059 in 2023). 12 people started donating regularly to our work during the year, and this financial growth is enabling us to continue growing our work.

Butterflies Pre-School Group had a deficit of £7,330 (deficit of £18,145 in 2023), primarily due to lower numbers than expected in the Autumn Term. The surplus or deficit varies year by year depending on the number of children attending.

### LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

In 2025 the PCC have again approved a budget with a large deficit of £63,000 to continue to invest in church planting, and children and youth, key priorities across the Church of

England. Church planting will be mostly funded by the grant received in 2024, but a significant increase in giving is needed to be able to sustain our current children and youth investment. We trust that our congregations will respond to this vision.

We approach the challenges and opportunities of 2025 with confidence in God's continuing provision and your support.

### RESERVES

All charities are expected to hold an appropriate level of reserves, which we use for:

- Working capital to balance our income and expenditure streams.
- Planning ahead by accommodating variations in our income from year to year.
- Meeting maintenance needs and
- Responding to opportunities as they arise.

The PCC has a policy to maintain approximately 3 months of regular expenditure in our reserves. At the end of 2024 our reserves were 2.8 months of regular expenditure (3.0 months at the end of 2023). This is a satisfactory level, but if our balance were to decrease below this level it would begin to impact our day to day operations.

The trustees are confident that, with continuing regular income from church members, there are sufficient reserves to support ongoing commitments for at least twelve months from the date of approval of these accounts.

### INVESTMENT POLICY

Cash not required for day to day operations is held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Investment Fund.

No funds are held as custodian trustee.

# MISSION GIVING REPORT

## WRITTEN BY BRIAN MACFADEN

As a church we donate 10% of the giving we receive to missions, both here in the UK and overseas. We see this as our stewardship, or good management, of the money we receive from God, just as we encourage church members to steward their income.

This year we donated £31,044, which is 10% of the previous year's giving.

The Missions Committee oversees how we distribute these funds, together with the PCC. Most of the mission budget is given as regular support to organisations and individuals where there is a link with our church. We also retain some funds to allocate flexibly during the year.

This is where our support was donated in 2024.

### OVERSEAS MISSIONS

Church Mission Society	£600
Tim & Miho Walker - Overseas Missionary Fellowship	£1,800
Simon and Sue Yeomans - Operation Mobilisation	£4,600
Open Doors	£1,600
Philippines Outreach Centre	£2,600
Hope for Justice	£1,600
Simon & Amelie Latham – Mercy Ships	£3,500
Acts - Education in Africa - Burundi School	£2,000
David & Mary Robinson - Thai ministry	£700
Dan and Rachel King - Wycliffe Bible Translators	£700
A Rocha – Christian conservation	£100
FEBA (Arab world gospel radio)	£100
Tearfund (Relief & development work)	£100
Anglican Youth Fellowship Choir Uganda	£964

### UK MISSIONS

Boaz Trust	£1,800
Trafford Youth for Christ	£4,200
New Wine	£500
Bible Society	£1,400
Church Pastoral Aid Society	£1,200
Universities & Colleges Christian Fellowship	£400
Trafford South Foodbank	£400
Churches Together in Sale	£30
Evangelical Alliance	£150

From the Christmas Fair we also donated:

Simon & Amelie Latham – Mercy Ships	£1,059
Acts - Education in Africa - Burundi School	£507
Boaz Trust	£792
Trafford Youth for Christ	£882
Open Doors	£158
Home for Good	£736
Sale West Community Urban Trust	£308

We also gave a grant of £10,600 to Sale West Community Urban Trust.

# SAFEGUARDING REPORT

WRITTEN BY MAUREEN CAIN

## Our growing church

Our church community of St Mary Magdalene and Sale West continues to grow and build new communities particularly with the introduction of Church Plants in our district. This growth of church ministry, involving new members and reviving existing groups, provides a need for extending our reach to include all new leaders and ensure their knowledge and understanding is consistent with our message and our practice.

We continue to follow the guidance and documentation issued by the Church of England's Safeguarding Policy from the House of Bishops and comply with the requirements imposed under section 5A of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. Administrative responsibilities associated with DBS procedures, training and development organisation and oversight of the Parish Dashboard etc. are fully undertaken by members of the church office. Training events and on-line modules are attended and disseminated from in-house and Diocesan providers.

An overview of training and development received in the last three years is shown here;

- C0 Basic Awareness - completed by 85 Church members
- C1 Foundation completed - by 89 Church members
- C2 Leadership - completed by 6 Church members

- Awareness of Domestic Abuse- completed by 16 Church Members
- Modern Slavery - completed by 1 Church member
- Safer Recruitment - completed by 2 Church members

These sessions have proved invaluable in both raising awareness of the reach of Safeguarding in our church community and the sharing of a common vocabulary which helps to provide increased knowledge and understanding. All advice from these events has been discussed at Safeguarding meetings and fully implemented. The Safeguarding team meets bi-monthly with representation from church leaders and lay members.

Monthly reports compiled by the Parish Safeguarding Officer are presented to the PCC with updates on training and appropriate guidance for implementation of policies.

We continue to offer support, guidance and advice within our capabilities and capacity with dedicated phone numbers and email addresses to ensure safe and confidential communications for all.

If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from a Safeguarding Adviser or if necessary report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services or the Police without delay.

**Parish Safeguarding Officer**

Maureen Cain  
07539 849 698

safeguarding@stmarysaom.org

**Chester Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser**

07704 338885 (available during office hours)  
safeguarding@chester.anglican.org

# DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

WRITTEN BY JEFF MCBURNEY

The Deanery Synod meets three times a year in different Churches and gives an opportunity for members of different parts of the Deanery to share local news and events from their parishes and to hear reports from the wider Church. The meetings have four parts. 1. Refreshments as people arrive give an opportunity for general catch up. 2. A short service of worship led by the clergy of the host parish. 3. An address, usually by an external speaker, with an opportunity for questions and discussion. 4. A business meeting with previous minutes, reports, including any available reports from Diocesan or General Synods, and an update on news from parishes.

**The meeting on 23 May 2024 was held at St Mary's Church, Partington** and the talk was given by Revd. Peter Froggatt, the Diocesan Director of Outreach, along with Jon Pocock, Diocesan Strategic Program Director. Peter addressed the meeting summarising the new Diocesan Vision and encouraged our initial feedback.

Peter leads the Department for Outreach and associated team to support mission in the diocese, and thus now works closely with Jon and the emerging Strategy to implement the Diocesan Vision. Peter stressed how we must remember that all the various roles we play and contributions we make in our church or parish are all vital to achieving this vision. Emerging from the Vision, the Strategy process has commenced with the aim of encouraging and helping us in all churches across Chester Diocese to be more effective in our mission, reaching new people and places with the good news of Jesus.

**The meeting on 10 October 2024 was held at St Alban's Church, Broadheath** and was an open meeting to which all those in Bowden Deanery who work with children and youth were invited. The Diocesan Family, Children and Youth Adviser, Katy Herrera facilitated a session where she presented the five ambitions within the Love Matters report from the Archbishops Commission. She then posed questions for discussion. Synod members sat around tables to enable this discussion and thoughts from the various groups were passed back to Katy. Amongst other things we looked at what we might know about the families living in our Parishes and how we might build relationships

with those families through all stages of life. We also discussed the CofE Growing Faith initiative which aims to put children, young people and families at the heart of our ministry.

**The meeting on 11 February 2025 was held at St Anne's Church, Sale Moor** and the talk was from Nadene Wright, Diocesan Racial Justice Officer. Nadene's talk was about how to breakdown cultural barriers, where culture meant the ideas, customs and social behaviour of places and people. We then discussed the barriers, such as language, costume for women and social actions (e.g. shake hands or hug when you meet), which may stop us from connecting. There may be unconscious bias, or we may prefer to be with like people. We may be fearful of being rejected, causing offence or losing our own culture. We need to be aware of cultural norms and pray for God's love and Spirit to guide us.

We also had a report on a recent mission to Pakistan led by Revd. Daud Gill of St Albans, Timperley.

The Deanery Synod also receives reports from General Synod and from the Diocesan Synod meetings that have taken place. The Rural Dean provides information about the deanery including clergy changes, events around the Deanery and other Deanery news.

The Deanery Synod finances are reported at each meeting. This year the Deanery have purchased a sound system for outdoor use which can be borrowed by Churches.

# CHURCH PLANTING

WRITTEN BY STEVE RANKIN

## Our Mission – what are we here for? Why do we exist?

Our mission is to be a growing church – this is shaped by our understanding of the great commission to make disciples and the great commandment to be a community marked by love.

The Great Commandment is shown within the ‘Gathered Church’ – there is an inward focus to care, nurture and disciple existing believers.

The Great Commission is revealed in the ‘Sent Church’ – there is an outward focus to proclaim and demonstrate God’s Kingdom, giving regular opportunities for people to come to faith.



worship (warden, verger, organist, reader, prayer leader, vicar, sidesperson) that there's barely anyone there who isn't there because they're on a rota.

CofE average weekly attendance in 2019 was 854,000. By 2022 this had fallen to 654,000. Of that 654,00 only 157,000 of these were under 18 (24%) & 350,000 were over 70 (53%). In 2019 the CofE baptised 9% of children, married 17% of couples getting married, and taking funerals of 25% of those who die. Each of these is down 30-40% over the last 10 years.

### Gathered v Sent is about how a church approaches MISSION

The Gathered Church model which historically provided a fringe of seekers within the church is no longer present. The focus of outreach has shifted to the Sent Church part of the model.

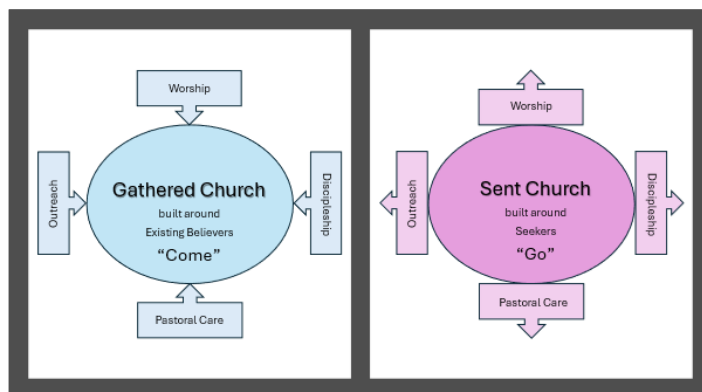
## Our Values – why we do what we do

The core things that shape us as a church – the seeds that are planted deep within us from which our actions grow. Each of our existing congregations has an intentional mission with a worship style that is appropriate to that mission. We seek opportunities to extend our boundaries further through congregational or church planting.

## Our Situation – a snapshot of the challenge

Less than 8% of people now go to church in the UK. Less than 1.6% go to Anglican churches regularly.

In 2019, around half (8,000) of all UK Anglican churches had 26 adults and 2 children or fewer on a Sunday.



## Our Response – then and now

In our area the arrival of the railway in 1849 led to a population boom (In 1851 there were 1,700 people in the greater Sale area. By 1901 there were 12,000 and in 2021 there were 55,000 folks.)

The missional response of the Church of England in the late 19th and early 20th century was to build church buildings. The Sent Church response meant church buildings that would Gather believers & seekers alike.

*If you had 26 people to form a Christian presence in a community, you wouldn't start from here. You wouldn't have a listed building which costs thousands to heat and insure. You wouldn't have the protocols for running the church written into law. You wouldn't have so many aspects to Sunday*

So, 5 churches were built over 50 years (at a cost of over a million pounds per church in today's money). *St Anne's (1854), St John's Brooklands (1868), St Mary's (1874), St Paul's (1883), and St Alban's (1900).*

The recent Chester diocesan vision consultation

highlighted the 1.5 million people across the diocese that do not yet know Christ. Our bishops' have spoken about church planting as far and away the most effective form of evangelism. *"Planting new churches is the most effective evangelistic methodology known under heaven."* (C. Peter Wagner).

A "New Worshipping Community" (NWC) refers to a newly established Christian community, designed to reach people who are not already part of a traditional church setting. It is a fresh expression of the church tailored to a changing culture, often with discussion-based learning, a more informal and relaxed form of worship, in a setting which members of the community find familiar and accessible. New Worshipping Communities best reach new generations, new residents, new people groups and the unchurched.

The Church of England has set an ambitious target of 10,000 NWC's by 2030. Some key points about NWCs:

- Focus on new people: Primarily aimed at folk who are not actively involved in a church community.
- Flexible format: May have a more relaxed and informal worship style compared to traditional churches.
- Adapting to context: Can be designed to fit specific community needs and cultural contexts.
- Missionary focus: Intentional about outreach and making new disciples.
- Variety of expressions: Can take on different forms depending on the community, including different worship styles, locations, and leadership structures.

There is always a cost involved for the sending church – good and talented people leave existing ministry in established churches to focus on the church plant. Team members at the plant are missing from the main church. There is often a financial impact. Research suggests that this 'thinning out' often gives space for new growth in the mother church as new people step into the gaps.

### Our Vision – how we go about achieving our mission to be a growing church through church planting

**Sale West Community Church** has a Core Team of 4 people, including a full time Children & Families Development worker and a curate. Their strategy is to revitalise the church through

outreach to young families and working in the local school with a 1 to 1 mentoring programme from Transforming Lives Together. We have seen around 8 adults come to faith, 5 adults and 5 children have been baptised. All the adults are engaged in weekly bible study and coming to church regularly with their children. 18 months ago there were fewer than 10 adults and 1 young person – now there is an average of 25 adults and 17 children each week. We start with people where they are and then develop faith.

**All Nations** has a Core Team of 5 people. Their strategy is to work through small group bible classes and an extensive hospitality ministry. The aim is not to gather all the internationals already at St Mary's but to have a 'sent church' focussed on the unreached international community of Sale. They have recently begun meeting weekly at 9.30am to utilise the existing Junior Church ministry. New people from outside of the church are joining regularly and they have already outgrown their meeting space in Mulberry, growing from 14 people each week to around 25 at present. One man has become a Christian in the last couple of weeks.

**Faith Around the Table** has a Core Team of 3 people. They have just finished running the 321 course in Jackalope café in Sale on both a Thursday and Sunday morning. Two or three folks want to carry on and look at the *I am* sayings of Jesus from John's gospel.

### Our role as a Resource Church – how we are supporting mission in the diocese and other churches

Steve Rankin is part of a Diocesan Strategy group looking at rolling out church planting across the diocese. The Sale Myriad Hub is seen as a pilot project that may form part of the diocesan strategy – it is seen as affordable, sustainable, flexible to context and raises up new leaders, energy and vision. Steve is expected to be a key part in any roll out of church planting Hubs across the diocese.

Steve is also now part of wider networks with church planters across the North under the leadership of Mark Powley, the Archbishop's Mission Enabler for the North.

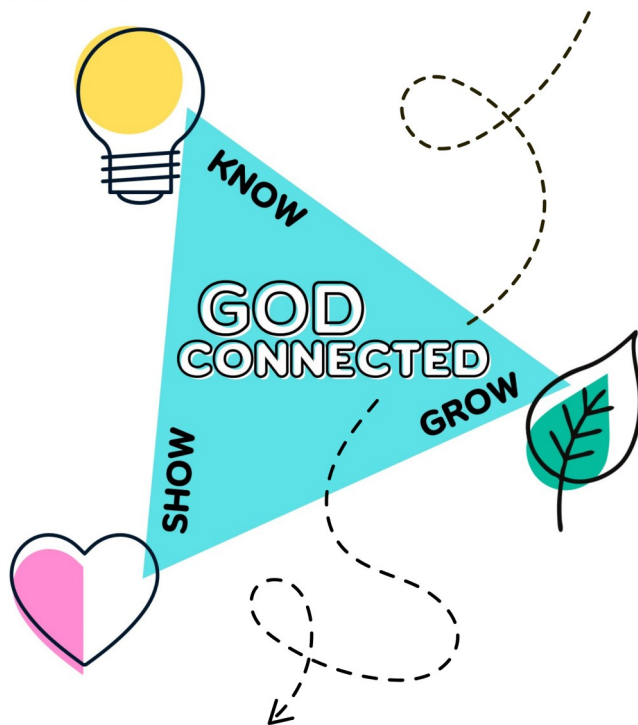
# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

WRITTEN BY JULIE LOYND

## New Beginnings

### BUILDING FAITH THAT LASTS

Our vision is for children & young people to  
**KNOW** the character and nature of God  
**GROW** in faith through the Holy Spirit  
**SHOW** the love of Jesus to others



#### KNOW

Clear biblical teaching that builds a solid foundation for faith



#### GROW

Encouraging questions and intergenerational learning that deepens the roots of faith



#### SHOW

Demonstrating faith and sharing the love of Jesus through serving others

*The vision statement for our Children, Youth and Families Ministry*

Each spring when the snowdrops come into bloom around the church, I am reminded by one of our church members of their arrival and the beauty of new beginnings. As I think back to this time last year, God was definitely preparing the ground, and I am so thankful to our church family for taking the bold step to invest in and expand our children's and youth team. It is wonderful to begin to witness how those seeds of faith are starting to grow into new things. Here are just a few of the highlights:

- We have been able to have over 2s attend the Tiddlers group on a Sunday morning without their parent/carer. This has allowed the grown up to enjoy the fellowship of the 9.30am service rather than having to stay with their child.
- We have started a brand new youth group for GCSE and A Level students which meets on a Sunday night before the 7pm service. This group has bridged the gap in what we have previously been able to offer meaning that we now have groups for all our children and youth from 0-18 years of age.
- We already have the most incredible group of Young Helpers serving each week in Junior Church. We have now been able to extend that to enable our youth to serve in other areas of ministry to help them to feel part of our church family, gain new skills, and show Jesus' love to others.
- With a bigger team in place one of the biggest uplifts we have seen has been with our schools work where we have increased our outreach through delivering more assemblies, workshops, school services and church visits. We have been so thankful to be able to build on our existing relationships with schools and to God for opening doors to new opportunities with schools we previously did not work with.
- This Easter, for the first time, our church will be transformed for a three-day interactive Easter event, "Alive!", where local schools are invited to come and learn about what happened after the resurrection.

#### EQUIPPING OTHERS

Children and youth work would not be possible without our team of volunteers who embody what it is to serve and to show Jesus' love to others. This year we have been able to offer more training to help

equip and support them in their roles.

- Over the course of this year, Julie and Dave are delivering the fantastic Youthscape Essentials Course on behalf of Chester Diocese to help equip and empower Youth Teams in their ministry. We are learning about the highs and lows of what it is like to grow up "Gen Z" and how, as youth leaders, we can help to lead well and inspire a faith that lasts.
- Our Junior Church Team have just received some brilliant insightful training from Yona, on how we can help our children with additional needs connect with God and church.
- Last November, Janet and Julie worked with Parenting for Faith to deliver their Babies and Toddlers course, equipping parents of our 0-4s to help their little ones meet and know God.

...and all this is only the beginning, there is more to come! We are so thankful for how God has grown this team and ministry over the past year and for all that is to come in 2025. Thank you for your support and for keeping us in your prayers.

**"This is only the beginning, there is more to come!"**

## 0-4'S MINISTRY

WRITTEN BY JANET MCILHAGGER

This year has been one full of excitement, growth and development in our preschool ministry.

Each Tuesday during term time, Caterpillars has continued to welcome 20-30 families each week for craft, songs, bible stories and snacks! As a team, we have been encouraged by the depth of relationship which we have been able to build with some of them. We have seen adults join the 321 course, try church services as well as asking for prayer for significant life events. It is a real privilege to have such a front-line ministry which welcomes a large number of non church families into our church centre each week.

**"Some of our youngest children have received pictures from Jesus and parents have spent time encountering Him too."**

Tiddlers has focussed on the amazing truth that God wants to communicate with each of us and, that no matter our age, He is a kind and wonderful Father that chats with us in a

way appropriate to our age or stage in life. We have been thrilled that some of our youngest children have received pictures from Jesus and that parents have spent time encountering Him too. One little girl even delighted in sharing that she knew Jesus loved her because she could feel love bubbles in her tummy when she chatted with Him!

We have run a Parenting for Faith course focussed on parenting babies and toddlers. This was well attended and gave us real opportunity to build relationship with those families. Julie and Janet led a group each which gave time for parents to share their journey with each other in a small setting.

God is so kind. He chooses to have relationship with us. We have been encouraged to see that relationship develop not only with the 0-4 year old children but also their grown ups and the wider community.



*Some of our fantastic volunteers helping children at Caterpillars*



*One of our Junior Church children sharing why she loves being part of St Mary's at our 150th Anniversary Celebration Service*



*Two of our young people serving on team at our Light Party*

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY WRITTEN BY YONA OYEGUN-MASADE

### JUNIOR CHURCH

What an exciting year it has been at Junior Church! We've had the joy of getting to know our amazing God better through His Word. Whether we were exploring His promises, learning about Heroes of the Faith, or discovering Who God Is, our focus has always been on His incredible love for us and the invitation to a close relationship with Him through Christ. We've also been building our Bible reading and prayer skills during our sessions, which has been truly enriching.

### ST MARY'S SCHOOL

This year, we had the wonderful opportunity to work more closely with the children of St. Mary's School during our joint events. From Christmas celebrations to Day School Sunday, the children helped reenact the Gospel story from Genesis to the birth of Christ and shared their own stories of God's goodness. These events have been a beautiful way to see God's work in their lives.

### JUNIOR CHURCH TRAINING

We also dedicated time to enhancing our support skills for children with additional needs. We held a training event where we benefited from Christian resources on neurodiversity provided by Growing Hope and Parenting for Faith. The training highlighted our strengths and offered new strategies to improve even further. The lively discussions and great ideas shared were inspiring. We also nominated four volunteer leaders with prior experience in additional needs to act as champions, supporting other leaders during sessions as needed.

We look forward to another year of growth, learning, and sharing God's love with our wonderful children!



*Children enjoying the craft activities and joining in the fun at the front during our Light Party*



# YOUTH MINISTRY

## WRITTEN BY DAVE ATKINSON

Over 2024 we have seen the FUEL family grow and adapt with the young people we see each week, and we have taken risks in how we communicate the Gospel and meet with the young people within our reach.

Back in January 2024, we decided to invite the youth along to the New Wine Worship Night instead of cancelling our usual program due to the clash of day. That evening became a catalyst for some of the young people to explore their faith and engage with the Holy Spirit together, some for the first time. This led to 3 of our youth being baptised on Pentecost Sunday later that year, sharing their commitments through testimony with the rest of the church family. We have another young person who's currently exploring being baptised in May of this year.

Over summer, a number of our young people came along to New Wine with their families, returning with an excitement about God and what a relationship with Him can achieve. Using this excitement, and reflecting on some feedback we'd gathered from the youth before the summer holidays, a joint worship event was organised with another local church. We took our youth to LifeChurch where they mixed with their young people and worshipped together (akin to the New Wine Worship Night). This event sparked at least one new WhatsApp group amongst some young people who have since messaged each other regularly with encouraging Bible passages and prayer requests. At the time of writing, there's another joint youth worship event being planned, this time we will be welcoming other churches into St Mary's.



Over the last year we identified that, although we were making waves with the Years 7-9s, there were a whole bunch of older youth who were not being provided for and so, in October, we set up a FUEL Small Group specifically for GCSE and A-Level students who meet on Sunday evenings. We started by running the 321 Course before Christmas, and then the Alpha Youth Series started in January, and so far we have seen 8 attending and exploring faith together.

We have also kept in touch with those who have gone off to University, including them in a Q&A panel at FUEL:Sundays and meeting with them over Christmas. Although they are no longer part of St Mary's youth, it's been fantastic to be able to support them as they transitioned to uni life and encourage them to continue walking with Jesus.



Across all our groups (FUEL, FUEL:Sundays, FUEL Small Group) numbers have been gradually increasing, with some feedback being that the young people feel we offer credible groups that they feel comfortable inviting their friends to. We are already seeing new young people join us after being invited by friends and we're encouraged that our young people feel confident to invite friends to church!



*Photos: (top) One of our students sharing about the impact being part of St Mary's church family has had on his life during our 150th Anniversary celebrations, (middle) one of our young people being baptised, (bottom) some of our young people being confirmed by Bishop Sam*

Our young people are awesome, and we have a fantastic team of volunteers who love spending time with them each week, nurturing their spiritual growth and walking alongside them in their faith. A big thank you goes to the volunteers for the time they give each week to serve this vital ministry.

# SALE WEST COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

WRITTEN BY CAROL DODGSON

During the year, we have continued to engage our local community in activities which bring them together, thereby reducing isolation, making lasting friendships which extend beyond the groups, learning new skills and building self-confidence. We constantly review and refine what we are doing so that we provide the best possible and most targeted interventions to our local community, helping people to understand that they are accepted, loved and worthy. We gently introduce people to Christians and this can lead to invitations to events, prayer opportunities, and people coming to faith or rekindling their faith.

We saw over 340 people during the year across various locations using creative activities, school holiday activities, a mens' support group, bereavement support and work in school.

Our main focus is Sale West (in the 10% most deprived neighbourhoods in England) families and children with around 66% of people attending our groups being residents of Sale West.

Most of our 30+ volunteers are members of St Mary's with Sale West Community Church. They lovingly and graciously give their time to volunteer with our groups, serving, engaging with and loving people where they are at. Our volunteers talk about the 'atmosphere' we create, using words such as: positive, caring, lovely. They say that everyone feels welcome, there's a sense of belonging and that people feel that others are interested in them.

Some key measures for us are:

- 100% of people reported that they had made friends as a result of coming to our groups
- 94% of people said they felt less isolated and more connected with community
- 86% said they felt more self-confident

This year has seen the development of our work with young people in The Firs Primary School. We are there three days a week, helping support children who may struggle to come into school or with their self-confidence. We are their biggest encouragers! We teach new creative skills, picking up on maths needed for the activities with the aim of improving their self-confidence and resilience.

We have excellent working relationships with a number of partners including, the Bluesci Social Prescribers who support local GPs in engaging people in community activities, Calm Connections (wellbeing and mental health support for children and young people), Transforming Lives for Good (a national Christian children's charity that helps churches to bring hope and a future to struggling children), BMS Wellbeing CIC through our work with the mens' group and in running wellbeing workshops, Directions for Men, the Sale Community Hub/Our Sale West, Trafford Conservation Volunteers and Firs Primary School.

## CARE TEAM

WRITTEN BY CHRISTINE SWAIN

As a church, Jesus has given us all the responsibility to do our part to be a loving and caring community. St Mary's is clearly a friendly church as the buzz of conversation shows, before and after services over coffee! However, there are always people who slip through this loving net. This is where the Care Team aims to step in.

The Care Team began a year ago and has gradually developed, and continues to develop. The aim is to notice, and come alongside, anyone in the church who may be going through a particularly tough time. A considerable part of this involves visiting people in hospital or who are housebound. Members of the team arrange regular times to visit and lots of happy links are being established. The members of the team have all passed the essential DBS checks and have also all received training about safeguarding. We are all committed to confidentiality and make sure we do not discuss who we are visiting or coming

alongside. Any problems are mentioned to me, in confidence, as the leader and coordinator. The clergy are then called in to give further help if needed.

The church's Small Groups are the 'primary carers' for people in these groups but the Care Team is happy to offer help if someone is not in a small group or if the small group needs some extra help. Not taking over - just supporting the Small Group in their caring role. If you become aware of a need, something that you feel is beyond your own capacity for care, please contact the office or any of the clergy or speak to me, confidentially and quietly. We will then follow up and act.

Jesus said, 'By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples; that you have love for one another' (John 13:35)

*Christine Swain*

*christine.swain58@gmail.com, 07967 489 002*

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## CONNECTIONS

WRITTEN BY MAUREEN CAIN

This group has now been in operation for over a year and has grown both in quantity and quality, that is to say we have increased in both number and in value. We meet each month on the 1st Friday from 2.00pm - 3.30pm. We gather together in the cafe area of church, which is very convenient as we start our afternoon with refreshments provided by members of the group. Although there is no 'plan' for the afternoon except to make contact with friends, old and new, the time tends to pass very quickly.

We enjoy watching or participating in Healthy Hearts and Hips run and encouraged by Gill Bate who does amazing things with stretchy bands, balls and equipment from the safety net of a chair.

Dominos, jigsaw puzzles and a quiz always provide entertainment and have reduced many of us to tears of laughter! I couldn't possibly divulge the cause of the fun!

One of our highlights was a Christmas event at which Mary Lou Macfaden and her team showed us how to create a Christmas table decoration and then left us to our own devices with a glue gun, holly, candles and ribbon. Nathan joined us and lead us in an Advent reflection and we ended the afternoon by singing Christmas carols and admiring all the very different Christmas decorations.

Everyone is welcome to join, bringing with them an open heart for friendship and good company. And I know many feel blessed by this group, I know because they tell me so.

## MISSION PARTNERS

### WRITTEN BY MARY ROBINSON

We thank the Lord for the ministry of our Mission Partners around the world over the past year! Much to report

We hear of new believers in the Philippines, Bible translation progress in Tanzania, improving school facilities in Burundi and life changing surgery performed on the Mercy Ships in Sierra Leone,

Nearer to home Youth for Christ are expanding their work in the Trafford Schools. Japanese students are coming to faith in the UK and returning to strengthen the church in their country. Manchester Asylum seekers are getting good legal support and hundreds are rescued from modern day slavery through the work of Hope for Justice.

CMS mission partners continue to support the church in war torn areas and Open Doors support the persecuted brothers and sisters in the hardest corners of the World. The Yeomans in Canada encourage a new generation to go

out in Mission.

The Latham family will soon return after 2 years in Sierra Leone. We look forward to hearing about their work first hand and pray that others may be called to reach out in Mission,

We pray for our Mission Partners on a weekly rota with a special Mission focus on the 3rd Sunday each month to bring the ministries to life before the congregation. Fund raising events continue and small groups are encouraged to pray and support our Partners personally . The latest Mission Partners News is kept up to date on the missions page of the church website which is accessible to all.

“Give thanks to the Lord, call on His Name. Make known among the Nations what he has done.” Psalm 105:1.

May we have an ever increasing part in sharing the glorious gospel world wide!

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## DISCIPLESHIP COMMUNITIES

### WRITTEN BY ANN MCBURNEY

Our Small Groups are going well, with another group starting up over the summer on Friday evenings. More people are considering an afternoon group and this is something we hope to accommodate soon. The small group notes which fit with the sermon series have once again formed the basis for groups to study. The Bible Project has also been a useful link to give an overview before delving deeper into the Word.

From those I have spoken to recently, praying for each other and looking out to the wider community and world has been a very important part of meeting together.

It is wonderful to hear how groups care for each other and walk through life together, some have been meeting for many years, others welcoming new members to journey alongside.

Huddles work differently, usually three or four (occasionally five) people forming a Huddle, meeting mostly fortnightly. The material used varies with each Huddle; some follow the sermon series in the same way as small groups, others choose to read and discuss a book, and some have used a couple of John Mark Comer books (other authors are available!). Nathan has also been putting together some material for Huddles and Groups to use.

Discipleship Communities are so much more than another midweek meeting; relationships are built and we are able to discuss, learn and have fun together. I don't know about all groups but from my experience and what I hear from others sharing food and fellowship - afternoon tea, meeting in a pub, pancake parties or simply a drink and catch up on the week help build the trusting relationships which form strong bonds.

# ENGLISH CLASSES

WRITTEN BY LORNA HITCHEN & CLAIRE CAMPBELL SMITH

St Mary's English Classes have gone from strength to strength since they were started in July 2022 by Amelie Latham, in response to the arrival of Ukrainian refugees in Trafford. We currently have an average of 60 students attending and the buzz in the Heartbeat Café, with lots of laughter and conversation, suggests that the classes provide an important social, as well as educational, opportunity.

The classes take place on Thursdays, 10.00-12.00. Ukrainians have largely been replaced by people from Hong Kong, mainland China, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, India, Pakistan, Egypt, Turkey, and Poland. Some are working, some looking for work, some studying and some retired. Several students have been referred to us by Trafford Council, who have a long waiting list for ESOL classes (English for Speakers of Other Languages). However, most hear of us from existing students.

Levels of English vary greatly. A team of 4 teachers (currently Claire Campbell Smith, Lorna Hitchin, Yorke Menzies and Barbara Allwood) provide lessons for Beginner, Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced students. Martin Haywood provides great support as student co-ordinator and facilities manager – he manages all the registers and sets out the classrooms! The students have a 60-minute classroom lesson plus an hour of informal conversation in the

Café with native English speakers from St Mary's, other churches and the wider community, who've formed a committed and enthusiastic group of volunteers.

I think it's true to say that Thursday mornings have become a high point in everyone's week. The atmosphere is so positive and it's been a joy to get to know people from so many different countries and cultures and to see them learning together. It's also been great to see students come along to other activities at St Mary's and some have become part of our congregation. Connections have been made with the All Nations group – we've shared a Christmas lunch for the past three years, enjoying an amazing feast of international cuisine – and students and their children have volunteered in the Café or at events such as the Christmas Fair.

Teachers and volunteers pray together before the classes begin; we pray for students who are ill or facing difficult situations and we also pray that students will catch a glimpse of Christ's love while they are with us. We've received some wonderful notes of appreciation from students who've felt supported and cared for, which has encouraged us in what we feel is a valuable ministry and outreach to St Mary's wider community here in Sale.



*Students and teachers at our English Classes*

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE  
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY MAGDALENE,  
ASHTON-ON-MERSEY WITH SALE WEST COMMUNITY CHURCH,  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND DIOCESE OF CHESTER**

**Registered Charity No. 1133105**

**Year ended 31 December 2024**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE TRUSTEES  
ANNUAL REPORT AND THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Under charity law, the trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements for each financial year which properly present the state of affairs of the charity and of the excess of income over expenditure for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, generally accepted accounting practice entails that the trustees:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements comply with the trust deed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue its activities.

The trustees are required to act in accordance with the trust deed of the charity, within the framework of trust law. They are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, sufficient to disclose at any time, with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the charity at that time, and to enable the trustees to ensure that, where any statements of accounts are prepared by them under section 132(1) of the Charities Act 2011, as amended by the Charities Act 2022, those statements of accounts comply with the requirements of regulations under that provision. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the PCC



Revd Nathan Gregory

# INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY MAGDALENE, ASHTON-ON-MERSEY WITH SALE WEST COMMUNITY CHURCH

**Year ended 31 December 2024**

I report to the PCC on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 set out on pages 26 to 33.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT**

As the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT**

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants for England and Wales.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mrs Susan Suchoparek FCA

25<sup>th</sup> March 2025

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
	2				
Voluntary income (direct giving)		320,283	1,200	321,483	310,435
Other voluntary income		108,412	2,707	111,119	18,469
Gross income from events and activities		136,314	-	136,314	128,537
Other ordinary income		20,306	-	20,306	21,038
Income from trading		52,452	-	52,452	46,204
Income from investment		3,864	-	3,864	3,907
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>£641,631</b>	<b>£3,907</b>	<b>£645,538</b>	<b>£528,591</b>
<b>RESOURCES USED</b>					
	3				
Grants		46,086	-	46,086	39,212
Support costs		70,743	1,271	72,014	49,453
Directly relating to the work of the church		442,437	2,636	445,073	378,191
Fund raising and publicity		556	-	556	425
Church management/administration		70,563	-	70,563	65,452
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>		<b>£630,385</b>	<b>£3,907</b>	<b>£634,292</b>	<b>£532,733</b>
Net incoming resources before gains/ (losses) on investments		11,246	-	11,246	-4,142
Net gain/(losses) on investments		-	-	-	-
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>£11,246</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£11,246</b>	<b>-£4,142</b>
Balances brought forward at 1 January		<b>£579,980</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£579,980</b>	<b>£584,123</b>
Transfer between funds					
<b>Balances carried forward at 31 December</b>		<b>£591,226</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£591,226</b>	<b>£579,980</b>

# BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024	2023
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	5	437,128	437,128
		<b>£437,128</b>	<b>£437,128</b>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	7	8,636	11,834
Short term deposits		102,593	97,422
Cash at bank and in hand		103,341	35,123
		<b>£214,570</b>	<b>£144,379</b>
LIABILITIES			
Amounts falling due within one year	8	-60,472	-1,527
NET CURRENT ASSETS	6	<b>£154,098</b>	<b>£142,852</b>
NET ASSETS		<b>£591,226</b>	<b>£579,980</b>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted	9	591,226	579,980
Restricted	10	-	-
		<b>£591,226</b>	<b>£579,980</b>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 24th March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

The Revd Nathan Gregory (Chairman)

Miss Helen Jarvis (Vice Chair)

*The notes on pages 29-33 form part of these accounts*

## CASH FLOW STATEMENT for the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Deficit/(Surplus) for the year	11,246	-4,142
Adjustments for:		
Interest receivable and similar income	-3,864	-3,907
Interest payable and similar charges	-	-
Increase(-) / decrease(+) in other debtors	3,198	-4,291
Increase(+) / decrease(-) in other creditors	58,945	-145
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<b>£69,525</b>	<b>-£12,485</b>
Cash flows from investing activities	3,864	3,907
<b>Net cash from investing activities</b>	<b>£3,864</b>	<b>£3,907</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b> (Interest paid)	-	-
<b>Net cash from financing activities</b>	-	-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	73,389	-8,578
Cash and cash equivalents as at 1 January	132,545	141,123
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December</b>	<b>£205,934</b>	<b>£132,545</b>

## ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	103,341	35,123
Short term deposits	102,593	97,422
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>£205,934</b>	<b>£132,545</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## For the year ended 31 December 2024

### NOTE 1 - ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations together with Charities Statement of Recommended Practice Financial Reporting Standards 102 (SORP FRS102).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

#### Funds

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC.

The purpose of any restricted funds is noted in the accounts.

The accounts include transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe an affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

#### Incoming Resources

##### *Voluntary income and capital sources*

Collections are recognised when made.

Amounts receivable under covenant are recognised only when honoured by the covenanter.

Income tax recoverable on covenanted or gift aid donations is recognised when claimable.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its entitlement and the amount due.

Funds raised by a church fair, garden party and similar events are accounted for gross.

Sales from the church bookstalls, Cafe, or other activities are accounted for gross.

##### *Other ordinary income*

Rental income from the letting of church premises is accounted for when earned.

Parochial fees due to the PCC for weddings, funerals etc are accounted for on an event by event basis.

*Income from investment* - Dividends and interest are accounted for when due. Tax recoverable on such income is accrued for on the same basis.

*Investment gains and losses* - Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on

revaluation of investments at 31 December.

#### Application of Resources

*Grants* - Grants and donations are accounted for when paid.

#### Fixed assets

*Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings*

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be an inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off.

*Other land and buildings* - Other land and buildings held on behalf of the PCC for its own purposes is valued at cost. No depreciation is charged against such properties but any expenditure on maintenance or minor improvement is written off as incurred. Improvement expenditure in excess of £50,000 is capitalised.

*Other fixtures, fitting and office equipment* - Individual items with a purchase price of £5,000 or less are written off in the period in which the asset is acquired. Equipment with a purchase price of more than £5,000 is depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years.

#### Current assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less any provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the Central Board of Finance or at the bank.

## NOTE 2 - INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	TOTAL 2024 £	Total 2023 £
2(a) Voluntary income (direct giving)				
Planned giving	244,659	1,200	245,859	234,659
Income tax recovered on Gift Aid	54,932	-	54,932	52,587
Giving received gross of Income Tax	13,380	-	13,380	14,790
Collections (open plate) other than planned giving	7,312	-	7,312	8,399
	<u>320,283</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>321,483</u>	<u>310,435</u>
2(b) Other voluntary income				
Fund raising income	4,381	-	4,381	3,410
Donations, appeals	17,001	-	17,001	15,059
Legacies	25,530	-	25,530	-
Grants received	61,500	2,707	64,207	-
	<u>108,412</u>	<u>2,707</u>	<u>111,119</u>	<u>18,469</u>
2(c) Gross income from events and activities				
Church Bookstalls	63	-	63	-
Pre-School Group	118,856	-	118,856	113,778
Flower Fund	900	-	900	769
Social Fund	802	-	802	240
Café	14,228	-	14,228	11,873
Caterpillars	1,465	-	1,465	1,877
	<u>136,314</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>136,314</u>	<u>128,537</u>
2(d) Other ordinary income				
Service fees	1,856	-	1,856	2,608
Administration service charges	400	-	400	400
VAT recovered	10,450	-	10,450	-
Rent received	7,600	-	7,600	7,200
Insurance claims	-	-	-	10,830
	<u>20,306</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,306</u>	<u>21,038</u>
2(e) Income from trading				
Church Centre lettings	52,452	-	52,452	46,204
	<u>52,452</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>52,452</u>	<u>46,204</u>
2(f) Income from investment				
Interest received	3,864	-	3,864	3,907
	<u>3,864</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,864</u>	<u>3,907</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b><u>£641,631</u></b>	<b><u>£3,907</u></b>	<b><u>£645,538</u></b>	<b><u>£528,591</u></b>

## NOTE 3 - RESOURCES USED

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
3(a) Grants				
Overseas missionary societies	12,400	-	12,400	12,009
Overseas relief and development agencies	3,571	-	3,571	2,450
Home missions and other church societies	18,806	-	18,806	17,353
Secular charities	11,309	-	11,309	7,400
	<u>46,086</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46,086</u>	<u>39,212</u>
3(b) Support costs				
Parish training and mission	6,089	-	6,089	3,856
Junior Church/Youth	2,101	71	2,172	2,865
Children's Pastor	45,906	1,200	47,106	27,855
Youth Pastor	16,556	-	16,556	14,066
Equip Interns	91	-	91	811
	<u>70,743</u>	<u>1,271</u>	<u>72,014</u>	<u>49,453</u>
3(c) Directly relating to the work of the Church				
Parish Share	143,154	--	143,154	136,338
Clergy expenses	4,519	-	4,519	3,694
Clergy housing costs	7,175	-	7,175	7,098
Church & Services costs	13,563	1,490	15,053	14,992
Church Utilities	10,175	-	10,175	7,657
Church Planting	1,397	1,146	2,543	-
Church Centre running costs	26,360	-	26,360	24,326
Church Bookstalls costs	-	-	-0	-
Pre-School Group costs	126,186	-	126,186	131,923
Social Fund costs	241	-	241	172
Flower Fund costs	603	-	603	423
Café costs	14,417	-	14,417	12,077
Caterpillars costs	1,337	-	1,337	1,162
Administration	8,937	-	8,937	7,913
Major repairs	84,373	-	84,373	30,416
	<u>442,437</u>	<u>2,636</u>	<u>445,073</u>	<u>378,191</u>
3(d) Fund raising and publicity				
Cost of stewardship/fundraising	556	-	556	425
	<u>556</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>556</u>	<u>425</u>
3(e) Church management and administration				
Secretarial/administration salaries	68,076	-	68,076	63,539
Employer pension costs	2,487	-	2,487	1,913
	<u>70,563</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>70,563</u>	<u>65,452</u>
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>	<b><u>£630,385</u></b>	<b><u>£3,907</u></b>	<b><u>£634,292</u></b>	<b><u>£532,733</u></b>

**NOTE 4 - STAFF COSTS**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages, Salaries, National Insurance and Pensions	242,953	212,461

During the year the PCC employed a Children Youth & Families Director, Children's Worker, Children's Assistant, Youth Worker, Pre-School Group Manager and Assistants, Café Manager, Head of Operations, Parish Finance Officer, two Receptionist & Parish Administrators and two Cleaners, none of whom earned £60,000 p.a. or more. Procedures set out in our Conflicts of Interest Policy have been followed in any matter involving a related party to a trustee.

**NOTE 5 - FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Freehold land and buildings – balance at 31 December	437,128	437,128

The freehold land and buildings as at 31 December 2024 comprise the houses located at 23 Rydal Avenue, Sale, and 109 Ascot Avenue, Sale.

**NOTE 6 - ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Fixed Assets	437,128	-	437,128
Current assets	154,098	-	154,098
Fund balance	£591,226	-	£591,226

**NOTE 7 - DEBTORS**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Debtors	8,636	11,834

**NOTE 8 - LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals	2,357	200
Accrued Income	57,293	-
Accrued Agency	822	1,327
	<u>60,472</u>	<u>1,527</u>

**NOTE 9 - UNRESTRICTED FUNDS**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Balance brought forward at 1 January	579,980	584,123
(Deficit)/surplus in year	11,246	-4,142
Transfer from restricted	-	-
Balance carried forward at 31 December	<u>£591,226</u>	<u>£579,980</u>

**NOTE 10 - RESTRICTED FUNDS**

	Balance at 1/1/2024	Receipts	Payments	Balance at 31/12/2024
	£	£	£	£
Local – spend at St Mary’s	-	1,200	1,200	-
Plants – church planting	-	2,707	2,700	-
	-	<u>£3,907</u>	<u>£3,907</u>	-

The Local fund receives income that the donor wishes to be used within our church and not sent to the wider church.

The Plant fund manages a grant of £60,000 from St Michael le Belfrey York Northern Church Planting Fund for church planting. We received the total amount in 2024, but the expenditure is planned to take place over 3 years. Income is being matched to expenditure.

**NOTE 11 - LINKED CHARITY**

The PCC is the trustee of an unregistered charity called the All Saints Church of England School, known as the Glebelands Trust. The charity owns a piece of land and property on Glebelands Road Sale which is rented out. Net income is applied at the discretion of the PCC. Total reserves as at 31 December 2024 were £154,472 (£177,623 at 31 December 2023).





# FIND OUT MORE

[stmarysaom.org](http://stmarysaom.org)

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

0161 291 9283

## To speak to a member of our team:

### CHURCH OFFICE:

**Telephone:** 0161 291 9283

**General enquiries:** [office@stmarysaom.org](mailto:office@stmarysaom.org)

**Finance enquiries:** [finance@stmarysaom.org](mailto:finance@stmarysaom.org)

### STAFF:

#### Vicar:

Steve Rankin | [srankin@stmarysaom.org](mailto:srankin@stmarysaom.org)

#### Associate Vicar:

Nathan Gregory | [nathan.gregory@stmarysaom.org](mailto:nathan.gregory@stmarysaom.org)

#### Curate:

Anees Gill | [anees.gill@stmarysaom.org](mailto:anees.gill@stmarysaom.org)

#### Head of Operations:

Emma Atkinson | [operations@stmarysaom.org](mailto:operations@stmarysaom.org)

#### Children, Youth & Families Director:

Julie Loynd | [julie.loynd@stmarysaom.org](mailto:julie.loynd@stmarysaom.org)

#### 0-4's Worker:

Janet McIlhagger | [0-4s@stmarysaom.org](mailto:0-4s@stmarysaom.org)

#### Children's Worker:

Yona Oyegun-Masade | [children@stmarysaom.org](mailto:children@stmarysaom.org)

#### Youth Worker:

Dave Atkinson | [youth@stmarysaom.org](mailto:youth@stmarysaom.org)

#### Sale West Children and Families Worker:

Carol Dodgson | [caroldodgsonsalewest@gmail.com](mailto:caroldodgsonsalewest@gmail.com)

#### Treasurer:

Brian Macfaden | [treasurer@stmarysaom.org](mailto:treasurer@stmarysaom.org)

**St Mary Magdalene**  
**44 Moss Lane, Sale M33 6GD**

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# Accounts

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# ANNUAL REPORT

& FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS

## 2023

*"For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun!"*



Registered Charity No. 1133105  
44 Moss Lane, Sale, Cheshire, M33 6GD  
[stmarysaom.org](http://stmarysaom.org)



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# VICAR'S REPORT

## WRITTEN BY REVD. STEVE RANKIN

### Finish the Race

John Stephen Akhwari was a marathon runner who represented Tanzania in the marathon in 1968. He wasn't expected to win a medal and as it turned out, he didn't even come close. The fact that I'm mentioning him and a race over 50 years ago means something of note must have happened. His sheer determination and perseverance in the face of pain and adversity came to represent something much more profound and enduring than many athletes ever achieve.

He was running at high altitude for the first time and before too long he began to suffer severe cramps that slowed his progress. If that wasn't painful enough, then worse was to follow after he was caught in a melee of runners jockeying for position.

Akhwari fell to the ground, gashing and dislocating his knee. He also managed to smash his shoulder against the pavement. Seeing his injuries, most onlookers assumed he would pull out and go to hospital. Instead, he received medical attention and returned to continue running.

By the end of the race, 18 of the 75 starters had pulled out but Akhwari was not one of them. He finished last, over an hour after the winner (although his time was a very impressive 3 hours 25 minutes!)

A television crew was still on hand after the medal ceremony, when word was received that there was one more runner about to finish. He was cheered home by a few thousand spectators who had remained in the stadium after the sun went down. By the time Akhwari reached the stadium, he was limping and the bandage around his leg was flapping in the breeze.

He was asked why he'd carried on, and his

response has gone down in sporting history.

*"My country did not send me 5,000 miles to start the race," he said. "They sent me 5,000 miles to finish the race."*

We don't always see the fruit of our labours or get our just reward but happily, in this case, we can see something of the outcome of finishing the race.

He was awarded a National Hero Medal of Honour in 1983. The John Stephen Akhwari Athletic Foundation was founded, an organization which supports Tanzanian athletes training for the Olympic Games. He was invited to the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia. He

later appeared in Beijing as a goodwill ambassador in preparation for the 2008 Games.

He finished last, but he is honoured for finishing his race.

The Scriptures use the imagery of running, usually as a metaphor for persevering and pressing on.

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." Hebrews 12:1*

*"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13-14*

I think that is a good framework to use for this review of our church life in 2023 and to look forward to the challenges and opportunities of 2024...



*Bishop Sam explaining what Confirmation is during our Confirmation Service*

## THE ELIXER OF YOUTH - BECAUSE YOU'RE WORTH IT...

It is estimated that the UK population will spend £3.5 billion pounds on skincare products in 2024. That's an awful lot of money for lotions, potions, creams, gels and oils - but hey, we're worth it, right?

The vision of the Church of England is to become 'a church which is younger and more diverse' and to 'double the number of children and young active disciples.'

A 2018 Church of England Report showed:

- that national church attendance amongst 0-16s dropped below 100,000 for the first time since records began.
- that 38% of churches have no 0-16's and 68% of them have 5 or fewer.
- Only around 600 churches (4%) in the country (out of roughly 16,000), have more than 25 aged 0-16s in their church.
- Other research has shown that 85% of current church members became Christians between the ages of 4-14.

'Growing Faith' is a Church of England initiative looking at how to reverse this trend.

The main conclusion it reaches is that when school, home and church work together, children and young people's spirituality has the best chance of flourishing.

As a church we have, at most, 40 hours a year input with a child. A parent has around 3000 hours. A school around 1500 hours.

At St Mary's we have a vibrant children's ministry that connects with families, schools and church. We have been given the responsibility to disciple many children and as a result of investing time, finances and good people into this ministry we are seeing faith thriving.

When we look at our youth ministry amongst

secondary school aged children we do not see such a vibrant and thriving ministry. We should not belittle what we have, many churches would wish to be able to resource the youth ministry we have but when we compare it to the children's ministry and the size of our church then it is not at a level we feel it should be. The impact of the COVID pandemic had a much bigger effect on youth ministry and it has not looked like reaching it's potential since then.

Both the children's ministry and youth ministry have a fantastic team of volunteers, who serve faithfully and want to invest in the children and young people.

We do not want to take our children and youth ministries for granted but ensure we are maximising as best we can the resources God has entrusted us with as we join with the Church of England's ambition to double the number of children and young active disciples and take seriously the Growing Faith report.

It turns out that the secret of growing younger is less about lotions and potions and more about investing in the next generation for the sake of the kingdom of God - after all, they are worth it.

It turns out that the secret of growing younger is more about investing in the next generation for the sake of the kingdom of God - after all, they are worth it.



Prayer Tree containing the names of every child and young person at St Mary's

## CHURCH PLANTING, CROCHET, WATER BALLOONS, TRUTH & LIES

The diocesan vision consultation identified a number of key areas for ministry. Perhaps the most striking was recognising the 1.5 million people across the diocese that do not yet know Christ (of a population of around 1.9 million). Whilst there will be a number of different responses, the bishops' have spoken about church planting as far and away the most effective form of evangelism.

A leading missiologist, C. Peter Wagner stated, "Planting new churches is the most effective evangelistic methodology known under

"Planting new churches is the most effective evangelistic methodology known under Heaven."

heaven.”

New Worshipping Communities best reach new generations, new residents, new people groups and the unchurched.

A lot of work has been going on behind the scenes over the past year, to establish St Mary's as a Church Planting Hub. As I write we are about to launch the first Gathering with nine new or potential worshipping communities, including the three from St Mary's, joining from across this area.

One of those is looking to revitalise the existing church plant at Sale West and there is a great story that helps translate research and planning into human story.

Carol Dodgson, in her role as Community Development Officer at Sale West, started a weekly Crochet group on the estate. A number of single mums joined and formed a supportive social group. We organised a children's Houseparty - a weekend away with lots of fun, water balloons, crafts and God slots. We found some funding and were able to invite a number of these single parents and their children. In the end there were more non-church than Christian folk at the weekend.

Everyone had a great time - for some it was their first ever encounter with anything 'religious'. We kept up the momentum with monthly all-age Celebration services which many of the Houseparty folk came along to. They all came to the St Mary's Christingle service. The Crochet group kept meeting, trust developed, and relationships deepened.

Recently one of the mums spoke to Carol with a beaming smile and said, "I've been lied to all my life, but I believe Jesus is speaking the truth". She is now reading a Bible regularly and is coming to church with her children every week.

## RUNNING THE RACE, FINISHING STRONG & PASSING THE BATON

We choose to invest our time, loyalty and money

in things that will have an impact for ourselves, families, and wider world. Thank you for being a part of St Mary's and Sale West Community Church - it wouldn't be the same without you!



The first Myriad Church Planting Training Hub

I'm aware, as with every passing year, that some of our church have run their race and gone to receive their reward in heaven. I was reflecting on how many of these folk invested their time, money and energy for the sake of the kingdom, echoing the words of the apostle Paul at the end of his life as he writes *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."* 2 Timothy 4:7.

They finished strong and have passed the baton on to us.

Giving - of ourselves and our money is all about ministry; it is every service we have, each sermon preached, baptism families welcomed, Junior Church or Fuel sessions run, and the Gospel preached through Faith Matters and our Small Groups. Ministry is every bereaved family supported, each visit and home communion to the sick and housebound, school assemblies and classes held. Giving, in all its forms, makes ministry possible.

There are some obvious financial challenges facing us in the year ahead, investing in a new youth worker and children's worker, both working under Julie's leadership, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, the church planting initiative. This means we need to see some significant financial breakthroughs this year.

If you consider St Mary's your church home, and are not yet giving financially, will you consider joining our Stewardship scheme? And if you are already giving but have not reviewed it this year, could you prayerfully assess whether there is scope to adjust your giving?

The ministry of our church changes lives both in our church and in the wider world.

The ministry of our church changes lives both in our church and in the wider world. There is much for which we as a church can rejoice and be thankful and we continue to look forward to an exciting and challenging time under God.

With every blessing, Steve

# PCC REPORT

## WRITTEN BY EMMA ATKINSON

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of working with the incumbent, the Revd. Stephen Rankin, in furthering the mission of the church in the whole parish: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church and Church Centre. PCC members and Deanery Synod representatives are elected each year at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Roles on the PCC are then elected at the first PCC meeting following the APCM.

Role	Name	Office held
Incumbent	Revd Steve Rankin	Chair, S, F
Associate Vicar	Revd Nathan Gregory	
Head of Operations (co-opted)	Emma Atkinson	PCC Secretary, HR, BM, P
Readers	Brian Macfaden	PCC Treasurer, S, F
	Outi Rankin	
Pastoral Workers	Gill Hart	M
	Mags Holt	
	Karen MacMillan	
	Ann McBurney	P
Wardens	Yorke Menzies	S, F
	John Vaughan	S, F, SW
Deanery Synod	Dave Atkinson	
	Avtar Diggwa	
	Matthew Kay	
	Jeff McBurney	F, P
	Rosemary Sigee	SW
	Ian Thwaites	M
Elected members	Rotimi Bajela	
	Jeremy Barnes	F
	Janet Darlow	
	Graham Fosh	HR, SW
	Joan Heys	Assistant Treasurer, F, BM
	Lorna Hitchin	Vice Chair, S, F, P
	Francis Hyde	M
	Helen Jarvis	F
	Elaine Jones	S, HR, P
	Claire Nathan	
	Barbara Shimmings	

(S - Standing committee, F - Finance committee, HR - HR committee, M - Missions committee, BM - Butterflies Management committee, P - Policies Review committee, SW—Sale West building committee)

## PCC MEETINGS

9 PCC meetings took place during 2023, 8 were in-person, and 1 was over zoom. The APCM took place in April and was held in-person. Items discussed at the PCC meetings included:

- Safeguarding reports
- Missions giving
- Energy Audit
- Maintenance
- Ministry updates
- Quinquennial Report
- Butterflies Pre-School
- Restructuring children & youth team
- Church planting
- Plans for 150th Anniversary

## STAFFING

The PCC employs a Head of Operations, Receptionist & Parish Administrator, Data Administrator, Parish Finance Officer, Children's Pastor, Children's Pastor Assistant, Café Manager, Church Centre Caretaker, Saturday Cleaner, and nine staff to run the Pre-School Group 'Butterflies'. A verger is also included on the payroll on a zero-hours basis.

## ELECTORAL ROLL

The number on the electoral roll at the 2023 APCM in April was 413

## WARDEN'S REPORT

WRITTEN BY JOHN VAUGHAN &amp; YORKE MENZIES

2023 was John's third year as warden and Yorke's first. We start by giving thanks for the support that we have received in the role. In particular, we are indebted to those who act as Deputy Wardens and Sidespeople for their cheerfulness and flexibility. We work with such wonderful people.

There have been no changes to services to report in the year. We continue to be blessed by Steve, Nathan and Anees and those others who lead and preach. The 9:30 service typically sees around 110 people; the 11:15 attracts around 75; and the 7.00, 40-50. Add in those attending Junior Church and Fuel and we have over 300 individuals walking through the door on a Sunday. If that seems a lot, the three Christingle services were more than double that number. How people must have marvelled at how wonderful the building looked as they came through the door. Thank you to the decorating team for that. We also enjoyed hosting events for the diocese such as the ordination service in July and the Growing Faith conference in December. We are grateful that we can use our facilities to serve the wider church community.

As we look forward to celebrating the 150th anniversary of the church we must also accept that we have a building that is 150 years old. Not only are repairs expensive, the expertise to undertake them is in very short supply. We generally end the year without spending money that we have earmarked for repairs, in part because we simply cannot find people to do them. 2023 was no exception with two large portions of work not completed. One of these, the stonework to the South transept door, was actually completed in early 2024 but there remains some significant higher-level stonework and guttering issues to deal with. A report has been received and the PCC has approved an estimate to do the work. We are now negotiating when that will be undertaken. A small band continues to do sterling work in looking after day-to-day

maintenance and we are grateful to Norman, Alec and Phil for their hard work. The outside is kept tidy by a faithful gardening team that work in all weathers and we are grateful to them.

Each week we are blessed by the sounds of wonderful musicians who lead our worship. They are the more visible side of ministry but there are many others whose ministry is in the background, for example, those who give their time keeping the church clean. There are so many other people who contribute to the church. In addition to those mentioned we have people who make refreshments after the services; make floral displays; work on our tech desks; clean the church; polish the brasses; and staff the church office. Often these activities go unremarked on and unthanked, so please take time to say thank you more often to those who bless us with their work. Perhaps also pray about whether there is a role that you could take on. We

have vacancies on pretty much every team in the church and even 30 minutes once a month would be welcomed.

As we reflect on 2023 we marvel at how blessed we are as a Church family. We have a multi-generational and multi-ethnic community and a vibrancy that shines through our life here. In a time of decline in other parishes and the low numbers of children and young people who attend church nationally, we are, thankfully, not a 'typical' church. While we should give thanks for our successes we cannot rest on our laurels and must continue to look to the future. The bold vision to employ more support for our youth work will stretch our finances and we have challenges with fabric and with having enough people to support our activities. As we also look to a future where we will have church plants we do not know what challenges that will pose but we start from a solid base and pray that what we need will be provided.



*(left to right) Lucy Moore, Bishop Sam & Julie Loynd at Chester Diocese's 'Growing Faith' conference hosted at St Mary's*

We have a multi-generational and multi-ethnic community and a vibrancy that shines through our life here.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## WRITTEN BY BRIAN MACFADEN

At the start of 2023 the PCC agreed a budget with a substantial deficit as we sought to launch our church planting proposal and extend our children and youth work, while continuing all our other ministries in a time of significant (10%) inflation. We shared this vision with our congregations and challenged them to help us grow our planned giving by 10% (£23,000) in 2023.

The result in 2023 was our expenditure exceeded our income by just £4,142, a fantastic result. At 31st December 2023 we held cash at the bank, including short term deposits, of £132,545.

We give thanks to God for His ongoing provision for our work in Sale, and the generosity of His people who support His work.

### COMPARISON TO 2022

Most of the giving we receive comes through regular standing orders and stewardship envelopes, and we saw a 7.8% increase from last year (£302,037 in 2023 vs £280,244 in 2022). This was greater than the actual inflation of 4% over the past 12 months. We also received £15,059 in one-off donations (£812 in 2022). 13 people started donating regularly to our work during the year, and this financial growth is enabling us to continue growing our work.

We received an insurance payment for a lightning strike on the evening of 12th June 2023 which damaged a computer in the office, networking routers and audiovisual equipment in church. The claim was paid in full apart from the £250 excess.

Butterflies Pre-School Group had a deficit of £18,145 (deficit of £3,867 in 2022). This was due to lower numbers than usual at the start of the year and was anticipated. Butterflies is now back to full capacity. The surplus or deficit varies year by year depending on the number of children attending. Butterflies did not benefit from any donations in 2023 (it received a donation of £40,000 in 2022).

### LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024

In 2024 the PCC have again approved a budget with a significant deficit in order to further

invest in church planting, children and youth, key priorities across the Church of England. As St Mary's celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> year we trust that our congregations will respond to the vision and invest for the future of God's work, as our predecessors did so long ago.

We approach the challenges and opportunities of 2024 with confidence in God's continuing provision and your support.

### RESERVES

All charities are expected to hold an appropriate level of reserves, which we use for:

- Working capital to balance our income and expenditure streams.
- Planning ahead by accommodating variations in our income from year to year.
- Meeting maintenance needs and
- Responding to opportunities as they arise.

The PCC has a policy to maintain approximately 3 months of regular expenditure in our reserves. At the end of 2023 our reserves were 3.0 months of regular expenditure (3.3 months at end of 2022).

The trustees are confident that, with continuing regular income from church members, there are sufficient reserves to support ongoing commitments for at least twelve months from the date of approval of these accounts.

### INVESTMENT POLICY

Cash not required for day to day operations is held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Investment Fund.

No funds are held as custodian trustee.

## MISSION GIVING REPORT

WRITTEN BY BRIAN MACFADEN

As a church we donate 10% of the giving we receive to missions, both here in the UK and overseas. We see this as our stewardship, or good management, of the money we receive from God, just as we encourage church members to steward their income.

This year we donated £28,889, which is 10% of the previous year's giving.

The Missions Committee oversees how we distribute these funds, together with the PCC. Most of the mission budget is given as regular support to organisations and individuals where there is a link with our church. We also retain some funds to allocate flexibly during the year.

This is where our support was donated in 2023. Our mission partners are shown in bold.

## OVERSEAS MISSIONS

<b>Church Mission Society</b>	<b>£400</b>
<b>Tim &amp; Miho Walker - Overseas Missionary Fellowship</b>	<b>£1,800</b>
<b>Simon and Sue Yeomans - Operation Mobilisation</b>	<b>£4,600</b>
<b>Open Doors</b>	<b>£1,600</b>
<b>Philippines Outreach Centre</b>	<b>£2,609</b>
<b>Hope for Justice</b>	<b>£1,600</b>
<b>Simon &amp; Amelie Latham - Mercy Ships</b>	<b>£3,000</b>
<b>Acts - Education in Africa - Burundi School</b>	<b>£1,800</b>
David & Mary Robinson - Thai ministry	£700
Dan and Rachel King - Wycliffe Bible Translators	£500
A Rocha - Christian conservation	£100
FEBA (Arab world gospel radio)	£100
Tearfund (Relief & development work)	£100

## UK MISSIONS

<b>Boaz Trust</b>	<b>£1,800</b>
<b>Youth for Christ</b>	<b>£4,200</b>
New Wine	£500
Bible Society	£1,400
Church Pastoral Aid Society	£1,200
Universities & Colleges Christian Fellowship	£300
Trafford South Foodbank	£400
Churches Together in Sale	£30
Evangelical Alliance	£150

From the Christmas Fair we also donated:

Simon & Amelie Latham - Mercy Ships	£1,524
Acts - Education in Africa - Burundi School	£550
Boaz Trust	£439
Youth for Christ	£516
Project Pearl	£260

We also gave a grant of £7,000 to Sale West Community Urban Trust and a donation of £35 from a women's event to Youth for Christ.

# SAFEGUARDING REPORT

WRITTEN BY MAUREEN CAIN

We follow the Chester Diocesan guidance and the policy statement of the Church of England publication, "Promoting a Safer Church", and look to these sources for information and guidance.

## POSITION STATEMENT

The word 'Safeguarding' refers to all aspects of keeping people safe, primarily children and young people but also vulnerable adults. This is a really important aspect of Safeguarding as many of us can be considered as vulnerable during our lives. So a vulnerable adult is not just someone who is considered vulnerable because of their mental or physical condition which may be permanent. A person experiencing trauma in their lives such as illness, divorce, bereavement, financial hardship, redundancy etc will be vulnerable in many circumstances and this situation, if known, should be respected in conversations and other association.

As our Church continues to offer outreach to many groups with a growing number of volunteers, this knowledge continues to be at the forefront of emerging and developing Safeguarding responsibilities. So we place great importance on ensuring effective training and recording systems both from the diocese and also in-house.

## TRAINING AND RECORDING SYSTEMS

We follow the Diocesan advice regarding training and we can report that a substantial number of our Church members have completed the required on-line training modules. During the past year Safeguarding modules such as Basic, Foundation, Leadership, Awareness of Domestic Abuse, Pastoral, and Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking have informed and educated our members on wider societal and humanitarian issues.

The Church office keeps effective records of training and other regulatory requirements with individual prompts for the necessary renewals every three years.

We have confidential systems for recording Safeguarding concerns and the actions taken. We keep these records updated and reviewed appropriately.

In conjunction with the office I provide a report at each PCC meeting containing the numbers of people completing on-line training modules and also the numbers of concerns which have been reported.

## MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

We have a Safeguarding team comprised of Church staff and volunteers. We meet to discuss issues arising, changes required and to refresh our understanding of recent guidance. A recent Archdeacon's Visitation concluded with a satisfactory report on our systems and procedures.

I consider an important aspect of my role is to address any issues both formally and informally, particularly regarding knowledge of how to keep everyone safe. Constant attention to the reality of Safeguarding in action is necessary and informal conversations are often a meaningful way of addressing the need to advise when friendship and offers of help may be conflicted with being safe in unknown situations. So the more we can spread our knowledge through effective training and constant vigilance then the more purposeful we can be in ensuring a Safeguarding church.

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## DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

WRITTEN BY ROSEMARY SIGEE

The Deanery Synod meets three times a year in different Churches and gives an opportunity for members of different parts of the Deanery to share local news and events from their parishes and to hear reports from the wider Church. The meetings have four parts.

1. Refreshments as people arrive give an opportunity for general catch up.
2. A short service of worship led by the clergy of the host parish.
3. An address, usually by an external speaker, with an opportunity for questions and discussion.
4. A business meeting with previous minutes, reports, including any available reports from Diocesan or General Synods, and an update on news from parishes.

**The meeting on 11 May 2023 was held at St Elizabeth's Church, Ashley** and the address was given by Revd Vanessa Layfield, the Diocesan Engagement and Inclusion Officer. The Church should make everyone welcome and this involves training, doing accessibility audits and asking disabled people what would help them. Churches need to be more inclusive of those from other ethnicities and backgrounds. Do our congregations reflect the community living around us? Is there an unconscious bias to keep groups "like us"?

Dave Atkinson gave an outline of the work Trafford Youth for Christ does teaching the Christian perspective in RE in 12 local schools but sadly the work was affected by Covid and funds are low.

**The meeting on 17 October 2023 was held at St Alban's Church, Broadheath** and Revd Shemil Mathew, Vice Dean, Emmanuel Theological College gave the talk. Emmanuel is a Christ-centred, hope-filled and mission-orientated community which exists to equip the whole people of God to serve the whole mission of God today. It is the third largest theological college in England, with 18 members of Staff, 160 students and also pop-up theological students joining for short courses. The teaching centres are in the six CofE dioceses in the NW, in Blackburn, Carlisle, Chester, Liverpool, Manchester, and Sodor and Man and on-line. Students develop their particular gifts in a parish, combining practical training in a priest's duties with academic theology. Revd Jane Mottram then described her experience being in a placement

at St Mary's Partington while studying for her degree. Churches can help support the college work and the college can help churches.

Bishop Mark is developing a Vision for the Diocese which will eventually impact all areas of the diocesan life, including a balancing of resources, with the vision of reaching the 1.5 million in our diocese who don't know Jesus.

Reports were received from General and Diocesan Synods.

**The meeting on February 7 2024 was held at Holy Cross, Timperley Parish** and Revd Michael Loach, Vicar of Higher Bebington, talked about Environmentalism and the Church in three aspects: at the national level, in the diocese, and in the local church. The Church of England's Route map to Net Zero Carbon is aiming for all parishes and churches to be carbon net-zero by 2030, an ambitious target set by the 2020 General Synod. Many of the older buildings are a challenge but we can do small things such as keeping lights low, monitoring heating temperatures and ensuring good insulation. In many churches the focus is on schemes to heat the people rather than the whole building e.g. under-pew heating, zoned spaces and warmer clothes. There are some funds and other resources available. The Diocese and the Churches are being encouraged to get Eco status. Chester has now appointed a Diocesan Net Zero Officer and needs to appoint a Diocesan Environment Officer to provide more local support to parishes working towards net zero.

Reports from General Synod and the Diocesan Synod were received and also one about the Mothers' Union in Bowdon Deanery. Several branches have closed in the Deanery recently including ours as the members have aged and there are few new members. The M.U. does valuable work in prisons, providing holidays for families in need and supporting work here and in many countries overseas including war torn areas such as Ukraine. The Chester M.U. is also at risk of folding.

**The next meeting, on Thursday 23 May at 7pm at St Mary's Church, Partington M31 4FB, will be an Open Deanery Synod Meeting to which other members of Bowdon Deanery churches are invited. This will be on the subject of the Diocesan Vision process. Please come.**

# CHILDREN

WRITTEN BY JULIE LOYND

## Ubuntu

At the end of last year's report, I said that I was looking forward to seeing what God was going to do this year. God has been so faithful (and busy!) and looking back He has done more than we could possibly have hoped or imagined. Here are a few highlights:

- The Light Party – still a hugely popular event for our church and local community. A particular highlight was the amount of our lovely youth who asked if they could help at the event. They did such a fantastic job!
- Seeing intergenerational church happen with our new "One Big Family" services where all ages can get involved in all aspects of the service.
- The prayer tunnel in church at the end of our 9:30 service one week, when our church family prayed for our children, youth and Tiddler's families. We had such great feedback, our Church just loved being able to pray and bless our children and young families. One of the adults from church said that as they walked through the tunnel, she heard so many encouraging words from God about them.
- Our Caterpillars Parent and Toddler Group which has been consistently full each Tuesday afternoon for the past year. God is really at work here, all credit to Janet and the Caterpillars Team who give their time each week to make everyone feel so welcome and minister to those who attend.
- Seeing a child sat in the chancel praying after one of the 9:30 services.
- Working with St Mary's School on new ways in which we can help grow faith and support each other.
- A beautiful moment the other week when I walked into Junior Church at the end of the session, to see the children stood in circles with their hands on each other's shoulders praying for each other.



*Julie and Nathan enjoying our 'Scratch Nativity' all-age service*

- Seeing the joy on the faces of teachers, pupils, and families from St Mary's School at Day School Sunday as the Freedom Gospel Choir led everyone in worship.
- Our Tiddlers group, they get their own bullet point. They are just wonderful!
- ...So do our volunteers. They are such a blessing to the team and the children.
- Hosting Care For The Family's Parenting Events "Left to Their Own Devices" in October and "A Mind of Their Own" in February for our church, schools and local community.
- Doing treasure hunts around our church with 60 children from The Firs and being part of Forest Park Prep's amazing nativity service!
  - Being able to promote Growing Faith to other churches in Chester Diocese with Bishop Sam and Lucy Moore.
  - Youth hanging out with the younger children after the service and having a game of football.

To name but a few! It has been a beautifully busy year and God has been at work. As well as leading the Children's Ministry, I have been part of the Church of

England's Growing Faith Strategic Leadership Programme, which aims to equip leaders to work towards the Church of England's goal to double the number of children and young people in churches by 2030.

In my new role as Children, Youth & Families Director, I am looking forward to growing the team and thinking about how to further implement the vision for children's and youth work in building the foundations of a life-long faith. Our vision is to give our children and young people the space to:

- Know - Learn about the Bible and God's character
- Grow - Be free to ask questions to help them better understand and grow their faith.

- Show - Be able to look outwards to show God's love to others.

At the heart of all of these is the word "Connect". To know, grow and show faith is to learn to live in a relationship and friendship with God where we can connect with Him and vice versa. When we connect with God, and experience His love, it turns our head-learning into a heart-loving relationship.

For me, this verse really captures the heart of what God has been doing this year in this ministry in our Church.

"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow" 1 Cor 3:6

For our church to help our children and young people grow in faith we have to work together as one body in Christ. I am so thankful for our

church family who have backed the vision and committed to investing in children and youth to grow the team, for all the volunteers who bake, help at events and give their time and energy in Junior Church throughout the year and for the children's spiritual grandparents and all members of our Church Family who have prayed, listened and continue to pray for our children and young people.

There is a South African word called "Ubuntu" which means "I am what I am, because of who we are". I think this is so true for our church family. Together we are all planting seeds of faith and helping God make them grow, so thank you for your time and investment in our young people. The best is yet to come.

Thank you so much,  
Julie



*Church family enjoying our annual picnic in Ashton Park*



*Caterpillars children learning that Jesus loves them through different craft activities*



*Families gathered at the 2023 Light Party*

# YOUTH

WRITTEN BY DAVE ATKINSON

Over 2023 we have seen the FUEL family grow more stable... across the board - FUEL & FUEL:Cell on Friday evenings, and FUEL:Sundays on (you've guessed it!) Sunday mornings. The young people who attend each week are enjoying themselves, following the rules/guidelines, learning about God, and having fun - a winning outcome! They're confident in how each of the groups run, and what's expected of them, and so when new people come along, they help them to 'fit in' to how the groups work best, and so there's little required from the volunteers in the way of discipline. Numbers are steady, we see most of the same young people each week and the majority of the attendees are currently in Years 7 & 8. Usually each year we lose the top end of young people, and hope to fill their places with the new Year 6s, but we are confident that the majority (if not, all) of the group will be continuing to attend right through to summer and beyond, so we anticipate a real growth in numbers over summer when the Year 6s do join us. In a time where numbers attending church youth groups seem to be in decline, we don't want to be turning young people away because we don't have enough volunteers to facilitate their attendance (this is your opportunity to get involved and volunteer with the amazing youthwork).

There are a couple of really exciting stories from just before the summer holidays in 2023 with one young person who had received an off-the-

cuff invite from a neighbouring family to "check out the church youth group if you're interested". They found themselves watching a vlogger on TikTok in June 2023 posing the question "Are you a lukewarm Christian?", and so decided to 'check out the church youth group', signed up, and came along that Friday (knowing no-one else who would be there, and even though her parents haven't had any connection with the church)... and even came to FUEL:Sundays that week too. She has been regularly attending both since, and also came along to the New Wine Worship event held at church in January, deciding to go deeper still, and is looking into baptism. This proves that a simple invite can stick with someone, and so don't be put off if nothing seems to happen straight away, invite anyway.

Another young person turned up at one of the church services randomly one week before summer. It transpired that he used to come along to FUEL when he was in year 7 (he's now in 6th Form), and although he hasn't joined in 'as a young person' with the groups on Sunday or Friday, he's regularly in the services each Sunday, and has started to explore volunteering on a Friday night. A great example of how we are called to be disciples who make disciples who make disciples.



*Some of our young people walking through a prayer tunnel as the rest of the congregation prayed for them and the rest of our children and young people.*



*Young people playing a 'conversation starter' game during a session*

## SALE WEST COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

WRITTEN BY CAROL DODGSON

We have been bringing people together in community this year and creating a wonderful 'family feel' in supportive spaces across two venues - The Sale West Community Centre and St Mary's Church. Our people have made new friends, learned new skills, engaged in peer support, volunteered, engaged in church and lived life together.

We aim for an atmosphere of acceptance and care through the various non-faith based activities we run including: creative groups, our Men's Group, bereavement support, a community garden, one-to-one mentoring, holiday family and children's crafts, and through working in partnership with others like Our Sale West, Bluesci, Trafford Conservation Volunteers, St Martin's Church, local schools and Sale Sharks.

Our impact has been life changing for some, with:

- over 380 people benefitting from our activities;
- 93% of people making friends;
- 83% of people feeling more connected with community;
- 46 people volunteering to help run our activities; this includes members of the church/ local community who want to give back, teenagers doing work experience and people from within the groups, who are encouraged to volunteer as a way of feeling more connected and improving self-confidence; and
- 78% of people saying they felt more self-confident as a result of coming to our groups and 81% of people feeling less isolated.

During the course of the year, 20 men engaged in our Men's Group, one gentleman said, "I feel important, I matter." Each person matters to us as we seek to create an environment where people are accepted and acceptable.

35 people were supported after being bereaved by helping them to create a structure and purpose to life.

In May 2023, we took a number of families from the Sale West estate to Quinta for a church weekend away, where we spent an excellent weekend looking at who God is, singing, playing games and eating together. This led on to new families joining the Sale West Community Church and people coming to faith.

In October we had a craft group trip out to Bury Market, and we've made handmade items to sell at our table-top craft sales in May and November, with many volunteering to help run stands and raising money to support the groups. We have also attended community events and offered creative activities in order to engage with people which has been very successful.

"I feel important.  
I matter."



*Learning new skills at Monday's craft group*

We are looking forward to our revitalisation project for the Sale West Community Church which will bring opportunities for growth in numbers and relationships. We have a wonderful team of people and the Myriad training program for church planting they are part of has got off to a good start. We have a great mentor assigned from a similar type of church setting supporting and challenging us this year.

# DISCIPLESHIP COMMUNITIES

WRITTEN BY ANN MCBURNEY

## SMALL GROUPS

Most of our small groups have been together for a while, or what seems like forever. We have recently added a much needed new small group to our Tuesday evening list. This group started small but is already growing just a few weeks in. Autumn of 2023 The Romans series was launched, which from what I have heard was a real boost for church members and small groups alike. The change of format gave groups a nudge to try something different and I know some are continuing to search out video clips and other material along with using ideas from the small group notes.

## HUDDLES

We have held our first all huddle meeting, it was wonderful to get together with so many of you and we even started a new huddle at the event. Steve led us through various discussion points, thinking about our huddle's health, what's great and what could be improved, materials we are all using- a wonderful variety and a time of fellowship across all the different huddles within our church family.

If you are interested in hearing more about our Discipleship communities- small groups or huddles please do contact me by emailing [ann.mcburney@hotmail.com](mailto:ann.mcburney@hotmail.com).

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## ENGLISH CLASSES

WRITTEN BY CLAIRE CAMPBELL SMITH

St Mary's English Classes have gone from strength to strength since they started in July 2022, led by Amelie Latham in response to the arrival of Ukrainian refugees in Trafford. We currently have over 50 students and the buzz in the Heartbeat Café, with lots of laughter and conversation, suggests that the classes provide an important social, as well as educational, opportunity.

The classes take place on Thursdays, 10am-12noon, and we're in our 6th term. 8-week terms have stretched to 10, as the demand is so great! Ukrainians have largely been replaced by people from Hong Kong and other parts of China, Iran, Iraq, India, Egypt, Turkey, Spain and Poland. Some are working, some looking for work, some studying and some retired and fulfilling grandparent duties! Some people are referred to us by Trafford Council, whose waiting list for ESOL classes (English for Speakers of Other Languages) numbers well over 400!

Levels of English vary greatly. A team of 4 teachers (currently Claire Campbell Smith, Lorna Hitchin, Yorke Menzies and Janine Smith) provide lessons for, broadly speaking, Beginner, Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced students, supported by student co-ordinator,

Martin Haywood. They each have a 60-minute lesson plus an hour of informal conversation in the Café with native English speakers from St Mary's, other churches and the wider community, who've formed a committed and enthusiastic group of volunteers. The church supports the classes by providing free hot drinks, kindly served by Cathy and her helpers in the Café.

I think it's true to say that Thursday mornings have become a high point in everyone's week. The atmosphere is so positive and it's been a joy to get to know people from so many different countries and cultures and to see them learning together. It's also been great to see students come along to other activities at St Mary's and some have become part of our congregation. Connections have been made with the All Nations group - we've shared a Christmas lunch for the past 2 years, enjoying an amazing feast of international cuisine - and students and their children have volunteered in the Café or at events such as the Christmas Fair.

Teachers and volunteers pray together before the classes begin; we pray for students who are ill or facing difficult situations and we also pray that students will catch a glimpse of Christ's love while they are with us.

## FAITH MATTERS/ALPHA

WRITTEN BY NATHAN GREGORY

Throughout the year we like to regularly offer opportunities for people to come and explore the Christian faith and find out about Jesus. One of the main ways we have done this is through Faith Matters. It is a five week 'course' which focuses on the relationship God is wanting to invite us all into and some of the basics of the Christian faith. It is a joy to have a constant flow of people who are interested in discovering more about Jesus whether it is for the first time, wanting to revisit a dormant faith or even where they may have been a Christian for a while but wanting to deepen their understanding to a God they have already discovered is real.

To complement Faith Matters this last year we ran Alpha in the Autumn term. Alpha is a longer course and enables us to go into greater detail about Jesus, why he died, the work of the Holy Spirit, what is prayer and how to read the Bible amongst other topics.

Over the last year we have seen people take significant steps of faith where faith and their relationship with Jesus has come alive in a new way and those who have discovered faith in Jesus for the first time. I would love to be able to share some of their stories but they are not mine to share and as with all of us the journey of faith is still unfolding. In all of their stories is the common theme of invitation. A friend inviting them to come along and join them on Faith Matters, a neighbour casually mentioning Alpha in a passing conversation, someone who invited them to join them at church on Sunday which turned into them wanting to find out more. It is a simple invitation to hear something more but it is more than that isn't it, it is an invitation to the greatest, most fulfilling relationship, an invitation to discover themselves, their purpose and meaning, an invitation to know God and be with him forever. So do be praying about who God is asking you to invite on Faith Matters and Alpha in the year ahead.

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## CONNECTIONS

WRITTEN BY MAUREEN CAIN

In September I had some thoughts about starting a new group for friendship in Church. I talked to various people who all seemed to think it would be a great idea and so I then passed it through the people who could enable it to proceed. At this stage I had formulated some ideas of how it would run and my notion was that it would provide an opportunity for people to connect with each other in a warm and friendly place of companionship.

Our first meeting happened in October and I asked the twenty-two people who came if they would provide their contact details and an indication of what they would like to get from the group. I explained that this would be a self-sufficient group, I didn't want the responsibility of organising speakers, trips etc, but if that's what was wanted they could organise themselves. Reading the responses after this first meeting the overwhelming message was that people wanted a place to meet others, chat, develop friendships and enjoy each others' company with a brew and a biscuit.

We meet at 2pm on the first Friday afternoon of the month and now have a good number who come along to each meeting, with new people joining us each month. We seem to have got into a habit of somebody bringing a quiz which always raises a laugh and we have the domino corner and a jigsaw table and anything else that people want to do. Each time we meet people come up with ideas which are then put to the group for approval.

A personal highlight for me was hearing people say what an interesting chat they'd had with someone they knew by sight but had never spoken with. Another is when a lady came in to collect a baking tin from the kitchen and was hailed by people she knew in another context. The following month she arrived with cakes made for us all!

Connections is emerging as a group of loving people who enjoy company and I strongly believe that things will develop in this group and beyond, the likes of which we don't know but trust it will be part of a bigger plan.

# MISSION PARTNERS

WRITTEN BY MARY ROBINSON

It's been a full year for the Mission Group! We've had fascinating quarterly meetings looking in depth at the work of our 10 Mission Partners; their ministry, organisation, financial and specific needs, thinking how we should support them as a church.

THE HIGHLIGHT has been to see one of our church families, Simon and Amelie Latham going out in Mission together with their children Zara, Heloise, and Sophie. They left in June to work on the Mercy Ships in Sierra Leone providing skilled surgical and medical care for so many in need. Follow them on their Facebook page, ([www.facebook.com/lathamsonthemove](http://www.facebook.com/lathamsonthemove))

Many of our partners shared about their ministries at the May mission stalls Sunday.

We continue the monthly Mission Focus in St Mary's morning services with updates on each partner in turn. They are a regular part of the weekly intercessions. We've a bright Mission Display Board by the side door (do have a look!). Danielle has done a great job upgrading our Mission Website. Find the latest news from our all our Mission Partners by visiting the church website, [www.stmarysaom.org/mission](http://www.stmarysaom.org/mission)

Fund Raising Events included Trafford Youth for Christ, Philippines Outreach and Burundi Herridge Trust. More are planned for this year! Thank you for your prayers and practical support for all our Mission Partners.

'Lift up your eyes and look unto the fields ripe unto Harvest' Matthew 9:37.

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# RAMBLERS

WRITTEN BY JANET TURNBULL

This group was started so long ago by myself and Margaret Baker that the exact date is lost in the mists of time and failing memory, but suffice to say our children were at St Mary's primary school and Jim Innes was the vicar, so that puts it well before 1990.

Over the years we have gained and lost many members, and our walks have been getting rather shorter and less challenging than they were in the early days.

I always intended the Ramblers to be a kind of outreach group, where people could join in on equal terms, get to know St Mary's folk and feel safe with them. I don't know if that approach worked, but it does appear to have been a matchmaker for at least two couples!

Over the past year we managed 11 Saturday rambles and 7 midweek 'Meanders'. 12 of us also enjoyed a 5-day walking holiday at Scargill in September; the weather was glorious, the walks were stunning and the welcome at Scargill was as warm as ever, making us feel like old friends.

Since the pandemic we have never quite found our feet again and the walks were fixed on a very ad hoc basis, never knowing what we were

going to do until it became imperative to get the information to the church office in time for the relevant Contact. I am greatly indebted to Steve Thurston for advertising them on the pre-service overheads. I'm also deeply grateful to those who led walks, and especially to Joan Heys and Maura Baker for partnering me on so many recess and offering to drive as well!

The rambles varied in length from 6 to 8 miles; the meanders were all less than 5 miles. Our average speed never got above 1.4 miles per hour for either, but that can be attributed to lunch stops and a certain photographer who couldn't pass by a mushroom without recording it.

In 2022 we tried an experiment of finishing the Meanders at a pub in time for lunch, with the idea that the rest of the day would be free, but in reality we tended to sit there until teatime before reluctantly going home so last year we reverted to packed lunches!

Following our very enjoyable AGM/social/bring-and-share supper on 10th February we have put together a programme of sorts, but it may be the last year with me at the helm. The Ramblers have given me many years of pleasure but I feel it is time to hang up my boots.

## COME FLY WITH ME WRITTEN BY FIONA PALMER

We have had a really exciting time at Come Fly With Me over the last year. We met on zoom on the first Thursday evening of the month during term time from 7:30pm to 8:45pm. We have welcomed folk from all four services and since we meet on zoom it has enabled several people from other churches to join us too.

We believe that our Lord speaks and that all Christians can hear from God in different ways. The aim of each evening is to enable us all to practice hearing in a safe space and hence grow in confidence to hear from God both for ourselves and others.

Each session has a short teaching slot with a different theme each month. A recent theme

was 'Seasons.' After the teaching we listened to the Lord for His guidance and will for each person for the coming season in small breakout groups guided by an experienced leader. As usual, at feedback, we heard of some amazing words that were so accurate the recipient couldn't doubt that the Lord was speaking to them through a member of their group.

Everyone is most welcome at CFWM. Please come and join us, for a no obligation taster session, to weigh it up for yourself and to see if this is an experience and opportunity in the prophetic with which you would like to engage.

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## HEARTBEAT CAFE WRITTEN BY CATHY SNOWDON

Another busy year at the Heartbeat Café! We have been blessed by the continuous support from our regular customers... from Pictor School, a Pilates group, Butterflies, and small groups, to name a few, who have all enjoyed toasties, soup or homemade cakes.

But there have also been new groups using the church centre and gradually coming into the café before 'singing' or 'art appreciation'. It has been lovely to have the opportunity to chat with these people who may not regularly go to church.

Also a number of 'walk-in' customers who appreciate the café and return. It would be good to see more of the congregation from our church using the café.

A huge thank you to the volunteers, some new ones, some longstanding, others finding commitments elsewhere. Thank you to Diane who started with me from the beginning but has now moved on. New volunteers are still very much welcomed and needed, no matter how often. We have some very busy times,

particularly the 'conversation class' on Thursday mornings when more volunteers are appreciated to serve drinks to the students where English is their second language.

The monthly afternoon teas have been popular and I intend to continue with them this coming year.

The Christmas Fair opening of the Heartbeat Café was well attended and the volunteers worked hard to create a smooth, friendly environment.

Also a new venture was to open on the afternoon session of the clothes swap in January. 'Swappers' browsed and enjoyed homemade goodies and

drinks.

The Kindness Coffee board has blessed many and is ongoing.

We pray that the customers continue to feel blessed and valued and that more of the wider community will also come to 'Taste and see that the Lord is good' Psalm 34:8.



*The Kindness Coffee board ready for action*

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE  
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY MAGDALENE,  
ASHTON-ON-MERSEY WITH SALE WEST COMMUNITY CHURCH,  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND DIOCESE OF CHESTER**

**Registered Charity No. 1133105**

**Year ended 31 December 2023**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE TRUSTEES ANNUAL  
REPORT AND THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Under charity law, the trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements for each financial year which properly present the state of affairs of the charity and of the excess of income over expenditure for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, generally accepted accounting practice entails that the trustees:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements comply with the trust deed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue its activities.

The trustees are required to act in accordance with the trust deed of the charity, within the framework of trust law. They are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, sufficient to disclose at any time, with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the charity at that time, and to enable the trustees to ensure that, where any statements of accounts are prepared by them under section 132(1) of the Charities Act 2011, as amended by the Charities Act 2022, those statements of accounts comply with the requirements of regulations under that provision. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the PCC



Revd Nathan Gregory

# INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY MAGDALENE, ASHTON-ON-MERSEY WITH SALE WEST COMMUNITY CHURCH

Year ended 31 December 2023

I report to the PCC on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 set out on pages 23 to 30.

## RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants for England and Wales.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mrs Susan Suchoparek FCA

27<sup>th</sup> March 2024

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

## *For the year ended 31 December 2023*

There were no restricted funds in 2023.

	Note	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	2		
Voluntary income (direct giving)		310,435	288,893
Other voluntary income		18,469	2,634
Gross income from events and activities		128,537	138,573
Other ordinary income		21,038	10,316
Income from trading		46,204	41,542
Income from investment		3,907	971
Other income		-	347
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>£528,591</b>	<b>£483,276</b>
<b>RESOURCES USED</b>	3		
Grants		39,212	35,005
Support costs		49,453	40,088
Directly relating to the work of the church		378,191	368,836
Fund raising and publicity		425	295
Church management/administration		65,452	61,589
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>		<b>£532,733</b>	<b>£505,812</b>
Net incoming resources before gains/(losses) on investments		-4,142	-22,536
Net gain/(losses) on investments:		-	-
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>-£4,142</b>	<b>-£22,536</b>
Balances brought forward at 1 January		£584,123	£606,659
Transfer between funds			
<b>Balances carried forward at 31 December</b>		<b>£579,980</b>	<b>£584,123</b>

## BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2023	2022
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	5	437,128	437,128
		<b>£437,128</b>	<b>£437,128</b>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	7	11,834	7,543
Short term deposits		97,422	74,820
Cash at bank and in hand		35,123	66,304
		<b>£144,379</b>	<b>£148,667</b>
LIABILITIES			
Amounts falling due within one year	8	-1,527	-1,672
NET CURRENT ASSETS	6	<b>£142,852</b>	<b>£146,995</b>
NET ASSETS		<b>£579,980</b>	<b>£584,123</b>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted	9	579,980	584,123
Restricted		-	-
		<b>£579,980</b>	<b>£584,123</b>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 25th March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



The Revd Nathan Gregory (Chairman)



Ms Lorna Hitchin (Vice Chair)

*The notes on pages 26-30 form part of these accounts*

# CASH FLOW STATEMENT

## for the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Deficit/(Surplus) for the year	-4,142	-22,536
Adjustments for:		
Interest receivable and similar income	-3,907	-971
Interest payable and similar charges	-	-
Increase (-) / decrease (+) in other debtors	-4,291	-1,640
Increase (+) / decrease (-) in other creditors	-145	+504
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<b>-£12,485</b>	<b>-£24,643</b>
Cash flows from investing activities	3,907	971
<b>Net cash from investing activities</b>	<b>£3,907</b>	<b>£971</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b> (Interest paid)	-	-
<b>Net cash from financing activities</b>	-	-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	-8,578	-23,672
Cash and cash equivalents as at 1 January	141,123	164,795
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December</b>	<b>£132,545</b>	<b>£141,123</b>

## ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	35,123	66,303
Short term deposits	97,422	74,820
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>£132,545</b>	<b>£141,123</b>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## NOTE 1 - ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations together with Charities Statement of Recommended Practice Financial Reporting Standards 102 (SORP FRS102).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

**Funds**

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC.

The purpose of any restricted funds is noted in the accounts.

The accounts include transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe an affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

**Incoming Resources***Voluntary income and capital sources*

Collections are recognised when made.

Amounts receivable under covenant are recognised only when honoured by the covenanter.

Income tax recoverable on covenanted or gift aid donations is recognised when claimable.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its entitlement and the amount due.

Funds raised by a church fair, garden party and similar events are accounted for gross.

Sales from the church bookstalls, Cafe, or other activities are accounted for gross.

*Other ordinary income*

Rental income from the letting of church premises is accounted for when earned.

Parochial fees due to the PCC for weddings, funerals etc are accounted for on an event by event basis.

*Income from investment* - Dividends and interest are accounted for when due. Tax recoverable on such income is accrued for on the same basis.

*Investment gains and losses* - Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

**Application of Resources**

*Grants* - Grants and donations are accounted for when paid.

**Fixed assets***Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings*

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be an inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off.

*Other land and buildings* - Other land and buildings held on behalf of the PCC for its own purposes is valued at cost. No depreciation is charged against such properties but any expenditure on maintenance or minor improvement is written off as incurred. Improvement expenditure in excess of £40,000 is capitalised.

*Other fixtures, fitting and office equipment* - Individual items with a purchase price of £5,000 or less are written off in the period in which the asset is acquired. Equipment with a purchase price of more than £5,000 is depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years.

**Current assets**

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less any provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the Central Board of Finance or at the bank

## NOTE 2 - INCOMING RESOURCES

There were no restricted funds in 2023

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
2(a) Voluntary income (direct giving)		
Planned giving	234,659	218,547
Income tax recovered on Gift Aid	52,587	48,161
Giving received gross of Income Tax	14,790	13,535
Collections (open plate) other than planned giving	8,399	8,649
	<u>310,435</u>	<u>288,893</u>
2(b) Other voluntary income		
Fund raising income	3,410	836
Donations, appeals	15,059	812
Legacies	-	-
Grants received	-	986
	<u>18,469</u>	<u>2,634</u>
2(c) Gross income from events and activities		
Church Bookstalls	-	26
Pre-School Group	113,778	125,697
Flower Fund	769	125
Social Fund	240	585
Café	11,873	10,062
Caterpillars	1,877	1,370
Off Limits	-	708
	<u>128,537</u>	<u>138,573</u>
2(d) Other ordinary income		
Service fees	2,608	2,716
Administration service charges	400	400
VAT recovered	-	-
Rent received	7,200	7,200
Insurance claims	10,830	-
	<u>21,038</u>	<u>10,316</u>
2(e) Income from trading		
Church Centre lettings	46,204	41,542
	<u>46,204</u>	<u>41,542</u>
2(f) Income from investment		
Interest received	3,907	971
	<u>3,907</u>	<u>971</u>
2(g) Other income		
Job Retention Scheme	-	347
	<u>-</u>	<u>347</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<u><b>£528,591</b></u>	<u><b>£483,276</b></u>

## NOTE 3 - RESOURCES USED

There were no restricted funds in 2023

	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
3(a) Grants		
Overseas missionary societies	12,009	12,300
Overseas relief and development agencies	2,450	3,263
Home missions and other church societies	17,353	11,651
Secular charities	7,400	7,791
	<hr/> 39,212	<hr/> 35,005
3(b) Support costs		
Parish training and mission	3,856	2,930
Junior Church/Youth	2,865	2,542
Children's Pastor	27,855	23,454
Youth Pastor	14,066	10,290
Equip Interns	811	873
	<hr/> 49,453	<hr/> 40,088
3(c) Directly relating to the work of the Church		
Parish Share	136,338	132,367
Clergy expenses	3,694	2,579
Clergy housing costs	7,098	8,230
Church & Services costs	14,992	13,356
Church Utilities	7,657	6,508
Church Centre running costs	24,326	21,862
Church Bookstalls costs	-	-
Pre-School Group costs	131,923	129,564
Social Fund costs	172	501
Flower Fund costs	423	56
Café costs	12,077	10,807
Caterpillars costs	1,162	1,115
Administration	7,913	6,571
Major repairs	30,416	35,322
	<hr/> 378,191	<hr/> 368,836
3(d) Fund raising and publicity		
Cost of stewardship/fundraising	425	295
	<hr/> 425	<hr/> 295
3(e) Church management and administration		
Secretarial/administration salaries	63,539	59,964
Employer pension costs	1,913	1,625
	<hr/> 65,452	<hr/> 61,589
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>	<hr/> <b>£532,733</b>	<hr/> <b>£505,812</b>

## NOTE 4 - STAFF COSTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages, Salaries, National Insurance and Pensions	212,461	198,165

During the year the PCC employed a Children's Pastor, Children's Assistant, Youth Worker, Pre-School Group Manager and Assistants, Café Manager, Head of Operations, Parish Finance Officer, two Receptionist & Parish Administrators and two Cleaners, none of whom earned £60,000 p.a. or more. Procedures set out in our Conflicts of Interest Policy have been followed in any matter involving a related party to a trustee.

	2023	2022
	£	£
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme claim	-	347

This is shown under "Other Income"

## NOTE 5 - FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

	2023	2022
	£	£
Freehold land and buildings – balance at 31 December	437,128	437,128

The freehold land and buildings as at 31 December 2023 comprise the houses located at 23 Rydal Avenue, Sale, and 109 Ascot Avenue, Sale.

## NOTE 6 - ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Fixed Assets	437,128	-	437,128
Current assets	142,852	-	142,852
Fund balance	£579,980	-	£579,980

## NOTE 7 - DEBTORS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Debtors	11,834	7,543

## NOTE 8 - LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Accruals	200	-
Accrued Income	-	-
Accrued Agency	1,327	1,672
	<u>1,527</u>	<u>1,672</u>

## NOTE 9 - UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Balance brought forward at 1 January	584,123	606,659
(Deficit)/surplus in year	-4,142	-22,536
Balance carried forward at 31 December	<u>£579,981</u>	<u>£584,123</u>

## NOTE 10 - LINKED CHARITY

The PCC is the trustee of an unregistered charity called the All Saints Church of England School, known as the Glebelands Trust. The charity owns a piece of land and property on Glebelands Road Sale which is rented out. Net income is applied at the discretion of the PCC. Total reserves as at 31 December 2023 were £177,623 (£139,077 at 31 December 2022).



To find out more about St Mary's and Sale West Community Church, find us online:

[stmarysaom.org](http://stmarysaom.org)  
[@stmarysaom](https://www.instagram.com/stmarysaom)

To speak to a member of our team:

**CHURCH OFFICE:**

**Telephone:** 0161 291 9283

**General enquiries:** [office@stmarysaom.org](mailto:office@stmarysaom.org)

**Finance enquiries:** [finance@stmarysaom.org](mailto:finance@stmarysaom.org)

**STAFF:**

**Vicar:**

Steve Rankin, 0161 973 5118 | [srankin@stmarysaom.org](mailto:srankin@stmarysaom.org)

**Associate Vicar:**

Nathan Gregory, 0161 425 6796 | [nathan.gregory@stmarysaom.org](mailto:nathan.gregory@stmarysaom.org)

**Curate:**

Anees Gill, 0161 291 9283 | [anees.gill@stmarysaom.org](mailto:anees.gill@stmarysaom.org)

**Head of Operations:**

Emma Atkinson, 0161 291 9283 | [operations@stmarysaom.org](mailto:operations@stmarysaom.org)

**Children, Youth & Families Director:**

Julie Loynd, 07579805797 | [Julie.loynd@stmarysaom.org](mailto:Julie.loynd@stmarysaom.org)

**Sale West Children and Families Worker:**

Carol Dodgson, 07579805623 | [caroldodgsonsalewest@gmail.com](mailto:caroldodgsonsalewest@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:**

Brian Macfaden, 0161 962 0375 | [treasurer@stmarysaom.org](mailto:treasurer@stmarysaom.org)



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# Accounts

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# ANNUAL REPORT

& FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS

## 2022



Registered Charity No. 1133105  
44 Moss Lane, Sale, Cheshire, M33 6GD  
[stmarysaom.org](http://stmarysaom.org)



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## Left 'footed' horses and the Kingdom of God

I love watching most sports, but horse racing is not one of them. It doesn't help that I'm allergic to horses but that is another story. That's not to say there is nothing to admire or learn from horseracing – every day is a school day, so they say, and I was recently reading about the origins of the saying *horses for courses*.

Horse racing courses in the UK are not standardised in the way that, say, an athletics 400 metre track is. Some are fairly straight with sweeping bends. Some have tighter bends. Some are clockwise, others are anti-clockwise. Some are fairly flat, others have rises and dips. Some have uphill finishes which can really test stamina. Add in whether a course tends to be firm or on the soft side depending on the weather. Combine all those possible variables and you can get a great variation in racing conditions. Racehorses also tend to gallop with either the left or right leg leading and a horse which favours a clockwise course may perform less well going anti-clockwise. A horse with a long stride but poorly balanced will do better on a straight, flat, course and loathe tight bends and sharp rises or dips which upset the stride. So racehorses may do a lot better on some courses than others. Therefore it is up to the trainers and owners to select the most suitable course for their horses to give them the best chances - horses for courses.

Figuratively the phrase means picking the best person for a particular job, the best response for a situation, or the best means to achieve a specific end.

I think that is a fair reflection of church life; encourage those with the God given gifts for a particular job or ministry, pray for the best response for a situation or the best means to see God's kingdom coming.

It is not a bad framework to use for this review of our church life in 2022 and to look forward to the challenges and opportunities of 2023...

### UKRAINE, ORANGES AND THE WORLD ON OUR DOORSTEP

In February 2021 Russia invaded Ukraine. Apparently, the expectation in the Kremlin was that it would be a relatively quick and easy operation akin to what happened when they annexed Crimea in 2014. Back then there was little fight within Ukraine itself along with international outrage and bluster but no action. Not this time. As millions were displaced and fled the country Europe mobilised in support, through governments but more especially through the compassionate action of ordinary, everyday folk. Churches throughout Europe prayed not just for Ukraine but their best response to the situation.



*An English Language class well underway*

For St Mary's and SWCC the church was able to get behind the initial response of Inga Lee, a native Ukrainian but long time church member with us. Inga was able to travel out to Poland several times to act as a translator at a church run hostel near the border. As a church it gave us a focal point for prayer and financial giving. Inga

continues to be involved in the housing of Ukrainian refugees in her role with Samaritan's Purse.

The second phase of our response was when Ukrainian refugees started arriving in Trafford. Simon and Amelie Latham galvanised the church to prepare Welcome boxes. This was followed up with offering English Language classes at St Mary's. A team of volunteers and helpers have provided a warm welcome, help with the language, and a safe place to interact with

others. These incredibly popular courses have expanded to include many different nationalities. We have an All Nations (international) Small Group. At their annual bring and share lunch just before Christmas the invitation was extended to the language classes. It was a wonderful afternoon as folk from 11+ nationalities joined together.

One Turkish lady was there with her family. She was invited to the Christingle service and loved the sense of celebration and life. Hats off to the Ferro's and their amazing team for the annual preparation of hundreds of oranges – it has grown to a much loved and valued ministry in itself. It was from the Christingle service that our Turkish lady joined the Faith Matters course to explore the Christian faith (one of around 35 people to do the course in the past 12 months or so). In the meantime, she has joined the Heartbeat Café team and helps occasionally at Caterpillars. I love this story – it highlights the role of gifted and passionate Christians, praying for the best response for a situation and a good means to see God's kingdom coming.

In the course of the year there are literally thousands of stories that church members are a part of. Many times, we are not even aware of our role – it is the small moments of a welcome, or invitation, or a smile or a prayer or an act of service. In such actions we display our faith and partner with God's Spirit to see His kingdom coming. Thank you to each and every one of you, for who you are in Christ and all that you do to serve Him and see His kingdom come. We are the church; a diverse group of people brought together in Jesus. We have flaws but our heart is to follow Him, whoever we are, whatever our gifting, wherever we are from.

At a recent 9.30 service, I asked people about their nationality – it was wonderful hearing the responses ring out around the church. Further

investigation show we have over 25 nationalities as a part of our church (as well as the 4 nations of the UK, there are French, Ukrainian, Brazilian, Egyptian, Indian, Jamaican, Pakistani, South Korean, Chinese, Japanese, Hong Kongese, Nigerian, Ghanian, Zimbabwean, Iranian, Turkish, Lebanese, Malay, New Zealanders, Thai, Filipino, Zambian and not forgetting Finnish!).

The world is now on our doorstep... What might that mean for our mission and ministry going forward?

The world is now on our doorstep - that is remarkable and a significant shift over the last 10 years or so. What might that mean for our mission and ministry going forward?

## THE BUFFET CONUNDRUM

How do you choose in a buffet restaurant when faced with an array of goodies? When there is just too much to have everything, what is your method for selecting something? First thing you come to? What others seem to be going for? Or surveying all the options first and then prioritising? You probably won't be surprised to know I have it down to a fine art... and I've passed on my wisdom in this area to my children, so it is now a part of family folklore when we go out together.



*International celebrations at the All Nations Christmas Lunch*

In such actions we display our faith and partner with God's Spirit to see His kingdom coming.

When there are so many good things happening around St Mary's and Sale West, how do we choose what to invest our time in? Thinking back to *horses for courses* for a moment can help us make wise choices. What are your God given gifts and what is your fit for a particular role or ministry? What is a good response from the church for a particular situation or what is an effective means to see God's kingdom coming?

One of my aims in this past year was to put in place diverse, thriving ministry and fellowship opportunities which are attractive and open to all adults in the church. They cover people of all ages and stages of Christian development who are actively participating and growing in their faith. Stock the buffet abundantly!

There are now 4 Ministry Event Teams made up of 3-5 people covering *First Encounter*, *Family*, *Workplace* and *Spiritually Mature*. Their role is to plan events that add to the buffet and provide good food to nourish folk in that stage of their faith journey.

**First Encounter** events are for folk new to church or exploring faith; events like the Christmas Tabletop Sale, Faith Matters and the 'I am Mark' performance.

**Family** events have included the summer church picnic, the Parenting course and the Light Party.



*Shoppers browsing the Christmas Tabletop Sale*

**Workplace** events are being planned for this coming year to encourage and support folk in their work environments.

Events for the **Spiritually Mature** aim to equip people to serve well in ministry. A recent prayer ministry training event has allowed us to start up prayer ministry teams at all of the St Mary's services once again.

Hopefully there is something for everyone but without overwhelming or overcommitting people. There is a choice based on both faith and life stage.

## INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

We choose to invest our time, loyalty and money in things that will have an impact for ourselves, families, and wider world. Thank you for being a part of St Mary's and Sale West Community Church - it wouldn't be the same without you!

Giving - of ourselves and our money is all about ministry; it is every service we have, each sermon preached, baptism families welcomed, Junior Church or Fuel sessions run, and the Gospel preached through Faith Matters and our Small Groups. Ministry is every bereaved family supported, each visit and home communion to the sick and housebound, School assemblies and classes held. Giving, in all its forms, makes ministry possible.

There are some obvious financial challenges facing us in the year ahead; the cost-of-living increases that also impact us as a church mean that we need to see some financial breakthroughs this year.

If you consider St Mary's your church home and are not yet giving financially will you consider joining our Stewardship scheme? And if you are already giving but have not reviewed it this year, could you prayerfully assess whether there is scope to adjust your giving?

The ministry of our church changes lives both in our church and in the wider world. There is much for which we as a church can rejoice and be thankful and we continue to look forward to an exciting and challenging time under God.

With every blessing,  
Steve

The ministry of our church changes lives both in our church and in the wider world.

# PCC REPORT

## WRITTEN BY EMMA ATKINSON

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of working with the incumbent, the Revd. Stephen Rankin, in furthering the mission of the church in the whole parish: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church and Church Centre.

PCC members and deanery synod representatives are elected each year at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Roles on the PCC are then elected at the first PCC meeting following the APCM.

Role	Name	Office held
Incumbent	Revd Steve Rankin	Chair, S, F
Church Plant Associate Vicar	Revd Nathan Gregory	
Head of Operations (co-opted)	Emma Atkinson	PCC secretary, HR, BM, P
Readers	Brian Macfaden	Treasurer, S, F, HR BM
	Outi Rankin	
Pastoral Workers	Gill Hart	
	Mags Holt	
	Ann McBurney	P
Wardens	Anne Keast	S, F, BM
	John Vaughan	S, F
Deanery Synod	Avtar Diggwa	
	Jeff McBurney	F, P
	Ian Thwaites	
	Rosemary Sigee	F
Elected members	David Atkinson	M
	Jeremy Barnes	F
	Janet Darlow	
	Graham Fosh	HR
	Joan Heys	Assistant Treasurer, F, BM
	Lorna Hitchin	Vice Chair, S, F, P
	Francis Hyde	
	Helen Jarvis	F
	Elaine Jones	S, M, P
	Matthew Kay	
	Barbara Shimmings	

(S - Standing committee, F - Finance committee, HR - HR committee, M - Missions committee, BM - Butterflies Management committee, P - Policies Review committee)

## PCC MEETINGS

8 PCC meetings took place during 2022, 6 were in-person, and 2 were over zoom. The APCM took place in April and was held in-person. Items discussed at the PCC meetings included:

- Safeguarding reports
- Missions giving
- Maintenance
- Ministry updates
- Quinquennial Report
- Butterflies Pre-School

## STAFFING

The PCC employs a Head of Operations, Receptionist & Parish Administrator, Data Administrator, Parish Finance Officer, Children's Pastor, Parish Youth Worker, Café Manager, Church Centre Caretaker, Saturday Cleaner, and nine staff to run the Pre-School Group 'Butterflies'. A verger is also included on the payroll on a zero-hours basis.

## ELECTORAL ROLL

The number on the electoral roll at the 2022 APCM in May was 431

## WARDEN'S REPORT

WRITTEN BY JOHN VAUGHAN &amp; ANNE KEAST

The two previous Wardens' Reports have started by referencing the problems of the Covid pandemic but they seem to be behind us now despite the fact that individuals continue to be struck down by the virus. We continue to have a small section of the church reserved for mask wearers although those who use it are now very small in number. The return to normality has not taken us back to pre-Covid times. Numbers attending our services are stabilising at around 100 for the 9.30 service, 65 for the 11.15 and 50 for the 7pm service. Our 9.30 livestreamed service sees around 65 tuning in each week. The pandemic also caused a number of people to reset and withdraw from previous duties or change the way they served in the church. In consequence we have a number of vacancies on our service teams and continue to pray that these will be filled.

In addition to our normal services we were blessed, again, with some wonderful Christmas services. The high standards set for the decoration of the church were maintained and we are fortunate that we have so many committed people. The wardens would like to thank all those volunteers who help make our church work so effectively. The cleaning and gardening teams; Deputy Wardens and sidespeople; pastoral workers; technical support; and those who make refreshments. We also give thanks for the skill of our worship leaders and musicians, who bring us such joy, and for those on the intercessory rota. A great joy on Sunday morning is to hear and see the children running about the place. Great thanks are due to the many wonderful people who nurture and guide our young people. We have also been blessed this year by Nathan's arrival and we continue to pray for the success of his wider role in church planting. We add our thanks to the whole of our Ministry team, to Steve and Julie and Alex and for the sterling service provided by the office staff.

One of the joys of St Mary's is the multi-cultural, multi-generational congregations that we have. If everybody spoke their own language at once

our church would be like the aftermath of the collapse of the Tower of Babel. But that was something that divided people, what we have is something that brings people together and we give thanks for the initiatives that support multi-culturalism here including the language classes run so successfully.

One of the joys of St Mary's is the multi-cultural, multi-generational congregations that we have.

This year saw the delayed Quinquennial Review. As expected, a number of premises issues were revealed some of which will require remedial work this year and other items being things that we can defer until a future date. A building of the age of this church takes a considerable amount of energy and money to maintain. We are grateful to Norman and Alec for all that they do in keeping the place in such good condition. Two major items of work were carried out in the last year: repairs to the roof of the hall and improvements to the car park and external drains. This year we need to address some stonework issues and do some extensive guttering renewal. These are not easy things to do given the listed nature of the building and the physical problems of accessing parts of the structure and the PCC has committed a sizeable budget this year to the work although, inevitably, more could be spent. We also face in the coming year a huge increase in our energy costs as fixed price contracts come to an end and we need to address the energy efficiency of the church and consider how that might be improved.

All of us need to consider how we can serve to further our mission here.

As we move forward into 2023 we do so from a position that many other churches would be envious of. We have strong service numbers; a building which is fundamentally sound; committed volunteers; and a brilliant clergy team. We cannot be sanguine though and all of us need to consider how we can serve to further our mission here.

Finally, Church Wardens don't go on for ever and this year Anne Keast, who has served in the role for four years, retires. She has been a wonderful asset in the role. Hard working and dedicated, a ready smile and a wonderful friend to work alongside. Thank you Anne.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## WRITTEN BY BRIAN MACFADEN

We give thanks to God for His ongoing provision for our work in Sale, through the generosity of His people. In 2022 many parts of church life recovered following the COVID-19 pandemic. Donations increased, our children and youth work grew, and we increased the hours of our youth worker.

With Revd Nathan Gregory joining us as our new Associate Vicar at the start of 2022, we paid the full Parish Share for two clergy throughout the year.

In 2022 our expenditure exceeded our income by £22,536. At 31st December 2022 we held cash at the bank, including short term deposits, of £141,123.

As our vicar writes there are some obvious financial challenges facing us in the year ahead; the cost-of-living increases that impact us as a church mean that we need to see some financial breakthroughs this year. If you consider St Mary's your church home and are not yet giving financially will you consider joining our Stewardship scheme? And if you are already giving but have not reviewed it this year, could you prayerfully assess whether there is scope to adjust your giving?

We approach the challenges and opportunities of 2023 with confidence in God's continuing provision and your support.

### COMPARISON TO 2021

Most of the giving we receive comes through regular standing orders and stewardship envelopes, and we saw a 4.7% increase from last year (£280,244 in 2022 vs £267,633 in 2021). 31 people started donating regularly to our work during the year, and this financial growth is enabling us to continue growing our work.

Income from Collections, the Cafe, and Church Centre lettings have recovered well following the pandemic.

In a year of significant energy cost increases we are fortunate to be on fixed price electricity and gas contracts. These end in mid 2023 and mid 2024 respectively.

As planned we were able to catch up on major maintenance items following the COVID-19 restrictions in 2021.

Butterflies Pre-School Group had a deficit of £3,867 (surplus of £8,018 in 2021). The surplus or deficit varies year by year depending on the number of children attending. The PCC as Treasurer of the Glebelands Trust made a donation of £40,000 to Butterflies Pre-School Group following a challenging year.

### RESERVES

All charities are expected to hold an appropriate level of reserves, which we use for:

- Working capital to balance our income and expenditure streams.
- Planning ahead by accommodating variations in our income from year to year.
- Meeting maintenance needs and responding to opportunities as they arise.

In January 2021 the PCC adopted a policy to maintain approximately 3 months of regular expenditure in our reserves. At the end of 2022 our reserves were 3.3 months of regular expenditure (4.8 months at end of 2021). The reduction is primarily due to planned maintenance.

The trustees are confident that, with continuing regular income from church members, there are sufficient reserves to support ongoing commitments for the next twelve months.

### INVESTMENT POLICY

Cash not required for day to day operations is held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Investment Fund.

No funds are held as custodian trustee.

# MISSION GIVING REPORT

WRITTEN BY BRIAN MACFADEN

As a church we donate 10% of the giving we receive to missions, both here in the UK and overseas. We see this as our stewardship, or good management, of the money we receive from God, just as we encourage church members to steward their income.

This year we donated £27,248, which is 10% of the previous year’s giving.

The Missions Committee oversees how we distribute these funds, together with the PCC. Most of the mission budget is given as regular support to organisations and individuals where there is a link with our church. We also retain some funds to allocate flexibly during the year.

This is where our support was donated in 2022. Our mission partners are shown in bold.

## OVERSEAS MISSIONS

<b>Church Mission Society</b>	<b>£800</b>
<b>Tim &amp; Miho Walker - Overseas Missionary Fellowship</b>	<b>£1,800</b>
<b>Simon and Sue Yeomans - Operation Mobilisation</b>	<b>£4,600</b>
<b>Open Doors</b>	<b>£1,600</b>
<b>Philippines Outreach Centre</b>	<b>£2,500</b>
<b>Hope for Justice</b>	<b>£1,500</b>
<b>Acts - Education in Africa - Burundi School</b>	<b>£1,600</b>
David & Mary Robinson - Thai ministry	£700
Dan and Rachel King - Wycliffe Bible Translators	£500
A Rocha – Christian conservation	£100
FEBA (Arab world gospel radio)	£100
Tearfund (Relief & development work)	£100
Hope Centre Poland supporting Ukranian refugees	£1,200

## UK MISSIONS

<b>Boaz Trust</b>	<b>£1,600</b>
<b>Youth for Christ</b>	<b>£4,000</b>
New Wine	£500
Redeeming Our Communities	£240
Bible Society	£1,400
Church Pastoral Aid Society	£1,200
Universities & Colleges Christian Fellowship	£300
Trafford South Foodbank	£428
Fusion	£300
Churches Together in Sale	£30
Evangelical Alliance	£150

From a Christmas Table Top Sale we donated:

Tearfund	£363
Sale West Community Urban Trust	£363
Care for the family	£31

We also gave a grant of £7,000 to Sale West Community Urban Trust.



**HOPE FOR JUSTICE**



**Open Doors**



**Trafford YOUTH FOR CHRIST**



# SAFEGUARDING REPORT

WRITTEN BY MAUREEN CAIN

## Promoting a Safer Church

Policy Statement of the Church of England

The word 'safeguarding' refers to all aspects of keeping people safe, primarily children and young people but also vulnerable adults. This is a really important aspect of safeguarding as many of us can be considered as vulnerable during our lives. So a vulnerable adult is not just someone who is considered vulnerable because of their mental or physical condition which may be permanent. A person experiencing trauma in their lives such as illness, divorce, bereavement, redundancy, financial hardship etc will be vulnerable in many circumstances and this situation, if known, should be respected in conversations and other association.

Connect the Church's mission & theological foundations with what good Christian behaviour & community looks like in a safeguarding context

### TRAINING AND RECORDING SYSTEMS

We follow the Diocesan advice regarding training and we can report that a substantial numbers of our Church members have completed the required on-line training modules. The office keeps effective records of these and other regulatory requirements with prompts for the necessary renewals every three years.

With this in mind, and with our developing work with international communities, I am asking that many more people in our church complete the Basic Awareness and Foundation on-line training courses so that they are aware of this responsibility in all circumstances, particularly relating to their own responses.

Integrate our own faith, beliefs, and values with those underpinning good safeguarding behaviours.

We have confidential systems for recording Safeguarding concerns and the actions taken. We keep these records updated and reviewed appropriately.

In conjunction with the office I provide a report at each PCC meeting containing the numbers of people completing on-line training modules and also the numbers of concerns which have been reported.

### MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

We have Safeguarding teams comprised of Church staff and volunteers. We meet to discuss issues arising, changes required and to refresh our understanding of recent guidance. For example at our recent team meeting we have been putting guidance in place for Mentoring programmes, Young Helpers Consent Forms and a Code of Conduct for young people relating to keeping themselves safe with particular reference to the use of social media.

### Together at Last

It's safe to say that it has been a busy year for Children's Ministry! Here is a flavour of what has been going on...

#### SCHOOLS WORK

Schools work has returned to its pre-pandemic "busy" level with a steady stream of workshops, weekly assemblies, Christmas, Easter, Harvest and End of Term services booked in throughout the year. We have especially loved welcoming school year groups from Firs Road to come and explore our beautiful church building, hear more about God and ask questions.

We love working with St Mary's School and this year we are working together towards a Diocesan Church and School Partnership Award. The award will look at how our church and the school currently work together and how we can help children and their families grow faith, worship together and love our neighbours.

#### CATERPILLARS PARENT & TODDLER GROUP

Our Tuesday afternoon Parent and Toddler Group has been growing steadily since we reopened in September 2021. Since the beginning of this year, our numbers have increased so much that we have had to extend our hall space into Willow to accommodate the number of families/carers who come from all over South Manchester to chat, rest, recharge, play and wiggle! I think I can speak for the Caterpillars team when I say being part of this group, ministering to local families and seeing the children grow is an absolute joy.

Ministering to local families and seeing the children grow is an absolute joy.

#### GROWING FAITH

We know that faith doesn't just happen on Sunday so our vision is also to help, equip and support families in how they can help build faith in the home throughout the week. Church members and visitors can find help and top tips on our "Family Life" board in the foyer. In Junior Church, children receive "take-home" sheets throughout the year with passages and prompts of what they could chat to God about and Family Devotionals to get the whole family talking. In September, some of our parents and Junior Church volunteers joined BRF's online "Parenting For Faith" course where we heard the wisdom of Rachel Turner and her team on how we can help equip, support and nurture our children as they journey in faith.

#### JUNIOR CHURCH

What an awesome group of children we have in Junior Church! We have had so much fun together it is hard to think of just one highlight, but I think the general overall blessing from this past year was just how wonderful it was to feel part of a big church family again. We have worshipped together, celebrated together, prayed together, learnt about God together, camped together and had the occasional water fight!

Love or hate the "St Mary's Birthday Song", it has been great to bring the children into the 9.30am service on the second Sunday of each month to celebrate birthdays as a Church Family.

Last year we did a series on prayer and asked our wider Church Family if Junior Church could pray for them. The children were (a little



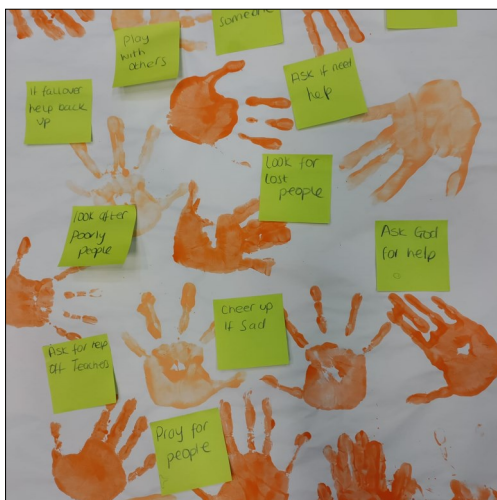
*The hall waiting for our Caterpillars to arrive!*

terrified) and amazed when we received over 100 prayer requests! It was just beautiful to see how the children chatted to God, listened, painted and drew the prayers. What a blessing it is to intercede for others, we loved praying for you and to hear of testimony afterwards of answered prayer has helped the children grow in confidence knowing that God listens to them too.

As we look ahead to this year, we know through prayer and prophetic words that God loves

these children and sees them as spiritual warriors. This is such an exciting prophecy and is shaping our vision, to find ways to help our children not only learn more about who God is, but also to experience and deeply connect with a God who loves them beyond measure.

We can't wait to see what God is going to do in 2023! Please keep Children's Ministry in your prayers; for our children, their families and our lovely volunteers.



*Junior Church exploring ways to pray together*



*Families enjoying the Light Party*

## YOUTH

WRITTEN BY ALEX STEWART

Last year saw a lot of great things happen; we started a Sunday morning group, Fuel Sundays, which has been amazing and we've seen so many young people grow in their understanding of church and faith. We used resources produced by NUA which really encouraged young people to think about what they believe, value, and understand about their faith.

Cross-Roads has grown in fellowship, and we have looked at the Gospel of Luke and the book of Ruth. We hope to expand our young people's Biblical knowledge whilst showing how the Bible is still relevant today!

Fuel on Friday had its annual Christmas meal organised by Beth, one of our Nazarene

placement students. This was a fantastic night filled with fun, laughter, and good food!

The big picture for our youth, and the vision God has set before us following New Wine, is to bring the youth and the church together, becoming even more of a church family. We want to see young people becoming engaged in the wider church; serving in Sunday services or through the social action projects we have done, such as the Christmas cakes we decorated to give away to Sale West at Christmas. I pray we see this vision come to light, through God's guidance, and that we see Him be glorified even more next year.



*A selection of Christmas Cakes decorated by our young people and donated to Sale West*

## SALE WEST COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

WRITTEN BY CAROL DODGSON

We have been bringing people together in community and creating a wonderful 'family feel' this year through activities, resources, mentoring, and learning opportunities and through integrating people from all walks of life. The impact has been reduced social isolation, peer support, friendships, help with life's struggles and experiencing Christians who are living out their faith by loving their neighbour - who wouldn't feel drawn to that?! We are bringing people into a place of mutual support and encouragement - it makes no difference who you are. Everyone is welcome and everyone receives unconditional positive regard.

The impact has been reduced social isolation, peer support, friendships, help with life's struggles and experiencing Christians who are living out their faith by loving their neighbour

### MENTORING SUPPORT

We have a number of trained volunteer mentors who offer support to people to help them with a particular issue or to set and achieve a life goal over 12 months or more.

We are very closely connected with other partners in our community and have been able to signpost people into other support where appropriate.

Since January 2022, 371 adults/children have engaged in our face-to-face activities with a support network of over 20 wonderful volunteers.

The results of a recent questionnaire showed that 92% of those attending our groups said they felt supported, 77% said that they felt less isolated, and 85% said that their self-confidence had improved. 100% of people said they had made friends.

We were fortunate to be able to take two of our families to New Wine in the summer - and what an amazing experience!! Being part of the church family, receiving excellent teaching, experiencing physical and emotional healing and deciding beyond doubt that God is real and good. Awesome!

Our current model of support includes:

### CREATIVE GROUPS

We encourage and motivate people to learn new skills, talk, and create friendships. We make soup together with people (who can) bringing a vegetable or two to throw in!

### BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

There was a lack of provision in the area so we have partnered with the social prescribers linked to the local GPs, as well as St Martin's Church to create a structure and purpose to life for people who have lost a loved one. We do this using creativity, nature, music, a structured course, community, and finding a place of peace.

### MEN'S MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

In response to a need in the community we have created a men's support group. This is facilitated by a trained counsellor who creates a supportive space for men to drop in, chat and benefit from being a part of weekly peer support sessions.



*One of the Creative Groups crafting together*

# DISCIPLESHIP COMMUNITIES

WRITTEN BY ANN MCBURNEY

## SMALL GROUPS AND NEW LIFE GROUPS

We have 16 Small groups and 2 New Life groups, this year most are meeting in person, with just a couple of groups finding zoom meetings more convenient. In January Steve and I met with the group leaders, we had a fantastic turn out with all groups represented. This was an evening of shared ideas, prayer, challenges and chocolate.

At the leaders meeting we also heard more about the All Nations New Life group, and the amazing food which was shared at a pre Christmas social gathering. Social events are such a valuable asset to all our groups, making stronger bonds with group members. Perhaps you could consider a social and extending the invitation to other friends or family members who don't attend the usual Bible study group. This might need some inventive thinking as I know many groups are a tight squeeze!

## HUDDLES

There are 14 Huddles at present with another hoping to start up soon. The various Huddles work in different ways, using faith based books on a variety of subjects, or delving deeper into a book from the Bible. The one I am part of is trying out the Lectio five-session course run by Peter Greig from the 24/7 prayer team, this uses video clips and discussion.

There is a strong sense of community and drawing closer to God coming out from all areas of Discipleship, If you would like to connect with a group, are considering being part of a four person huddle, or would like to know more about any of our Discipleship communities please do contact Ann McBurney by emailing [ann.mcburney@hotmail.com](mailto:ann.mcburney@hotmail.com) or complete the form which can be found on our website, [www.stmarysaom.org/communities](http://www.stmarysaom.org/communities).

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## MISSION PARTNERS

WRITTEN BY MARY ROBINSON

We read of famine in Africa, earthquakes in Turkey, and desperate immigrants arriving on our shores. At St Mary's we have a small part in bringing a message of hope to our needy world.

The church financially supports main 9 mission partners in a variety of ministries. These include **Philippines Outreach Centre** supporting destitute orphans, and **Herridge Trust** training needy Burundi youth in practical work skills. **Dan King** in Tanzania helps African linguists translate the Scripture into numerous African dialects. **Sue and Simon Yeomans** mobilise Canadian missionaries for Europe and beyond. **Open Doors** supports persecuted Christians worldwide and Church Mission Society supports the Anglican Church providing quality training for clergy.

In the UK, **Hope for Justice** has a growing work rescuing trafficked people around Europe, **Boaz Trust** supports needy asylum seekers in Manchester, **Tim and Miho Walker** are reaching Japanese students and **Trafford Youth for Christ** support young people on our doorstep.

Church members also help with Betel Trust, Barnabas homeless ministry, **Thai Outreach UK** and other missions.

Church members are updated through the monthly mission updates with a weekly mission prayer in most services and on the intercessions page on the church website. There's a Mission Display in the church foyer (please look!), and a dedicated page on our website for mission.

We've welcomed the visits of Chrissy from the Philippines, Tim and Miho talking about their Japanese ministry, and Sue and Simon from Canada.

The Mission Group meets regularly to learn, pray and think how to support our Mission Partners better. 'The fields are ripe unto harvest, but the labourers are few!' Matthew 9:37. May we keep looking outwards, sharing the message of hope!

## COME FLY WITH ME WRITTEN BY FIONA PALMER

We have had an exciting twelve months at Come Fly With Me. We met on Zoom on the first Thursday evening of each month during term time. Using Zoom continues to enable many more people to join than might be able to commit to an in person meeting and the numbers attending have remained very encouraging. Being on Zoom we have welcomed various folk from all four services at St Mary's and also from other churches.

The aim of the evenings is always for folk to grow in confidence in hearing from God. At each meeting we started by worshipping the Lord together, we then listened to a short teaching slot with a different theme each month. This was always followed by breakout groups where, with an experienced leader and in a safe environment, we practiced some aspect of

listening for words of knowledge for each other or different situations. At feedback we heard of some amazing words that were so accurate the recipient could not doubt that the Lord was speaking to them through a member of their group. The Lord has also released new gifts in folk throughout the year, with people hearing from God in completely new ways.

Everyone is most welcome at Come Fly With Me. If you would you like to grow in the gift of the prophetic please come and join us for an evening: each session stands alone and there is no commitment or need to sign up. If you are not too sure about it, you could come and observe and weigh it up for yourself to see if this is an experience and opportunity in prophetic prayer of which you would like to become part. Please do come and be blessed...

## HEARTBEAT CAFE

WRITTEN BY CATHY SNOWDON

The Heartbeat Café has welcomed both regular and new customers back now that Covid restrictions are fully lifted. It has been particularly encouraging to meet new people whether they come for the food or possibly needing a listening ear.

Caterpillars parent and toddler group brings in young parents, and their children often enjoy the "Child's Packed Lunch Bag". Loyalty cards were offered to encourage new parents into the café. Occasionally Butterflies also use the café area.

It's been lovely to see the return of Pictor School pupils enjoying their toast and drink with their teachers. We have also been visited by pupils and staff from Manor High College, more cake was needed on those days!

In November the Café opened during the Christmas Tabletop Sale and it was very well attended. The fantastic volunteers

worked all morning serving a slightly limited menu, but nevertheless still popular. The conversation group have practised their English language ordering drinks on Thursday mornings for a number of weeks. It has been great to be a part of that outreach, so much so we now have a volunteer from that group!



*The Kindness Coffee board ready for action*

The monthly afternoon teas have been proving to be popular with bookings taken for future dates. The introduction of our "Kindness Coffee" board has been well received. It gives customers the opportunity to bless others by gifting or enjoying a drink bought by someone else thinking of them.

The committed, loyal, hard working team of volunteers have been amazing, each bringing their own skills and talents. We enjoyed a Summer afternoon tea and New Year get together as a thank you to them. New volunteers are always welcome.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE  
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY MAGDALENE,  
ASHTON-ON-MERSEY WITH SALE WEST COMMUNITY CHURCH,  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND DIOCESE OF CHESTER**

**Registered Charity No. 1133105**

**Year ended 31 December 2022**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Under charity law, the trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements for each financial year which properly present the state of affairs of the charity and of the excess of income over expenditure for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, generally accepted accounting practice entails that the trustees:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements comply with the trust deed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue its activities.

The trustees are required to act in accordance with the trust deed of the charity, within the framework of trust law. They are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, sufficient to disclose at any time, with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the charity at that time, and to enable the trustees to ensure that, where any statements of accounts are prepared by them under section 132(1) of the Charities Act 2011, as amended by the Charities Act 2022, those statements of accounts comply with the requirements of regulations under that provision. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the PCC



Revd Stephen Rankin

# INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY MAGDALENE, ASHTON-ON-MERSEY WITH SALE WEST COMMUNITY CHURCH

Year ended 31 December 2022

I report to the PCC on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31 December 2022 set out on pages 19 to 26.

## RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants for England and Wales.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mrs Susan Suchoparek FCA

30<sup>th</sup> March 2023

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

## *For the year ended 31 December 2022*

There were no restricted funds in 2022.

	Note	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	2		
Voluntary income (direct giving)		288,893	272,480
Other voluntary income		2,634	4,158
Gross income from events and activities		138,573	133,232
Other ordinary income		10,316	10,571
Income from trading		41,542	28,226
Income from investment		971	27
Other income	4	347	7,806
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>£483,276</b>	<b>£456,500</b>
<b>RESOURCES USED</b>	3		
Grants		35,005	39,112
Support costs		40,088	26,588
Directly relating to the work of the church		368,836	302,265
Fund raising and publicity		295	107
Church management/administration		61,589	60,194
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>		<b>£505,812</b>	<b>£428,266</b>
Net incoming resources before gains/(losses) on investments		-22,536	28,234
Net gain/(losses) on investments:			
- Transfer of investment ( <i>see note 9</i> )		-	131,420
- Release of endowment ( <i>see note 9</i> )		-	-131,420
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>-£22,536</b>	<b>£28,234</b>
Balances brought forward at 1 January		£606,659	578,425
Transfer between funds		-	-
<b>Balances carried forward at 31 December</b>		<b>£584,123</b>	<b>£606,659</b>

## BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	5	437,128	437,128
		<b>£437,128</b>	<b>£437,128</b>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	7	7,543	5,904
Short term deposits		74,820	73,849
Cash at bank and in hand		66,304	90,946
		<b>£148,667</b>	<b>£170,699</b>
LIABILITIES			
Amounts falling due within one year	8	-1,672	-1,168
NET CURRENT ASSETS	6	<b>£146,995</b>	<b>£169,531</b>
NET ASSETS		<b>£584,123</b>	<b>£606,659</b>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted	9	584,123	606,659
Restricted	10	-	-
		<b>£584,123</b>	<b>£606,659</b>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 23rd March 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



The Revd Stephen Rankin (Chairman)



Ms Lorna Hitchin (Vice Chair)

*The notes on pages 22-26 form part of these accounts*

# CASH FLOW STATEMENT

## for the year ended 31 December 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Deficit/(Surplus) for the year	-22,536	28,234
Adjustments for:		
Interest receivable and similar income	-971	-27
Interest payable and similar charges	-	-
Increase/decrease in other debtors	-1640	821
Decrease/increase in other creditors	+504	-391
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<b>-£24,643</b>	<b>£28,637</b>
Cash flows from investing activities	971	27
<b>Net cash from investing activities</b>	<b>£971</b>	<b>£27</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b> (Interest paid)	-	-
<b>Net cash from financing activities</b>	-	-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	-23,672	28,664
Cash and cash equivalents as at 1 January	164,795	136,131
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December</b>	<b>£141,123</b>	<b>£164,795</b>

### ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash at bank and in hand	66,303	90,946
Short term deposits	74,820	73,849
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>£141,123</b>	<b>£164,795</b>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 December 2022

## NOTE 1 - ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations together with Charities Statement of Recommended Practice Financial Reporting Standards 102 (SORP FRS102).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

**Funds**

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC.

The purpose of any restricted funds is noted in the accounts.

The accounts include transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe an affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

**Incoming Resources***Voluntary income and capital sources*

Collections are recognised when made.

Amounts receivable under covenant are recognised only when honoured by the covenanter.

Income tax recoverable on covenanted or gift aid donations is recognised when claimable.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its entitlement and the likely amount due.

Funds raised by events are accounted for gross.

Sales of books and magazines from the church bookstall are accounted for gross.

*Other ordinary income*

Rental income from the letting of church premises is accounted for when earned.

Parochial fees due to the PCC for weddings, funerals etc are accounted for on an event by event basis.

*Income from investment* - Dividends and interest are accounted for when due. Tax recoverable on such income is accrued for on the same basis.

*Investment gains and losses* - Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

**Application of Resources**

*Grants* - Grants and donations are accounted for when paid.

**Fixed assets***Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings*

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(c) of the Charities Act 1993.

No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be an inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off.

*Other land and buildings* - Other land and buildings held on behalf of the PCC for its own purposes is valued at cost. No depreciation is charged against such properties but any expenditure on maintenance or minor improvement is written off as incurred. Improvement expenditure in excess of £40,000 is capitalised.

*Other fixtures, fitting and office equipment* - Individual items with a purchase price of £5,000 or less are written off in the period in which the asset is acquired. Equipment with a purchase price of more than £5,000 is depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years.

**Current assets**

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less any provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the Central Board of Finance or at the bank.

## NOTE 2 - INCOMING RESOURCES

There were no restricted funds in 2022

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
2(a) Voluntary income (direct giving)		
Planned giving	218,547	204,879
Income tax recovered on Gift Aid	48,161	45,604
Giving received gross of Income Tax	13,535	17,150
Collections (open plate) other than planned giving	8,649	4,847
	<u>288,893</u>	<u>272,480</u>
2(b) Other voluntary income		
Fund raising income	836	1
Donations, appeals	812	658
Legacies	-	-
Grants received	986	3,499
	<u>2,634</u>	<u>4,158</u>
2(c) Gross income from events and activities		
Lunch Fellowship	-	-
Church Bookstalls	26	-
Pre-School Group	125,697	129,782
Flower Fund	125	-
Social Fund	585	595
Café	10,062	2,456
Caterpillars	1,370	355
Off Limits	708	44
	<u>138,573</u>	<u>133,232</u>
2(d) Other ordinary income		
Service fees	2,716	2,353
Administration service charges	400	400
VAT recovered	-	888
Rent received	7,200	6,430
Other income	-	500
	<u>10,316</u>	<u>10,571</u>
2(e) Income from trading		
Church Centre lettings	41,542	28,226
	<u>41,542</u>	<u>28,226</u>
2(f) Income from investment		
Interest received	971	27
	<u>971</u>	<u>27</u>
2(g) Other income		
Job Retention Scheme	347	7,806
	<u>347</u>	<u>7,806</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<u><b>£483,276</b></u>	<u><b>£456,500</b></u>

## NOTE 3 - RESOURCES USED

There were no restricted funds in 2022

	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
3(a) Grants		
Overseas missionary societies	12,300	13,400
Overseas relief and development agencies	3,263	1,900
Home missions and other church societies	11,651	11,788
Secular charities	7,791	12,024
	<hr/> 35,005	<hr/> 39,112
3(b) Support costs		
Parish training and mission	2,930	424
Junior Church/Youth	2,542	2,454
Children's Pastor	23,454	21,725
Youth Pastor	10,290	1,782
Equip Interns	873	203
	<hr/> 40,088	<hr/> 26,588
3(c) Directly relating to the work of the Church		
Parish Share	132,367	108,960
Clergy expenses	2,579	2,132
Clergy housing costs	8,230	6,516
Church & Services costs	13,356	13,658
Church Utilities	6,508	4,331
Church Centre running costs	21,862	19,582
Church Bookstalls costs	-	-
Lunch Fellowship costs	-	-
Pre-School Group costs	129,564	121,764
Social Fund costs	501	339
Flower Fund costs	56	-
Café costs	10,807	5,521
Off Limits costs	-	44
Caterpillars costs	1,115	474
Administration	6,571	6,163
Major repairs	35,322	12,781
	<hr/> 368,836	<hr/> 302,265
3(d) Fund raising and publicity		
Cost of stewardship/fundraising	295	107
	<hr/> 295	<hr/> 107
3(e) Church management and administration		
Secretarial/administration salaries	59,964	58,759
Employer pension costs	1,625	1,435
Professional Fees	-	-
	<hr/> 61,589	<hr/> 60,194
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>	<hr/> <b>£505,812</b>	<hr/> <b>£428,266</b>

## NOTE 4 - STAFF COSTS

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages, Salaries, National Insurance and Pensions	198,165	174,551

During the year the PCC employed a Children's Pastor, Youth Worker, Pre-School Group Manager and Assistants, Café Manager, Head of Operations, Parish Finance Officer, two Receptionist & Parish Administrators and two Cleaners, none of whom earned £60,000 p.a. or more. Procedures set out in our Conflicts of Interest Policy have been followed in any matter involving a related party to a trustee.

	2022 £	2021 £
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme claim February	347	7,806

This is shown under "Other Income"

## NOTE 5 - FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

	2022 £	2021 £
Freehold land and buildings – balance at 31 December	437,128	437,128

The freehold land and buildings as at 31 December 2022 comprise the houses located at 23 Rydal Avenue, Sale, and 109 Ascot Avenue, Sale.

## NOTE 6 - ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Fixed Assets	437,128	-	437,128
Current assets	146,995	-	146,995
Fund balance	£584,123	-	£584,123

## NOTE 7 - DEBTORS

	2022 £	2021 £
Debtors	7,543	5,904

## NOTE 8 - LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022 £	2021 £
Accruals	-	185
Accrued Income	-	-
Accrued Agency	1,672	983
	<u>1,672</u>	<u>1,168</u>

## NOTE 9 - UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	2022 £	2021 £
Balance brought forward at 1 January	606,659	571,852
(Deficit)/surplus in year	-22,536	34,807
Transfer from restricted	-	-
Balance carried forward at 31 December	<u>£584,123</u>	<u>£606,659</u>

## NOTE 10 - RESTRICTED FUNDS

	2022 £	2021 £
Balance brought forward at 1 January	-	6,573
Income in year	-	-
Resources used in year	-	6,573
Balance carried forward at 31 December	<u>-</u>	<u>£0</u>

There were no restricted funds in 2022. The restricted fund in 2021 was closed that year.

## NOTE 11 - LINKED CHARITY

The PCC is the trustee of an unregistered charity called the All Saints Church of England School, known as the Glebelands Trust. The charity owns a piece of land and property on Glebelands Road Sale which is rented out. Net income is applied at the discretion of the PCC. Total reserves as at 31 December 2022 were £139,077 (£146,996 at 31 December 2021). The PCC as Treasurer of the Glebelands Trust made a donation of £40,000 to the Butterflies Pre-School Group during the year.



To find out more about St Mary's and Sale West Community Church, find us online:

[stmarysaom.org](http://stmarysaom.org)  
[@stmarysaom](https://www.instagram.com/stmarysaom)

To speak to a member of our team:

## CHURCH OFFICE:

**Telephone:** 0161 291 9283

**General enquiries:** [office@stmarysaom.org](mailto:office@stmarysaom.org)

**Finance enquiries:** [finance@stmarysaom.org](mailto:finance@stmarysaom.org)

## STAFF:

### Vicar:

Steve Rankin, 0161 973 5118 | [srankin@stmarysaom.org](mailto:srankin@stmarysaom.org)

### Church Plant Associate Vicar:

Nathan Gregory, 0161 425 6796 | [nathan.gregory@stmarysaom.org](mailto:nathan.gregory@stmarysaom.org)

### Head of Operations:

Emma Atkinson, 0161 291 9283 | [operations@stmarysaom.org](mailto:operations@stmarysaom.org)

### Children's Pastor:

Julie Loynd, 07579805797 | [childrens.pastor@stmarysaom.org](mailto:childrens.pastor@stmarysaom.org)

### Youth Worker:

Alex Stewart, 07883 383 063 | [youth.pastor@stmarysaom.org](mailto:youth.pastor@stmarysaom.org)

### Sale West Children and Families Workers:

Carol Dodgson, 07579805623 | [caroldodgsonsalewest@gmail.com](mailto:caroldodgsonsalewest@gmail.com)

Shauna Hancock, 07579782880 | [shaunasalewest@gmail.com](mailto:shaunasalewest@gmail.com)

### Treasurer:

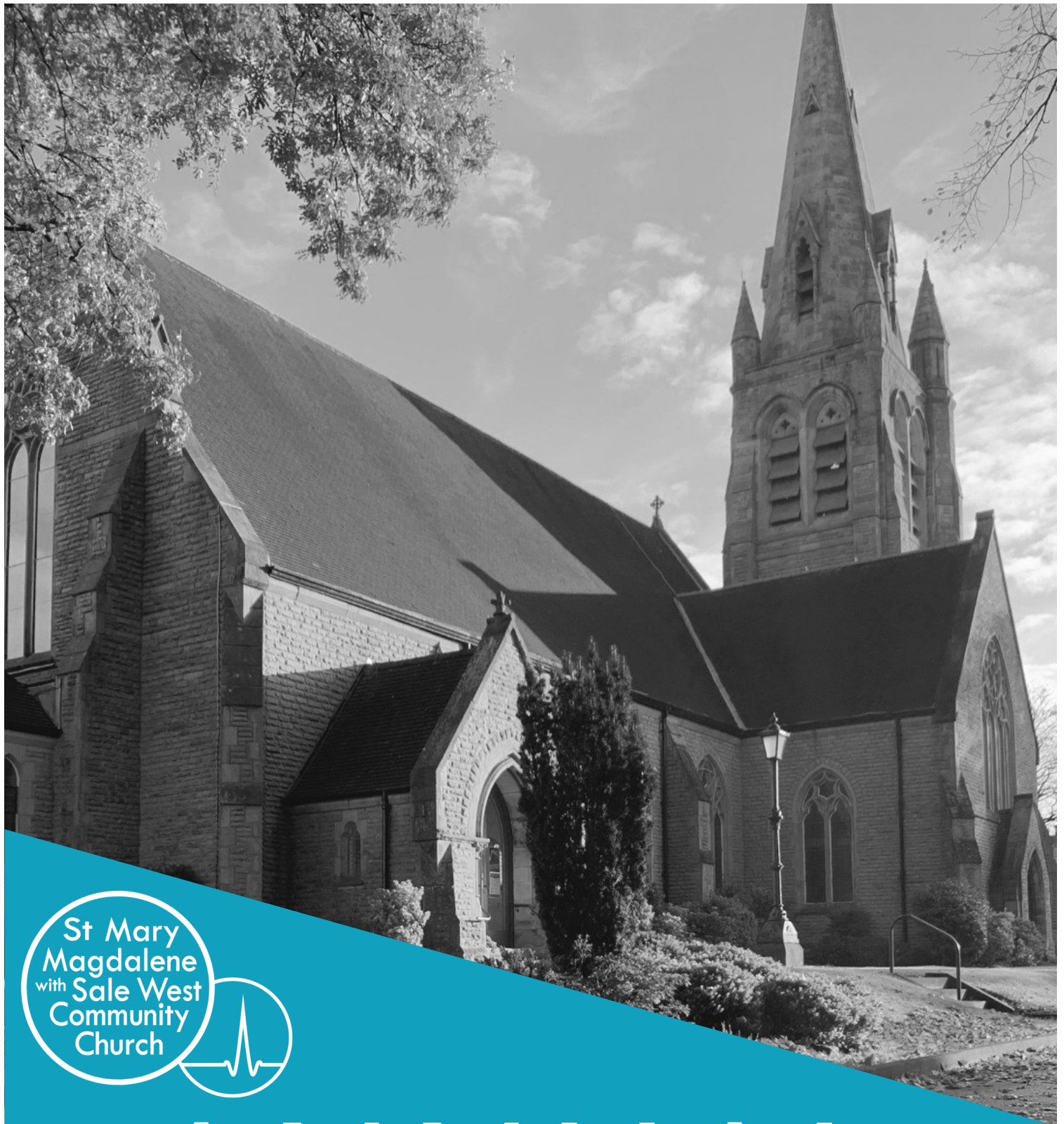
Brian Macfaden, 0161 962 0375 | [treasurer@stmarysaom.org](mailto:treasurer@stmarysaom.org)



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# Accounts

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# ANNUAL REPORT

## AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

# 2021



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## The Vicar's reflection on a year of response, recovery and rebuilding at St Mary's and SWCC

### PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

Outi and I were fortunate enough this year to have all the family arrive to stay with us for a few days over Christmas. The build-up is interesting as Outi always wants to be READY! I mean really ready. Not only is the house good to go, but the fridge is packed, and the cupboards are full to overflowing. Our kids and grandkids love it (and so do I...)

I come into my own after the visit... the fridge is still pretty full; the cupboards still seem to be bulging and it is my job to cook up some weird and wonderful food combos to use up all the leftovers. Making the most of what you've got, imaginative solutions and some unexpectedly good outcomes. Fortunately, that is where I thrive.

The following chart was shared by CPAS in a recent webinar. It is the result of some UK church research carried out by the Evangelical Alliance in October 2021. It scopes out some of the challenges facing all churches seeking to rebuild as we adapt to the pandemic in 2022.

### changing church

- 91% churches back to onsite attendance
- 61% offering online services
- Average onsite attendance dropped by 32%
- 24% church run youth ministry stopped.
- 59% churches decrease in volunteering (25% significant decrease).
- 60% decrease in congregational giving.

*"What's needed is a shift from viewing COVID-19 as a one-time threat that defines society to seeing it as a part of everyday life that we must learn to endure."  
Making the most of what you've got. Imaginative solutions. Some unexpectedly good outcomes*

Welcome to this smorgasbord of a review of our church life in 2021 and looking forward to the challenges and opportunities of 2022...

### STAFFING

With 2 of the 3 people on the Senior Leadership Team moving on over the summer it was always going to be challenging. Both Jane's - Beaumont and Mottram - had been in post for a number of years and replacing them well was vitally important for the health of the church. The internal promotion of Emma Atkinson has meant a fairly seamless transition in the Office team. Danielle Markland and Carol Martin now job share Emma's old role as Receptionist and Admin Assistant.

Appointing Nathan was more of a logistical challenge, from interviewing over Zoom, to the family moving over from Belgium in

the midst of covid scares. Nathan's licensing service was a real highlight; Bishop Mark spoke with passion and vision about the urgent need for church planting across the Church of England. It has been great to finally start working with Nathan and I'm enjoying seeing him take everything in his stride! He has looked a great fit for St Mary's and Sale West from Day 1 which is a real answer to prayer (and quite a big relief!)

Alex Stewart was also appointed as a Youth Worker, as part of his role with Trafford Youth For Christ, working part-time with St Mary's and St Alban's. This has worked really well, and Alex has been a terrific addition to the team.

Whilst we've been through a season of making the most of what you've got, it is good to be back at 'full-complement'. For me personally I'd been leading the youth work for a year or so and then covering all the clergy duties for the 4 months from Jane's retirement to Nathan's arrival.



*Photo from Nathan's licensing Service - Nathan, & Steve with Bishop Mark Tanner, Archdeacon Ian Bishop and acting Rural Dean Alison Cox*

My sense is that having a full staff team is vital if we are to move out of a holding pattern and into a period of new life and opportunities as a church.

## SERVICES

**changing church**

- 91% churches back to onsite attendance
- 61% offering online services
- Average onsite attendance dropped by 32%

evangelical alliance
Stewardship Eido RESEARCH

Early in the summer of 2021 we moved back to in-person services at all of our congregations, whilst continuing to livestream the 9.30am service. This hybrid approach to in-person/online church is here to stay.

The 9.30 service has lost a significant number of its fringe – it is unlikely that those people will return, and the rebuilding of a new fringe has started. We continue to livestream the 9.30 service each week which enables those who cannot attend in person to join us remotely.

Numbers at our 11.15 service have returned to pre-pandemic levels and seems the least impacted in terms of volunteers; all of our worship leaders and musicians have returned and the after service coffee team is back at full complement.

Sale West Community Church switched to meeting in the afternoon so I could cover all the Sunday Services. We changed the style as well to make it more participative and this has worked particularly well for the new Christians that have joined during lockdown through the work of Carol Dodgson (Sale West Children and Families Worker) with her amazing Keep Calm & Craft initiative. We will look to bringing the service back to the morning slot but will persevere with the style of the service as it is light on the need for set up and volunteers to keep it all running.

The 7pm service is slowly re-emerging. Jane Beaumont had overseen the congregation for many years, and it



*Some of our incredible Junior Church Volunteers!*



will be interesting to see in what way the identity of the service will continue to develop.

## OUTREACH

The *Faith Matters* course continues to be a great platform for people to explore faith. It has had a strong impact through the last couple of years. There were around 16 people signed up for the post-Christmas course all at different stages in their journey of faith. The strength of the course is in building relationships that encourage people to carry on exploring beyond the course. I encourage all those who finish *Faith Matters* to join a *New Life*-group as a good next step for growth and encouragement.

The goal goes beyond seeing converts to establishing disciples by helping people assess where they are up to faith wise and then to signpost them to achievable next steps. This is in keeping with the *Discipleship Pathway* that was developed pre-pandemic. I still think it will be a significant tool for our church in enabling every person to encounter God, at every stage of the faith journey. And the lockdown period has seen many people explore faith, come to Christ, and take steps forward in their discipleship.

## CHILDREN, YOUTH & VOLUNTEERING

**changing church**

- 24% church run youth ministry stopped.
- 59% churches decrease in volunteering (25% significant decrease).

evangelical alliance
Stewardship Eido RESEARCH

At the end of last year, we were contacted by the Church of England's National Youth Evangelism Officer wanting to invite us to be part of a national initiative to develop resource churches that already model fruitful ministry among under 16's. He explained that based on the

average (pre-pandemic) Sunday attendance figures that all churches have to submit, St Mary's and Sale West Community Church were the largest church for under 16's in

Chester Diocese and the 29th largest in the whole of the Church of England (that's out of 16,500 churches). That is a remarkable statistic and testimony to the great work of Julie Lloyd and Shauna Hancock overseeing an army of volunteers.

Alex Stewart has hit the ground running as our Youth Worker. He oversees a dedicated team of volunteers and they have seen the numbers double in Fuel since last September. They are roughly back to the pre-pandemic levels. The new Cross Roads group allows some of the older youth the chance to go deeper in their faith journey as well as develop as a community.

*Making the most of what you've got. Imaginative solutions. Some unexpectedly good outcomes.*

I'm aware that the national picture for decreases in volunteer numbers have been mirrored in our church too. We have tweaked the way we do Junior Church at St Mary's and Sale West; Julie and Shauna have done a remarkable job in re-launching Junior Church in a whole new format that required fewer volunteers to allow it to run effectively.

Volunteers remains a challenge not just across children and youth work but on Sundays with things like refreshments or musicians. I'm grateful in particular to the core group of worship leaders that have gone the extra mile to ensure that we have been able to have live music across all of the St Mary's services since last summer.

#### **THE FUTURE**

Our giving is all about our ministry; it is every service we have, each sermon preached, baptism families welcomed, Junior Church or Fuel session run, and the Gospel preached through Faith Matters and our Small Groups. Ministry is every bereaved family supported, each visit and home communion to the sick and housebound, school assemblies and classes held. Our giving makes ministry possible.

**"Our giving is all about our ministry;"**

## changing church

- 60% decrease in congregational giving.

evangelical alliance  
together making great things

Stewardship Eido  
Acute generosity RESEARCH

The Evangelical Alliance research found an average decrease in congregational giving to be 60%. We are thankful that this has not been our experience, but there are some obvious financial challenges facing us in the year ahead; the combination of a drop in attendance coupled with the cost-of-living increases that also impact us as a church mean that we need to see some financial breakthroughs this year.

If you consider St Mary's your church home and are not yet giving financially will you consider joining our Stewardship scheme? And if you are already giving but have not reviewed it during the pandemic, could you prayerfully assess whether there is scope to adjust your giving?

*Making the most of what you've got. Imaginative solutions. Some unexpectedly good outcomes.*

The ministry of our church changes lives both in our church and in the wider community. There is much for which we as a church can be grateful and we continue to look forward to an exciting and challenging time under God.

*God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit,  
Above you to bless you  
Below you to support you  
Before you to guide you  
Behind you to protect you  
Beside you to comfort you  
And in you to sustain you.*

With every blessing,  
Steve

# PCC REPORT

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of working with the incumbent, the Revd. Stephen Rankin, in furthering the mission of the church in the whole parish: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church and Church Centre.

PCC members and deanery synod representatives are elected each year at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Roles on the PCC are then elected at the first PCC meeting following the APCM.

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Office held</b>
Incumbent	Revd Steve Rankin	Chair, S, F
Associate Vicar	Revd Nathan Gregory	
Head of Operations (co-opted)	Emma Atkinson	PCC secretary, HR
Readers	Brian Macfaden	Treasurer, S, F, HR
	Outi Rankin	
Pastoral Workers	Gill Hart	
	Mags Holt	
	Ann McBurney	
Wardens	Anne Keast	S, F, HR
	John Vaughan	S, F
Deanery Synod	Avtar Diggwa	
	Jeff McBurney	F
	Ian Thwaites	
	Rosemary Sigee	F
Elected members	David Atkinson	M
	Jeremy Barnes	
	Janet Darlow	
	Graham Fosh	HR
	Joan Heys	Assistant Treasurer, F, HR
	Lorna Hitchin	Vice Chair, S, F
	Simon Hollingworth	
	Helen Jarvis	F
	Elaine Jones	S, M
	Matthew Kay	
	Barbara Shimmings	

(S – Standing Committee, F – finance committee, HR – HR committee, M – Missions committee)

## **PCC MEETINGS**

Due to the pandemic, 8 PCC meetings took place during 2021, 0 were in-person, 2 via email and 6 over zoom. The APCM took place in May and was held online. The items discussed at the PCC meetings included:

- Safeguarding reports
- Missions giving
- Maintenance
- Ministry updates
- Associate vicar appointment
- Financial controls
- Sale West Community Building

## **STAFFING**

The PCC employs a Head of Operations, Receptionist & Parish Administrator, Data Administrator, Parish Finance Officer, Children's Pastor, Café Manager, Church Centre Caretaker, Saturday Cleaner, and seven staff to run the Pre-School Group 'Butterflies'.

## **ELECTORAL ROLL**

The number on the electoral roll at the 2021 APCM in May was 425

# WARDEN'S REPORT

WARDENS:  
ANNE KEAST & JOHN VAUGHAN

The major feature of 2021 was the continuation of the covid emergency. The positives of vaccinations were balanced with the negatives of emerging variants and, as in the previous year, planning was extremely difficult. Over the year though, as concerns began to ease, we were gradually able to increase the number of available seats in church. Throughout this period there was a tension that had to be managed between those who remained cautious about being in the proximity of others and those eager to see the lifting of restrictions. Balancing those competing needs was a feature of the year and we are very grateful to church members who accepted that we had to err on the side of caution and maintain mask wearing and some element of social distancing.

The process towards 'normalisation' allowed for the holding of all our services by the year end. The 9.30, 11.15 and 7.00 services have reverted to their pre-pandemic form at St Mary's. At Sale West, a 'gathering' has been used as the form of worship. Numbers of attendees remains lower than pre-pandemic but are stable. We continue to pray that those who have not yet returned to worship at one of our congregations will feel able to do so. Where we did experience a return to worship was in our Christingle Services. Three services were held with many of the traditional elements being present. Glowsticks were substituted for candles but that allowed for the sight of lights moving through the district as people walked home in the evening dark. What a glorious sight. As was

the way that church was decorated by the Keep Calm and Craft team. The five foot sparkling star and stars strung across the church communicated the theme of Star of Wonder perfectly. The coloured lights that shone throughout the night over Christmas certainly heralded the Saviour's birth. Absolutely wonderful.

The ongoing livestreaming of the 9.30 service provides a worship option for those who feel unable to attend in person and we are grateful to all those who have made that happen. We also wish to express our grateful

thanks to those many people who serve to make our services work. The Deputy Wardens and sides people who welcome and lock up; the worship leaders and musicians; intercessors; the flower arrangers; refreshment providers; cleaners; decorators and all the technical teams have all worked tirelessly. Gaps still remain in our rotas and as more people come back, we trust that these will be filled.



*A full church for our Christingle Services!*


Jane Beaumont's retirement during the year was a happy/sad occasion. Happiness that she could look forward to spending more time with Ian and for what she had given us, tinged with sadness for the loss of a friend and valued priest. That inevitably cast a huge burden on Steve over Autumn and his continued good humour and energy levels were a thing of marvel. Nathan's licensing service was well attended, and we look forward to working with him in the coming years as he begins his ministry with us.

One of the things that has been apparent over the pandemic is the resilience of the church in the face of uncertainty. The hard work done over the preceding years in establishing discipleship communities meant that small groups could continue to meet, albeit remotely. Those who put in the effort to establish these things over the years have seen their efforts come to a fruition in ways they could never have imagined.

On the premises side there are a series of repairs needed to parts of the building. We are grateful for the



*A 5ft Star of Wonder and our blanket of stars for Christmas*



efforts that Norman Elston and Alec Brownsmith put into keeping the place in good repair. Some quite major jobs have been carried over into the current year, notably some roofing work, and we hope to have most of those dealt with in the first half of 2022. One working party was held inside the church to spruce it up for Christmas and to supplement the weekly clean and we are grateful for those who assisted in that. If one inside working party happened, then that is nothing compared to the weekly gathering of gardeners who keep the outside in such good condition. Many thanks to them for their wonderful efforts.

A quinquennial review is outstanding having been delayed by covid. This will be undertaken during 2022. The Terrier will be completed by the time of the APCM. Finally, the year saw a change in the Warden team with Matthew Holland stepping down from the role. Our thanks to him for all his hard work. John Vaughan was duly elected to take Matthew's place and we wish him well in this role.

The last Warden's report concluded by looking forward to an end to the pandemic and the return of normality. At the year end we continue to look forward to both these. It also prayed that the Lord would continue to bless and provide for us for many years to come and we go into a new year in full confidence that will happen.

Anne Keast  
John Vaughan

# FINANCIAL REPORT

TREASURER:  
BRIAN MACFADEN

We give thanks to God for His ongoing provision for our work in Sale, through the generosity of His people. While 2021 was again a challenging year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the regular giving of our church members enabled us to continue many of our activities and prepare for the return of a more normal environment.

At the start of 2021 the PCC adopted a budget which forecast a significant deficit for the year. However Revd Jane Beaumont's retirement reduced our Parish Share payments by almost £20,000 while we were without an Associate Vicar. This and other factors contributed to a surplus for the year. Revd Nathan Gregory joined us as our new Associate Vicar at the start of 2022, so that saving will not be repeated.

In 2021 our income exceeded our expenditure by £28,234. At 31st December 2021 we held cash at the bank, including short term deposits, of £164,795.

We approach the challenges and opportunities of 2022 with confidence in God's continuing provision and your support.

## COMPARISON TO 2020

Most of the giving we receive comes through regular standing orders and stewardship envelopes, and we saw a small reduction from last year (£267,633 in 2021 vs £272,741 in 2020). This is a concern as the UK is now experiencing significant inflation, and we will encourage an increase in giving in 2022.

Income from Collections, Donations, Legacies, the Cafe, and Church Centre lettings (total of £36,187 in 2021 vs £28,321 in 2020) remained significantly lower than before the pandemic, but we started to see some recovery at the end of 2021.

We continued to receive grants from the Job Retention Scheme (furlough) to assist with the impact of COVID-19 restrictions.

Maintenance during the year was again less than expected due to COVID-19 restrictions, and we plan to catch up on maintenance in 2022.

Butterflies Pre-School Group had a surplus of £8,018 in 2021 (surplus of £8,842 in 2020). The surplus or deficit varies year by year depending on the number of children attending.

## RESERVES

All charities are expected to hold an appropriate level of reserves, which we use for:

- Working capital to balance our income and expenditure streams.
- Planning ahead even though our income varies from year to year.
- Meeting maintenance needs and responding to opportunities as they arise.

In January 2021 the PCC adopted a policy to maintain approximately 3 months of regular expenditure in our reserves. At the end of 2021 our reserves were 4.8 months of regular expenditure (3.6 months at end of 2020). This higher level of reserves allows us to continue to move forward during a time of financial uncertainty and to catch up on maintenance that has been delayed during the pandemic.

The trustees are confident that, with continuing regular income from church members, there are sufficient reserves to support ongoing commitments for the next twelve months.

## INVESTMENT POLICY

Cash not required for day to day operations is held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Investment Fund.

No funds are held as custodian trustee.

# MISSION GIVING

As a church we donate 10% of the giving we receive to missions, both here in the UK and overseas. We see this as our stewardship, or good management, of the money we receive from God, just as we encourage church members to steward their income.

This year we donated £27,716, which is 10% of the previous year's giving. In previous years the income from the Christmas Market has also been donated to missions, but we were unable to run it in 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The Missions Committee oversees how we distribute these funds, together with the PCC. Most of the mission budget is given as regular support to organisations and individuals where there is a link with our church. We also retain some funds to allocate flexibly during the year.

This is where our support was donated in 2021. Our mission partners are shown in bold.

## OVERSEAS MISSIONS

<b>Church Mission Society</b>	<b>£1,000</b>
Tim & Miho Walker	£1,800
- Overseas Missionary Fellowship	
<b>Simon and Sue Yeomans</b>	<b>£4,600</b>
- Operation Mobilisation	
<b>Open Doors</b>	<b>£1,600</b>
<b>Philippines Outreach Centre</b>	<b>£2,500</b>
<b>Acts - Education in Africa - Burundi School</b>	<b>£1,600</b>
David & Mary Robinson	£700
- Thai ministry	
Dan and Rachel King	£500
- Wycliffe Bible Translators	
Armonia	£500
Langham Trust	£400
A Rocha - Christian conservation	£200
FEBA (Arab world gospel radio)	£100
Tearfund (Relief & development work)	£200

## UK MISSIONS

<b>Boaz Trust</b>	<b>£1,600</b>
<b>Youth for Christ</b>	<b>£4,000</b>
<b>Hope for Justice</b>	<b>£1,600</b>
Church Urban Fund	£100
Redeeming Our Communities	£240
Bible Society	£1,400
Church Pastoral Aid Society	£1,200
Universities & Colleges Christian Fellowship	£300
Trafford South Foodbank	£400
Chester Clergy Families Trust	£300
St Luke's Hospital	£50
Fusion	£300
NDE	£100
Evangelical Alliance	£150
Sale West Community Urban Trust *	£276

\* We gave grants and donations to Sale West Community Urban Trust totalling £11,624 in 2021 (£10,155 in 2020)



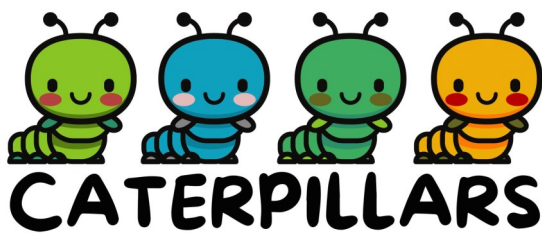
# MINISTRIES & MISSION

## CHILDREN

**“See I am doing a new thing!” (Isaiah 43:19)**

Due to continued lockdowns and tight restrictions on school visits in the first half on 2021, Children’s Ministry continued to be online until the end of the summer term. Despite physical restrictions, God was so good and still enabled a way into Schools with online workshops and Junior Church videos being played in classrooms.

In September, it was wonderful to actually go back into schools. Since then, we have been able to deliver weekly worship assemblies in St. Mary’s School, chat with pupils and Staff at playtimes and return to Forest Park Prep for their harvest assembly. We have loved welcoming children and staff back in St Mary’s Church for St Mary’s and Forest Park Prep’s School Christmas services and have done Church visits for St Mary’s and Firs Road pupils with many more dates booked in with these schools, in the months ahead. There’s a lot going on!



September also saw “Caterpillars Parent and Toddler Group” re-open its doors after two years of shut down. In many ways after such a long time away we had to start from scratch, as many of the children who had once attended had since started school. It was soon apparent how desperately needed this group is, from the number of people who have turned up on a Tuesday afternoon from all over South Manchester. It has been an absolute joy to see this community grow and to meet and chat with parents/carers, childminders, grandparents and of course the lovely “lock down” babies.



*Junior Church leaders competing in a game!*



Likewise, God told us not to reopen Junior Church until September 2021 and to give our pre-covid list of volunteers permission to step down. We lost 40% of our volunteers but we knew that God was doing a new thing and it was very clear through prophetic prayer, pictures and words that God gave to our church family that our pre-Covid set up just wouldn’t work.

We now host a stay and play session for 0-4’s led each week by an amazing volunteer. The Church service is live-streamed into this room, there is a bible message, craft, free play and it is a great place for parents/carers to have fellowship together. The rest of Junior Church has become a congregation, meeting in the hall each Sunday. This session is led from the front. We do collective worship, games, there is a talk and then age appropriate group activities led by our awesome volunteers.

A lot has happened and we are not finished yet! We know that Children’s Ministry is still evolving post pandemic and we are in an exciting new season of growth. The vision for Junior Church is to create a space where children are free to learn about God, ask questions and help create firm foundations of faith. But more than this, these children are AMAZING! We are so excited that they are the future of the Church and we are praying for deep connections with God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Please keep praying for our Children’s Ministry and if God puts it on your heart come and join our team.

The best is yet to come!

# MINISTRIES & MISSION

## YOUTH

During the last year Fuel has reformatted into a youth club where young people have social time, tuck shop, games and a discussion running parallel to the church's content. It's been really encouraging to see the number of young people attending nearly double.

We have also launched Cross Roads, which was a vision given to me shortly after I started. Cross Roads gives the older youth a chance to develop their own personal faith through Bible study in small groups. We have looked at 'Disciples making disciples' and the '7 I Ams of Jesus' with the aim of showing how the Bible is still relevant today. Unfortunately, Covid did stop the big Christmas meal we built up to but we are planning to do it in 2022.

The biggest positive to close 2021 is when we step back we can see a clear pathway for developing the church youth: Fuel is the starting point meeting young people

who either don't have a faith or are still in the early stages of their faith; then Cross Roads which challenges young people in their personal faith and equips them to go out into the world knowing their opinions on who God is to them; developing from that is 1-1 mentoring which is giving young people a trusted example of the Christian faith who will walk alongside that young person and support them in the highs and lows of life, working through how to best use the gifts God has given that young person to serve and bless others.

We are one of the top 50 churches in the C of E for children's and youth ministry. However, I think all the volunteers and Julie need crediting for making this happen and all praise should be turned to God for blessing us.

## SALE WEST COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

- Craft Workshops have built on the ROC family mentoring programme which has been operating with the help of excellent volunteers from St Mary's and Sale West Community churches.
- Mentoring seeks to effect positive change in people's lives by supporting them through the challenges they face; it helps them to identify what's important to them and then to set and achieve goals relating to e.g. financial management/budgeting, isolation, relationship breakdown, mental health, stress management, parenting and independent living skills.
- Craft workshops have built connections with members of the community, improved self-confidence, reduced isolation, helped people to learn new skills and provided some relief for those struggling with their mental health. They are a feeder for ROC Mentoring where this is appropriate and something a family would like to engage in.
- We have engaged over 150 people in activities. 100% of families being mentored have achieved at least one significant goal; in addition, their resilience (ability to cope with life) has improved by 24% and self-esteem by 72%.
- 88% of people engaging in craft workshops (who responded to the survey) reported an improvement in their self-confidence, with 100% saying they had

made friends. One lady said that she didn't have any friends at all before she came to the craft group, and another said she hadn't left her house for 2 years.

- We have seen people from both mentoring and the craft groups coming to church and then coming to faith.
- We have close links with the social prescribers linked to the GP practices. One lady who was referred to us said:

"Before Christmas I was very depressed, my doctor put me in touch with [the social prescribers] who introduced me to the Keep Calm and Craft group. It has truly helped me. I didn't have to go on antidepressants. Gave me a new lease of life. I have learned so many new skills and met a lot of lovely people who made me very welcome. The group has given me confidence and belief in myself. I have been able to help others. [They] are so caring and help us all."

# MINISTRIES & MISSION

## KINTSUGI

Last January, as Covid hit hard and our world seemed to become more distressing and uncertain by the day, we as a church became aware that people who would previously not have struggled, now, at times, were doing so. In response to this need, Jane Beaumont researched a course that could possibly help those who were struggling- and found it in Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing.

Based on the concept of showing that it's ok not to be ok at times, Kintsugi Hope was developed to improve our self-understanding and equip us to help both ourselves and others. Kintsugi Hope takes its name from the ancient Japanese art of fixing broken pottery with gold.... Kintsugi reminds us that something can break and yet still be beautiful, and that, once repaired, it is stronger at the broken places. This is an incredible metaphor for healing and recovery from adversity.

32 people, both Christians and non-Christians, started this twelve week course in January 2021, on Zoom. Each evening there was teaching from Jane Beaumont on the weekly topic, which included subjects such as

anxiety, forgiveness, perfectionism, resilience etc. This was then followed by discussion in small breakout groups , each with a facilitator. The course had one of the highest attendance rates of any course previously offered and participants reported that it had been important to them, and both engaging and healing.

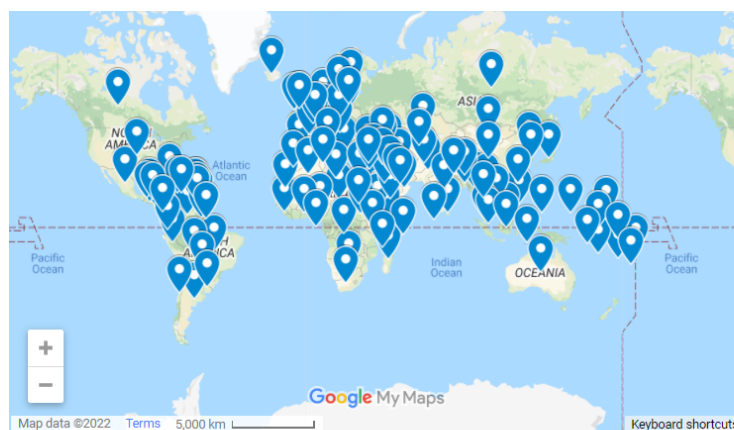
A second Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing course is currently underway on Zoom, again with 32 participants of all ages in seven groups , being led this time by Anne Britt. It is hoped to run the course each year as there seems to be such a demand for it in this uncertain world we live in today.



## PRAYING FOR THE NATIONS

Our Associate Vicar, Jane Beaumont, started this initiative in August 2020. The aim was to pray by name for every country in the world. For a year people met regularly online to pray and by last Summer we had covered around a third of the countries in the world. In September 2021 we decided to change the approach to include the whole church. We also wanted to give an end date to the initiative. Since then, each month, we have listed a group of countries, with prayer points for each, with the request that individuals and home groups pray for some of the countries listed. Countries have been grouped regionally each month (except where the compiler's grasp of geography failed) and we have

prayed a blessing on places in every continent. By July 2022 we will have prayed for all 195 countries in the world, some more than once, thereby realising the vision to pray for the whole planet. As we look forward to completing this task we pray that others will continue to join in as we near the end of it



*A map of the nations we have already prayed for*

# MINISTRIES & MISSION

## DISCIPLESHIP COMMUNITIES

Steve and I met with Leaders and Pastors in November via zoom, there was a good turn out which was really encouraging. The atmosphere was one of determination to press on and of hope for the future of our Discipleship Community. One point which came out strongly from this meeting was how much the groups value having the sermon notes/questions to use as a group.

Prior to writing this report I asked various groups for some feedback....

This has been a year of many small groups continuing to meet via zoom, a couple of groups have found this very difficult to maintain and have sought other ways to keep in touch. One group has moved into the Friday New Life group which continues to meet in person.

A couple of groups have been intermittent with zoom yet still remain strong as a group, connecting when they are able.

Some groups have been able to meet regularly via zoom and also meet for walks and picnics in the good weather and walks with a hot drink in the winter - that is commitment!

One group in particular has met on zoom 92 times so far and also regularly meet for picnics in the garden or conservatory. This same group has had some health issues but have grown closer and been a great support to each other.

On the same theme another group has been through some really tough times and continue to pray and grow together in God's grace and love. Although drawing together through the tough times they have also welcomed in a new member to the group.

Another group started taking it in turns to put a daily devotional on WhatsApp during the first lockdown. This has continued even though they now meet in person, again bringing the group closer as they journey together.

A comment from one huddle - "running for two years in April, started in lockdown and have continued throughout! We have built relationships, shared, prayed together and supported one another, it's been a great blessing."

Looking forward we have a new Small Group which actually started meeting in January after being set up late in 2021. A new men's Huddle has also recently formed which is brilliant news.

There is a strong sense of community and drawing closer to God coming out from all areas of Discipleship. If you would like to connect with a group, or are considering being part of a four person huddle or would like to know more about any of our Discipleship groups please do contact me, or complete the short form on the website ([stmarysaom.org/communities](http://stmarysaom.org/communities))

Ann McBurney  
Discipleship Communities Coordinator  
[ann.mcburney@hotmail.com](mailto:ann.mcburney@hotmail.com)

## THE BEREAVEMENT JOURNEY

The six week Bereavement Journey course has been offered to all who have been bereaved within the church family and wider community whether with a faith or no faith. Run in the evening and during the day the (so far) online course looks at the common aspects of grief. Short films followed by group discussions cover loss and separation, the pain of grief - how it feels and how we might respond, adjusting to change, and moving forward. The course helps individuals to identify that they are not alone in their feelings and responses, and offers suggestions on how to navigate those painful and challenging emotions and behaviours. Groups are

deliberately kept small to enable a safe, secure and confidential environment where individuals can choose to share their experience, or simply be present with others who may have been, or are, feeling the same way. Further details are available from Karen MacMillan via the website or by emailing [bereavement@stmarys.org](mailto:bereavement@stmarys.org)

# MINISTRIES & MISSION

## HEARTBEAT CAFE

The Heartbeat Cafe re-opened in September 2021 with slightly new hours of 10am until 2pm. We welcomed new and previous customers, as they chatted and ate from our menu including homemade soup and cakes.

Our staff recognise the importance of a smile, a chat or whatever is needed, and we have had some in depth conversations. The later closing time encourages Caterpillar parents and Keep Calm and Craft ladies to visit the cafe.

We have been blessed with a couple of new volunteers; I really appreciate the commitment and dedication from all the volunteers and we even enjoyed a New Year social together!



Afternoon tea was introduced in November on the 2nd Thursday of each month and this has been popular with bookings each month so far.

During February half term we had Carol 'Short story lady' entertaining the children. Hopefully next time it will encourage more children and families to visit the cafe.

The takings are increasing steadily each month which is encouraging, although the idea is to cover costs not make a large profit and this is reflected in the menu pricing. The facility of paying by card is now an option however the machine can be a little unpredictable!

## MISSION PARTNERS

### *Missions after Lockdown!*

Jesus said 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.' Mark 15:16

We at St Mary's prayerfully and financially support 9 Mission Partners meeting needs around the world. Firstly - who are they?

#### Overseas

- Armonia ministries helping poor Mexicans in deprived areas.
- Herridge Technical School training Burundi youth in needed work skills.
- Philippines Outreach Centre with a children's home and prison ministry.
- Church Mission Society supporting churches world-wide.
- Open Doors supporting persecuted believers in dangerous countries.

#### Home based

- Boaz Trust supporting destitute asylum seekers in Manchester.
- Trafford Youth for Christ with outreach in our area.
- Tim and Miho Walker reaching Japanese students in UK.
- Sue and Simon Yeomans Missions Recruitment with OM Canada.

These are massive needs which we've prayed for over many years.

#### How do we support our Partners now ?

- Regular prayer in the weekly intercessions at church and many small groups.
- Monthly Mission Focus highlighting one Mission Partner.
- Mission Article on the church website.
- Third Sunday Mission Update in church sharing latest news.
- Missions Display Board pictures, with help-yourself leaflets.
- Church Mission Website with the latest Mission Partners newsletters.

Other areas supported include the Kings' Bible Translation work and Robinsons' ministry to UK Thai people. Many members are involved in ministries such as Barnabus, Street Pastors and Betel. All are prayed for in the services as time allows.

We see a growing concern for mission at St Mary's. Social media has brought the world closer and the needs more real. Pray that we can keep looking outward to the pressing needs of our hurting, suffering world which desperately needs the hope which only Christ can give.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE  
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY MAGDALENE,  
ASHTON-ON-MERSEY WITH SALE WEST COMMUNITY CHURCH,  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND DIOCESE OF CHESTER**

**Registered Charity No. 1133105**

**Year ended 31 December 2021**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND  
THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Under charity law, the trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements for each financial year which properly present the state of affairs of the charity and of the excess of income over expenditure for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, generally accepted accounting practice entails that the trustees:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements comply with the trust deed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue its activities.

The trustees are required to act in accordance with the trust deed of the charity, within the framework of trust law. They are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, sufficient to disclose at any time, with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the charity at that time, and to enable the trustees to ensure that, where any statements of accounts are prepared by them under section 132(1) of the Charities Act 2011, those statements of accounts comply with the requirements of regulations under that provision. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the PCC



Revd Stephen Rankin

# INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY MAGDALENE, ASHTON-ON-MERSEY WITH SALE WEST COMMUNITY CHURCH

## YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

I report to the PCC on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31 December 2021 set out on pages 19 to 26.

### RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants for England and Wales.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mrs Susan Suchoparek FCA

31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

## *For the year ended 31 December 2021*

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	TOTAL 2021 £	TOTAL 2020 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	2				
Voluntary income (direct giving)		272,480	-	272,480	277,164
Other voluntary income		4,158	-	4,158	3,548
Gross income from events and activities		133,232	-	133,232	113,863
Other ordinary income		10,571	-	10,571	15,333
Income from trading		28,226	-	28,226	20,266
Income from investment		27	-	27	186
Other income	4	7,806	-	7,806	18,496
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>£456,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£456,500</b>	<b>£448,856</b>
<b>RESOURCES USED</b>	3				
Grants		39,112	-	39,112	38,775
Support costs		26,588	-	26,588	29,846
Directly relating to the work of the church		295,692	6,573	302,265	297,284
Fund raising and publicity		107	-	107	87
Church management/administration		60,194	-	60,194	62,015
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>		<b>£421,693</b>	<b>£6,573</b>	<b>£428,266</b>	<b>£428,007</b>
Net incoming resources before gains/(losses)		34,807	-6,573	28,234	20,849
Net gain/(losses) on investments:					
- Transfer of investment ( <i>see note 9</i> )		-	131,420	131,420	-
- Release of endowment ( <i>see note 9</i> )		-	-131,420	-131,420	-
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>£34,807</b>	<b>-£6,573</b>	<b>£28,234</b>	<b>£20,849</b>
Balances brought forward at 1 January		571,852	6,573	578,425	557,576
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Balances carried forward at 31 December		<b>£606,659</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£606,659</b>	<b>£578,425</b>

## BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

		Note	2021 £	2020 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
	Tangible fixed assets	5	437,128	437,128
	Investment assets	9	-	131,420
			<b>£437,128</b>	<b>£568,548</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
	Debtors	7	5,904	6,725
	Short term deposits		73,849	43,822
	Cash at bank and in hand		90,946	92,309
			<b>£170,699</b>	<b>£142,856</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
	Amounts falling due within one year	8	-1,168	-1,559
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		6	<b>£169,531</b>	<b>£141,297</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<b>£606,659</b>	<b>£709,845</b>
<b>FUNDS</b>				
	Unrestricted	10	606,659	571,852
	Restricted	11	-	6,573
	Endowment	9	-	131,420
			<b>£606,659</b>	<b>£709,845</b>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 28th March 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

The Revd Stephen Rankin (Chairman)

Ms Lorna Hitchin (Vice Chair)




The notes on pages 22-26 form part of these accounts

# CASH FLOW STATEMENT

## for the year ended 31 December 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	28,234	20,849
Adjustments for:		
Interest receivable and similar income	-27	-186
Interest payable and similar charges	-	-
Increase/decrease in other debtors	821	1,292
Decrease/increase in other creditors	-391	-1,784
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<b>£28,637</b>	<b>£20,171</b>
Cash flows from investing activities	27	186
<b>Net cash from investing activities</b>	<b>£27</b>	<b>£186</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b> (Interest paid)	-	-
<b>Net cash from financing activities</b>	-	-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	28,664	20,357
Cash and cash equivalents as at 1 January	136,131	115,774
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December</b>	<b>£164,795</b>	<b>£136,131</b>

### ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2021 £	2020 £
Cash at bank and in hand	90,946	92,309
Short term deposits	73,849	43,822
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>£164,795</b>	<b>£136,131</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## For the year ended 31 December 2021

### NOTE 1 - ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations together with Charities Statement of Recommended Practice Financial Reporting Standards 102 (SORP FRS102).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

#### Funds

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC.

The purpose of any restricted funds is noted in the accounts.

The accounts include transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe an affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

#### Incoming Resources

##### *Voluntary income and capital sources*

Collections are recognised when made.

Amounts receivable under covenant are recognised only when honoured by the covenanter.

Income tax recoverable on covenanted or gift aid donations is recognised when claimable.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its entitlement and the likely amount due.

Funds raised by events are accounted for gross.

Sales of books and magazines from the church bookstall are accounted for gross.

##### *Other ordinary income*

Rental income from the letting of church premises is accounted for when earned.

Parochial fees due to the PCC for weddings, funerals etc are accounted for on an event by event basis.

*Income from investment* - Dividends and interest are accounted for when due. Tax recoverable on such income is accrued for on the same basis.

*Investment gains and losses* - Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

#### Application of Resources

*Grants* - Grants and donations are accounted for when paid.

#### Fixed assets

##### *Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings*

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(c) of the Charities Act 1993.

No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be an inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off.

*Other land and buildings* - Other land and buildings held on behalf of the PCC for its own purposes is valued at cost. No depreciation is charged against such properties but any expenditure on maintenance or minor improvement is written off as incurred. Improvement expenditure in excess of £40,000 is capitalised.

##### *Other fixtures, fitting and office equipment* -

Individual items with a purchase price of £5,000 or less are written off in the period in which the asset is acquired. Equipment with a purchase price of more than £5,000 is depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years.

*Investments* - Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

#### Current assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less any provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the Central Board of Finance or at the bank.

## NOTE 2 - INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	TOTAL 2021 £	TOTAL 2020 £
2(a) Voluntary income (direct giving)				
Planned giving	204,879	-	204,879	211,127
Income tax recovered on Gift Aid	45,604	-	45,604	49,709
Giving received gross of Income Tax	17,150	-	17,150	11,905
Collections (open plate) other than	4,847	-	4,847	4,423
	<u>272,480</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>272,480</u>	<u>277,164</u>
2(b) Other voluntary income				
Fund raising income	1	-	1	166
Donations, appeals	658	-	658	1,382
Legacies	-	-	-	-
Grants received	3,499	-	3,499	2,000
	<u>4,158</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,158</u>	<u>3,548</u>
2(c) Gross income from events and activities				
Lunch Fellowship	-	-	-	750
Church Bookstalls	-	-	-	105
Pre-School Group	129,782	-	129,782	109,305
Social Fund	595	-	595	914
Café	2,456	-	2,456	2,250
Caterpillars	355	-	355	429
Off Limits	44	-	44	110
	<u>133,232</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>133,232</u>	<u>113,863</u>
2(d) Other ordinary income				
Service fees	2,353	-	2,353	2,000
Administration service charges	400	-	400	400
VAT recovered	888	-	888	-
Rent received	6,430	-	6,430	6,360
Other income	500	-	500	6,573
	<u>10,571</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,571</u>	<u>15,333</u>
2(e) Income from trading				
Church Centre lettings	28,226	-	28,226	20,266
	<u>28,226</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28,226</u>	<u>20,266</u>
2(f) Income from investment				
Interest received	27	-	27	186
	<u>27</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>186</u>
2(g) Other income				
Job Retention Scheme	7,806	-	7,806	18,496
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<u><b>£456,500</b></u>	<u><b>-</b></u>	<u><b>£456,500</b></u>	<u><b>£448,856</b></u>

## NOTE 3 - RESOURCES USED

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	TOTAL 2021 £	TOTAL 2020 £
<b>3(a) Grants</b>				
Overseas missionary societies	13,400	-	13,400	13,150
Overseas relief and development agencies	1,900	-	1,900	1,800
Home missions and other church societies	11,788	-	11,788	13,270
Secular charities	12,024	-	12,024	10,555
	<u>39,112</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,112</u>	<u>38,775</u>
<b>3(b) Support costs</b>				
Parish training and mission	424	-	424	478
Junior Church/Youth	2,454	-	2,454	2,692
Children's Pastor	21,725	-	21,725	20,730
Youth Pastor	1,782	-	1,782	5,133
Equip Interns	203	-	203	813
	<u>26,588</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,588</u>	<u>29,846</u>
<b>3(c) Directly relating to the work of the Church</b>				
Parish Share	108,960	-	108,960	128,546
Clergy expenses	2,132	-	2,132	2,749
Clergy housing costs	6,516	-	6,516	6,047
Church & Services costs	12,410	1,248	13,658	14,717
Church Utilities	4,331	-	4,331	8,099
Church Centre running costs	19,582	-	19,582	19,000
Church Bookstalls costs	-	-	-	103
Lunch Fellowship costs	-	-	-	409
Pre-School Group costs	121,764	-	121,764	100,463
Social Fund costs	339	-	339	805
Café costs	5,521	-	5,521	6,289
Off Limits costs	44	-	44	141
Caterpillars costs	474	-	474	264
Administration	6,163	-	6,163	8,257
Major repairs	7,456	5,325	12,781	1,395
	<u>295,692</u>	<u>6,573</u>	<u>302,265</u>	<u>297,284</u>
<b>3(d) Fund raising and publicity</b>				
Cost of stewardship/fundraising	107	-	107	87
	<u>107</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>107</u>	<u>87</u>
<b>3(e) Church management and administration</b>				
Secretarial/administration salaries	58,759	-	58,759	59,624
Employer pension costs	1,435	-	1,435	1,590
Professional Fees	-	-	-	801
	<u>60,194</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>60,194</u>	<u>62,015</u>
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>	<u><b>£421,693</b></u>	<u><b>£6,573</b></u>	<u><b>£428,266</b></u>	<u><b>£428,007</b></u>

#### NOTE 4 - STAFF COSTS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages, Salaries, National Insurance and Pensions	174,551	177,490

During the year the PCC employed a Children's Pastor, Pre-School Group Manager and Assistants, Café Manager, Head of Operations, Parish Finance Officer, two Receptionist & Parish Administrators, and two Cleaners, none of whom earned £60,000 p.a. or more. Procedures set out in our Conflicts of Interest Policy have been followed in any matter involving a related party to a trustee.

COVID-19 restrictions limited a number of our activities and therefore we placed some staff on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (furlough) between January and September and claimed appropriate payments from HMRC. These are entered in the accounts as Other income.

	2021	2020
	£	£
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme claims	7,806	18,496

#### NOTE 5 - FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

	2021	2020
	£	£
Freehold land and buildings – balance at 31 December	437,128	437,128

The freehold land and buildings as at 31 December 2021 comprise the houses located at 23 Rydal Avenue, Sale, and 109 Ascot Avenue, Sale.

#### NOTE 6 - ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total £
Fixed Assets	437,128	-	-	437,128
Current assets	169,530	-	-	169,530
Fund balance	£606,658	-	-	£606,658

#### NOTE 7- DEBTORS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Debtors	5,904	6,725

#### NOTE 8- LIABILITIES: AMOUNT FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021	2020
	£	£
Accruals	185	140
Accrued Income	-	-
Accrued Agency	983	1,419
	1,168	1,559

## NOTE 9 - FUND DETAILS

The Endowment Fund comprises the following permanent endowments:

	2021	2020
	£	£
St Mary's Endowment Fund	-	131,420
	<u>-</u>	<u>£131,420</u>

Until 1976 income from the St Mary's Endowment Fund was paid to the incumbent of the parish. When the Endowments and Glebe Measure 1976 became law the income from this fund was paid to the Diocese of Chester, since they are responsible for all stipend payments. At that time most similar funds were transferred to the Diocese but this one was not due to a technicality. The fund is no longer of benefit to the parish and it was transferred to the Diocese of Chester in 2021.

## NOTE 10 - UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Balance brought forward at 1 January	571,852	557,576
Surplus in year	34,807	14,276
Transfer from restricted	-	-
Balance carried forward at 31 December	<u>£606,659</u>	<u>£571,852</u>

## NOTE 11 - RESTRICTED FUNDS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Balance brought forward at 1 January	6,573	-
Income in year	-	6,573
Resources used in year	6,573	-
Transfer to unrestricted	-	-
Balance carried forward at 31 December	<u>£0</u>	<u>£6,573</u>

The restricted fund in 2021 held the income from the closure of the Fielder Memorial Trust; the balance has been used and the fund has been closed.

## NOTE 12 - LINKED CHARITY

The PCC is the trustee of an unregistered charity called the All Saints Church of England School, known as the Glebelands Trust. The charity owns a piece of land and property on Glebelands Road Sale which is rented out. Net income is applied at the discretion of the PCC. Total reserves as at 31 December 2021 were £146,996.

# CONTACT US

If you would like to find out more about all we do at St Mary's and Sale West Community Church, or would like to speak to a member of staff, please use the contact details below:

## ONLINE:

**Website:** [www.stmarysaom.org](http://www.stmarysaom.org)

**Social Media:** @stmarysaom

## CHURCH OFFICE:

**Telephone:** 0161 291 9283

**General enquiries:** [office@stmarysaom.org](mailto:office@stmarysaom.org)

**Finance enquiries:** [finance@stmarysaom.org](mailto:finance@stmarysaom.org)

## STAFF:

### Vicar:

Steve Rankin, 0161 973 5118 | [srankin@stmarysaom.org](mailto:srankin@stmarysaom.org)

### Associate Vicar:

Nathan Gregory, 0161 425 6796 | [nathan.gregory@stmarysaom.org](mailto:nathan.gregory@stmarysaom.org)

### Head of Operations:

Emma Atkinson, 0161 291 9283 | [operations@stmarysaom.org](mailto:operations@stmarysaom.org)

### Children's Pastor:

Julie Loynd, 07579805797 | [childrens.pastor@stmarysaom.org](mailto:childrens.pastor@stmarysaom.org)

### Youth Worker:

Alex Stewart, 07883 383 063 | [youth.pastor@stmarysaom.org](mailto:youth.pastor@stmarysaom.org)

### Sale West Children and Families Workers:

Carol Dodgson, 07579805623 | [caroldodgsonsalewest@gmail.com](mailto:caroldodgsonsalewest@gmail.com)

Shauna Hancock, 07579782880 | [shaunasalewest@gmail.com](mailto:shaunasalewest@gmail.com)

### Treasurer:

Brian Macfaden, 0161 962 0375 | [treasurer@stmarysaom.org](mailto:treasurer@stmarysaom.org)

