

The Parish Church of St James the Great Haydock

Registered Charity 1153937

Annual Report and Accounts for 2024



Background

The Parish Church of St James the Great is situated on Church Road, Haydock, in the Borough of St Helens. It is part of the Diocese of Liverpool within the Church of England.

The address for correspondence is:

**The Vicarage
169 Church Road
Haydock
St Helens
Merseyside WA11 0NJ**

Incumbent	Reverend Fr Michael Vyse	from 30th June 2022	Chairman
Assistant Priest	Reverend Fr Ian Wynne		
Churchwardens	Nancy Holloway Philip Peplow	<i>Vice Chair and Safeguarding Officer Health and Safety Co-ordinator</i>	
Treasurer	Susan King		
PCC Secretary	Dorothy Smith		
Gift Aid Secretary	Dorothy Smith		
Deanery Synod Representatives	Jacqueline Cutler William Haydock Geoffrey Lightfoot		
Elected Members	Kathryn Goodstadt Janet Dawber Ann Black Joan Nicholls Irene Jones, Jean White Rita Brogan Jenni Shaw William Wiswell Paul Hooton Joan Nicholls Jean White	RIP	<i>Electoral Roll Officer</i>

The Electoral Roll has a membership of 145 souls

Appointment of Officers and sub-committees

At the first meeting following the APCM the Parochial Church Council will appoint its officers, their sub-committees and representatives to other Parish Committees or outside bodies,

Quorum for Meetings

For a meeting to take valid decisions one third of members must be present and voting.

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc,
19 Church Street,
St. Helens,
Merseyside, WA10 1BG

Legal Advisor

The Bishop of Liverpool's Registry,
1 The Sanctuary,
London, SW1P 3JT

Independent Examiner

Mrs Gillian Oates,
32 Reddish Crescent,
Lymm,
Cheshire, WA13 9PT

Architect

Bill Schafer Dip Arch RIBA
Schafer Associates | Chartered Architects
56 Belvedere Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield,
Lancashire, WN4 8RU.

Day to day management control is exercised by the Incumbent, the Reverend Fr Michael Vyse, and the Churchwardens, Nancy Holloway and Gordon Turner, who can be contacted via the Vicarage, as above, telephone 01942 727956.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. The method of appointing Parochial Church Council members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The elected members of the Council normally serve for a period of three years, the terms of office being staggered over a three-year cycle to ensure administrative continuity. All church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the Council.

The Council operates two sub-committees: the Standing Committee and the Finance and Fabric Committee. The Standing Committee has power to transact the business of the Council between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council under the Church Representation Rules. Its members are the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, the Secretary and the Treasurer. The Vice-Chair would also be a member if that office were not held by one of the Wardens.

The Finance and Fabric Committee is charged with considering any matters referred to it by the Council whilst taking an overview of any and all issues related to the finances of the Council and the maintenance of all buildings and equipment for which it is responsible. It reports to, and makes recommendations to, the Standing Committee and the Council, as appropriate. Its members are the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, the Treasurer and four further members appointed by the Council, currently William Haydock, Philip Peplow, William Wiswell (Chair) + one vacancy.

Objectives and Activities

The primary object of the PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church -pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC has responsibilities relating to the Parish Church; the surrounding Churchyard; the Parish Room and Kitchen annexed to the Church; St. James' Parish Centre, Church Road, Haydock; and the Curate's House (currently let to tenants) at 27 Homestead Avenue, Haydock.

The PCC acknowledges that these responsibilities relate not only to day to day management and the maintenance of the fabric of these buildings but also to ensuring compliance with all relevant legislation and the duties of care thereby imposed. When planning its activities for the year the PCC gave consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance to charities concerned with the advancement of religion. The advancement of religion is of itself a charitable purpose recognized as being of public benefit within the meaning of the Charities Act 2006. The PCC affirms its understanding that all its responsibilities are exercised not simply within a gathered congregation but within the context of the community as a whole.

VICAR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2024-25

We have a very strong body of Churchwardens and PCC, and, as a result, a very well-organised Church life, a healthy set of finances, a well-maintained building whose ongoing maintenance and development needs are known and proactively catered for. All this continues to be done by a hard-working and vigilant Churchwardens; the Fabric & Finance Committee and our Treasurer; and the Standing Committee, together with many volunteers – especially the Thursday group - working on the building. Worship is also maintained through the hard work and dedication of Fr Ian; Fr John; teams of servers; Matt, the music group, and choir; readers and intercessors; Sacristans, cleaners and flower-arrangers.

I have continued developing links with our Church School, including input in various Year groups' curriculum activities; invigilating the SATS exams; input as a School Governor; as well as countless everyday encounters with children, parents, staff and governors. The school had a positive outcome in last summer's SIAMS inspection, which assesses the Faith input in the school. Many conversations with parents have been struck up on the playground at the beginning or end of the school day. On many occasions, I am struck by the number of times I meet a S. James' parent [or grandparent] in an entirely different context, and often in connection with a long-standing relationship with S. James' Church.

We have had, for the second time, Stephen our Bishop with us, who, on 19th May, confirmed 9 children from the school plus one adult. Others confirmed in previous years took part in the service; and two of those confirmed that day have now become regular and committed members of our Serving Team; their families have also become regular worshippers here. This year, we are set to have Bishop Stephen back again, to confirm four children from S. James' school and two children who attend our Cubs, part of the 18th St Helens - St James' Haydock – Scouts group: our Scouts, like our S. James' School, is a key component in our overall Church life. One of the Confirmation candidates attends Grange Valley school, which I have also been visiting in the past couple of terms, leading one Year group for a lesson at a time.

Our relationship with Bishop Stephen is underpinned by our membership of the Transfiguration Chapter; the Chapter is concerned about the implications which the '*Fit For Mission*' plan would have on us at S. James': we would become part of a 'Large Single Parish' [LSP], which would assume S. James' existing strategic decision-making powers. We have started to engage with process of listening to the process; a vote will be taken in the Autumn as to whether or not to enter into a 2-year long "*As If*" phase of functioning "as if" we were part of that LSP.

Pilgrimages have continued to both Ladyewell and Walsingham, when we are able to give generously to the Shrine and its needs. Monthly Walsingham Cell meetings, together with the May devotion, summer Strawberries & Wine, and the pre-Christmas party, punctuate and sustain the Cell according to the motto, "pray hard and play hard". The Mothers' Union has continued to engage with outside speakers on a variety of topics.

The fortnightly Eucharists, which now alternate between Collier's Court Care Home [formerly Wagon & Horses] and Abbey Rose Court [formerly Lymewood] Care Home, were matched

at Christmas with carols enthusiastically sung by regular worshippers from S. James, including Fr Ian and myself, and led by Janet. It has also been a privilege for Fr Ian and myself to be called upon, by these two care homes and others, to administer prayers, laying-on of hands and anointing, especially for those nearing the end of their lives on earth. This important - if largely unseen – spiritual care draws on the ministry of Healing for which S. James is rightly renowned, due to the work of our Guild of S. Raphael. The Guild continues its annual celebration of its Patron Saint with the October Sunday Eucharist with Healing Ministries. Also not to be forgotten are those who worship with us at home, who receive Holy Communion [and in some cases also Anointing] on a roughly monthly basis.

We have sadly said goodbye to some faithful servants of St James': Jean White and Edna Clough, who, often regarded as inseparable in life, were called to glory within just a few of each other. We also, in June, carried out the burial of the cremated remains of our much-loved 10th Vicar, Fr Paul Nener. May they rest in peace. In this last year, a total of 33 funerals have taken place at St James' [compared to 16 in 2023-24]:

- 13 = Service in Church followed by committal elsewhere
- 3 being a Service in Church followed by Burial in new grave here
- 10 being a Service in Church followed by Burial in existing grave here
- 7 being a Service all at Crem

In addition, St James's clergy [Fr Ian, Fr John and I] have led:

- 15 x Burial, in our churchyard, of Cremated remains
- 1 x Burial from another church in a new grave here
- 3 x burial from another Church in an existing grave here

I generally attend funeral 'wakes', especially if invited to; a good amount of meaningful pastoral ministry is often done in that context.

Dot Beesley felt the need to stand down as Verger, after many years of devoted hard work: her rôle has been taken on by Rita Brogan: we are very grateful for the work done by both of them. We are also very grateful to Phil Peplow for his many years of dedicated service as Churchwarden, and for his continued work with safety and fire procedures. Nancy has been joined as Churchwarden by Gordon Turner: without both of them have been an enormous body of support.

I continue to walk around the streets of the parish when I can, as a visible sign of the Church's presence here, as well as talking to parents at the start or end of the school day: a Priest has been described as "a walking Sacrament".

As I write, we are soon to celebrate the Lord's Death and Passion, and glorious Resurrection from the dead: may we, being dead to sin, be alive to God, in Jesus his crucified and risen Son.

Fr Michael Vyse SSC
Vicar

**St. James The Great Haydock
Annual Church Warden's Report April 2025**

St James the Great Haydock Church Mission

"This mission statement and action plan came about after a meeting with two concerned parishioners, Father Michael, Area Dean. Nancy, and myself."

As part of the Church's Mission to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment in St. James Church to members of the congregation and parish at large, a meeting was held with the area Dean. The result of which is the basis of this reported.

Father Michael continues to increase the links between the parish church and St. James the Great Primary School by holding regular services in school for the school children and on special occasions services in church for the whole school community. Also, there are monthly services involving the attached scout group which brings back into church the children and parents who have moved on from primary education. Father Michael also spends a great deal of time outside the church informally meeting all the parents of the children who attend the school and scouts. This is in addition to his daily work within the parish visiting the sick, the nursing homes and house bound parishioners to administer the sacrament and bring the church to the whole parish of St. James.

Within the Church's Mission to provide such a welcoming and inclusive space for families with young children, we need to complement Fr. Micheal's work by providing a welcoming, friendly and safe space for the young children and their parents or guardians, which makes them feel included within the church and the congregation and can at the same time take part in the church's liturgy and Eucharist service on a Sunday.

The current position:

- 1) Parish room.
- 2) SW corner of the church a children's corner

Parish room.

Pros: it is a large area to enable large toys or table work to be conducted and noisy activities to take place. It has a speaker so that the church service can be heard and followed.

Cons: it is isolated from the main body of the church. You are unable to physically, visually and actively take part in the church Eucharist when in the room.

Children's Corner

Pros: it is within the main body of the church and has toys, table and chairs suitable for young children. It has colourful displays, reading books and activity sheets. It is warm and well lit with natural light.

Cons: it is limited in size. The messy church display board acts as a barrier to the rest of the church. There can be noise issues when inappropriate toys or activities are undertaken. You are unable to interact with the rest of the church, the liturgy and see the priest and altar party during the Eucharist.

The way forward to improve the church's mission of inclusion.

- 1) Use the parish room for noisy activities i.e. playing with hard plastic toys.
- 2) Use the parish room when a child becomes unsettled, upset, starts acting out or is unable to be reasonably quiet.
- 3) Use the parish room as a safe quiet place to go to give the child and the parent a quiet place to recover and relieve the tensions that can arise when in front of other adults.

It is accepted noise is inevitable with young children, but it is also incumbent on the church to be aware that loud and excessive noise can spoil the act of worship to some in the congregation especially during the blessing of the Eucharist.

- 4) The children's corner needs to be more open therefore the physical barrier of the Messy Church display board needs to be removed and put somewhere else. This will enable the main body of the church to be visible and the adults and children can be aware of the church service and take part as and when they feel able. This will allow the children to become more involved and receive instruction and guidance as to what is happening during the service at the appropriate time. Both adults and children will be involved within the service rather than isolated behind a screen.
- 5) Increase the floor area as necessary, when and if numbers increase.
- 6) We have a quiet safe place for the children from which they can be involved with the service.
- 7) Ensure there a plenty of soft toys and quiet activities for the younger children.
- 8) Ensure all toys, games and activities are communal and are not the property of any individual – they belong to the congregation.
- 9) These areas to be under the direction of the Vicar and the Church Wardens.

Outcome: pews have been rearranged at the back of the church (south aisle), the screen removed, and two areas created for adults and children to be together “quietly” and still be part of the whole church and take part in the service. This to date has proved quite successful. Also, a rear pew at the back of the south nave has been removed so that there is a space for wheelchairs, mobility scooters and buggies.

Dry rot: The repairs have been completed. A big thank you to everyone involved in cleaning the church and tidying up once the works was completed. The cement panels which had to be chiselled from the walls have been replace with lime-based rendering which allows the brickwork to breath and not retain moister penetration from the outside. The wood has been treated with a special wood paint to match the rest of the woodwork.

Roof valley replacement: Both phases of the roof valley have been completed however there was found to be other issues with parts of the roof due to “age and weather”,. which will hopefully be addressed at the same time

Water meters: We only have **ONE** and it is for the Parish Centre. It is under the floorboards as indicated by a sign on the wall. Access is via a little floor panel. All other water bills are based on the old rateable value.

Heating: Both furnaces are functioning, and the new timer is easy to adjust and set to suite the needs of the church. The church in winter can never reach more than 16 degrees especially when we have had severe frost at night and for several days at a time.

The parish room heater is now working after several repairs.

Vandalism to stain glass window: This was repaired by a local stained-glass company based in St. Helens.

Repairs, general maintenance and groundwork: It cannot be expressed how grateful the church of St. James is to everyone who helps with these matters, they have saved the church a great deal of money which can only be seen when you look at the financial statement produced by the treasurer. This is especially true of the graveyard.

Church Inventory: together with Fr Michael, Fr Ian Nancy and myself the church silver ware will be sorted into those for regular use and other items of infrequent use and then put in more appropriate secure storage. We will then take a full inventory of the church's artefacts and where they are to be kept.

Church Service Streaming: The YouTube channel now has 91 subscriptions and is watched live by over 10 parishioners and later has from 50 to 80 views each week.

Gordon Turner
Church Warden

Notes from Guild of St Raphael Prayer Group Meeting & AGM 25 February 2025

Pre-meeting thanks: *to everyone who supports the guild with donations, raffle prizes, or help with events; to those who helped with Pie & Peas; to those who helped make Edna Clough's funeral special and to Les Moorcroft for his practical and IT support.*

AGM - review of January to December 2024

- **January** - Good attendance at Pie & Peas.
- **February** - main concern was only a small amount of our money donated to church from previous years has been spent.
- No meeting in **March** because of the Chrism Mass at Manchester Cathedral. Oils were received into church at the Eucharist that evening.
- **April** - coach to Oswaldtwistle Mills. 44 Guild members and congregation were joined by people from other local churches. Whilst the day was enjoyable, we will not be returning there. A letter outlining our dissatisfaction with their arrangements for our visit was sent. The compensatory voucher they sent to us in response was returned to them. The first request for an individual Laying on of Hands for quite some time resulted in a well attended gathering of Guild members in the Lady Chapel after the 21 April 10.30am service. It was a moving service but future requests like this will be arranged for the front of the main altar steps to allow for enough room for everyone present to be joined by touching whilst Laying on of Hands is carried out. This is so that everyone can be a part of the service in a more meaningful way.
- In **May** agreement that people should stay on the Guild's prayer list for three months, unless specifically requested otherwise, or the person is long-term sick or housebound. Also agreed that whenever sufficient people are present at meetings, we should have a raffle, with money raised reserved separately and used towards subsidising any future outings, as coach hire has become very expensive. Carol O'Neil was thanked for volunteering to become Deputy.
- Alison Carson was our speaker at our **June** meeting, so items for discussion were carried forward. There was positive feedback from our prayer requests box at the summer fair. Stocks of sympathy cards were given to Fr Michael and Fr Ian to give to bereaved families, where appropriate.
- A coach trip to York was arranged for 27th **July**, the day of the Northern Provincial Service in the Cathedral there. This coach had to be cancelled as there was insufficient interest to make it viable. It was later discovered that the Chapter had a coach to the Northern Provincial Festival, which we had no prior knowledge of. It is unknown whether this had any impact on us being unable to fill our coach.
- In **August**, a review of membership was carried out and those who had not engaged for some time were contacted. The Guild offered to pay for a defibrillator. *Recently discovered that one has been acquired at no cost to the Guild.*
- In **September** a new Thank You card was produced, to be used as appropriate.
- **October** - The annual Parish Service for Healing More people attended and engaged than last year and a lot of positive comments were received after the service. Badges worn by Guild members helped to identify who could support anyone who wished for this. The format of two Laying on of Hands stations with one anointing station worked very well. Use of the Taize Chant to finish the service added to the atmosphere and the Guild then provided complimentary refreshments in the Parish Room. Arrangements for our organist to be able to access Laying on of Hands must be made for next time.
- Christmas themed refreshments were served at our meeting in **November**. There was also a quiz and raffle. On 28 November 2024 our coach, of 31 people, went to Lytham Hall to see the historic building decorated for Christmas and to have afternoon tea. The day was a great success and a letter of thanks has been sent to Lytham Hall. A raffle was held on the return journey, as has become our practise. Funds raised from this were included towards our annual donation to church funds. *(raffle money towards coach subsidy is only from our meetings).*
- There was no meeting in **December**. Christmas cards for those on the Guild's prayer list went well and positive feedback from recipients has been received once again.

In summary – It was a good year overall and we were able to make a donation to church funds of £950. This is slightly down on last year (*which was £1,100*). It is heartening that there has been much more interest in the Guild this year and that the coach trips have become popular as they offer outreach opportunities.

Current Situation

Membership - fairly static. Dorothy Whitfield and Jean White died during 2024; Annie Cox and Edna Clough died at the start of 2025. Laying on of Hands volunteers are fewer, which can cause problems.

Finances - Over £3k donated since 2022. Only £665.67 has so far been spent. Anyone can request a purchase but Sue King and I need to know, to be able to keep track. 2024 accounts have been approved by Sue King and can be inspected on request.

Prayer List - The 3 month review system to remain in place. Several people have sent their thanks and appreciation for our prayers. Our list is to be compared with pew sheet list to ensure all Guild prayer requests are covered at our monthly Eucharists. From now on, sheet to be put on the table prior to the start of our meetings on which people can add the names of those they want us to particularly pray for that night.

Cards for those on the prayer list - Easter cards will be available from the our stand at the back of church from Sunday, 9 March.

Potential speakers – suggestions welcome

Publications - To be reviewed .

Potential coach trips: Several suggestions received. Difficult to find a suitable date but a day trip to Saltaire has been arranged for 10 May but this can only go ahead if we have sufficient numbers.

Diary Dates:

Tuesday, **25 March 2025** - Our next meeting, after the 7.30pm Eucharist.

Tuesday, **15 April 2025** Chrism Mass at Manchester Cathedral.

Saturday, **10 May 2025** - Day trip to Saltaire

Saturday, **21 June 2025** - Table top sale, whilst Cell breakfasts are going on.

Sunday, **26 October 2025**, Annual Parish Healing Service, during the 10.30 Eucharist.

Any Other Business

- Discussion needed on whether an afternoon Pie & Peas followed by Eucharist would be viable for next January.
- Need to continue raising the Guild's profile; who we are, what we do and that we pray for anything of concern, not only the sick, all of which can be done in confidence, if required.

Please let me have your comments/suggestions/feedback on any points raised above.

Thank you for your support

Elaine Wallwork

Branch Leader's Report 2024

January Church Service, followed by AGM and giving out of birthday cards and hotpot supper.

February Voluntary Community Champions unable to come due to illness. Discussed illness of absent members, took subscription fees and tea money. Checked on who had not received Prayer Diary. Made a list for upcoming Lent Lunches, gave out birthday cards

March no meeting

April Kayleigh Archbold from Victim Support cancelled last minute. She is the Operations Manager for Supported Housing and Domestic Abuse. Her talk would have fitted in with our MU project, 'Rise Up Against Domestic Abuse'. We discussed the piece in the Spring Issue of the 'Connected Magazine' about this topic and I asked if members wanted to register for the Bronze Award. We also discussed the letters from Mary Sumner House and members were directed to our notice board where all the information is displayed.

May John Harrison stepped in for Michael Hardi from Leprosy Mission. He provided us with an update of the new hospital. He had personal experience of the place and told us many stories about children and adults affected by this disease. We found his talk both interesting yet harrowing at times. Members were asked if they had managed to join MSH in Midday Prayers. We discussed 'Thy Kingdom Come', an MU initiative to introduce new people to Jesus. Also, I informed members that I had spoken to Jennifer Grayson from 'Safe to Speak' and that she would come and speak to us soon.

June Musical evening led by member Janet Dawber focussing on the words of several hymns and how the music can aid in a deeper understanding of the prayer within. The latest information was shared from MSH concerning our WW President Sheran, who is visiting Australia and New Zealand. Also a letter to all MU members from King Charles 111 thanking us for our support through prayer during his illness. Members referred to Notice Board for this and details of the 'Scargill Retreat' and the 'Rise Up' celebration Service. Discussion and lists made for arrangements for the upcoming 'Summer of Hope' Afternoon Tea' and our proposed meal out, both in August.

July Paul Hooten, a local Councillor came to talk to us about his work in the community. Members asked a wide range of questions and thoroughly enjoyed his talk and the information he gladly gave. We then finalised details for the Afternoon tea. Members were reminded to check the Notice Board for the latest from MSH. I also informed everyone about my visit to Olive Rigby, a previous Leader, who had given me some colourful fabric from MU members visiting St James from Zimbabwe. She also gave me a large piece of material printed with the MU logo and some of the same made up into a tablecloth and 4 aprons. These will be used on an information board in Church and for the Afternoon Tea

August No meeting but Wave of Prayer, fitted in on Sunday after our Eucharist.(the time when most people available). Meal out at The Kirkfield Hotel (really enjoyable) and Afternoon Tea and Bingo, our fundraising event for 'The Summer of Hope Appeal'. A fabulous £465. 12 raised. Well done everyone.

September Branch Leader gave a talk about MU membership around the world focussing on those branches we prayed for in our Wave of Prayer. Orders asked for MU diaries and Christmas cards and gifts.

October Member Elaine Wallwork gave a fascinating talk on some interesting characters from our own area Really surprised us that we had so many noteworthy, local rogues and heroines in our small area. Gave members an update on our Christmas Meal. Checked if any 'Connected' and 'Prayer Diaries' were outstanding. Read 'September 'Reflection' from MSH and referred members to Notice Board for further details including Carol Service and Services at the Cathedral.

November Christmas Crafts with Janet Dawber. This year we made a Cracker from scratch including hat, sweet and snap! Great Fun. Also reminders about MU meal, Christmas Tombola Gifts and reading Board.

December No meeting but Last Christmas message from our outgoing WW President, Sheran placed on Board and cards and same message and Christmas cards from the Diocese taken out to our 5 Indoor Members. Christmas meal enjoyed with Choir members and clergy.

Cell of Our Lady of Walsingham

Our church is the only one in the Deanery with a full-time priest, Fr. Michael Vyse.

Fr. Michael is also the Cell Superior of Our Lady of Walsingham.

Our cell has once again shown its support to the Shrine, by going on parish pilgrimage, every year, donating money and praying the Rosary and the Angelus daily.

We are the largest cell in this country. We have 42 members and our last two members were Fr. John Taylor and Mr Martin Taylor.

The fund-raisers we have throughout the year which is very well supported,

We have Breakfasts with sale of goods, Strawberries and Wine evening, Cheese and Wine evening and very kind donations from members all this money goes to the Shrine.

We are truly grateful for all money we make or receive. We also cater for Summer and Advent Fayre. Mary, Mother of God plays an important part of our lives, she is always pointing to her son, because her primary role is to direct people towards Jesus.

This year we have paid £35 for church supplies for the month of August.

£40. For the red glass lamp that burns above the Memorial book in our church.

£40. For the lamp that burns in the Holy House in the Shrine for our church.

100 Easter Eggs for our primary school.

100 Selection boxes again for the school.

£100 to the Sisters of St. Margaret's Priory, Walsingham for the work they do.

£150 to send five youths to the Youth Pilgrimage at Walsingham.

£1.250 to help subsidy towards the coach that we go on pilgrimage and cover the drivers cost for his food and room.

Sadly one of our faithful members passed away in January of this year, (2025) Mrs Edna Clough.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory, her name will be added to the Chancery book at Walsingham which the cell pay £35.

This year our cell is 19 years old and I am so pleased to say that in these years we have bought, paid and donate to church and the Shrine-a total of £37. 000. 00

All our meetings are open to members and non-members and are always made to feel welcome.

Society of Mary

This year are day pilgrimage to Ladywell will take place on 14th of June.

Members of the society receive the Ave magazine twice a year.

The S.O.M whilst being one of the Catholic Societies of the Church of England has members in churches all over the world.

The Society wishes to encourage Christians to respect Mary, Mother of God.

Members shall keep a Rule of Life which includes such special devotions as the Angelus, the rosary, Marian anthems and the Litany of Our Lady.

They will pray for departed members of the society and offer the Holy Eucharist for them.

The Rosary

A couple of years ago a members were asked to say the rosary in the Chapel of Rest in the local undertakers Alan Jones. As one of our members from English Martyr's had passed away and his

daughter said it was something he wanted. (English Marty's do not have a rosary group) We went along and said the rosary and prayed for his departed soul for Mary's Intercession with God so that the deceased may have eternal rest with Him forever. This was very special privilege to be asked to do this and it will always be remembered by the members.

Our rosary group meet each Thursday at 6.30pm in either the Lady chapel or the St. Alban chapel. Everybody is welcome to come along and join in or just to sit quietly pray and meditate.

Dot Beesley
Cell Secretary

Parochial Church Council of St. James the Great, Haydock
Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2024
GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>2,024</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>2,023</u>
<u>Voluntary Receipts</u>				
Planned Giving	33,239		32,505	
Collections and other Giving	5,378		6,400	
Income Tax recovered	11,400	50,017	11,230	50,134
<u>Other voluntary receipts</u>				
Sundry donations	16,090		7,560	
Insurance				
Bequest		16,090		17,560
<u>Activities for generating funds</u>				
Magazines and bookstall	1,056		1,355	
Fund raising	11,443	12,499	9,127	10,482
<u>Receipts from investments</u>				
Interest received	850		512	
Homestead rent	8,376	9,226	6,421	6,934
<u>Receipts from charitable activities</u>				
Wedding and Funeral fees	11,752		13,295	
Contributions for PC and parish room	495	12,247	750	# 14,045
TOTAL RECEIPTS		100,078		99,155
<u>PAYMENTS</u>				
<u>Donations to Other Charities</u>				
Mission Giving		830		770
<u>Charitable Activities</u>				
Parish share	62,717		62,655	
Church Running Expenses	15,527		19,563	
Clergy expenses	66		550	
Upkeep of services	5,623		6,651	
Salaries & Support costs	2,065		2,500	
Homestead Ave Costs	588		644	
Vicarage costs	2,944		2,805	
Church maintenance	3,033		2,235	
Administration Costs	139		168	
		92,703		97,771
<u>Cost of Generating Funds</u>				
Ancillary trading costs		476		519
TOTAL PAYMENTS		94,009		99,060
Excess of receipts over payments		6,069		95
Transfer to Parish Centre Fund		495		750
Total Unrestricted Funds at 1 January 2024		11,165		24,913
Balance as at 31 December 2024		16,739		24,258
Less Parish Centre deficit		1,212		9,170
Less Churchyard deficit				3,923
Less MU deficit		317		
Total Unrestricted Funds at 31 December 2024		15,210		11,165

Parochial Church Council of St. James the Great, Haydock
Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2024

OTHER FUNDS

FLOWER FUND

	£ 2024	£ 2023
Restricted		
<u>Voluntary Receipts</u>		
Restricted Donations	100	614
<u>Payments</u>		
Various costs	194	62
Excess of receipts over payments	-94	552
Total Fund at 1 January 2024	1,011	459
Total Fund at 31 December 2024	917	1,011

PARISH CENTRE FUND

Restricted		
<u>Voluntary Receipts</u>		
Donations and fundraising	163	1,854
<u>Payments</u>		
All running costs and building materials	1,870	11,774
Excess of payments over receipts	-1,707	9,920
<u>Transfers</u>		
Rent from general fund	-495	750
Total Fund at 1 January 2024	0	0
Total Fund at 31 December 2024	1,212	9,170
Write off from General Fund	0	0

CHURCHYARD FUND

Restricted to expenditure maintaining the Churchyard

<u>Voluntary Receipts</u>		
Restricted donations	1,160	717
<u>Payments</u>		
Running costs	1,060	4,640
Excess of receipts over payments	100	3,923
Total Fund at 1 January 2024	0	0
Total Fund at 31 December 2024	100	3,923

FABRIC FUND

Income	3,200	5,161
Payments	11,787	1,537
Excess of payments over receipts	8,587	3,624
Total Fund at 1 January 2024	53,636	50,012
Total Fund at 31 December 2024	45,049	53,636

GUILD OF ST RAPHAEL

Total Fund at 31 December 2024	3,190	3,056
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MOTHERS UNION

Total Fund at 31 December 2024	-317	220
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AGENCY FEES

Agency Fees Collected	6,111	6,574
Reimbursements Paid	5,984	6,631
Excess of receipts over payments	127	57
Total Fund at 1 January 2024	1,215	1,272
Total Fund at 31 December 2024	1,342	1,215

Parochial Church Council of St. James the Great, Haydock
Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2024

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

							TOTALS	
	General Fund	Agency DBF	Restricted Funds				2024	2023
			C/yard Fund	Fabric Fund	Flower Fund	P Centre Fund	MU Guild	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cash Funds								
Bank							20,022.89	17,619
Business							45,593.38	52,305
Note: Much of MU bank transactions are in the General Fund. This does not represent total income and costs for the year.							0	69,924
							3,190	
Total Cash	15,210	1,342	100	45,049	917	0	3,190	65,807
							Difference	-191
							Immaterial G. Oates	-379
Other monetary assets								
Guild of St Raphael							see above	
Investment Assets								
Alice Watson Trust (Market Value) Valuation as at 31 December 2024							1,530	1,485
Assets retained for use of the church								
27 Homestead Ave (Purchase price on 4 Feb 2002)							54,000	54,000
Note that the Diocese holds the property in trust for the PCC Deeds held by Hill Dickinson LLP, Liverpool, L3 9SJ								
Agency								
DBF							1,342	1,215
							1,342	1,215

Notes

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

Approved by the PCC on 23 MARCH 2025 and signed on their behalf:

PCC Chairman



Financial Review

Treasurer's Comments

2024 was a year of reasonable stability with overall income exceeding expenditure in the General Fund by £6,070. The fact that costs are kept to an absolute minimum has certainly helped to enable this to be a positive result.

It is worth noting that 67% of expenditure for the year is our contribution to Parish Share which totalled £62,717 out of a total expenditure of £94,009. Fortunately, this figure will be lower in 2025 as there has been an agreement by the Deanery to reduce the Parish Share by 13%.

The next major cost has been gas and electricity for the church and parish room which accounted for 10% of the total expenditure. Once again, there should be reduced costs in 2025 as a new contract has been agreed for gas which should bring about savings.

It is with grateful thanks to the congregation and supporters of St James that costs can be met. Income from planned giving, collections and income tax recovered amounted to £50,017 in 2024 compared to £50,134 in 2023. Sundry donations increased significantly from £7,560 in 2023 to £16,090 in 2024. Fund raising also increased from £9,127 in 2023 to £11,443 in 2024 which was partly due to the wreath sale income being put in the General Fund instead of Flower Fund.

The closing balance on the General Fund account stands at £15,527

The Churchyard Fund finished the year with a positive balance of £100 which is mainly due to the valued support of volunteers helping with the maintenance of the churchyard. It was agreed at the end of 2023 that the church could no longer afford to pay for the grass cutting in the churchyard. As a result, a number of volunteers assisted with the upkeep but there is no guarantee that this can continue into 2025. More assistance is needed urgently for the churchyard to be maintained to an acceptable level.

The Parish Centre Fund operated at a level whereby costs exceeded income. The deficit of £1,212 was met from the General Fund. This resource is certainly under-utilised but with the plan to have a childcare facility starting in 2025, this should bring about much needed income as well as providing a useful service for the local community.

On a positive note, the church was fortunate to benefit from a generous bequest of £3,000 in 2024 which was allocated specifically to the Fabric Fund. The balance on this Fund stands at £45,049 on 31 December 2024

With Fr Michael to guide us, St James has the benefit of willing helpers and volunteers to build on its solid foundations and enable this church to continue its valued work in the Parish.

Sue King

Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St James the Great, Haydock
on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024, as set out on
pages _____ to _____ of your Annual Report.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: G. L. Oates,

Date: 22nd March 2024

IE's Name: Gillian Oates

Address: 32 Reddish Crescent, Lymm, Cheshire, WA13 9PT

REPORT OF PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2024-2025

05 JUNE 2024 1 Clergy 16 Members present 4 Apologies

Topics Discussed

- Discussion regarding Defibrillator whether to buy or rent.
- Dispensing of Guild Funds to Father Michael to spend as he wishes.
- Gordon Turner appointed Vice Chair of PCC.
- Detailed financial report from Treasurer.
- Work to be carried out in Churchyard over the coming months.
- Detailed report from Churchwarden.
- Update and review of Easter services.
- Updating on Fundraising and other events.
- Lengthy discussion on Worship and how this could be improved and also suggestions of how the two congregations could perhaps meet up sometime as we are beginning to lose touch with each other.
- Report from Bill Haydock regarding urgent work which needs to be done regarding rainwater leakage
- Dates of future meetings.

04 SEPTEMBER 2024 1 Clergy 17 Members present 3 Apologies

Topics Discussed

- Detailed Financial report from Treasurer.
- Detailed report from Churchwarden.
- Energy assessment (all churches need to have energy efficient lighting by 2025).
- Bill Haydock updated members about the issues surrounding dry rot.
- Safeguarding issues surrounding children serving at the Altar and any medical issues regarding the children serving.
- Discussion regarding Advent and Christmas services.
- Grave markers for garden of remembrance.
- Fund raising events.
- Retirement of Dot Beesley as Verger at the end of September. Rita Brogan agreed to take up the post,
- Issues regarding car park and Graveyard maintenance. There is only about eighteen months to go before the Graveyard is full and we will need to extend which will incur costs.
- Discussion took place regarding the Hire Agreement for the Parish Centre due to the possibility of it being used for a Nursery subject to OFSED approval. This matter to be taken to Fabric and Finance for fine tuning and returning to PCC with any concerns.

13 NOVEMBER 2024 1 Clergy 14 Members 4 Apologies

Topics Discussed

- Matters arising - Garden of Remembrance markers (further discussion needed);
Car Park (put a no parking sign to prevent blocking disabled parking space);
Extending graveyard (need to have further discussion).
- Detailed financial report from the Treasurer

- Detailed report from Churchwarden.
- Report from Deanery Synod regarding Fit for Mission and whether Winwick Deanery wished to be part of this.
- Report on Safeguarding - possibility of it being taken out of the hands of the Church and made independent.
- Plans for Advent and Christmas.
- Update on Fundraising.
- Update on Nursery.
- Discussion took place about noise from children's corner during the service and how this could be resolved.
- Date of next meeting which will be to receive the accounts to year end 31st December 2024.

19 FEBRUARY 2025 1 Clergy 14 Members present 3 Apologies

Topics Discussed

- Tribute was paid to Jean White and Edna Clough who had died recently and were both stalwart members of our Church and served faithfully on the PCC for many years and will be sadly missed.
- Matters arising: Legacy from the estate of Joan Nicholls; Defibrillator;
- The treasurer presented the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024 for approval. She went through every page and explained all the income and expenditure and invited any questions.
It was proposed and seconded that the draft accounts be approved.
Thanks were expressed to Sue for all her hard work and dedication as treasurer.
- Children's corner – more space has been created by removing some pews and this will also allow access for wheelchairs and prams.
- Discussion regarding Fit for Mission.
- More volunteers needed for cleaning in Church,
- Dates of future meetings. – Reports for inclusion in Annual report needed for 19th March .
Short meeting to approve the Annual report 23rd March following 10.30 a.m. service.
- Annual Parish Church Meeting 27th April 2025.

Dorothy Smith PCC Secretary