

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, PRESTWICH

England & Wales · Charity number 1175403

Details

Other names	ST MARY THE VIRGIN PCC, PRESTWICH
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2017-10-27
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	67 Scholes Lane Prestwich M25 0AW
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Website	stmarysprestwich.org

Activities

Objects: PROMOTING IN THE PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH, PASTORAL, EVANGELISTIC, SOCIAL AND ECUMENICAL.

Activities: The Church of St Mary the Virgin is on Church Lane, Prestwich, Greater Manchester, England. It is an active Anglican parish church in the deanery of Bury & Rossendale, the archdeaconry of Bolton and the diocese of Manchester. The church is recorded in the National Heritage List for England as a designated Grade I listed building.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Bury

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£148,598	£89,317	-	-
2023-12-31	£68,571	£124,347	-	-
2022-12-31	£57,625	£56,685	-	-
2021-12-31	£59,277	£68,579	-	-
2020-12-31	£138,558	£170,498	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Ann Parkinson		2024-05-13
Carole Worsley		2024-04-21
EMMA CLAIRE CHADWICK		2017-04-09
Hazel Delves		2024-04-21
Hazel Froggatt		2017-04-10
Helen Hicks		2019-05-12
Lindsay Broxap		2024-04-21
Max Hebditch		2024-04-21
Rev CAROLE ANN BARNET		2017-04-09
Sarah Jayne Matthews		2024-04-21
WILLIAM EKUNDAYO MAX-MACARTHY		2017-01-01

Accounts

Registered Charity No. 1175403

**Financial Statements
for the year ended**

31 December 2024

and

Annual Report

**St Mary the Virgin Prestwich
Parochial Church Council**

Name & Address

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical parish of St Mary the Virgin, Prestwich
Church Lane
Prestwich
Greater Manchester
M25 1AN

Legal Status

The PCC is registered with the Charity Commissioners of England and Wales under charity registration number 1175403

Bank Details & Accounts

Current Account:
St Mary's Prestwich PCC Club and Society current account.
NatWest
01-07-20
49036955

Reserve account:

St Mary's Prestwich PCC Club and Society reserve account.
NatWest
01-07-20
49036963

Independent Examiner

Carolyn McGloughlin
St John's House
The Rock
Bury
BL9 0ND

Administrative information

St Mary's Church is situated in Prestwich, Greater Manchester, in the Metropolitan Borough of Bury. It is part of the Anglican Diocese of Manchester. The correspondence address is St Mary's Rectory, 67, Scholes Lane, Prestwich M25 0AW

Members of the Parochial Church Council March 2024 – March 2025

The Rev'd Shaun Conlon – ex-officio (Priest-in-Charge) until Sept 24
The Rev'd Carole Barnet – ex-officio (Associate Priest)
The Rev'd Adele McKie – ex-officio (Assistant Curate) until April 24
The Rev'd Gary Anderton – ex-officio (Assistant Curate) until Sept 24
Miss Lindsay Broxap – ex-officio (Churchwarden)
Mrs Helen Hicks – ex-officio (Deanery Synod Representative)
Mr Max Hebditch – *Honorary Treasurer*
Mrs Pauline Jones – *Honorary Secretary*
Ms Kim Morgan-Jones - *Safeguarding Officer*
Mr William Max-McCarthy
Mrs Emma Chadwick
Mrs Hazel Delves
Mrs Carole Worsley
Mrs Ann Parkinson
Ms Sarah Matthews
Mrs Cath Black

Objectives and activities of the PCC

During normal times the PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Priest-in-Charge in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. During an interregnum the PCC ensures the continuation of services, pastoral care, financial management and safeguarding. They also play a crucial role in the finding of and recruiting a new incumbent and ensuring a smooth transition.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of parochial Church Council members is set out in Church Representation Rules.

St Mary's PCC consists of the Priest-in-charge (Incumbent), currently vacant.

Other licensed clergy in the parish (currently 2)

2 Churchwardens (currently 1)

3 Deanery Synod representatives (currently 1)

12 elected lay members

Deanery Synod representatives (in addition to their general PCC responsibilities) attend meetings with clergy and laity of other churches in the Bury and Rossendale Deanery to discuss, support and further the mission of the Anglican churches within the deanery and the wider Diocese.

All members, except those who are ex-officio, and any who are legally co-opted onto the committee, must be nominated and elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting before they can serve on the PCC. All PCC members are required to be on the church electoral roll, and must be actual communicant members. Each year, it is encouraged as widely as possible that all members entered on the church electoral roll consider standing for election.

There is also a statutory standing committee of the PCC, which consists of the Priest-in-Charge (currently vacant), Churchwarden (currently 1), PCC Secretary and Treasurer (and one other PCC member when all elected positions are filled). The Standing Committee deals with emergency issues that arise between meetings and considers the agenda for upcoming PCC meetings. It was decided that during the interregnum that the standing committee would be temporarily suspended and the PCC meet every 6 weeks instead of 8.

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St Mary the Virgin Parish Church, Prestwich

St Mary the Virgin, Prestwich, is an historic Grade 1 listed Anglican Parish Church, currently part of the Diocese of Manchester. The earliest record of a priest serving Prestwich dates from around 1200 and the name Prestwich (derived from the Saxon words for 'priest's dwelling') suggests an even earlier church existed here. It seems likely that Christian worship has been offered on this site for more than 800 years. The parish is a mix of owner-occupied and rented

residential accommodation, retail and office premises, schools and community buildings and open spaces. There is a sizeable Jewish population locally. A parish primary school (St Mary's voluntary aided CE school) has strong links with the church community and a very rooted Christian ethos. St Mary's Church was, for a number of years, part of the Prestwich Mission Partnership, which included the parishes of St Gabriel, Prestwich, St Margaret, Prestwich and St George, Simister: the partnership has sought to bring the life of these churches closer together. Towards the end of 2021 the Diocese of Manchester formalised the boundaries of new Mission Communities, which saw an end of Mission Partnerships and ushered in a new pattern for working together with neighbouring churches and their parishes: as well as those mentioned above we are now connected with the parishes of St Hilda, Prestwich and St Paul, Kersal Moor with St Andrew, Carr Clough. St Mary's church is registered with *Inclusive Church* and aims to align its Christian life and vision in ways which are welcoming of all people.

Objectives and achievements

The aims and objectives of St Mary's Church Prestwich, and members of the Christian community there, include:

Regular public worship
Provision of accessible public sacred space for prayer and reflection
The promotion and teaching of Christianity
Engagement with the local community
Provision of pastoral care and support within the parish and to members of the church
Working with local organisations and schools, in particular St Mary's CE primary school
Provision of a safe and welcoming churchyard, open for interments (in accordance with the Diocesan Chancellor's regulations) and visits by the general public
Support of other charities at home and abroad

These aims and objectives were fulfilled in the following ways during 2024.

Throughout the year, the church was open to the public for both the conduct of acts of worship and to provide a still, peaceful and beautiful place for reflection, prayer and exploration. Throughout the year the church was open for public worship every Sunday, as well as on other days and occasions, including major Christian Festivals, Breathing Space monthly on a Wednesday evening, Holy hour and Eucharist monthly on a Saturday morning, and an experiential teaching course (Connecting with God) monthly on a Friday evening. A heritage open day was held in September which included special displays detailing elements of the church's history locally as well as leaflets being available about both the church building and its contents and the churchyard.

A number of individuals visited the church by appointment, and others simply came in to look around or enjoy the silence and prayerful atmosphere during times when the church was open.

A number of occasional offices were held in St Mary's during the year, including weddings, baptisms and funerals, and a number of people were buried, or had their cremated remains interred, in the churchyard. A service of remembrance for the many hundreds of former Prestwich Hospital patients who are buried in the churchyard was held in October.

In June some members of the church took part in the 'Seven Churches' Walk, which had been established a number of years previously as a joint annual activity of the five churches making up the Prestwich Mission Partnership and is now being continued by all seven churches comprising the Prestwich & Kersal Mission Community: St Mary's was one of the seven 'stops' on the walk.

St Mary's is signed up to the 'Inclusive Church' network and endeavours to offer a welcoming and safe space to all who want to visit the church or worship there. Toilet facilities for the disabled continue to be provided, as well as large print service and hymn books and audio amplification equipment and a Loop system.

Pastoral care by both clergy and lay visitors was offered in various ways during the year. Housebound members of the Christian community of the church continued to be offered communion at home or in hospital and general pastoral visits and phone calls were made to many members of the community. Other pastoral visits to those who were ill, dying and bereaved, and to those preparing for baptism and marriage, were conducted.

The churchyard provided people with green space to enjoy and a number of tours were arranged by members of the Churchyard Action Group. Work was done to ensure safety concerns were addressed regarding diseased/dead trees and access paths to areas currently in use for new burials were improved. Consideration was given to the beginning of clearing undergrowth from areas which will need to be prepared for new interments when the current section is full. A number of people contacted the church during the year exploring their family history and making enquiries about burial records etc. Following a significant collapse of waterworks just beyond church land boundaries last year, United Utilities continued to use the south-west corner of the churchyard for access to the affected areas and stored some of their equipment on church land (not on areas with graves). Work in this area finished in the latter half of the year with all ground being left in sound condition and the instalment of new gates on Clough Drive.

The PCC and wider congregation continued to support local community activities in a number of ways: on-going collections of foodstuffs and other items were donated to the local 'Porch Boxes' charity. Collecting Boxes for The Children's Society are held by a number of members of the congregation and local people. A new idea from Paula Holmes-Patel saw the congregation bring new baby clothes and baby gifts on Epiphany with the gifts being given to a local baby charity.

A number of social events happened throughout the year, some of them with religious elements. The annual Christmas Fayre, organised and run jointly with the Church School, helped to strengthen the bonds between the church and school communities, it was extremely well attended and enjoyed by all. We had another successful Heritage Day in September featuring informative churchyard tours, childrens' quizzes, the church mouse hunt and Father Shaun's Unicorn Race. We held our 3rd Eco-Day in July on the theme of Up-cycling Re-cycling. It was a successful event involving other churches within our Mission Community. We continue to collect blister packs, with volunteers taking them into recycling centres on a regular basis.

A number of Christian Nurture courses were organised during the year, including a Lent Course, Breathing Space and a monthly 'Connecting with God' evening.

Pre-School Praise sessions for children aged 0-4yrs continued to grow and be extremely popular with new volunteers joining the team to help with refreshments and care of the youngsters.

Links with the Church school remained strong and continued to develop over the year. Weekly worship was provided by members of the clergy team in school, and numerous clergy visits were made to classrooms and to staff for a range of reasons. Over the course of the year a number of St Mary's CE Primary School visits and services happened in the church and churchyard, including a Year 6 Leavers' service in July. Other services in church included a Christingle, a School Easter Eucharist, a Harvest Festival service and a Christmas Carol Service. Children from each of the eight classes (reception – Year 6) jointly led worship along with the clergy on four Sundays during the year, with two classes attending each time.

The Church choir met weekly for practises during the year. The full choir not only assisted in leading the Sunday worship but also held an Advent Carol Service and a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in November/December in church for the local community, they also performed Stainer's The Crucifixion alongside the choir of Bolton Parish Church during Lent. The level of ability is high and there is an open-door policy for new members, with training and support offered for those who need it.

Current Priorities and Future Developments

Following the departure of Rev Adele McKie in April 24 and the resignation of Father Shaun Conlon and Father Gary Anderton in September '24 the PCC have pulled together as a team to manage the church during interregnum. Whilst many of the PCC members are new or relatively new to their roles there has been a real sense of working together, with experienced members helping and assisting the newer ones. Jobs have been divided amongst PCC members with everyone playing their part, whether it is organising services, collecting post or doing the

banking. Everyone has been keen and willing to help, there is a real desire to see the Church flourish and grow, with new ideas developing all the time.

We sent our Parish Profile to the Diocese at the end of the year ready to start the process of recruiting a new incumbent.

The church website has been continually updated and developed. We have moved to a new newsletter format which is emailed out each week to our mailing list, with links to readings and notices.

Work with the other Anglican Churches in the Prestwich and Kersal Mission Community continues, with clergy meeting and praying on a regular basis. We have been fortunate to host a number of clergy from the Mission Community as they have come to preach and preside for us during the vacancy. We have been incredibly grateful to those who have helped with cover.

A number of new people have begun attending worship and other events during the year, as was the case in 2023. Although many of these do not attend every week, many are now very much part of the life of St Mary's and the need to continue to build up the cohesion and stability of the congregation is an on-going priority.

Eco concerns have continued to be explored, with the hosting of our Eco Day and collaboration with other churches and local community groups. We are constantly looking at how we can be more eco friendly as a church and inspire others to do the same.

Risk and its management

Potential adversities may be categorised according to their combined risk/impact potential. Those with a high risk but low impact are set at one end of the scale, with low risk/high impact at the other end. Both parameters are important and both risk and impact should be minimised.

Financial risks are a reduction in income and/or an increase in costs. Both have the potential to have major impact upon the capacity of St Mary's Church to continue all her present activities and functions and limit any future development.

Rapidly rising energy costs, and the general high rises in the cost of living pose a risk to the income and expenditure of St Mary's, with both church bills and people's bills at home increasing. Our new treasurer Mr Max Hebditch has worked tirelessly to challenge an especially high gas bill this year and continues to ensure that St Mary's energy tariff is as reasonable as it can be, with a new smart meter being fitted to enable us to monitor usage. Other costs continue to be cut back as much as possible.

Grant funding for projects will become more actively sought beyond just large fabric repair costs.

Physical risks, to people, are judged to be low, but would have a high impact if they materialised. St Mary's carries an appropriate level of insurance. Other risks are also recognised: the protection of children and vulnerable adults is taken seriously and St Mary's complies with the relevant Church of England and Diocesan policies. The PCC is working towards a lower risk/impact potential, not just financial, but across all areas.

Audited Accounts January – December 2024

These are printed separately.

Treasurer's Report 2024

Income

Total income for 2024 was **£148,605**. This was 216% higher than the income received in 2023 (£67,180). The majority of this difference was a significant legacy from the estate of the late Marian Eckersall (£67,416.36) but income is broadly up overall.

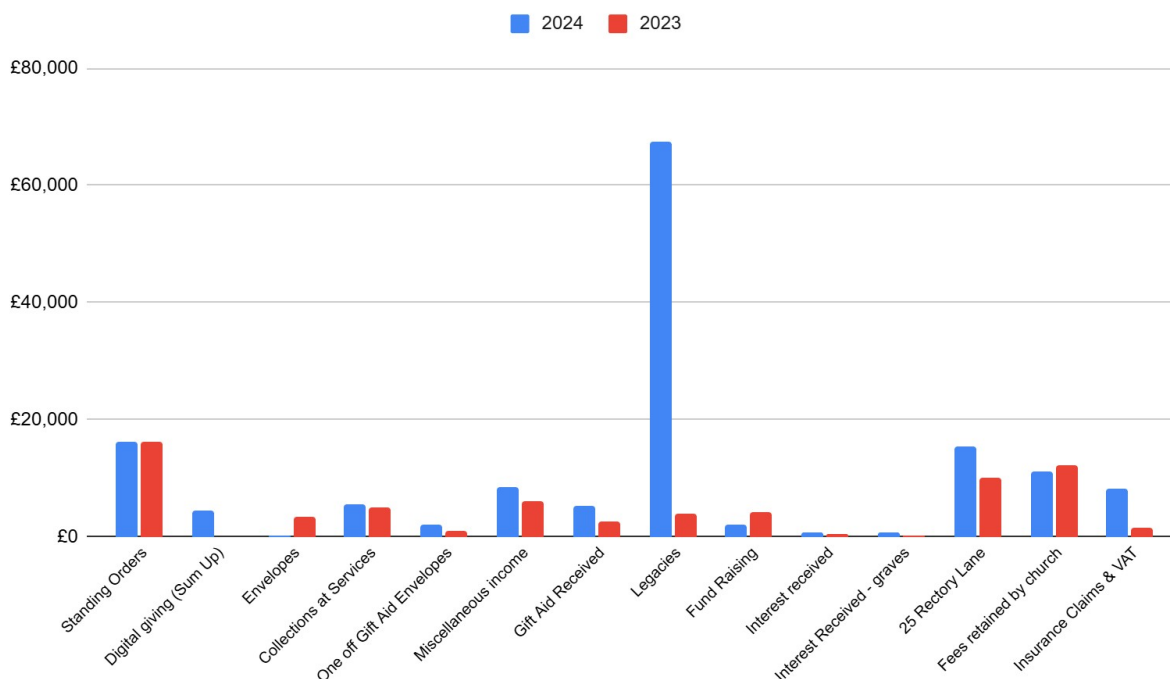


Figure 1: Income sources over £500 for 2024 vs 2023.

Income Sources in 2024

Voluntary Income

Standing Orders

	2024	2023
Standing Orders	£16,347	£16,291
Digital giving (Sum Up)	£4,352	*See table 4
Envelopes	£280	£3,541
Collections at Services	£5,623	£4,912
One off Gift Aid Envelopes	£2,116	£1,098
Miscellaneous income	£8,526	£6,045
Gift Aid Received	£5,393	£2,535
Other	£387	—
Sum	£45,048	£36,445

Table 1: Comparison of voluntary income between 2024 and 2023

Income received through monthly or weekly standing orders continues to be the highest source of income and in 2024 was £16,437 compared with £16,291 in 2023 and £15,100 in 2022. In 2024, 31 individuals donated regularly through standing orders, up from 30 in 2023 and 29 in 2022. Of these 27/31 gave consistently throughout the year with 3 members cancelling their standing order and 1 starting.

	2024	2023	2022
Total Donated	£16,437.00	£16,291.00	£15,100.00
Number of Donors	310	30	29
Average Monthly Amount	£43.94	£45.18	£43.39

Table 2: Breakdown of standing orders from 2024. 2023 and 2022

This year the average monthly (pro-rata) standing order donation was £43.94 down from £45.18 last year.

Monthly Amount	Total Donations
<= £5	24
> £5 or <= £10	50
> £10 or <= £20	53

> £20 or <= £40	54
> £40 or <= £60	98.5
> £60 or <= £80	46
>= £90	34
Total	359.5 Donations

Table 3: Categorised donation amounts for 2024. Note weekly donations have been converted to the equivalent in monthly donations.

Other giving

Voluntary giving has increased by 29.5% for 2024 in comparison to 2023. The new card donation scheme (Digital giving) continues to be a popular and significant income stream and likely explains the drop in envelopes. This year has also seen an increase over last year for collections at services as well as the use of One off Gift aid envelopes.

	2024	2023
Digital giving (Sum Up)	£4,352	*
Envelopes	£280	£3,541
Collections at Services	£5,623	£4,912*
One off Gift Aid Envelopes	£2,116	£1,098
	£12,371	£9,551

*Table 4: Comparison of non-regular giving from the congregation. * Note that collections at services for 2023 includes £2,623 collected using Digital Giving which has been categorised separately for 2024 onwards.*

Amount	Count	Sum
£1	2	£2
£2	2	£4
£3	2	£6
£4	1	£4
£5	229	£1,145
£10	106	£1,060
£20	12	£240
£30	19	£570
£40	1	£40
£100	13	£1,300
Total	387	£4,371

Table 5: Donations from digital sum up

Fees

Income obtained through ceremonial fees for 2024 was consistent with previous years. In 2024 the church received a net income of £6,509 compared to £6,594 for 2023 and £6,600 for 2022.

Month	Retained	Diocese	Total
Jan	£408	£282	£690
Feb	£757	£527	£1,284
Mar	£1,153	£437	£1,590
Apr	£418	£291	£709
May	£356	£436	£792
Jun	£36	£34	£70
Jul	£150	£17	£167
Aug	£869	£855	£1,724
Sep	£1,052	£376	£1,428
Oct	£1,310	£440	£1,750
Nov	£0	£0	£0
Dec	£0	£0	£0
Sum	£6,509	£3,695	£10,204

Table 6: Summary of ceremonial fees for 2024.

Legacies

This year included a substantial legacy gratefully received from the Estate of the Late Marian Eckersall. This generous donation of £67,416.36 had a significant impact on our income for 2024. Of this, £20,000 was placed into the general fund, £20,000 into a fund for fabric, £20,000 was invested into a 1 year savings account and the remaining £7,416 was placed into a mission fund.

Other notable income sources

Additional notable income for this year includes £4,750 from ITV filming for two occasions. A gross total of £3336.77 was raised by the Christmas fayre which was divided equally between the Church and the School.

Rental income from the Rectory Lane property continues to be a significant income source of £15,325.

The Churchyard action group contributed £2,659.60 for a tree felling.

An insurance claim of £7,500 towards the replacement of lead rainwater goods.

Expenditure

Total expenditure for 2024 was **£89,323** down from £124,347, of which £50,000 was the write-off of Church Lane community centre, subtracting this one off expense provides a more comparative value of £74,347 for 2023.

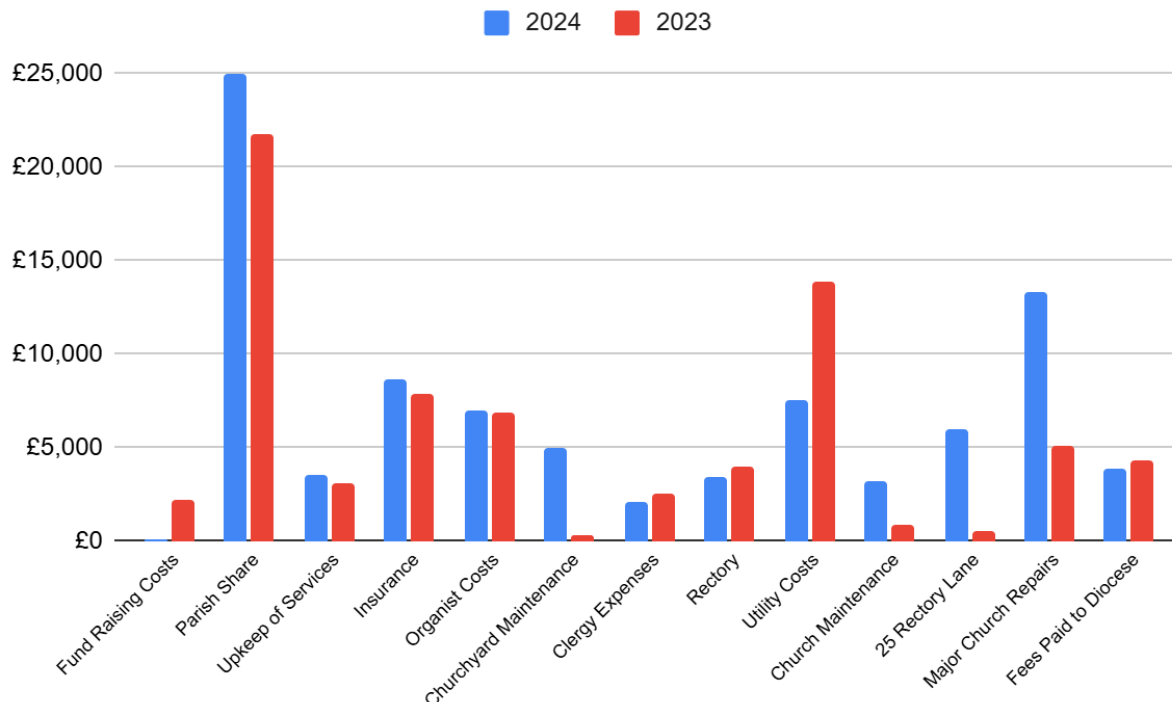


Figure 2: Significant expenditure for 2024 vs 2023

Expenditure in 2024

Parish Share

As with previous years Parish Share continues to be the Church's largest expenditure. This year represents our increased commitment of £25,000 a year compared to £21,744 for 2023 and the PCC has agreed to further increases in our contribution for 2025 (£29,000) and 2026 (£33,000) to ensure we are once again paying our share in full. The congregation's generosity enables the diocese to sustain an effective ministry funded through the parish share, fulfilling our commitment by 2026 ensures that our church no longer relies on other congregations to finance the mission and ministry across our diocese. Gift aid raised from donations from the sum up machine are automatically included for a total of £5211.72 for this year.

Utility Costs

Although utility costs are down for 2024 this is due to an ongoing discussion with our gas supplier due to an issue with the gas meter and this will be a liability for us in 2025.

Repairs and Insurance

A major source of expenditure for this year is repair work. Theft of lead rainwater goods has led to a replacement cost of £8328 including VAT which is recoverable. As well as roof repairs costing £1512 incl VAT and fixing false ceiling beams at a cost of £1260 incl VAT.

The cost of the above items makes clear the necessity of insurance which led to a cost of £8,639 for the Church and Rectory. A claim of £7,500 was made to support the cost of replacing the leadwork.

Church Maintenance

Essential repairs to the church this year included roof maintenance at a cost of £1572 incl VAT as well as other small legally required maintenance items and other small upkeep costs.

Rectory Lane

Expenditure has increased for maintaining the rental property at Rectory Lane, due to a major roof repair of £1945.20, and boiler repair at £450. This total also reflects some changes in the accountancy moving forwards.

Reserves

At the end of 2024 St Mary's had £20,069 in the current account and £62,352 in the reserve account for a total of £82,421. Of this amount £41,740 are for funds with a specific purpose leaving an available balance for 2024 of **£40,681** up from £23,016 in 2023.

Notes

The accounts from the Churchyard Action Group were not supplied when requested and thus cannot be included in this year's accounting.

Conclusion

As ever the PCC endeavour to keep costs to a minimum whilst raising as much income as possible. Our income for 2024 was healthy but this is primarily due to the generous legacy from the Estate of the Late Marian Eckersall. Subtracting this amount, our income is broadly in line with last year (£73,032 vs £65,666), but our expenses have increased overall from £74,347 (subtracting the Community Centre) to £89,323 in 2024. Parish share has also increased this year and in line with our commitment to the Diocese will increase further in 2025 and again in 2026.

May I appeal to those who enjoy our church, who may not be doing so already? Please consider committing to regular giving through a standing order, direct debit, internet banking, or other means. And please would you complete a Gift Aid form if you are a UK taxpayer, which enables

the church to claim back an extra 25% from HMRC. Forms are available at the back of the church, and it only takes a couple of minutes to complete.

Our bank details are as follows:

Nat West Bank

Account number: 49036955.

Sort Code: 01-07-20.

I would also like to sincerely thank Hazel Froggatt who has served the parish faithfully for over twenty years which is an incredible feat. She stepped down from her role in April and completed the financial records till then. Since then she has continued to perform part of the role until the necessary legal work is completed allowing me to take over fully. She has, and continues to be, hugely supportive during the transition as I take over the role and I am extremely grateful for her support.

Max Hebditch - Treasurer

Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council

Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council

Purpose

The purpose of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) is to set the strategic direction and vision for the life of the parish. Its main focus is on:

Mission & outreach

Finance & Governance

Discipleship & Pastoral care

Worship & Spirituality

PCC membership is continuing to follow a new pattern of three-year terms of service. The PCC was joined by 6 elected members in 2024 and this has enabled the PCC to remain quorate when decisions are being made if for any reason a member is unable to attend a meeting. There are three ex-officio spaces to be filled (one Churchwarden space and two deanery synod spaces).

In 2024 following the departure of the incumbent, the PCC took the decision to meet every six weeks as opposed to bi-monthly. Standing committee meetings are currently suspended during the vacancy. The PCC members have worked well together and are creating a much clearer and stronger sense of vision and purpose for the future. This was evident when preparing the Parish Profile to advertise for a new priest.

Along with the Prestwich & Kersal Mission Community, Safeguarding has become a regular standing item on the agenda. The majority of PCC members have now completed Level 1 and 2 training.

The church's financial position has improved following a generous legacy which was left (see financial report for further details). Following a productive meeting in 2024 when Parish Share was discussed, our contribution was reduced to a more realistic amount and in 2024, St Mary's was able to pay their full Parish Share (the first time this has happened for several years).

The church website has been updated and relaunched. The annual review of the Church Organist's contract and remuneration, as well as heating fee costs for weddings/funerals is discussed at the last PCC meeting of the year. The PCC continues to discuss missional/fundraising activities and how we can reach out and grow our community.

Pauline Jones – PCC Secretary

Electoral Roll Report

The new Electoral Roll, which replaces the Roll of 2019, has been compiled from the application forms submitted to apply for inclusion on the Roll.

The total number of people on the 2023 Electoral Roll was 135. In 2024 eight had died. Twelve were recorded by the previous Electoral Officer Father Shaun as Non-Resident Non-Attending (NRNA) drawing on his pastoral experience; NR meant not dwelling in the parish. There was 1 more non-attending who was resident in the parish.

So the total reported in July 2024 was 114.

The current total on the new Roll is 85 of whom 31 were on the former Roll. The number of new members is 54.

It is not unexpected to see a decrease in numbers between the last Electoral Roll before a new Roll. The last Roll will have had additions over 6 years. Deaths decrease the numbers but non-attendance is more difficult to document.

There are a number of logistic problems that have not been considered in proposals at Diocesan level to decrease the Roll each year by the names of non-attenders or to update the Roll by on-line applications. Non-attendance is seldom documented.

The sexennial period was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Attendances are generally down across most parishes, dioceses and denominations.

Helen Hicks - Electoral Roll Officer

Deanery Synod Report

The Rev'd Canon Donna Williams was licenced as Area Dean of Bury and Rossendale Deanery. Father Ronnie Croft of St. Hilda's celebrated 60 years in ministry on 24th May 2024.

St. Mary's Prestwich was represented at all the Deanery Synod meetings in 2024.

Communications

Communications was one of the recurring topics at the Synod. A Church Near You is a valuable introduction for people who are not yet part of the congregation but the information needs to be kept up to date. Social media offers another snapshot. Representatives were asked to share news and photos and to sign up to the Diocese weekly E-news.

Representing the Deanery

There is a need for more people to represent the Deanery. At present there are 4 Clergy and 4 lay representatives for the 7 Clergy and 8 Lay representatives allowed.

Resources

There is a Revitalisation Fund grant for up to £300 to fund schemes/events.

It has been suggested that there be an audit of skills at Deanery Synod. to create a database of tradespeople/helpers/IT support and so on. -

Mission Communities

There are no stipendiary clergy, at Christ Church, Ainsworth. , so the Mission community is largely lay led. There are 4 task groups – prayer and spirituality, serving, growing and nurturing.

In a breakout discussion on 7 May 2024 Father Shaun stated that better communication is needed in all parishes.

Budget Secretary Reports

In May 33% of the 2024 Parish Share in the Deanery should have been paid. Only 16% had been paid so far.

At the end of September the Deanery had paid 65.8% of Parish share compared to the Diocese average of 62.8%. Half the parishes had paid 75% of their total. The Discussion and Agreement meetings resulted in a more realistic amount being negotiated than the original Parish Share. Despite this positive move, there will still be an overall deficit of £1.6 million within the Diocese.

Growing

Targets for 2030 were compared with the current state. All of the 10 items in the report have increased. Here are three of them. There will be money from Church Commissioners to achieve these goals.

	2024	2030
MISSION COMMUNITIES WITH MAP	5	5
NEW CHURCH PLANTS	2	5
No of CHURCHES CLOSED	2	4

Eco Churches

Three Silver and 9 Bronze Eco Awards were granted. Eco matters are gathering momentum at St. Mary's Prestwich. There is an on-line Energy Footprint Tool. All churches need an Eco Champion.

Helen Hicks - Deanery Synod Representative

Child Protection/Safeguarding Report

As a community at St Mary's, we are all responsible for creating a welcoming, friendly and safe environment for everyone. We want to include people of all ages in the life of the church, from the youngest to the oldest, and also make sure that we are making church services and activities accessible to all those with vulnerabilities and additional needs.

To ensure that we are doing this safely, I was appointed as the Parish Safeguarding Officer in November 2024. Since then, we have begun the process of renewing the DBS checks and Safeguarding training for all PCC members. Good progress has been made here, with checks and training well underway. By completing the required training, all PCC members are more aware of the Safeguarding needs across the whole church.

Preschool Praise provides a brilliant, fun, welcoming space for some of our youngest members each week and their parents and carers, and we are in the process of ensuring that all volunteers at Preschool Praise are also trained and DBS-checked for their role.

If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of Safeguarding at St Mary's, please do chat to me on a Sunday morning or email me:

kmorgan-jones@hotmail.co.uk

Kim Morgan-Jones, Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Pre-School Praise Report

Preschool Praise is going from strength to strength.

The numbers of children at each service continues to be (on average), about 19: together with either their parents, carers or grandparents. This number works well to maintain and manage. We have seen quite a few new faces in recent months and this is wonderful. Some children started school last September, so have moved on; but numbers remain consistent with new attendees and people regularly coming back each week.

We continue to often receive very positive feedback, for example on Tuesday I was told, "I've been to many playgroups and activities with my own children and now with my grandchildren, but this is by far the best I have ever attended". The service continues to have a warm, relaxed and welcome feel. It is very popular and greatly appreciated.

There have been a couple of changes with our volunteers. Fr Shaun was missed very much by all when he left in September and Stella has been unable to attend for quite some time due to work commitments; however, we have two new recruits with Jan and Rupert Rees who joined us in October and have been an absolute blessing. They are both experienced, completely at ease and have fitted in with our group perfectly. They are adaptable, willing, helpful and efficient.

All the Preschool Praise team of volunteers are committed, kind, caring, friendly and able to step into each other's roles when others may be absent or poorly. I'm very proud and grateful to them all for being so brilliant at what they do.

This term we have introduced a new preschool praise welcome booklet to clarify how our service runs and provide further information regarding St Mary's Church and Parish School. We have also created registration forms, so we have contact details and are able to keep people notified with relevant updates.

These forms are proving beneficial in reaching people and informing them of other events and services available at St Mary's. It helps us to know of any specific needs a child may have, and the booklet provides a clear and concise overview.

I pray the happiness created in our Preschool Praise services may continue to be thoroughly enjoyed, healthily attended and remain a warm welcome for local families into the arms of the Lord. Amen.

Justine Thomas - Pre-School Praise Leader

Adult Ministry Report

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This report outlines the key aspects of ministry undertaken during the calendar year 2024. During the year, we have continued to welcome new people into our regular worshipping community, a number of whom have started to become actively engaged in various forms of ministry.

From an adult ministry point of view, we have continued to develop opportunities for both new and existing disciples to deepen their faith and spirituality, including:

- continuation of our monthly (third Wednesday of each month) Breathing Space group - to enable people to take time out from the busyness of life to spend with God through reflective music, a short bible passage, followed by space for silent prayer; and
- our Connecting with God group (first Friday of each month) involving interactive discussion and providing practical guidance to help people to grow in their relationship with God. The theme for this year was 'Images of God' as we explored together both how we might see God as well as how God may see us. This involved open discussions about our faith and helped to open our eyes to how God calls us to live as Christians in the modern world.

Our adult Lent Group for 2024 took place on Tuesday Evenings in Church. This year we focused on the four Gospels - the authors, the contexts and the key themes and special insights that are addressed in each Gospel. The groups were well attended and opened up some interesting conversations about individuals' understanding of the life of Christ.

In July, we held the third of our annual Eco-group events based on the topic of Up-cycling and Re-cycling. This year we teamed up with other churches within the Mission Community and with our Parish school and the Whitefield Environmental forum as we worked together to encourage people to play their part in protecting God's creation. Stalls offered vegan food, school uniforms swaps, and various activities and ideas to encourage people to use materials they would otherwise typically throw away, such as tablet blister packs and candles.

Following the departure of three of our clergy during the year and in light of impending surgery for the remaining Priest, the planned Confirmation service for November had to be postponed to March 2025. However, we did then have the privilege of preparing nine children from our Parish school, together with four adults, for that service when it was a delight to be able to present them to the Bishop and see their faces full of expectation and joy as he laid his hands on each of them and prayed for them individually.

Links with school have continued with clergy led worship continuing as far as possible with the reduced resources now available to us. I am indebted to Rev Helen Tyler, Curate from St Margaret's church, for her willingness to go into school from time to time to cover some of the worship for us.

Pre-school Praise has continued with vigour this year. The group is very well attended by children and adults and is delightfully and thoughtfully led by a strong team of lay people, focusing on worship supported by music, craft activities and generously donated cakes each week. My personal thanks go to all who work so hard to make this happen.

During 2025, the intention is to continue to offer similar opportunities for us to grow together in our faith. All are welcome to join us for any, or all, of our groups. These tend not to be sequential, so it does not

matter if people are unable to attend every one of them. Looking forward, we also hope to adopt an underlying 'environmental-focused' theme to our activities.

As ever, my prayer is that more people will join us so that, as we move forward together, we can grow in love for God and for one another. I close with words of special appreciation to my husband, Stewart, who is a stalwart of support for both me and the Parish and to our Parish Officers, Lindsay, Pauline and Max, who, although fairly new to their roles, continue to soldier on with smiles on their faces and love in their hearts.

Rev'd Carole Barnet

Choir Report

During the past twelve months the Choir has gone about its work with ever increasing efficiency, and has continued to help in the leadership of Public Worship in this place.

Services have been enhanced with an ever increasing repertoire of Anthems sung by the choir, and these are beginning to include some of the very finest examples of English Church Music, some of which is usually the exclusive preserve of Cathedral and Collegiate Choirs.

We are indeed fortunate in our Choir – a group of people who meet regularly to rehearse on Thursday evenings for 44 or so weeks of the year, as well as turning out on Sundays, and for weekday services as required – all of this is done voluntarily – though the standard of singing attained is quite professional. (Remember, if you are interested in joining us, the prerequisites are simply a reasonable singing voice, a keen “ear”, a willingness to be *moulded*, and most importantly of all, a sense of humour! If you can commit to Thursdays 7.30pm – 9pm, and Sunday morning Service, then please speak to the Organist).

Numbers in the Choir have remained constant, though we have been fortunate to gain another young Tenor, Matthew (Matt) Dykes who sings with us as regularly as his work permits. The current breakdown is therefore 6 Sopranos, 3 Altos, 3.5 Tenors and 4 Basses – a very healthy balance.

On Friday 20th December, we held our annual Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Once again this attracted a large congregation, including quite a number of people from the Parish and elsewhere, many for the first time. I was also very grateful to my good friend Mr. Philip O'Connor, ARCO (Organist & Choirmaster of Bolton Parish Church) who accompanied us at the Organ. Following the Carol Service many favourable comments were made by grateful parishioners.

In Lent, once again we teamed up with the Choir of Bolton Parish Church to put on two services (one in each venue) of Stainer's Passiontide Mediatation "The Crucifixion". This has been very successful in bringing a decent sized congregation, and people have found it to be a valuable Passiontide venture.

As I have said in the past, the enthusiasm generated by these Festival Services should not detract from the all important round of weekly rehearsals and Sung Services; and it is quite clear, that the work of the Choir in this respect, is very much appreciated by our Congregation and visitors both lay and Clerical.

I will end this report by expressing my sincere thanks to all the members of the Choir for their continued loyalty and hard work. Also, I must at this time of Interregnum, thank the Rev. Carole Barnet our Associate Priest, who despite recent surgery, has been a constant supporter and contributor to the Music for many years past, and hopefully, many years to come.

Gary Hulme, ARCO, LTCL - Organist & Choirmaster

Churchyard Action Group

Over the past twelve months the churchyard action group has worked hard, come rain or sun, to keep on top of a range of jobs; below is a list of some of the tasks we have undertaken which are additional to our ongoing regular work (such as tidying graves, collecting litter, maintaining gardens and beds around the church and removing brambles along Clough Drive).

Paths in the churchyard have been improved, with gravel chippings and lintels being put in place in the newer burial areas.

Several collapsed graves have been filled in.

A number of quotes have been received in relation to the felling of trees which are diseased or dead. Members of CAG have begun to tackle felling some of the smaller silver birch trees that are dangerous, and signage has been erected in areas affected by the unsafe trees.

Progress has been made to make more space for ashes burials in the lower graveyard. This is now pretty much complete. We've made good progress on the process of clearing trees and all the weeds to allow for burials. This is ongoing and hopefully should be completed later this year.

There were concerns raised by a local resident on Clough Drive about some trees overhanging her property. We inspected the area and decided that we would have to arrange for an arborist to have a look. We asked several for quotes and a local company gave us the best quote so we

engaged Jamie Hilley to do the work which was completed in a day very professionally. We will ask Jamie to come back and quote for other dangerous trees.

As always, we are thankful to all the additional efforts from the Community Payback teams who work in the churchyard on two or three days each week, as well as our own volunteering team, both regulars and occasional helpers. If you would like to join us then we meet on Tuesday mornings each week – come and introduce yourself! We are also thankful for both monetary contributions and also the many words of thanks we receive from various people from the local community and beyond.

If you would like to know more about our activities, or churchyard tours, then you could try the following:

[Facebook.com/alanjamesjennings](https://www.facebook.com/alanjamesjennings)

[Prestwich.org.uk/bookings](https://www.prestwich.org.uk/bookings) (for tours)

[Prestwich.org.uk/people](https://www.prestwich.org.uk/people) (about people from Prestwich, many of whose graves are in the churchyard)

Roger Vant - Churchyard Action Group

Fabric Report

Fabric Report -January to December 2024

Firstly, I would like to express my thanks to Lindsay (Church Warden), Rev. Carole (Associate Priest), Gary (Organist & Choirmaster), Leo and all the acolytes and lay assistants who have helped in the year to the upkeep of services and fabric.

Condition of the Fabric.

I can report that the “**Terrier’s**” **contents**, which were photographed and catalogued in 2015 is up to date.

New Music copies used by the choir have been added to the music library.

A Gold Monstrance, has been loaned by Rev. Carole, for use in ‘Holy Hour’ and a large Silver Gilt Ciborium has been loaned by Rev. Carole for use at the Festivals within the Church Year. Sanctuary Items (Candles, Wafers etc.) have been replenished and new Paschal Candle for 2025 purchased.

The “**Logbook**” is up to date with the inclusion of the damage to the lead rainwater goods over the Wilton Chapel and replacement of missing and slipped slates. This work of repair is ongoing. All modern changes have been recorded.

Silverware – As mentioned in previous reports a number of items are showing signs of wear and tear and will require attention.

Altar ware – Again, as in previous reports, the Altar frontals and fabric for the high altar, are in a poor condition and still a cause for concern. The Green Frontal has been repaired by the Sacristan.

General Building –

1. The Quinquennial report which gives a snapshot of the condition of the building, took place in 2023. No major structural problems were found. Since then, the flooring in the North Porch is moving and lifting and a drainage pipe leading from the W.C. to the pathway has blockage. On investigation it was found that tree roots from several trees close to the church are the probable cause. This should be a priority to prevent further damage.
2. All scheduled annual servicing and maintenance of essential equipment continues to be done. All statutory inspections, (fire extinguishers, alarm, gas, electricity), are up to date and the Gas Boilers and Organ are regularly serviced.
3. The Bell Striking equipment installed in 1997, has been silent since restoration work to the tower, North and South aisles, and Wilton Chapel roofing during 2019-20. It is estimated that the cost of upgrading the system to a modern-day equivalent would be £4000 and a service charge of £800.
4. Movement of the South Aisle flooring, which has been present for a number of years requires investigation of the supporting brickwork.
5. The condition of the choir vestry floor and the cause of damp under the vestry stairs, as reported in 2021/2 still requires investigation.
6. A new sign board skin, with up to date information, has replaced the skin dated 2015.

Churchyard –

1. As reported in 2022, the section of the retaining wall of one of the older sections of the churchyard, adjacent to the footpath on the southside had given way. The insurers had dismissed our claims to cover the rebuild cost estimated to be £16,000. This work is also a matter for concern.
2. A section of York stone paving on the south side adjacent to the aisle has been repaired following the theft in 2020 and poor repair in 2021.

As of 7 April 2025, all is correct.

Stewart Barnet – Sacristan & Verger

Churchwarden's Report

I would like to begin my report saying how much we were all saddened to see the departure of 3 much loved members of the clergy in 2024.

Rev Adele felt called to move churches and left us in spring to spend time exploring different places. After 20 years at St Mary's, she is very much missed, especially by the children who she loved working with, and we wish her luck in her new placement as Associate Priest in Radcliffe.

We were all shocked and saddened to hear Father Shaun announce his resignation shortly after last year's APCM, as he had been offered a new role in Interim Change Ministry close to his home in Co Durham. I will always remember Father Shaun for his sense of fun, his love of Doctor Who and of course the infamous Unicorn Races. We truly appreciate all the work he did at St Mary's during his time with us.

Not long after the resignation of Father Shaun, Father Gary also announced that he would be moving to Llangollen to take up post as Assistant Curate with The Church of Wales. Father Gary often greeted us in Welsh and always spoke of his love of the country, so it was joyous news to hear he would be moving there, despite our disappointment at losing him. It was decided that a joint leaving service would be held for both Father Shaun and Father Gary and we all had tears in our eyes in their last service, a Choral Evensong on Sept 22nd. We sent them away with a 'Mary' Rosebush in the hope that they will remember their time with us when it blooms.

It has been a rapid learning curve being thrown into vacancy only a few months into my first year as a church warden. I am completely indebted to Stewart and Rev'd Carole for their constant support and encouragement. Nothing is too much for them, they are always on hand to answer questions and guide me. I would like to extend a huge thankyou to both of them for the vast amount of work they do behind the scenes, organising services and making sure everything runs smoothly and correctly. I could not have navigated my way through this first year without them.

I attended Church Warden training at St John's house which was immensely helpful and has enabled me to begin to understand the numerous responsibilities and duties the role involves. I hope to improve in my abilities as I learn more and gain more experience.

I would also like to extend thanks to everyone on PCC and in the congregation who have worked tirelessly to keep the church going throughout the vacancy. From cleaning to flower arranging, organising refreshments, collecting post from the rectory, helping with pre-school praise, washing linen, producing the newsletter, arranging activities in the tower room.. there are too many jobs to mention and so many people who are doing their own bit to help. I feel we are all truly pulling together with an 'all hands on deck' approach and we are thriving because of it.

It has been wonderful to welcome Paula Holmes-Patel to the St Mary's clergy team in her role as Ordinand. We hope she spends many happy years with us.

I have had the pleasure of meeting with Roger of the churchyard action group and getting to grips with concerns both he and Stewart have raised about diseased trees in the churchyard and the retaining wall. Whilst we appreciate the retaining wall is a job that we aren't able to do during vacancy we are looking to resolve other issues which need attention.

Whilst it's always a joy being a part of the Sunday ministry, it's also wonderful helping with other events and festivals throughout the year. The Heritage Day drew in a number of people to St Mary's who may not otherwise visit the church. They were given a warm welcome by all of our volunteers and it is worth noting these events are key to engaging the community and hopefully encouraging them to come to other events/services.

The Christmas Fayre was a successful fundraising event in partnership with our school. Again many thanks to all who contributed, from providing goods and prizes, to setting up, manning stalls, clearing up, as well as attending on the day with family and friends.

It was so encouraging to see so many coming to Christmas and Easter services. There's so much that goes on both during the services and behind the scenes to make these such special events in the life of the church. A special mention at this point needs to go to Gary and the choir who never cease to astound and impress with the quality and variety of music. Many thanks to all for your acts of service, both large and small. They are all significant.

Whilst it has been a challenging year for us as a church, I've appreciated seeing us pull together as a fellowship. I would like to encourage anyone who is considering volunteering in any capacity, small or large, to come and chat to either myself or any of the clergy.

Lindsay Broxap - Churchwarden

APCM AGENDA

APCM Meeting

Sunday 11th May 2025 at 12.00 noon in St Mary's Church

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes from the previous meeting (21st April 2024)
4. Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Opening Prayers
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the previous annual parochial church meeting (21st April 2024)
4. Matters arising from items which are not covered by the reports
5. The reports (please note: most of these can be found in this booklet)
 - (i) The electoral roll report 2024
 - (ii) Annual report – what the PCC has done since the last APCM
 - (iii) Financial report, including 2024 audited accounts
 - (iv) Annual fabric report
 - (v) Deanery Synod report
 - (vi) Churchwarden's Report
 - (vii) Safeguarding Report
6. The elections and appointments
 - (i) Election of PCC members (no current vacancies)
 - (ii) Election of Deanery Synod Members (2 vacancies for a two-year term)
 - (iii) Appointment of independent examiner
7. Chairman's Report (to be given verbally at the meeting)
8. Any other business
9. Closing prayers

Followed by a short PCC meeting to elect officers (PCC Vice Chair, Hon Secretary & Hon Treasurer)

Minutes of last year's APCM

APCM 2024

Attendees – Fr. Shaun Conlon (Chairman), Pauline Jones (PCC Secretary), Hazel Frogatt (Treasurer), Rev Carole Barnet, Fr. Gary Anderton, Jean Plant, Fred Plant, Paula Holmes Patel, Stewart Barnet, Emma Chadwick, Sandra Merrill, Sarah Matthews, Max Hebditch, Justine Thomas, William Max-McCarthy, Lindsay Broxap, Leo Broxap, Helen Hicks, Alison Hodgkinson, Ann Parkinson, Jakki Turner, Hazel Delves, Catherine Black, Billy Black, Alicia Sukonik, Gary Hulme

Annual meeting of Parishioners

5. Welcome and Opening Prayer

6. Apologies for absence – Kim Morgan-Jones, Bianca Rosetti, Carol Worsley
7. Minutes of previous meeting accepted. Proposer Gary Hulme, seconder Fr. Gary Anderton – carried
8. Election of Churchwardens – Lindsay Broxap proposed by Gary Hulme, seconder Alicia Sukonik. Lindsay elected unopposed.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

10. Opening Prayers
 11. Apologies for absence – Kim Morgan-Jones, Bianca Rosetti, Carol Worsley
 12. Minutes of the previous annual parochial church meeting (26th March 2023) accepted. Proposer Stewart Barnet, seconder Alicia Sukonik
 13. No matter arising from previous minutes which were not covered by the reports.
 14. The reports can be found in the booklets
 - viii) Electoral roll has slightly increased to 135. Three names were removed due to death. Chairman advised if not on the electoral roll will be unable to speak at the meeting and if there is anyone present who would like to be added, it will be reopened following the meeting for names to be added.
 - ix) No questions raised regarding the annual report and what the PCC has done since the last APCM. Chairman advised with the PCC being smaller, it has raised issues if a couple of people are away/ill on days of the meeting as we need to be quorate to make decisions. Chairman advised there needs to be more lay people than clergy on a PCC and advised Lindsay's space on the PCC will now be free as she becomes ex-officio as churchwarden.
 - x) Accounts have been audited (see report). A question was raised regarding whether we should start going round with the collection plates again. Chairman advised this has been discussed at PCC meetings and it was felt as many people do not carry cash any more, we will promote the use of the giving machine and standing orders.
- A question was raised about claiming gift aid from those who give via the machine. Chairman advised can be personalised to ask for gift aid. He also advised if anyone gives £30 or less, gift aid can be claimed even if the person is unknown.
- Chairman advised there has been a meeting with the Diocese to talk about Parish Share and a slightly different structure has been set up. St Mary's was not in a position to pay the full Parish Share which had been £60,000 for the year. Following the meeting the Parish Share has been set for the next three years at a more reasonable level (£25,000 for this year, £29,000 for 2025 and £34,000 for 2026). It is hoped knowing our position for the next few years will enable St Marys to get back on a good footing.
- Chairman advised Cath will be taking on the gift aid role following Rev. Adele's departure and Max Hebditch will be taking on the role of Treasurer, following Hazel stepping down after being in the role for 20 years. Chairman advised Hazel will tidy up

the smaller legacies before doing a handover and gave Hazel a big thank you for her services. Chairman advised next year, St Mary's finances will be clearer and stable.

The report has been signed by the auditor, Roger Morley and as part of the financial report, the accounts need to be accepted. Proposer Gary Hulme, seconder Fr. Gary Anderton.

xi) Fabric report - There are still some minor repairs outstanding and things such as the bells to get checked out. Some of the work has not been undertaken as the finances have not been available. When quinquennial report received, Churchwarden will review. Advised if able to pay full Parish Share, St Mary's will be able to access funds from the Church of England for repairs. Chairman advised we were left a large legacy last year, £20,000 of which has been set aside for the fabric of the church and would not affect our ability to pay the full Parish Share this year.

Chairman was also hopeful some of the little accounts which have been set up, because there has been a change in the law, we may be able to draw down from those funds to use the money for the churchyard and keeping access open to the graves as well as looking after the graves.

xii) Deanery Synod report - Still carrying two vacancies as Helen Hicks is our only representative. Chairman advised the Deanery Synod is part of the mechanism of the legal governance of the church (via the Diocesan Synod and Church Synod) and meetings are held three/four times a year.

xiii) No Churchwarden report this year as Norman had to step down for health reasons, Fr Shaun prepared.

xvi) Chairman advised safeguarding has been revisited and we are now back on track with this. Claire Almond is the current safeguarding officer and Rev Adele is in the process of doing the DBS checks for the pre-school praise volunteers. The website and boards at the back of church have been updated. Chairman advised PCC will revisit in summer as part of the annual review and it is now a standing item on the PCC agenda.

15. Elections and appointments

iv) There are currently six vacancies on the PCC (4 for three years and 2 for two years. Nominees were:

Max Hebditch proposed by Stewart Barnet, seconded by Hazel Delves

Sarah Matthews proposed by Stewart Barnet, seconded by Hazel Delves

Carol Worsley proposed by Hazel Delves seconded by Emma Chadwick

They will take up three year roles, leaving three vacancies on the PCC left to be filled.

v) No nominations for Deanery Synod, two vacancies for a two year terms remain

vi) Roger Morley was nominated to remain as an independent examiner/auditor. Proposed by Gary Hulme, seconder Rev. Carole.

16. APCM Chairman's report 2024

Being a shepherd was, I think, my first acting role. I would, later, go on to be a strange array of characters over the years, from a bee-person to an ugly sister, from Joseph, of multi-coloured coat fame, to a pierrot clown, from a pearly king to a pregnant woman in 12 angry men. But I have a fond memory of being clad in stripey bedlinen and a teatowel and being 'sore afraid' when a host of heavenly angels appeared with tinsel haloes.

It's hard to be a Christian and not to come across a host of references to shepherds. Across the Old and New Testament there are lots of stories and images which have the figures of shepherds centre stage. Today, the fourth Sunday of Eastertide, is often referred to as 'Good Shepherd Sunday' (and we've already heard some thoughts about this from Rev'd Carole in her sermon). Jesus tells us that he is The Good Shepherd – the good shepherd who knows his sheep. It is not just an image of someone doing a job, or even of someone doing something that is about gathering people together and keeping them safe. It is, most significantly, an image about love. An image about God's great love for us. About God's great love for his people and for his Church.

It's from this understanding that our view of the Church flows. Jesus Christ comes to 'do a job' – to do the will of the Father. He also comes to gather people together and keep them safe – so many stories in the Gospels exemplify this, and, of course, Jesus prays just before his arrest, 'May they all be one, as you Father are in me and I am in you, may they be completely one.' But most profoundly Jesus comes to know his sheep intimately – to know us – and to call us into a relationship of love with God.

This is good news for us, whoever we are and whatever we are about in life. Over the years I've gathered a number of 'secular' things which portray sheep – one of the most recent was this picture (sheep around TARDIS) – by Stan Milne. Nearly a quarter of a century ago, in Essex, I came across this – there was a variety of similar pottery sculptures, all under the banner 'sheep on a hill' but this is the one that drew my attention, maybe because of the Biblical story of Jesus leaving behind the 99 sheep on the hillside and going to find and rescue the one that was lost. In the past week I was visiting a parishioner's home and had my eye caught by a painting of sheep, one of which had half fallen down a cattle grid. It made me think of the image of Christ the good shepherd again.

Jesus Christ is the good shepherd, who knows his sheep, who lays down his life for the sheep, who takes up that life again for the sheep, but in a way that is changed, so that we might be changed. This narrative of love, with pieces filled in at various points throughout the four gospels, is one which informs both our view and understanding of God, and which also helps us understand our life together as his church.

Sometimes, especially at meetings like this, or PCC meetings, we can act almost as if we were not part of that overarching story. We can ponder and discuss and decide things with a purely practical, financial, business-like attitude, which isn't rooted in that love of God, and which isn't rooted in prayer. This is when factions can emerge and grow, and when we suit ourselves, rather than listen for the voice of the Good Shepherd, and heed it.

And this is when things feel mostly about duty – and duties – rather than joy, and the blessings that come from being God's people seeking to understand and grow in our life together as his church and as beloved individuals. But we are still Christ's flock, gathered around him, as much as we are when we worship and pray.

It's probably not just coincidence that some of the significant people in scripture were shepherds too – both Moses and King David were shepherds before they took up new responsibilities by responding to God's loving call. They would know what it was to be a shepherd, sometimes a

hard, tiring and frustrating responsibility, which involved getting dug into the realities of life and getting dirty. But they would also know the satisfaction and the joy of knowing their flock and keeping them safe, and leading them to pasture, and seeing them grow and multiply.

And it surely isn't a coincidence that the first human beings to hear about the birth of Jesus Christ were some shepherds, out in the cold winter fields in the dead of night; the first human eyes, other than Mary and Joseph's, to see the wonder of the Word made flesh, were shepherds' eyes.

This is worth us pondering as we consider where we are and where we're going as a congregation and as part of God's Church. The Good Shepherd calls us, leads us and loves us – and he calls us to roles and responsibilities which, ultimately are about loving one another and leaving the safety of the Church and looking for the lost and the lonely, the sick and the homeless, the rich and the disinterested, the lapsed and the cynical, so that they too may come to know the voice of him who is the Good Shepherd. Sometimes, some of the tasks we're called to might not seem very connected with this calling – doing a balance sheet, ordering candles, washing up after refreshments, typing up minutes, mopping the outside toilets – they all can seem duty rather than joy, and not really about gathering Christ's beloved flock. Yet they are all facets of the whole mission of God's Church, and, indeed, they are all acts of love.

When we undertake these acts of love, we can never know how God might be at work in and through us. As an example, I'll like to tell a brief story. It has been wonderful that we could restart Pre-school Praise last November, and there have been many new people who've come through the church doors as a result. One of these families came to worship on Good Friday morning at the all-age service, and, as a result of circumstances, ended up leaving via the vestry door. As they entered in, the Mum spied the 'story stool' that is used each week in the Pre-school Praise sessions and she pointed it out to her son. She then disclosed that he acted out the story-stool bit of pe-school praise at home, whilst singing the song which Justine Thomas always sings when she gets to this point in the morning's worship and produces something interesting from inside the stool to lead into the Bible story for the day. This moment of revelation, about how in a few weeks a young child has engaged with the worship, was very encouraging – who knows where this might lead him, and his parents, in time to come, regarding their faith journey? Whether our activities seem more duty, or more joy, or a profound mixture of both, we are allowing ourselves to be offered up in the service of Christ in ways which create all sorts of opportunities for his love to be extended, known and embraced.

At this point, I'd like to offer my thanks especially to my clergy colleagues, Rev'ds Carole, Adele and Gary. Each of them give much of their time and enthusiasm, as well as their prayer and wisdom, to the life of our Church and parish school, and they all do so voluntarily. We are fortunate as a church community to gain so much from what they bring to our life together and I want to pay tribute to their ministries in our midst. I also want to say a personal thank you to them for all they do in support of me in my role as Priest-in-Charge and as colleagues, as we pray and as we discuss so much together. Please do pray for them and support them as they continue in their journeys as both leaders of, and members, of Christ's flock.

If we can grow in our understanding and embracing of each of our callings to be those who, through our service, others are guided into the flock of Christ's love, then we will also grow in our willingness to serve. Because serving with this understanding is, yes, still at times hard work and time-consuming and even frustrating, but is done for, and in the company of, Christ the Good Shepherd.

If we can allow our hearts more and more to incline to this then we will both hear the voice of God calling to us, his Church, more clearly, and we will find more and more joy in our service of him who knows us and calls us and loves us.

Shaun Conlon – Priest-in-Charge

17. No other business

18. Closing prayers

Accounts



St Mary's Church
Prestwich GROWING • GIVING • SERVING

Registered Charity No. 1175403



**Financial Statements for
the year ended
31 December 2023
and
Annual Report**

St Mary the Virgin Prestwich Parochial Church Council

Name & Address

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical parish of St Mary the Virgin, Prestwich Church Lane
Prestwich
Greater Manchester
M25 1AN

Legal Status

The PCC is registered with the Charity Commissioners of England and Wales under charity registration number 1175403

Bank Details & Accounts

Current Account:

St Mary's Prestwich PCC Club and Society current account.
01-07-20
49036955

Reserve account:

St Mary's Prestwich PCC Club and Society reserve account.
01-07-20
49036963

Nat West Bank
Prestwich Branch
463 Bury New Road
Prestwich
Manchester
M25 1AB

Independent Examiner

Mr Roger Morley
127 Turton Road, Tottington, Bury

Administrative information

St Mary's Church is situated in Prestwich, Greater Manchester, in the Metropolitan Borough of Bury. It is part of the Anglican Diocese of Manchester. The correspondence address is St Mary's Rectory, 67, Scholes Lane, Prestwich M25 0AW

Members of the Parochial Church Council March 2023 – March 2024

The Rev'd Shaun Conlon – ex-officio (Priest-in-Charge)
The Rev'd Adele McKie – ex-officio (Assistant Curate)
The Rev'd Carole Barnet – ex-officio (Associate Priest)
The Rev'd Gary Anderton – ex-officio (Assistant Curate)
Mr Norman Erskine – ex-officio (Churchwarden)*
Mrs Helen Hicks – ex-officio (Deanery Synod Representative)
Mrs Hazel Froggatt – *Honorary Treasurer*
Mrs Pauline Jones – *Honorary Secretary*
Mr William Max-McCarthy
Mrs Emma Chadwick
Mrs Hazel Delves
Mrs Jill Hughson
Mrs Lindsay Broxap

* = Resigned as a member/Churchwarden: 1st November 2023

Objectives and activities of the PCC

St Mary's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Priest-in-Charge, The Rev'd Shaun Conlon in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of parochial Church Council members is set out in Church Representation Rules. The PCC looks after the general running of the church and oversees finance.

St Mary's PCC consists of the Priest-in-charge (Incumbent), all other licensed clergy in the parish (currently 3), 2 Churchwardens, 3 Deanery Synod representatives, and 12 elected lay members (there are currently vacancies for 2 Churchwardens, 2 Deanery Synod Representatives and 5 other lay members). Deanery Synod representatives (in addition to their general PCC responsibilities) attend meetings with clergy and laity of other churches in the Bury and Rossendale Deanery to discuss, support and further the mission of the Anglican churches within the deanery and the wider Diocese. All members, except those who are ex-officio, and any who are legally co-opted onto the committee, must be nominated and elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting before they can serve on the PCC. All PCC members are required to be on the church electoral roll, and must be actual communicant members. Each year, it is encouraged as widely as possible that all members entered on the church electoral roll consider standing for election.

There is also a statutory standing committee of the PCC, which consists of the Priest-in-Charge, Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and Treasurer (and one other PCC member when all elected positions are filled). The Standing Committee deals with emergency issues that arise between meetings and considers the agenda for upcoming PCC meetings. The PCC normally meets six times a year.

St Mary the Virgin Parish Church, Prestwich

St Mary the Virgin, Prestwich, is an historic Grade 1 listed Anglican Parish Church, currently part of the Diocese of Manchester. The earliest record of a priest serving Prestwich dates from around 1200 and the name Prestwich (derived from the Saxon words for 'priest's dwelling') suggests an even earlier church existed here. It seems likely that Christian worship has been offered on this site for more than 800 years. The parish is a mix of owner-occupied and rented residential accommodation, retail and office premises, schools and community buildings and open spaces. There is a sizeable Jewish population locally. A parish primary school (St Mary's voluntary aided CE school) has strong links with the church community and a very rooted Christian ethos. St Mary's Church was, for a number of years, part of the Prestwich Mission

Partnership, which included the parishes of St Gabriel, Prestwich, St Margaret, Prestwich and St George, Simister: the partnership has sought to bring the life of these churches closer together. Towards the end of 2021 the Diocese of Manchester formalised the boundaries of new Mission Communities, which saw an end of Mission Partnerships and ushered in a new pattern for working together with neighbouring churches and their parishes: as well as those mentioned above we are now connected with the parishes of St Hilda, Prestwich and St Paul, Kersal Moor with St Andrew, Carr Clough. St Mary's church is registered with Inclusive Church and aims to align its Christian life and vision in ways which are welcoming of all people.

Objectives and achievements

The aims and objectives of St Mary's Church, Prestwich, and members of the Christian community there, include:

- Regular public worship
- Provision of accessible public sacred space for prayer and reflection
- The promotion and teaching of Christianity
- Engagement with the local community
- Provision of pastoral care and support within the parish and to members of the church
- Working with local organisations and schools, in particular St Mary's CE primary school
- Provision of a safe and welcoming churchyard, open for interments (in accordance with the Diocesan Chancellor's regulations) and visits by the general public
- Support of other charities at home and abroad

These aims and objectives were fulfilled in the following ways during 2023:

Throughout the year, the church was open to the public for both the conduct of acts of worship and to provide a still, peaceful and beautiful place for reflection, prayer and exploration. Throughout the year the church was open for public worship every Sunday and Wednesday of the year, as well as on other days and occasions, including major Christian Festivals, Breathing Space monthly on a Wednesday evening, Holy hour and Eucharist monthly on a Saturday morning, and an experiential teaching course (Connecting with God) monthly on a Friday evening. A heritage open day was held in September which included special displays detailing elements of the church's history locally as well as leaflets being available about both the church building and its contents and the churchyard.

A number of individuals visited the church by appointment, and others simply came in to look around or enjoy the silence and prayerful atmosphere during times when the church was open. A small group of pre-school children came to church in December to learn about Christingles and make their own, and visiting teams of bell ringers made use of the church's ring of bells on two occasions.

A number of occasional offices were held in St Mary's during the year, including weddings, baptisms and funerals, and a number of people were buried, or had their cremated remains interred, in the churchyard. A service of remembrance for the many hundreds of former Prestwich Hospital patients who are buried in the churchyard was held in October. In November the church hosted a packed service of remembrance and thanksgiving for the families of people who had died, especially in the past year: this was organised by a local funeral director, Paul Williams, and many who came fed back that they found it a moving and supportive occasion.

In June some members of the church took part in the 'Seven Churches' Walk, which had been established a number of years previously as a joint annual activity of the five churches making up the Prestwich Mission Partnership and is now being continued by all seven churches comprising the Prestwich & Kersal Mission Community: St Mary's was one of the seven 'stops' on the walk.

St Mary's is signed up to the 'Inclusive Church' network and endeavours to offer a welcoming and safe space to all who want to visit the church or worship there. Toilet facilities for the disabled continue to be provided, as well as large print service and hymn books and audio amplification equipment and a Loop system.

Pastoral care by both clergy and lay visitors was offered in various ways during the year. Housebound members of the Christian community of the church continued to be offered communion at home or in hospital and general pastoral visits and phone calls were made to many members of the community. Other pastoral visits to those who were ill, dying and bereaved, and to those preparing for baptism and marriage, were conducted.

The churchyard provided people with green space to enjoy and a number of tours were arranged by members of the Churchyard Action Group. Work was done to ensure safety concerns were addressed regarding diseased/dead trees and access paths to areas currently in use for new burials were improved. Consideration was given to the beginning of clearing undergrowth from areas which will need to be prepared for new interments when the current section is full. A number of people contacted the church during the year exploring their family history and making enquiries about burial records etc. A new volunteer, appointed by the war graves commission, got in touch to introduce himself as someone who will be keeping an eye on the war graves and their general cleanliness etc. Following a significant collapse of waterworks just beyond church land boundaries, United Utilities used the south-west corner of the churchyard for access to the affected areas and stored some of their equipment on church land (not on areas with graves). Conversations with United utilities and Bury Council about reinstatement once all repair and reinstatement work is completed have taken place and are ongoing in terms of monitoring.

The PCC and wider congregation continued to support local community activities in a number of ways: on-going collections of foodstuffs and other items were donated to the local 'Porch Boxes' charity and also a food bank opened in a local Methodist church; Collecting Boxes for The Children's Society are held by a number of members of the congregation and local people to support the work of this charity across the country; Conversation continued with the local organising group of the Remembrance Sunday events in Prestwich, and representation from the church was made at both the main Prestwich act of remembrance and also a smaller event at the church's war memorial and war graves; Clergy representation was actively visible at the second 'Prestwich Pride' event held in August and clergy and laity from St Mary's were part of a 'faith stall' at Prestwich Clough Day in May; Members of the congregation volunteered as pastoral support for festival goers at the Park Life event held in Heaton Park in June; St Mary's church hosted a concert by the Besses Boys Band in June; contact was continued with the Prestwich Community Eco group through attending meetings, an invitation to be

part of an ecoawareness day that was held in church in July and through active involvement with the plasticfree Prestwich initiative, of which St Mary's Church is now an accredited member. This Ecoawareness day ('Food glorious Food') also began a short campaign to raise money for 'toilettwinning' and St Mary's now has twinned with three toilets in different parts of the world – certificates detailing these twinning arrangements are on display in the church's toilet facility.

A number of social events happened throughout the year, some of them with religious elements. A 'Walk Through the Bible' all-age event was run in November. Following the success of the previous year, a Posada (travelling Crib) connected households during the weeks of Advent. A Christmas Fayre, organised and run jointly with the Church School, helped to strengthen the bonds between the church and school communities. A family 'Unicorn Race Day' was enjoyed by all ages in the church and churchyard in June.

In recent years the PCC has paid the annual insurance on the neighbouring Church Lane Community Centre which provides meeting space for local groups, organisations and individuals, conversations. However, we were informed during the year that the management committee had now formally registered the land with the Land Registry and had legally begun to function separately from the church and would now be paying their own insurance.

The church was used for filming several times during the year. Two different student groups from Salford University came and filmed coursework projects in the church and churchyard, and ITV's Coronation Street visited on two occasions in the year, in April and July. These scenes included footage which showed off St Mary's in a very positive way both as a listed building and as a community-rooted faith building. In July, a number of Coronations Street fans from Canada came to visit the church as part of a wider 'Coronation Street Experience' holiday.

A number of Christian Nurture courses were organised during the year, including a Lent Course and a monthly 'Connecting with God' evening. Confirmation preparation for both children and adults was held in the autumn, whilst earlier in the year a significant number of children were prepared for receiving their first Holy Communion. In July, Assistant Curate Fr Gary Anderton was ordained priest in Manchester cathedral, supported by a number of people from St Mary's congregation; the following day he presided for the first time at the Eucharist in St Mary's.

In November we were able to re-launch the weekly (in term-time) Pre-School Praise sessions for children aged 0-4 years. In the space of three weeks the number quickly rose and the weekly average attendance of young children was just under twenty by the end of the year (after 6 sessions). There was exploration as to re-starting Sunday School provision, but a meeting convened to explore this more formally and fully resulted in there still being a lack of people willing to plan and run these sessions.

St Mary's hosted a prospective ordinand on placement over the period of Lent, and in the Summer another ordinand joined the congregation as a regular member following difficulties and upheaval in her previous two 'home' parishes.

Links with the Church school remained strong and continued to develop over the year. The Chair of governors and four other governors are regular members of St Mary's Church, including two of the clergy. The Priest-in-Charge and Chair of governors were part of the panel which interviewed for, and appointed to, the role of Headteacher, ahead of the then current Headteacher moving to a new post at another school in the Autumn term. Weekly worship was provided by members of the clergy team in school, and numerous clergy visits were made to classrooms and to staff for a range of reasons

(wellbeing support, prayer, encouraging the school Ethos Group, teaching and general pastoral care.) Children from the school also visited the church to learn about prayer and different ways of praying. Over the course of the year a number of St Mary's CE Primary School visits and services happened in the church and churchyard, including a Year 6 Leavers' service in July, a visit by Y4 near Remembrance Sunday to explore war graves in the churchyard (poppies made by children from all the classes of the school were brought to church and displayed in a cascade arrangement from the pulpit on Remembrance Sunday). Other services in church included a Christingle, a School Easter Eucharist, a Harvest Festival service and a Christmas Carol Service. Children from each of the eight classes (reception – Year 6) jointly led worship along with the clergy on four Sundays during the year, with two classes attending each time.

The Church choir met weekly for practises during the year (bar August) and welcomed two new members, a tenor and a bass, but sadly also lost three members – two though changed personal circumstances and a third though death. The full choir not only assisted in leading the Sunday worship but also held an Advent Carol Service and a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in November/December in church for the local community. The level of ability is high and there is an open-door policy for new members, with training and support offered for those who need it.

The Unicorn Race Day



Coronation street fans visiting from Canada



The Bishop of Bolton & Confirmation Candidates



The Bishop of Manchester & Fr Gary Anderton



Current Priorities and Future Developments

The move back to a three-yearly appointment of new PCC members in 2022 has continued to allow for a re-stabilising and better continuity to PCC proceedings. Despite being a small committee with a number of vacant places, members have worked well together and are creating a much clearer and stronger sense of vision and purpose for the future. This has been especially significant around looking at how we might address the church's financial position and create better financial stability moving forwards. Conversations have begun regarding a number of small bequests/funds set up generations ago which need to be rationalised: recent changes in regulations have created more options of this to be done in sympathy with the original bequests' intentions.

Finance was also looked at in new ways to better use and incorporate the new digital giving device which the parish obtained in the spring. In 2024 a much more joined-up strategy of giving streams, linking with the website, will be explored and implemented.

The church website was redesigned and relaunched in the second half of the year and there are ongoing plans for its development both in terms of aesthetics, content and missional usage. Conversation around the possibility of Wi-Fi in church have resumed and will be explored in 2024.

Work with the other Anglican Churches in the Prestwich and Kersal Mission Community continues and the regular pattern of meeting for the clergy of these churches was reshaped to allow for more purposeful meetings and more opportunities for praying together. Whilst some joint plans for 2023 found fruition, others faltered, and efforts to strengthen and extend relationships continue.

A number of new people have begun attending worship and other events during the year, as was the case in 2022. Although many of these do not attend every week, many are now very much part of the life of St Mary's and the need to continue to build up the cohesion and stability of the congregation is an on-going priority. Eco concerns, and continued exploration of how the plan for environmental issues being a more prominent part of the church's life and mission are gathering momentum and should provide increasing opportunity for broader links with other churches and with local community groups and organisations.

The delayed Statutory Quinquennial inspection report of the Church building, undertaken in 2022, was received in the second half of the year. Although there are no major issues with the building, there are many urgent and necessary repairs which need to be effected and this will need time and effort and attention given to it in 202, not least in the current lack of Churchwardens in post.

The need for Officers (PCC members, Churchwardens and Deanery Synod representatives) to come forward is something which is causing additional strain to the functionality of the church as a charity and as a visible presence in the community. This issue is of highest priority in the immediate future, and there needs to be more careful succession planning and hand-over preparation moving forwards.

Risk and its management

Potential adversities may be categorised according to their combined risk/impact potential. Those with a high risk but low impact are set at one end of the scale, with low risk/high impact at the other end. Both parameters are important and both risk and impact should be minimised.

Financial risks are a reduction in income and/or an increase in costs. Both have the potential to have major impact upon the capacity of St Mary's Church to continue all her present activities and functions and limit any future development.

As the Treasurer's report (below) makes clear, St Mary's is currently in a very difficult situation financially, with no substantial reserves and a long way from being able to meet parish share payments. As noted in the previous section (above) this continues to have its roots in a combination of long and medium term factors and decisions and, to a lesser extent, the impact of Covid closure/restrictions. This will continue to be addressed across the congregation in the coming year, with efforts being made to increase the effectiveness of the digital giving machine and linking it with donation tabs on the website as well as launching a campaign to encourage giving by a wider range of donors who have links or connections with the church. There is a plan to advertise a range of identified monthly amounts of money which people will be asked to consider signing up to per month. The church congregation members (and the wider community) still need to be reminded of the fragility of St Mary's financial position and the need for action across a number of areas to improve this situation and raise more funds and build up sustainable sources of income.

Rapidly rising energy costs, and the general high rises in the cost of living, continue to hamper such movement forward, as both church bills and people's bills at home are increasing. Efforts have been made to ensure that St Mary's energy tariff is as reasonable as it can be and other costs have been cut back as far as possible. Grant funding for projects will become more actively sought beyond just large fabric repair costs.

Added to this is the current treasurer's planned relinquishing of the role and the need for recruiting a new treasurer, and their induction into the various aspects of the role. This will result in a loss of two decades' worth of working knowledge which the out-going treasurer possesses. As the new treasurer finds their feet they will also need to undertake careful scrutiny of budgets and explore with members of the PCC the possibilities of other income streams and funding.

Physical risks, to people, are judged to be low, but would have a high impact if they materialised. St Mary's carries an appropriate level of insurance. Other risks are also recognised: the protection of children and vulnerable adults is taken seriously and St Mary's complies with the relevant Church of England and Diocesan policies. The PCC is working towards a lower risk/impact potential, not just financial, but across all areas.

Audited Accounts January – December 2023

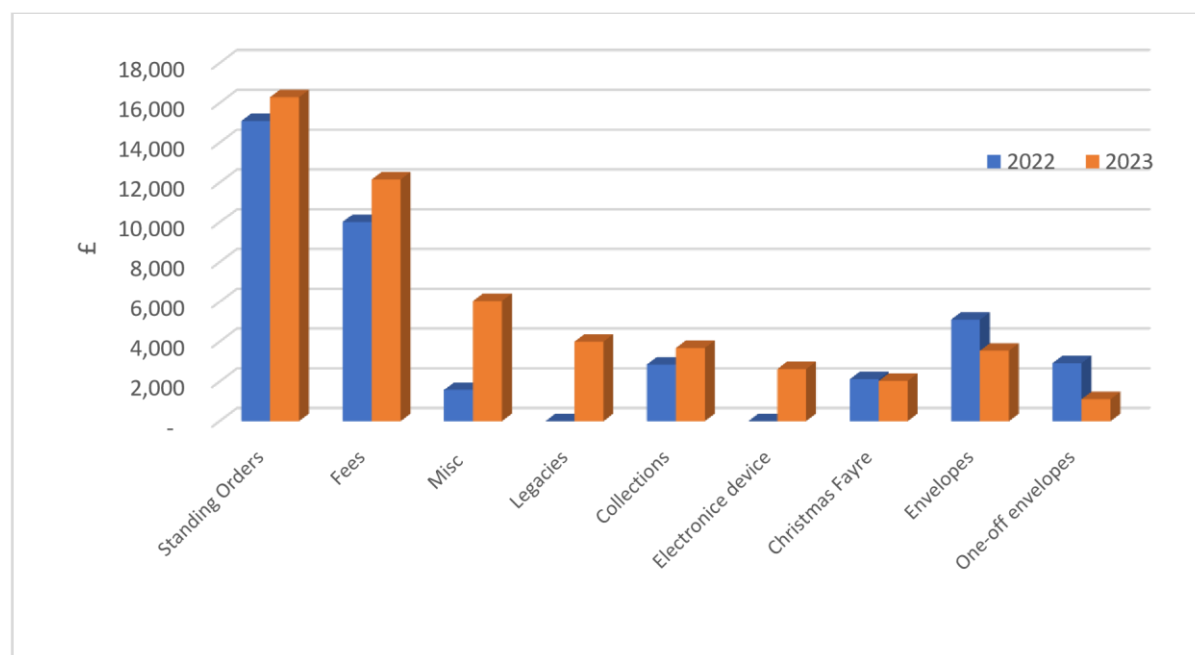
These are printed separately.

Treasurer's Report FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Income

Overall income for 2023 was **£68,571**. This was 19% higher than that received in 2022 (£57,625). Figure 1 below shows the main sources of income received in 2023 compared with 2022.

Figure 1: Sources of income 2023 compared with 2022.



Income received through standing orders continues to be the highest source of income and in 2023 was £16,291 compared with £15,100 in 2022. Thirty people give regularly through standing orders; this is similar to 2022 when 29 people gave. (Two new members of the congregation signed up to give through standing order, and one member stopped giving.)

Average donations through standing order was £45.18 per person per month compared with £43.39 given in 2022 which explains the slight overall increase.

The amount most frequently donated by standing order per month was between £30 to £40.00, given by six members of the congregation; as shown in figure 2.

Figure 2: Chart showing the individual monthly amounts donated through standing order.

£5.00	£5 to £10	£10 to £20	£20 to £30	£30 to £40	£40 to £50	£50 to £60	£60 to £70	£70 to £80	£80 to £90	£100+	Total
2	3	5	1	6	3	3	3	2	1	1	30

Fees for weddings and funerals were slightly higher in 2022, and once fees paid to the diocese are considered, fees provided a net income of **£6,594** compared with £6,600 in 2022.

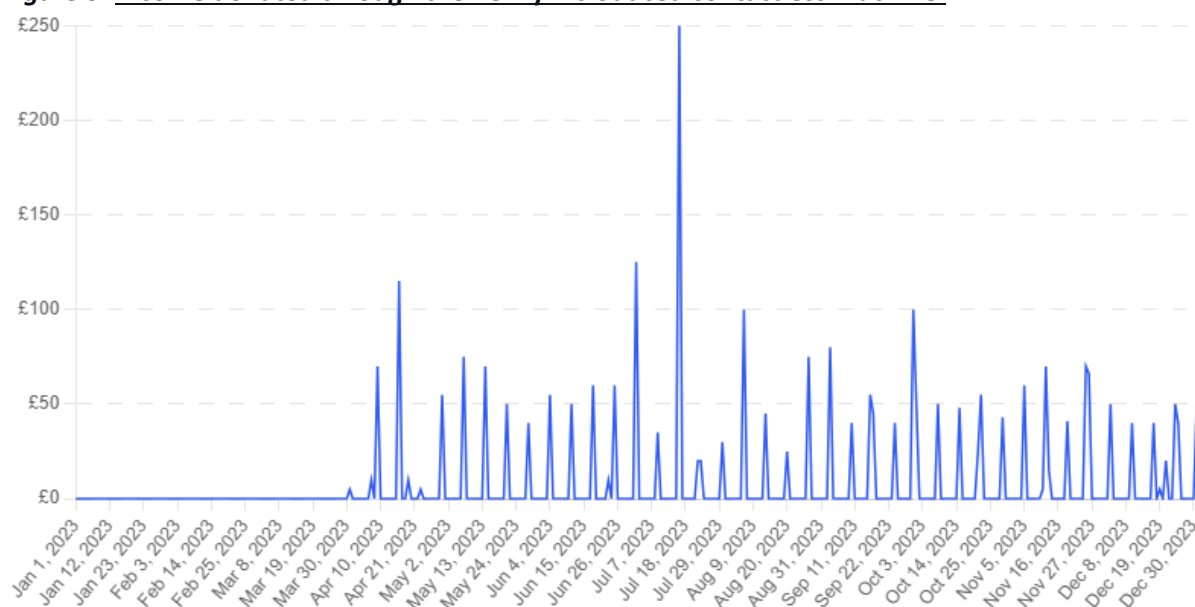
Miscellaneous income includes **£5,250** from ITV filming.

The year had two legacies: **£1,000** (Jean and Eddie Murphy) and **£3,000** (Marian Eckersley).

Collections at services is **£6,303** in 2023 compared with £2,850 in 2022, an increase of £3,453. This total includes **£2,623** – collected via the electronic giving device. The congregation was offered a new method of donating more easily at services in April 2023 by installing an electronic giving device in the church, which enables contactless giving using debit cards or Apple Pay. (Figure 1 above shows collections at services and that received through the contactless machine separately.)

Figure 3 below, shows the weekly donations given using the newly introduced contactless machine. There was a total of 267 donations. The average weekly donation was **£10.18**, and there were 112 unique donors.

Figure 3. Income donated through the newly introduced contactless machine.



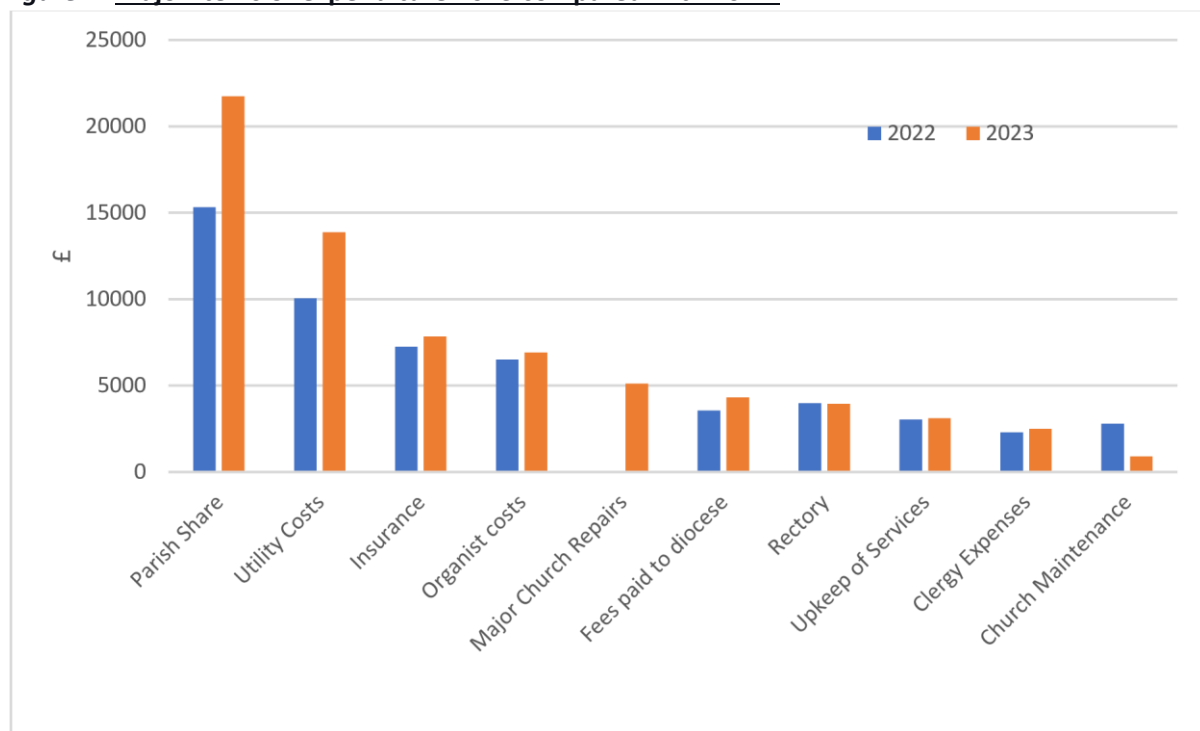
Although total collections at services increased in 2023 by £3,453 income received through the envelope scheme and one-off envelopes decreased by **£3,375**. It was hoped that by offering a means of giving electronically, donations would increase, however it appears that some of the congregation has chosen to give electronically and not through the envelope scheme resulting in similar levels of donations to that given in 2022.

This year's Christmas fayre raised **£4,167**, similar to that of 2022. Half of the funds raised were donated to the school.

Expenditure

Total expenditure in 2023 was **£124,347** of this £50,000 is represented by the write-off of Church Lane Community Centre which was previously included in the Balance Sheet. Church Lane Community Centre is no longer considered to be an asset as it cannot be sold for profit and as such does not represent a financial asset.

Figure 4. Major items of expenditure 2023 compared with 2022.



As in previous years the Parish share contribution continues to be the largest item of expenditure. (Figure 4). In 2023 the maximum amount of funds available to contribute to the Parish share was £21,744 which is 39% of the total assessment required by the Diocese (£54,360.90). Gift aid raised from donations (£2,535.29) is included in the £21,744. The congregation's generosity enables the diocese to sustain an effective ministry funded through the parish share by not fulfilling our commitment to pay the parish share in full means that our church relies on other congregations to finance the mission and ministry across our diocese.

Expenditure on day-to-day activities was kept to a bare minimum and totalled **£61,753**, the highest items of expenditure being utility costs of **£13,882** compared with £10,058 in 2022.

Only essential repairs were made:

- Toilet roof: The church contributed half of the total repair costs, £3,600 with the other half being paid by the Churchyard Action group.
- Replacement of stolen flagstones, £1,512, which was reclaimed from insurance.

Reserves

At the end of 2023, the reserves, and the current account total £37,192. (an increase of £870 from 2022): Of this amount, £14,176 are funds with specific spending purposes and therefore restricted from general day-to-day use. Leaving an available balance of **£23,016**.

Conclusion

The amount of expenditures in 2023 was kept to a bare minimum, including contributions to the Parish Share, and only committing to essential repairs. There was a slight increase in congregational income of approximately 6%. Moving forward, it would be great if income could increase and allow the church to contribute more fully towards the parish share, as well as grow our reserves from the current £23,016 to facilitate expenditure on the maintenance of the church.

May I appeal to those who enjoy our church, who may not be doing so already? Please consider committing to regular giving through a standing order, direct debit, internet banking, or other means. And please would you complete a Gift Aid form if you are a UK taxpayer, which enables the church to claim back an extra 25% from HMRC. Forms are available at the back of the church, and it only takes a couple of minutes to complete.

Our bank details are as follows:

Nat West Bank

Account number: 49036955.

Sort Code: 01-07-20.

Hazel Froggatt - Treasurer

Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council

Purpose

The purpose of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) is to set the strategic direction and vision for the life of the parish. Its main focus is on:

Mission & outreach
Finance & Governance
Discipleship & Pastoral care Worship
& Spirituality

PCC membership is now following a new pattern of three-year terms of service, following the amendment by motion carried at the previous year's APCM. The number of places filled at the APCM in 2023 once again fell short of the allotted places: two 3-year term spaces, and one 1year term spaces were filled, leaving the PCC short of 5 elected members, as well as there being four ex-officio spaces (two (from November, when the serving Churchwarden resigned on his doctor's advice) and Churchwarden spaces and two deanery synod spaces). This continues to result in a PCC which is less effective than it could be and has again, like the previous year, raised a couple of issues about being legally able to hold meetings when some members have been unable to attend, partly because of the need to be quorate and partly because laity must outnumber clergy, and with 4 clergy and only 8 laity as members. These issues will be noted in public announcements in church services and via electronic communications ahead of the 2024 APCM

The PCC have continued to meet bi-monthly, with standing committee meetings happening in the months inbetween.

Over the year, the inclusion of a regular standing item for Safeguarding issues was implemented. The Prestwich & Kersal Mission Community continued to be a standing item on the agenda, so that members

can regularly be updated on, and reminded about, the forging of new links across the churches of the Mission Community. Regarding the poor financial position of the church, discussions were held about how best to utilise the new digital giving machine, what literature might be displayed in church pews regarding how much it costs to run St Mary's, and suggestions were developed as plans for a fundraising push in 2024. There were discussions about the updating and relaunching of the church website. The annual review of the Church Organist's contract and remuneration, as well as heating fee costs for weddings/funerals, was undertaken. New missional/fundraising activities were discussed and affirmed, including a summer all-age eco-event in partnership with various local organisations and statutory bodies, an all-age 'Walk Through the Bible' event in November, Heritage Open Day in September, a Christmas fayre in conjunction with the church school and the posada (travelling crib) during Advent.

These all linked in with the mission plans for the short and mid-term future, which the PCC agreed the previous year. Three key strands of these plans for 2023/24 were:

- Community Building – in light of the changed/changing demographic of congregation/church attendances
- Growing and Deepening Faith with both adults and children
- Giving/Fund Raising, linked to the Gospel and to people's spiritual growth

Pauline Jones – PCC Secretary

Electoral Roll Report

The Church Electoral Roll has undergone the annual revision, which has resulted in a number of additions (9). There have been 3 deletions of congregants who have died during the past year. It is important that the electoral roll represents the actual current congregation and doesn't carry names of people who have moved away, or are worshipping elsewhere, from one full revision to another (a six-year period). If this happens then there is often a huge drop in numbers on the roll following the next full revision (which will be in 2025)

The number of those currently on the roll, following its annual revision in 2024, is 135.

Mrs Helen Hicks remains the Electoral Roll Officer for the parish.

Fr Shaun Conlon

Deanery Synod report 2023 Meetings

Deanery Synods are part of the legislative apparatus of the Church of England, linking PCCs in parishes and the Diocesan Synod. The Bury & Rossendale Deanery Synod (of which St Mary's Prestwich is a part) met four times throughout 2023, on 17th January (zoom), 24th April (in person), 27th September (in person) and 27th November (Zoom). Currently the members of Synod from St

Mary's are the four clergy plus Helen Hicks, who is our only lay member, with two vacancies for other lay representatives unfilled.

At each meeting there were brief updates and other reports concerning environment issues and topics, as Eco-Church & Environment is a standing item on the agenda. It was noted during the year that the following churches in the deanery had made progress towards eco-awards:

Working towards Bronze – St Andrew's, Hillock & St John's, Bircle, St Mary's Prestwich. Bronze – Christ Church, Ainsworth, St Mary's & All Saint's, Goodshaw & St Paul's Kersal Moor. Silver - St Paul's Church, Constable Lee.

It was noted that: a Bury & Rossendale Stepping Stones course is being planned for Spring 2024;

One of the electives in the 2024 ALM course is Eco & Creation;

Eco Champions meetings happen regularly on Zoom – the next was planned for 12th December and then every 4 weeks. The meeting is open to everyone.

Reports and presentations made during the year included the out-going Archdeacon of Bolton, The Ven Jean Burgess, speaking about Growing (one of the three diocesan strands, along with nurturing and serving); Bev Angier & Kim Morgan-Jones speaking about Focal Leadership in parishes, and later in the year Kim speaking more widely about lay ministry and development in the Church, and reminded members about the transforming prayer network; The Ven Mike McGurk, newly-appointed Head of Evangelism & Growth in the diocese, speaking about how to move PCC conversations from maintenance issues to mission; The new Bishop of Bolton, Rt Rev'd Matthew Porter, speaking about his life and faith, what it means to receive God's grace and what it is to be a Christian.

Other items on the agendas included:

The new Deanery Transformation Support Officer, Mrs Ima Lomax, being introduced;

A range of financial concerns, from Parish Share to Deanery accounts, being reported upon over the four meetings;

The sharing of 'good news' stories and information from various deanery parishes;

Clergy and lay roles which were vacant, and people changing roles. During the year, this included the Area Dean becoming the new Archdeacon of Bolton, and The Rev'd Donna Williams becoming the new Area Dean.

If you would like to fill one of the vacancies for Deanery Synod members, and play a role in this wider engagement with the Diocese and the Church of England, then please speak with one of the parish clergy.

Fr Shaun Conlon

Child Protection/Safeguarding

St Mary's takes the protection of children and vulnerable adults seriously and complies with the Church of England's guidelines in these areas. At a Parochial Church Council meeting on 13th July 2023 the following policy statement was reviewed and agreed and continues to be in place .

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- *Promoting a safer environment and culture.*
- *Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.*
- *Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.*
- *Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.*
- *Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.*
- *Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.*

The Parish will:

- *Create a safe and caring place for all.*
- *Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.*
- *Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.*
- *Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.*
- *Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.*
- *Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.*
- *Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.*
- *Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.*
- *Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.*
- *Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.*
- *Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.*

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Claire Almond as the Parish Safeguarding Officer

Clear information about safeguarding was included online when the church website was redesigned and relaunched

Fr Shaun Conlon

Pre-School Praise Report

It has been a pleasure and privilege to re-establish St Mary's Preschool Praise in November 2023.

This delightful group initially ran from February 2016 to the summer of 2019. I felt called to another purpose that summer, but the global pandemic and subsequent periods of lockdown in 2020 and 2021 changed many things for us all. I am most grateful God has called me back to his ministry both as a member of St Mary's Church choir and specifically for Preschool Praise. I am humbled by the unquestioning welcome acceptance of my return and the love and understanding from my friends in the choir, the clergy and congregation.

Preschool Praise has always had a nurturing and homely feel. We have a magnificent team, none of whom we could do without. Alison (from St Mary's choir) is a superb baker, making the most delicious biscuits and cakes. She is excellent at welcoming and involving both the parents, carers and children who come to our services. Stella and Carol are invaluable, providing tea, coffee, juice and refreshments. Tracey (also in St Mary's Choir) creates the most wonderful craft activities which the children love. With extended regular support whenever possible from Stewart (with his legendary Victoria Sponge), Rev'd Carole and Fr Shaun; together we smile, share and extend the love of God and 'family' of St Mary's Church. All members of the team are caring and dedicated, providing their skills, time and talent voluntarily.

Preschool Praise is an important service offering a welcoming friendly approach to, what is for many young children, their first experience of church attendance. With prayers and Bible stories told in an exciting simple way for young children to understand, we share God's teachings. This, together with music, relevant songs, nursery rhymes and using puppetry, actions, movement and dancing activities, we have a lot of fun. It is especially meaningful and valuable also to the parents and carers, providing a sense of community and friendship. We consistently receive a great deal of positive feedback.

I'm delighted how from a small gathering in early November of 6 children initially, to an average of 20 or more children in a matter of a just a few weeks, we are regularly attaining the numbers we previously had. I hope the popularity of the service encourages those who attend to broaden their involvement and participation in other services at St Mary's Church. I pray that they continue to enjoy and support St Mary's now and in the future.

Justine Thomas

Adult Ministry Report

This report outlines the key aspects of adult ministry for the calendar year 2023. During the year, we have continued to see a change in the profile of our congregation with new people starting to attend worship on a regular basis. From an adult ministry point of view, we have therefore continued to develop opportunities for both new and existing disciples to deepen their faith and spirituality. These included:

- the continuation of our monthly (third Wednesday of each month) Breathing Space group - to enable people to take time out from the busyness of life to spend with God through reflective music, a short bible passage, followed by space for silent prayer; and
- our Connecting with God group (first Friday of each month) involving interactive discussion and providing practical guidance to help people to grow in their relationship with God. After a year focusing on different forms of prayer, 2023 was dedicated to helping each other to find God by

exploring a variety of tried and tested ways of reading the Bible, enabling us to experiment along the way and, hopefully, to be nourished by the results.

· This concluded with a 'Walking through The Bible' experience which took place in November. It was pleasing to see both new and more long-standing members of the congregation come together and to take individual responsibility for designing and leading the various 'stations' which took us from Genesis to Revelation in a creative and hands-on way. The event was enjoyed by people across all ages and those who attended were so impressed and immersed in the experience that we have been requested to run it again in 2024.

Our adult Lent Group for 2023 took place on Tuesday Evenings in Church. The chosen theme focused on Christian Aid materials entitled, 'Talking Climate Justice', which invited us to explore the Lenten themes of repentance, sacrifice, redemption, reparation and restoration visa-vis the realities of the climate crisis.

In July, and continuing the theme of climate injustice, we held an all-age event in and around the Church and church grounds based on the topic of Food and Lifestyle, entitled 'Food Glorious Food'. This enabled us also to engage with local businesses in the area and was well received by those able to join us. (A copy of a 'write-up' about this event is attached at the end of this report).

We also took part in a Toilet Twinning initiative inviting people to raise funds to enable those in the poorest nations of the world to have clean water and a proper toilet, and to learn about hygiene. In the event, we raised enough money to "twin" our own toilet in Church with three latrines in poor communities. Pictures of each of the locations are proudly displayed in the toilet area in Church. We had the privilege of preparing a further three adults for Confirmation in November and I think we all enjoyed the opportunity to grow together in faith. It is encouraging to see that almost all the adult confirmation candidates have continued to attend Church on a regular basis, some of whom have begun to be actively involved in Church life.

During 2024 we will continue to offer similar opportunities for us to grow together in our faith. All are welcome to join us for any, or all, of our groups. These tend not to be sequential, so it does not matter if people are unable to attend every one of them. Looking forward, we also intend to adopt an underlying 'environmental-focused' theme to some of our activities. All being well, these will include another Summer event in July and an Eco-Christmas Tree Festival in November.

As ever, my prayer is that as many people as possible will join us so that, as we move forward together, we will grow in love for God and for one another. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

The Rev'd Carole Barnet – Associate Priest Eco-event – Food Glorious Food – Write-up

On Saturday, 22nd July, 2023, St Mary's church in Prestwich held an All-age Eco event, entitled Food Glorious Food, as we thought about the part we can play in the fight against Climate Change; in fulfilling our mission 'to strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth'; and how we can all make a difference by making changes to our lifestyle and taking small steps in the right direction.

The theme for the day was Food and Lifestyle. Events began with a 'Bring your Own Lunch' where we invited people to bring food in recyclable or biodegradable containers and using as little as possible, if any, plastic. We also encouraged them to bring locally sourced produce as far as possible. During the afternoon, we offered a variety of activities, including contributions from local external companies, such as Village Greens, Prestwich Environmental Forum and Plastic-free Prestwich representatives, as well as Greater Manchester Recycling. There were arts and crafts, including beemaking, decorating biscuits in the shape of a recycling bins, making pictures out of brightly-coloured pasta, plotting on a world map where our food is sourced, as well as games, planting, quizzes, maps, even recipes. In the interests of minimising the amount of paper used, we offered the opportunity for people to access many of these using QR codes – some even on-line!



We looked at the beauty of creation compared with the damaged caused by climate change. We even had a little home-made toilet into which people could put money to send off to countries where water shortages mean little or no sanitation, promoting toilet twinning.



Although we were not blessed with good weather, the event was positively received. Parishioner comments included:

I think that we have made fantastic connections with the Prestwich community which will only grow over time. We also had new people coming into church which is amazing. Everyone that came thoroughly enjoyed themselves and saw how much we had done. We put on a good show! People had chance to chat to us and each other which is all about building that sense of community. We will have also hopefully have ourselves a twinned toilet very soon!

One incredibly important note for me personally is how much I've thought about the 2 very simple tasks of sourcing an eco-friendly lunch and researching ideas for the pasta plates - the real sense of wonder and awe of creation combined with the quite terrifying way we are mindlessly using plastics and contributing to climate change has really hit home.

The external companies appreciated the invitation to be involved and welcomed our commitment to a greener world. As a result, we have been invited to sign up to become an ally of Prestwich Environmental Forum/Plastic-free Prestwich initiative.



Choir Report

During the past twelve months the Choir has gone about its work with ever increasing efficiency, and has continued to help in the leadership of Public Worship in this place.

Services have been enhanced with an expanding repertoire of Anthems sung by the choir, and these are beginning to include some of the very finest examples of English Church Music, some of which is usually the exclusive preserve of Cathedral and Collegiate Choirs. We are indeed fortunate in our Choir – a group of people who meet regularly to rehearse on Thursday evenings for 44 or so weeks of the year, as well as turning out on Sundays, and for weekday services as required – all of this is done voluntarily – though the standard of singing attained is quite professional. (Remember, if you are interested in joining us, the prerequisites are simply a reasonable singing voice, a keen “ear”, a willingness to be moulded, and most importantly of all, a sense of humour! If you can commit to Thursdays 7.30pm – 9pm, and Sunday morning Service, then please speak to the Organist).

Along with the entire congregation here at St. Mary’s, we were all shocked and deeply saddened by the very sudden death of Nina Maxwell in the weeks leading up to Christmas. We are however, delighted that both Nick and Eleanor Maxwell are continuing in the Choir. It is also a pity that we have lost two altos – Amanda Lloyd, due to continuing illness; and Amy Potts, who has left us temporarily. It is encouraging that we have managed to attract to new men into the Choir; Max Hebditch, a Bass and husband of Sarah Matthews (Soprano); and following the Christmas Services, Joe Dykes a Tenor contacted me, and is now with us. Numbers therefore stand at 14 in total, and produce the following statistics: 6 Sopranos; 2 Altos; 2.5 Tenors; 4 Basses (The Rector and Rev. Carole are extra to these figures).

On Advent Sunday, we held the Advent Carol Service, following the success of a similar service last year – the Choir worked very hard in the Autumn to produce the Music for this Service, along with Music for the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. This year, we held the Nine Lessons Service on Thursday 21st December at 7pm – this proved to be a good move, and brought a number of people to St. Mary’s from the Parish and elsewhere, many for the first time. I was also very grateful to my good friend Mr. Philip O’Connor, ARCO (Organist & Choirmaster of Bolton Parish Church) who accompanied us at the Organ. Following both Carol Services, many favourable comments were made by grateful parishioners. As I have said in the past, the enthusiasm generated by these Festival Services should not detract from the all important round of weekly rehearsals and Sung Services; and it is quite clear, that the work of the Choir in this respect, is very much appreciated by our Congregation and visitors.

I will end this report by expressing my sincere thanks to all the members of the Choir for their continued loyalty and hard work. Also, to Rev Carole, for her attendance and singing in rehearsals, and Services as and when she is available; to Rev. Adele and Rev. Gary for their obvious appreciation of the Music and the Choir. Above all however, sincere thanks are due to the Rector who, despite his ever-increasing workload, rarely misses a rehearsal, and is extremely appreciative of the work and support of the Choir.

Gary Hulme, ARCO, LTCL - Organist & Choirmaster

Churchyard Action Group

Over the past twelve months the churchyard action group has worked hard, come rain or sun, to keep on top of a range of jobs; below is a list of some of the tasks we have undertaken which are additional to our ongoing regular work (such as tidying graves, collecting litter, maintaining gardens and beds around the church and removing brambles along Clough Drive).

The roofs on the toilet block and hearse house have been replaced by contractors to ensure that they are watertight. Following this work, members of CAG then fitted new ceilings in the toilets and replaced the gutters. Although this voluntary labour saved money, the cost of the materials was not cheap.

Paths in the churchyard have been improved, with gravel chippings and lintels being put in place in the newer burial areas.

Space has begun to be cleared for more new graves/ashes burial plots.

Several collapsed graves have been filled in, and the last of the kerbstones on the Demetriadi grave have been put back into place.

A new wooden bench has been erected.

Steps in the lower churchyard, which were stolen by thieves, have been rebuilt.

Over 150 graves were marked with small poppy crosses at Remembrance-tide (with help from children from St Mary's School.)

A number of quotes have been received in relation to the felling of trees which are diseased or dead. Members of CAG have begun to tackle felling some of the smaller silver birch trees that are dangerous, and signage has been erected in areas affected by the unsafe trees.

Following a tremendous rainstorm in the autumn, a culvert in the Clough collapsed and did a large amount of damage. This resulted in United Utilities bringing in large diggers and other heavy plant through the bottom part of the churchyard, and which necessitated the removal of several trees and a section of churchyard fence. Later this year the areas where the damage was caused will be made good or reinstated as it was.

As always, we are thankful to all the additional efforts from the Community Payback teams who work in the churchyard on two or three days each week, as well as our own volunteering team, both regulars and occasional helpers. If you would like to join us then we meet on Tuesday mornings each week – come and introduce yourself! We are also thankful for both monetary contributions and also the many words of thanks we receive from various people from the local community and beyond.

If you would like to know more about our activities, or churchyard tours, then you could try the following:

[Prestwich.org.uk/people](https://www.prestwich.org.uk/people) (about people from Prestwich, many of whose graves are in the churchyard)

Bill Cottam

Fabric Report January to December 2023

The “Terrier’s” contents, which includes all silverware etc photographed and catalogued in 2015, is up to date.

The “Logbook” is also up to date updated with the inclusion of historic alterations from Faculty records. All modern changes have been recorded.

Altarware – As stated in previous reports, the Altar frontals and fabric for the high altar continue to be in a poor condition and are in need of repair.

General Building –

1. The Quinquennial report, which gives a snapshot of the condition of the building, was finally delivered in the summer by Buttress Architects in Manchester. Although there are no hugely big individual issues, there are many smaller things which need to be attended to internally and externally. Cumulatively, these will cost a great deal of money and so there will need to be careful consideration of which things are the most pressing and also how best to get value out of any erection of scaffolding etc as certain repairs might be done at the same time.
2. All scheduled annual servicing and maintenance of essential equipment continues to be done. All statutory inspections, (fire extinguishers, alarm, gas, electricity), are up to date and the Gas Boilers and Organ are regularly serviced.
3. The 5-year Electrical Inspection was last carried out in 2022.
4. A fault in the electrical circuit for the Fan Heater in the Porch has been repaired
5. A number of York flagstones were stolen from the church footpaths in the summer. These have now been replaced and Ecclesiastical Insurance have reimbursed the PCC.
6. The Bell Striking equipment installed in 1997 continues to need attention, and most probably an upgrade. It is estimated that the cost of upgrading the system to a modern-day equivalent would be £4000- £5000, with a service charge of £800-£1000. The system is currently out of action.
7. Movement of the South Aisle flooring, which has been present for several years requires investigation of the supporting brickwork. The stone flooring in the North entrance porch requires some minor repair. The carpeted steps in the nave are awaiting the fitting of edging strips to reduce the potential trip hazard.
8. The ceiling in the Lever Chapel has become potentially unsafe. This has been noticed since the Quinquennial inspection took place. The decorative oak struts appear to be coming loose in places and need to be professionally assessed and reattached. Currently the pews below this part of the ceiling is being cordoned off during worship/opening hours for safety reasons.
9. The condition of the outbuildings continues to be a cause of concern. During the past year the roofs were made watertight, thus assisting in giving more time to address the wider issues of proper restoration/usage.

10. The condition of the choir vestry floor and the cause of damp under the vestry stairs continues to need investigation.
11. An observation of water ingress into the bell chamber from the tower roof has been reported. Some temporary remedial work has been carried out but this requires further investigation.

Additionally, in early 2024:

12. During two recent services plasterwork has fallen from the clerestory in the pulpit area and water ingress has been noticed in the North aisle. Both will require investigation.

Churchyard –

1. The section of the retaining wall of one of the older sections of the churchyard, adjacent to the footpath on the southside which gave way in 2021, is still not reinstated. The rebuild cost was estimated to be £16,000 in 2022. This work remains on hold until finances permit.
2. A number of dead and/or diseased trees have been identified in various areas of the churchyard and quotes are being obtained for the work needed to fell them. In the meantime, warning signs have been erected in the affected areas.
3. The lower section of fencing on the south-western edge of the churchyard needs reinstating following essential maintenance work carried out by United Utilities after serious a watercourse collapse in late 2023. UU and Bury Council have been in conversations with Fr Shaun and the Churchyard Action Group about the reinstatement of this section of the fence and making good other additional damage on land belonging to the church.

Shaun Conlon – Priest-in-Charge (in lieu of there being no Churchwardens in office)

APCM AGENDA

Sunday 21st April 2024 at 12.00noon in St Mary's Church

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes from the previous meeting (26th March 2023)
4. Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Opening Prayers
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the previous annual parochial church meeting (26th March 2023)
4. Matters Arising Those items which are not covered by the reports
5. The reports (*please note: most of these can be found in this booklet*)
 - (i) The electoral roll report 2024
 - (ii) Annual report – what the PCC has done since the last APCM
 - (iii) Financial report, including 2023 audited accounts
 - (iv) Annual fabric report
 - (v) Deanery Synod report
 - (vi) Churchwarden's Report (*not applicable, as there are currently no Churchwardens in role*)
6. The elections and appointments
 - (i) Election of PCC members (6 vacancies: 4 x 3 years & 2 X 2 years)
 - (ii) Election of Deanery Synod Members (2 vacancies for two-year term)
 - (iii) Appointment of independent examiner
7. Chairman's Report (*to be given verbally at the meeting*)
8. Any other business
9. Closing prayers

Followed by a short PCC meeting to elect officers (PCC Vice Chair, Hon Secretary & Hon Treasurer)

Minutes of last year's meetings

ST MARY'S PRESTWICH - ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

Minutes of the Meeting held on Sunday 26th March 2023 at 12.00noon in St Mary's Church

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer
2. No apologies for absence – (The chairman advised that this meeting is for anyone on St Mary's electoral roll from beyond the parish boundaries as well as anyone who lives in the parish)
3. Minutes of previous meeting accepted. Proposer Stewart Barnet, seconder Lindsay Broxap 4. Election of Churchwardens
Candidate's name – Norman Erskine. Proposer Gary Hulme, seconder Stewart Barnet. Norman Erskine elected for the coming year. Archdeacon's Visitation will be in June 2023; Stewart Barnet will remain churchwarden legally until then.

ST MARY'S PRESTWICH - ANNUAL Parochial Church Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on Sunday 26th March 2023 at 12.10pm in St Mary's Church

1. Opening Prayers
2. No apologies for absence
3. Minutes of previous meeting accepted. Proposer Emma Chadwick, seconder Anne Parkinson
4. No matters arising which were not covered in the reports.
5. The reports – contained within document entitled Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 and Annual Report
 - (i) The electoral roll report – there has been a slight increase, with new additions ready to come on.
 - (ii) Annual report – what the PCC has done since last meeting - PCC members continue to meet bi-monthly and minutes kept. PCC has been exploring how they can move forward within the community and church life. It has been a quiet year regarding decisions to do with the building. (iii) Financial report, including 2022 audited accounts – The Chair thanked Hazel Froggatt for the annual reports and her services as Treasurer, given the limited funds available. The accounts were accepted at the last PCC meeting. Proposer Hazel Froggatt, seconder Gary Hulme. (iv) Annual Fabric report – Majority of the work which has been carried out has been small. No major work requires doing. Awaiting the quinquennial report.
 - (v) Deanery Synod report – The Chair advised for the last three years St Marys has been carrying two lay vacancies, with Helen Hicks being the only member. Licensed clergy are members of the Deanery Synod. Meetings are held via Zoom or in person. The Deanery now covers a wide area, so going forward the winter meetings will probably be via Zoom.
 - (vi) Churchwardens report – There is some work which requires doing (electrical and toilets). Stewart Barnet standing down after approximately 9 years. The Chair advised it is good for the role to be circulated and Stewart will be mentoring Norman regarding the legal aspects of the role that need sorting prior to the Archdeacon's Visitation. Stewart advised it has been very enjoyable being Church warden.

6. Elections & appointments

(i) Election of PCC members (8 vacancies: 4x3 years & 4x1 year)

Two applications received

<u>Candidates name</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Second</u>
Emma Chadwick	Pauline Jones	Hazel Froggatt
Hazel Delves	Emma Chadwick	Pauline Jones

No election has been required as Chair has deemed them elected and advised can always coopt to fill the remaining vacancies as the year progresses.

(ii) Election of Deanery Synod members (3 vacancies for a three year term)

It is part of the Church of England's legislature that lay persons should be present on the Deanery Synod. The number of lay persons is dependent on the number of a Church's electoral roll.

<u>Candidates name</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Second</u>
Hicks	Nicholas Holmes	Helen Jean Plant

Helen Hicks elected for a new term of office.

(iii) Appointment of independent examiner

<u>Candidates name</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Second</u>
Roger Morley	Hazel Froggatt	Emma Chadwick

7. Clergy report. Fr Shaun gave the following report.

Yesterday was one of the Major Festival days in the church's calendar – the Annunciation; especially poignant for us here in a church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. Mary is invited, through the message of the angel Gabriel, to be part of God's plan of salvation, by giving birth to Jesus. And, of course, Mary says yes. Whether she really knew what she was committing herself to is doubtful ... which mother or father can?

And standing here yesterday two other people said yes to each other, as I conducted the marriage of a couple, Jamie & Chloe, who were childhood sweethearts and have now reached the age of 30 and are still very much in love. Even though they have traversed many things over the years that their love has flourished, saying yes in marriage to another person, and the vows that are made, is something else that brings with it a lot of unknowns too.

And in three months' time Fr Gary, our curate, will stand before the Bishop in the Cathedral and make vows to be faithful as a priest, as he continues to grow into the vocation he believes he has in his heart from God. This too will bring with it a lot of unknowns.

And, of course, we could go on with many other examples of those things we commit to in our lives, wholeheartedly and in good faith, even though we cannot know the full extent of what, exactly, it is we are committing ourselves to. Things in life in general, and things in our life of faith.

Some are much firmer commitments and promises than others. One can always easily step aside from being a helper at a playgroup, but less easily step aside from being a mother or a husband or a priest.

And even though, when we make such commitments and vows in our lives, we cannot know what may come our way, there is one thing we can be sure of: the unfailing love of God. Giving birth to the Saviour and being his mother, exchanging marriage vows, declaring one's ordination promises, becoming a school governor, or a member of the Church Council, or helping out with a foodbank, or befriending a lonely person, or knocking on the door of an elderly neighbour whose curtains haven't been opened for a couple of days... so many things come with a host of unknowns. But standing with

us in those unknowns is Christ, offering strength and insight, direction, forgiveness, clarity and hope. We don't have to accept the things he offers us in love, but when and if we do, we find new possibilities and new things about ourselves.

Last year I asked two questions as part of my report to the APCM. These were:

How do we do things for Christ?

How is God calling us to be not only citizens of his kingdom but also agents of his love and saving power?

These are still very live and pertinent questions as we move on in our life together here in this place and the wider parish. The bedrock of the answer, though, is that, whilst we might not know the future and what that calls us to be and do, we DO know that God is with us. And this is important. For if we truly trust and believe God to be about salvation, about revealing love and justice and hope and new life, then we can face the unknowns with confidence.

We can only really do things for Christ when we do things WITH Christ; when we recognise that he is God-with-us, Emmanuel. If we try and be the Church in our own strength, and rely only upon our own vision or understanding then we will fail.

And we can only be agents of God's love and saving power when we immerse ourselves in prayer and worship first; when we recognise that we are, as it says in the New Testament earthenware pots, clay jars, which contain God's glory. St Paul writes in his second letter to the Corinthians:

4 Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ... 5 For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus's sake. 6 For it is the God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. 7 But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.

St Mary's, like so many other churches in the diocese of Manchester, and across the country, is a quite different place to what it was three years ago before Covid. It seems that very few church communities have settled back into the same pattern of worship, social engagement and mission that it had previously. In the past few days I've been fortunate to hear, and be part of, many conversations with clergy of many different backgrounds at diocesan Synod yesterday, at a training day on Thursday for those with new curates, and a meeting of Mission Community leaders with the Area Dean and Archdeacon on Wednesday. A common theme is about what is God calling us to in these changed situations in our churches? How do we move forwards and embrace God's will in similar, but different, parish situations?

Firstly, we need to recognise that God is standing with us. He doesn't call us to go it alone; he comes with us.

Secondly, we need to be unafraid to embrace wholeheartedly the 'yes' to God – and to each other – that enables us to set out in trust and faith.

Thirdly, we need to be willing to live a little more sacrificially. To give a little more attention, a little more time, a little more money, a little more commitment, to the things of God, and to God himself.

If our faith is to be meaningful to us then we need to nourish it and encourage it to continue to grow. God stands at the door of our hearts and knocks – he doesn't barge in and take over, but he waits for us to open the door of our heart and invite him in. But opening our hearts to him, welcoming him into our lives, brings with it the responsibility that saying YES always does: the responsibility to embrace what we say yes to, like becoming a mother or a husband or a priest or a school governor or a foodbank helper... but the yes comes with the support of the Holy Spirit – the gift Christ has left to his Church to help us be his people; to help us do things for God, and to be agents of his love and saving power.

We need to be ready to offer our help and our time, rather than thinking others will do things; we need to be ready to offer our help and our time rather than wait to be asked.

For we are one family in Christ; limbs and organs of one body.

Despite the many acknowledgements in all the conversations that I've had with other clergy this week, one thing remains constant – the church will only survive, grow and thrive when we recognise that everyone has a part to play in its life and worship, in its mission and ministry.

Today – every day – God knocks on the door of our heart and has an offer of love to make to us, and an invitation to say yes to him, an invitation to be those clay jars that reveal his extraordinary power. No-one else can say yes for us. No-one else can open the door to admit this holy, loving visitor, but us.

Let us each carefully consider God's call to our hearts, and also support one another in that journey of discovery too.

8. Any other business

The Chair advised when Stewart legally hands over to Norman, something will be said then, but in the meantime he wanted to thank Stewart for all he has done as Church warden and all he will continue to do as he moves forward in his ALM role and pastoral care.

9. Closing prayers

The APCM followed by a short PCC meeting to elect officers (Vice Chair, Hon Secretary & Hon Treasurer)

Vice Chair – will be done at the first PCC meeting following the APCM

Secretary: Pauline Jones proposed by Hazel Froggatt Seconded by Helen Hicks

Treasurer: Hazel Froggatt Proposed by Emma Chadwick Seconded by Lindsay Broxap

2023 in pictures



The choir before Fr Gary's First Eucharist as a priest



Remembrance Sunday display



The altar of repose on Maundy Thursday



The posada visits choir practice for a handover



Mothering Sunday daffodils awaiting distribution



Christmas, looking westwards

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

OF THE PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

for the Year ended

31 December 2023

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

31 DECEMBER 2023

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PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

Statement of Council's Responsibilities

31 December 2023

The Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 requires the Council to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Parochial Church Council for that period. In preparing those Financial Statements, the Council are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- and prepare the Financial Statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to do so.

The Council are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the Parochial Church Council and to enable them to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Parochial Church Council and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

On Behalf of the Trust



Trustee



Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL
CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S CHURCH, PRESTWICH**

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 5 and 6, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirements of the Regulations and s.145(1) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report of those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under s.145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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 Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations 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:



Mr R Morley, 127 Turton Rd, Tottington, Bury

Date:

26th February 2024

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ending 31 December 2023

	note:	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Incoming resources							
Voluntary income	2 (a)	40,126	—	-311	—	39,815	33,235
Activities for generating funds	2 (b)	4,167	—	—	—	4,167	4,212
Investment income	2 (c)	10,764	—	156	—	10,920	10,166
Church Activities	2 (d)	12,155	—	—	—	12,155	10,012
Other incoming resources	2 (e)	1,514	—	—	—	1,514	—
Total incoming resources		68,726	—	-155	—	68,571	57,625
Resources used							
Fund raising costs		2,142	—	—	—	2,142	2,100
Church Activities	3	61,703	—	51	—	61,753	50,060
Governance costs		26	—	—	—	26	—
Other resources used	4	60,425	—	—	—	60,425	4,525
Total resources used		124,297	—	51	—	124,347	56,685
Net incoming / outgoing resources before transfer		-55,571	—	-206	—	-55,777	940
Transfers							
Gross transfers between funds - in		50,461	—	—	—	50,461	92,261
Gross transfers between funds - out		—	—	-50,461	—	-50,461	-92,261
Net incoming / outgoing before other gains / losses		-5,110	—	-50,667	—	-55,777	940
Other recognised gains / losses							
Gains / losses on investment assets		-618	—	87	—	-531	2,937
Net movement in funds		-5,728	—	-50,580	—	-56,308	3,876
Total funds brought forward		15,814	3,085	312,823	755	332,476	328,600
Total funds carried forward		10,086	3,085	262,243	755	276,169	332,476

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

Balance Sheet As at 31 December 2023

	note:	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Fixed assets							
Tangible assets	5	—	—	210,000	—	210,000	260,000
Investments	6	-1,526	3,085	37,809	755	40,124	40,655
		-1,526	3,085	247,809	755	250,124	300,655
Current assets							
Debtors		252	—	—	—	252	—
Cash at bank and in hand		23,016	—	14,176	—	37,192	36,332
		23,268	—	14,176	—	37,444	36,332
Liabilities							
Amounts falling due in one year	7	11,656	—	-257	—	11,398	4,510
		11,656	—	-257	—	11,398	4,510
Net current assets less current liabilities		11,612	—	14,433	—	26,045	31,822
Total assets less current liabilities		10,086	3,085	262,243	755	276,169	332,476
Total net assets less liabilities		10,086	3,085	262,243	755	276,169	332,476
Represented by							
Unrestricted		10,086	—	—	—	10,086	15,814
Designated		—	3,085	—	—	3,085	3,085
Restricted		—	—	262,243	—	262,243	312,821
Endowments		—	—	—	755	755	755
Funds of the church		10,086	3,085	262,243	755	276,169	332,476

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 14th March 2024
and signed by its behalf by

Sharon Coulson
(PCC Chairman)

[Signature]
(PCC Member)

The notes on pages 7 to 10 form part of these accounts

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Note 1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2005.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of such members.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resources to which they are related is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything required prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired. There are no assets presently undergoing depreciation of their value.

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

Notes to the financial statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

Note 2. Incoming Resources

Note 2 (a)	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Standing Orders	16,291	—	—	—	16,291	15,100
Envelopes	3,542	—	—	—	3,542	5,094
Collections at Services	6,664	—	-361	—	6,303	2,850
One off Gift Aid Envelopes	1,098	—	—	—	1,098	2,291
Miscellaneous income	5,995	—	50	—	6,045	1,570
Gift Aid Received	2,535	—	—	—	2,535	6,330
Legacies	4,000	—	—	—	4,000	—
Total	40,126	—	-311	—	39,815	33,235

2. (b) Receipts from generated funds - Activities for generating funds

Fund Raising	4,167	—	—	—	4,167	4,212
Total	4,167	—	—	—	4,167	4,212

2 (c) Receipts from generated funds - Investment income

Interest received	577	—	—	—	577	47
Interest Received - graves	154	—	156	—	311	626
25 Rectory Lane-rent	10,033	—	—	—	10,033	9,492
Total	10,764	—	156	—	10,920	10,166

2 (d) Receipts from generated funds - Church Activities

Fees	12,155	—	—	—	12,155	10,012
Total	12,155	—	—	—	12,155	10,012

2 (e) Other receipts

Insurance Claims & VAT Reclaims	1,514	—	—	—	1,514	—
Total	1,514	—	—	—	1,514	—

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

Notes to the financial statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Note 3. Resources Used						
Church activities						
Parish Share	21,744	—	—	—	21,744	15,330
Upkeep of Services	3,040	—	51	—	3,091	3,041
Flowers	19	—	—	—	19	—
Insurance	7,837	—	—	—	7,837	7,250
Organist costs	6,910	—	—	—	6,910	6,515
Churchyard Maintenance	242	—	—	—	242	-1,702
Clergy Expenses	2,616	—	—	—	2,500	2,292
Rectory	3,950	—	—	—	3,950	3,982
Utility Costs	13,882	—	—	—	13,882	10,058
Church Maintenance	895	—	—	—	895	2,794
Adult Ministry	59	—	—	—	59	61
25 Rectory Lane	486	—	—	—	486	124
Social event	24	—	—	—	24	—
Total	61,703	—	51	—	61,753	50,060
Governance costs						
B300 - Audit & Examination Fees	26	—	—	—	26	—
Total	26	—	—	—	26	—
Note 4. Other resources used						
B90A - Community Centre	50,987	—	—	—	50,987	959
B90C - Major Church Repairs	5,112	—	—	—	5,112	—
B90D - Fees paid to diocese	4,326	—	—	—	4,326	3,566
Total	60,425	—	—	—	60,425	4,525

Notes to the financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2023 (continued)

Note 5. Tangible Assets

1. 25 Rectory Lane, with a market value at 31st December £210,000

2. Church Lane Community Centre, previously with a market value at £50,000 has been removed from the accounts as the Church no longer has ownership of this asset.

In the opinion of the PCC no provision for depreciation is deemed necessary for the long leasehold property, which comprises the house located at 25 Rectory Lane, Prestwich, Manchester. The gross book value is based on the value estimated by the PCC as at 31st December 2023 for insurance purposes and is considered to be a fair estimate of the current value of the property.

Note 6. Investments

Several investments remain at 2022 valuations until the bank mandates have been updated, and access permitted. This includes Mather memorial Unit Trust, Mather memorial, Beaufort Scholarship and Eggerton

Note 7. Liabilities falling due within one year

	TOTAL 2023 £
Parish share top up 2023	8,391
Christmas Fayre contribution to school	1,766
Fees payable to Dioces for December	414
Christmas fayre expenses	248
Clergy expenses for December	181
Outstanding church maintenance invoices	153
Organist fee - Carol Service	120
Confirmation Bibles invoice	73
25 Rectory Lane Council Tax	52
Total	£11,398

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

OF THE PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

for the Year ended

31 December 2023

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

31 DECEMBER 2023

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PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

Statement of Council's Responsibilities

31 December 2023

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On Behalf of the Trust



Trustee



Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL
CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S CHURCH, PRESTWICH**

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 5 and 6, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirements of the Regulations and s.145(1) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report of those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under s.145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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 Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations 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:



Mr R Morley, 127 Turton Rd, Tottington, Bury

Date:

26th February 2024

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

Statement of Financial Activities For the year ending 31 December 2023

	note:	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<u>Incoming resources</u>							
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Other incoming resources	2 (e)	1,514	—	—	—	1,514	—
Total incoming resources		68,726	—	-155	—	68,571	57,625
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Church Activities	3	61,703	—	51	—	61,753	50,060
Governance costs		26	—	—	—	26	—
Other resources used	4	60,425	—	—	—	60,425	4,525
Total resources used		124,297	—	51	—	124,347	56,685
Net incoming / outgoing resources before transfer							
		-55,571	—	-206	—	-55,777	940
Transfers							
Gross transfers between funds - in		50,461	—	—	—	50,461	92,261
Gross transfers between funds - out		—	—	-50,461	—	-50,461	-92,261
Net incoming / outgoing before other gains / losses		-5,110	—	-50,667	—	-55,777	940
Other recognised gains / losses							
Gains / losses on investment assets		-618	—	87	—	-531	2,937
Net movement in funds		-5,728	—	-50,580	—	-56,308	3,876
Total funds brought forward		15,814	3,085	312,823	755	332,476	328,600
Total funds carried forward		10,086	3,085	262,243	755	276,169	332,476

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

Balance Sheet As at 31 December 2023

	note:	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Fixed assets							
Tangible assets	5	—	—	210,000	—	210,000	260,000
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Debtors		252	—	—	—	252	—
Cash at bank and in hand		23,016	—	14,176	—	37,192	36,332
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Total net assets less liabilities		10,086	3,085	262,243	755	276,169	332,476
Represented by							
Unrestricted		10,086	—	—	—	10,086	15,814
Designated		—	3,085	—	—	3,085	3,085
Restricted		—	—	262,243	—	262,243	312,821
Endowments		—	—	—	755	755	755
Funds of the church		10,086	3,085	262,243	755	276,169	332,476

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 14th March 2024
and signed by its behalf by

Shamir Coulson
(PCC Chairman)

[Signature]
(PCC Member)

The notes on pages 7 to 10 form part of these accounts

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

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Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

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Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

Notes to the financial statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

Note 2. Incoming Resources

Note 2 (a)	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Standing Orders	16,291	—	—	—	16,291	15,100
Envelopes	3,542	—	—	—	3,542	5,094
Collections at Services	6,664	—	-361	—	6,303	2,850
One off Gift Aid Envelopes	1,098	—	—	—	1,098	2,291
Miscellaneous income	5,995	—	50	—	6,045	1,570
Gift Aid Received	2,535	—	—	—	2,535	6,330
Legacies	4,000	—	—	—	4,000	—
Total	40,126	—	-311	—	39,815	33,235

2. (b) Receipts from generated funds - Activities for generating funds

Fund Raising	4,167	—	—	—	4,167	4,212
Total	4,167	—	—	—	4,167	4,212

2 (c) Receipts from generated funds - Investment income

Interest received	577	—	—	—	577	47
Interest Received - graves	154	—	156	—	311	626
25 Rectory Lane-rent	10,033	—	—	—	10,033	9,492
Total	10,764	—	156	—	10,920	10,166

2 (d) Receipts from generated funds - Church Activities

Fees	12,155	—	—	—	12,155	10,012
Total	12,155	—	—	—	12,155	10,012

2 (e) Other receipts

Insurance Claims & VAT Reclaims	1,514	—	—	—	1,514	—
Total	1,514	—	—	—	1,514	—

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

Notes to the financial statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Note 3. Resources Used						
Church activities						
Parish Share	21,744	—	—	—	21,744	15,330
Upkeep of Services	3,040	—	51	—	3,091	3,041
Flowers	19	—	—	—	19	—
Insurance	7,837	—	—	—	7,837	7,250
Organist costs	6,910	—	—	—	6,910	6,515
Churchyard Maintenance	242	—	—	—	242	-1,702
Clergy Expenses	2,616	—	—	—	2,500	2,292
Rectory	3,950	—	—	—	3,950	3,982
Utility Costs	13,882	—	—	—	13,882	10,058
Church Maintenance	895	—	—	—	895	2,794
Adult Ministry	59	—	—	—	59	61
25 Rectory Lane	486	—	—	—	486	124
Social event	24	—	—	—	24	—
Total	61,703	—	51	—	61,753	50,060
Governance costs						
B300 - Audit & Examination Fees	26	—	—	—	26	—
Total	26	—	—	—	26	—
Note 4. Other resources used						
B90A - Community Centre	50,987	—	—	—	50,987	959
B90C - Major Church Repairs	5,112	—	—	—	5,112	—
B90D - Fees paid to diocese	4,326	—	—	—	4,326	3,566
Total	60,425	—	—	—	60,425	4,525

Notes to the financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2023 (continued)

Note 5. Tangible Assets

1. 25 Rectory Lane, with a market value at 31st December £210,000

2. Church Lane Community Centre, previously with a market value at £50,000 has been removed from the accounts as the Church no longer has ownership of this asset.

In the opinion of the PCC no provision for depreciation is deemed necessary for the long leasehold property, which comprises the house located at 25 Rectory Lane, Prestwich, Manchester. The gross book value is based on the value estimated by the PCC as at 31st December 2023 for insurance purposes and is considered to be a fair estimate of the current value of the property.

Note 6. Investments

Several investments remain at 2022 valuations until the bank mandates have been updated, and access permitted. This includes Mather memorial Unit Trust, Mather memorial, Beaufort Scholarship and Eggerton

Note 7. Liabilities falling due within one year

	TOTAL 2023 £
Parish share top up 2023	8,391
Christmas Fayre contribution to school	1,766
Fees payable to Dioces for December	414
Christmas fayre expenses	248
Clergy expenses for December	181
Outstanding church maintenance invoices	153
Organist fee - Carol Service	120
Confirmation Bibles invoice	73
25 Rectory Lane Council Tax	52
Total	£11,398

Accounts



Registered Charity No. 1175403



**Financial Statements
for the year ended
31 December 2022
and
Annual Report**

St Mary the Virgin Prestwich Parochial Church Council

Name & Address

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical parish of St Mary the Virgin,
Prestwich
Church Lane
Prestwich
Greater Manchester
M25 1AN

Legal Status

The PCC is registered with the Charity Commissioners of England and Wales under charity registration number 1175403

Bank Details & Accounts

Current Account:
St Mary's Prestwich PCC Club and Society current account.
01-07-20
49036955

Reserve account:
St Mary's Prestwich PCC Club and Society reserve account.
01-07-20
49036963

Nat West Bank
Prestwich Branch
463 Bury New Road
Prestwich
Manchester
M25 1AB

Independent Examiner

Mr Roger Morley
127 Turton Road, Tottington, Bury

Administrative information

St Mary's Church is situated in Prestwich, Greater Manchester, in the Metropolitan Borough of Bury. It is part of the Anglican Diocese of Manchester. The correspondence address is St Mary's Rectory, 67, Scholes Lane, Prestwich M25 0AW

Members of the Parochial Church Council March 2022 – March 2023

The Rev'd Shaun Conlon – ex-officio (Priest-in-Charge)
The Rev'd Adele McKie – ex-officio (Assistant Curate)
The Rev'd Carole Barnet – ex-officio (Associate Priest)
The Rev'd Gary Anderton – ex-officio (Assistant Curate)
Mr Stewart Barnet – ex-officio (Churchwarden)
Mrs Helen Hicks – ex-officio (Deanery Synod Representative)
Mrs Hazel Froggatt – *Honorary Treasurer*
Mrs Pauline Jones – *Honorary Secretary*
Mr William Max-McCarthy
Mr Anthony Smith*
Mrs Jill Hughson
Mrs Lindsay Broxap

* = Resigned as a member 15th November 2022

Objectives and activities of the PCC

St Mary's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Priest-in-Charge, The Rev'd Shaun Conlon in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of parochial Church Council members is set out in Church Representation Rules. The PCC looks after the general running of the church and oversees finance.

St Mary's PCC consists of the Priest-in-charge (Incumbent), all licensed clergy in the parish (currently 3), 2 Churchwardens, 3 Deanery Synod representatives, and 12 lay members (there are currently vacancies for 1 Churchwarden, 2 Deanery Synod Representative and 7 other lay members). Deanery Synod representatives (in addition to their general PCC responsibilities) attend meetings with clergy and laity of other churches in the Bury and Rossendale Deanery to discuss, support and further the mission of the Anglican churches within the deanery and the wider Diocese. All members, except those who are ex-officio, and any who are legally co-opted onto the committee, must be nominated and elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting before they can serve on the PCC. All PCC members are required to be on the church electoral roll, and must be actual communicant members. Each year, it is encouraged as widely as possible that all members consider standing for election.

There is also a statutory standing committee of the PCC, which consists of the Priest-in-Charge, Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and Treasurer (and one other PCC member when all elected positions are filled). The Standing Committee deals with emergency issues that arise between meetings and considers the agenda for upcoming PCC meetings. The PCC normally meets six times a year.

St Mary the Virgin Parish Church, Prestwich

St Mary the Virgin, Prestwich, is an historic Grade 1 listed Anglican Parish Church, currently part of the Diocese of Manchester. The earliest record of a priest serving Prestwich dates from around 1200 and the name Prestwich (derived from the Saxon words for 'priest's dwelling') suggests an even earlier church existed here. It seems likely that Christian worship has been offered on this site for more than 800 years. The parish is a mix of owner-occupied and rented residential accommodation, retail and office premises, schools and community buildings and open spaces. There is a sizeable Jewish population locally. A parish primary school (St Mary's voluntary aided CE school) has strong links with the church community and a very rooted Christian ethos. St Mary's Church has been, for a number of years, part of the Prestwich Mission Partnership, which includes the parishes of St Gabriel, Prestwich, St Margaret, Prestwich and St George, Simister: the partnership has sought to bring the life of these churches closer together. Towards the end of 2021 the Diocese of Manchester formalised the boundaries of new Mission Communities, which sees an end of Mission Partnerships and ushers in a new pattern for working together with neighbouring churches and their parishes: as well as those mentioned above we are now connected with the parishes of St Hilda, Prestwich and St Paul, Kersal Moor with St Andrew, Carr Clough. St Mary's church is registered with *Inclusive Church* and aims to align its Christian life and vision in ways which are welcoming of all people.

Objectives and achievements

The aims and objectives of St Mary's Church, Prestwich, and members of the Christian community there, include:

- Regular public worship
- Provision of accessible public sacred space for prayer and reflection
- The promotion and teaching of Christianity
- Engagement with the local community
- Provision of pastoral care and support within the parish and to members of the church
- Working with local organisations and schools, in particular St Mary's CE primary school
- Provision of a safe and welcoming churchyard, open for interments (in accordance with the Diocesan Chancellor's regulations) and visits by the general population
- Support of other charities at home and abroad

These aims and objectives were fulfilled in the following ways during 2022: Throughout the year, the church was open to the public for both the conduct of acts of worship and to provide a still, peaceful and beautiful place for reflection, prayer and exploration. Throughout the year the church was open for public worship every Sunday and Wednesday of the year, as well as on other days and occasions, including major Christian Festivals, Breathing Space monthly on a Wednesday evening, Holy hour and Eucharist monthly on a Saturday morning, an experiential teaching course (Connecting with God) monthly on a Friday evening.) A heritage open day was held in September which included special displays detailing elements of the church's history locally as well as leaflets being available about both the church building and its contents and the churchyard.

Over the course of the year a number of St Mary's CE Primary School visits and services happened in the church and churchyard, including a Year 6 Leavers' service in July, a visit by Y4 near Remembrance Sunday to explore war graves in the churchyard and make poppies (jointly helped by members of the church and school communities; the poppies were then displayed in church on Remembrance Sunday), a School Easter Eucharist and a Christmas Carol Service. Children from each of the eight classes (reception – Year 6) jointly led worship with the clergy on four Sundays during the year, with two classes attending each time.

A number of individuals visited the church by appointment, and others simply came in to look around or enjoy the silence and prayerful atmosphere *during times when the church was open*. A small group of pre-school children came to church in December to learn about Christingles and make their own, as did a group of cub scouts.

A number of occasional offices were held in St Mary's during the year, including weddings, baptisms and funerals, and a number of people were buried, or had their cremated remains interred, in the churchyard. A service of remembrance for the many hundreds of former Prestwich Hospital patients who are buried in the churchyard was held in October. In September some members of the church took part in the 'Seven Churches' Walk, which had been established a number of years previously as a joint annual activity of the five churches making up the Prestwich Mission Partnership and is now being continued by all seven churches comprising the Prestwich & Kersal Mission Community.

St Mary's is signed up to the 'Inclusive Church' network and endeavours to offer a welcoming and safe space to all who want to visit the church or worship there. Although the risks of contracting Covid-19 became less than they were as the year moved on, support continues to be given to those attending church to be able to worship as safely as possible, with sanitiser and masks available for any who would prefer to use them. Toilet facilities for the disabled continue to be provided, as well as large print service and hymn books and audio amplification equipment and a Loop system.

Pastoral care by both clergy and lay visitors was offered in various ways during the year. Housebound members of the Christian community of the church continued to be offered communion at home or in hospital and general pastoral visits and phone calls were made to many members of the community. Other pastoral visits to those who were ill, dying and bereaved, and to those preparing for baptism and marriage were conducted

The churchyard provided people with green space to enjoy and a number of tours were arranged by members of the Churchyard Action Group. Outdoor toilets were also opened for a local council-originated ecological group for their day's meeting in the adjacent Clough. A number of people contacted the church during the year exploring their family history and making enquiries about burial records etc.

The PCC and wider congregation continued to support local community activities in a number of ways: on-going collections of foodstuffs and other items were donated to the local 'Porch Boxes' charity and also a new food bank opened in a local Methodist church; the PCC paid the annual insurance on the neighbouring Church Lane Community Centre which provides meeting space for local groups,

organisations and individuals, conversations were made with the producers of TV's 'Coronation Street' series about the possibility of filming at St Mary's again and a few conversations were held with local choirs and individuals about using the space of the church for concerts, which will happen in 2023. Collecting Boxes for The Children's Society are held by a number of members of the congregation and local people to support the work of this charity across the country.

A number of social events happened throughout the year, some of them with religious elements. A family afternoon entitled 'Rooted in God, growing in faith' explored Christianity and environment issues, and a Posada (travelling Crib) connected households during the weeks of Advent. A Christmas Fayre, organised and run jointly with the Church School, helped to strengthen the bonds between the church and school communities, and an evening of carol singing in one area of the parish brought new connections within the community and also between the community and the church.

A number of Christian Nurture courses were organised during the year, including a daytime and evening Lent Course, and a monthly 'Connecting with God' evening. Confirmation preparation for both children and adults in the early summer and again in the late autumn

St Mary's hosted two prospective ordinands on placement over the Spring and Summer months, as they explored further their sense of God calling them to be priests.

Links with the Church school remained strong and continued to develop over the year. The Chair of governors and four other governors are regular members of St Mary's Church, including two of the clergy. Weekly worship was provided by members of the clergy team in school, and a number of clergy visits were made to classrooms and to staff for a range of reasons (wellbeing support, prayer, encouraging the school Ethos Group, teaching and general pastoral care.) Children from the school also visited the church to learn about prayer and different ways of praying.

The Church choir met weekly for practises during the year and welcomed a returning member after an absence of three years. The full choir was able again to assist in leading the Sunday worship fully again and also held an Advent Carol Service and a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in December in church for the local community. The level of ability is high and there is an open-door policy for new members, with training and support offered for those who need it.

Current Priorities and Future Developments

The move back to a three-yearly appointment of new PCC members in 2022 has begun to bring more stability and continuity to the proceedings of the Church Council and, although the church council now carries a number of vacancies, there has been a deepening of common purpose and vision during the year. The three priorities agreed by members of the council at the November meeting should help guide us into better planning for activities and events to build up the community of the church and strengthen people's faith and commitment. A putative plan has already begun to be drawn up with a timetable of events (both one-off and ongoing) for 2023 and beyond.

Despite the hope to restart a number of activities for children and young people, this has not been possible to realise this year as there was still a lack of volunteers. New conversations are now proving more hopeful that we might be able to provide some worship/activities for both pre-school age children and primary age children in 2023. It is anticipated that some of the events during the year will help create a new cohesions and commitment to furnish volunteers to take on the roles needed to underpin this work.

The creation of the new Prestwich & Kersal Mission Community by the diocese has begun to bring new opportunities for working in partnership with our Anglican neighbours and a plan for a number of joint activities, including study courses, attending the Prestwich Clough Day and organising an eco-Christmas Tree festival, has been agreed.

Numerically, attendances have begun to increase again as the year moved on and a large number of new families and individuals have become part of the congregation. Many of these are already becoming involved in a variety of ways with the activities and mission of the church and are bringing new skills, insights and energy to the life of the church community. There is a recognised need to have someone who will co-ordinate communications, so that the church and what it is doing is more visible in a regular way both on social media and in other ways – this is something that is planned be addressed in the coming months.

A resolution of the difficult legal situation regarding the legal ownership and usage of the CLCC (Church Lane Community Centre) will help in planning for the mission of the church in the wider community and also its financial situation.

Continued exploration of how the creation of a plan for environmental issues being part of the church's life and mission will hopefully lead to stronger links with other churches and with local community groups and organisations.

The Statutory Quinquennial inspection of the Church building was undertaken in 2022 and the results of this are still awaited. When the report is received it will form the basis of helping the PCC plan for the next five years in terms of any work which will need to be carried out on the church building.

One of the most pressing priorities facing the whole church community continues to be the poor streams of financial support. For many years a range of issues have not been addressed as fully, practically or forcefully as they might and this has resulted in historic reserves being depleted, little enthusiasm being generated for sustained regular fund-raising, low numbers of those giving by standing order and too much reliance on irregular streams of finance (facility fees from ITV when filming, lots of occasional offices (fees and collections), donations, legacies etc). The gulf between income and expenditure is rising and needs to be addressed holistically. Whilst this is not an uncommon situation in other churches, it needs to be much more at the forefront of the planning St Mary's PCC does for the future. In 2022 a number of strategies were discussed and these will begin to be deployed during 2023.

Risk and its management

Potential adversities may be categorised according to their combined risk/impact potential. Those with a high risk but low impact are set at one end of the scale,

with low risk/high impact at the other end. Both parameters are important and both risk and impact should be minimised.

Financial risks are a reduction in income and/or an increase in costs. Both have the potential to have major impact upon the capacity of St Mary's Church to continue all her present activities and functions and limit any future development.

As the Treasurer's report (below) makes clear, St Mary's is currently in a very difficult situation financially, with no substantial reserves and a long way from being able to meet parish share payments. As noted in the previous section (above) this is as a result of a combination of long and medium term factors and decisions and the impact of Covid closure/restrictions. This will be addressed across the congregation in the coming year, with efforts being made to produce information which will apprise the membership of the church (and the wider community) of the fragility of St Mary's financial position and the need for action across a number of areas to improve this situation and raise more funds and build up sustainable sources of income.

Rapidly rising energy costs, and the general high rises in the cost of living, will not make such movement forward easy, as both church bills and people's bills at home are increasing. Efforts have been made to ensure that St Mary's energy tariff is as reasonable as it can be and other costs have been cut back as far as possible. Grant funding for projects will become more actively sought beyond just large fabric repair costs. Increased scrutiny of budgets is a priority of the church treasurer.

Physical risks, to people, are judged to be low, but would have a high impact if they materialised. St Mary's carries an appropriate level of insurance. Other risks are also recognised: the protection of children and vulnerable adults is taken seriously and St Mary's complies with the relevant Church of England and Diocesan policies. The PCC is working towards a lower risk/impact potential, not just financial, but across all areas.

Audited Accounts January - December 2022

These are printed separately.

Treasurer's Report FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2022.

Income

The church's operation relies solely on income generated from donations and fundraising, and the Christmas fayre at the end of 2022 is a promising sign that the years of COVID restrictions and reduced income are slowly being put behind us. The Christmas Fayre in December raised £4,200 and was shared between St Mary's and the school, and I hope this partnership continues to grow throughout 2023.

Total income for 2022 was **£57,624**; this is slightly more than in 2021, largely thanks to the Christmas Fayre fundraising event. Our primary source of income continues to be donations at services, £22,485; compared with 2021 this was a reduction of over £4,000 (-15%). £10,012 came from weddings and funeral fees, an increase of over 13%.

Expenditure

The total spent in 2022 was **£56,685**.

Expenditure was kept to a bare minimum, and only essential repairs were made to the clock, alarm and lightning conductor in the year. Unfortunately, repairs to the church clock have not been permanent, and a further, more in-depth repair will be required at an approximate cost of £4,000.

The Parish share paid was £15,330, representing 31% of the total assessment of £49,419. All the gift aid raised from donations (£6,330) was added to contributions from the congregation and is included in the £15,330. The congregation's generosity enables the diocese to sustain an effective ministry funded mainly through the parish share by not fulfilling our commitment to pay the parish share in full means that our church relies on other congregations to finance the mission and ministry across our diocese.

Reserves

At the end of 2022, the reserves and the current account total **£36,331**. (an increase of £3,382 from 2021): Of this amount, £14,842 are funds with specific spending purposes and therefore restricted from general day-to-day use. Leaving an available balance of **£21,489**.

Conclusion

The numbers in our congregation and their declared household income indicate that we should raise much more revenue than we receive. In 2022, not only was it necessary to use our reserves to keep the church open and running, but we relied on the generosity of other churches to fund the ministry that we all benefit from here at St Mary's through their payment of the parish share.

Should income levels remain the same in 2023, we shall have to use what little reserves we have and make more cuts in essential expenditures, including church and churchyard maintenance, heating, and organists at services.

May I appeal to those who enjoy our church to consider how you can support the church financially. Please consider committing to regular giving through a standing order, direct debit, internet banking, or other means.

And please would you complete a Gift Aid form if you are a UK taxpayer, which enables the church to claim back an extra 25% from HMRC on all donations which you give. Forms are available at the back of the church, and it only takes a couple of minutes to complete.

Our bank details are as follows:

Nat West Bank

Account number: 49036955

Sort Code: 01-07-20

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God can bless you abundantly so that in all things at

all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written:

They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever."

(2 Corinthians 9:6-9, NIV)

To give generously is to be caught up in the overflow of God's grace, for when we give, we reflect the nature of God himself.

Hazel Froggatt -Treasurer

Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council

Purpose

The purpose of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) is to set the strategic direction and vision for the life of the parish. Its main focus is on:

- Mission & outreach
- Finance & Governance
- Discipleship & Pastoral care
- Worship & Spirituality

PCC membership is now following a new pattern of three-year terms of service, following the amendment by motion carried at the previous year's APCM. The number of places filled at the APCM in 2022 fell far short of the allotted places: four 3-year term spaces, and two 2-year term spaces were filled, although one of the 2-year spaces members resigned in November 2022, leaving the PCC short of 7 elected members, as well as there being three ex-officio spaces (one Churchwarden space and two deanery synod spaces). This has resulted in a PCC which is less effective than it could be and has raised a couple of issues about being legally able to hold meetings when some members have been unable to attend, partly because of the need to be quorate and partly because laity must outnumber clergy, and with 4 clergy and only 7 laity as members, this has been a real problem. These issues will be noted in public announcements in church services ahead of the 2023 APCM

The PCC have continued to meet bi-monthly, with standing committee meetings happening in the months inbetween.

Over the year, the inclusion of The Prestwich & Kersal Mission Community was agreed as a standing item on the agenda, so that we can regularly be updated on, and reminded about, the forging of new links across the churches of the Mission Community. Discussions were held about having official war grave signage near the entrance to the churchyard, the PCC supporting immediate family members who make applications to the diocese for faculties to reserve the right to burial in a particular plot in the churchyard, and a review of the Church Organist's contract and remuneration. New missional/fundraising activities were discussed and affirmed, including a summer all-age faith and Fun event, community carol singing, a Christmas fayre in conjunction with the church school and the posada (travelling crib) during Advent.

As part of our move back towards having a mission plan for the short and mid-term future three key strands were proposed and agreed by the meeting as the primary points of focus for 2023/24:

- o Community Building – in light of the changed/changing demographic of congregation/church attendances
- o Growing and Deepening Faith with both adults and children
- o Giving/Fund Raising, linked to the Gospel and to people's spiritual growth

Following his ordination as deacon in July, Fr Gary Anderton was welcomed as an ex-officio member of the council. A number of discussions over the year centred on our poor financial situation and how we might approach this to improve giving, increase a sense of community and belonging amongst those who are newer members of the congregation, and raise awareness of the realities of how the church is - and isn't - funded. It was agreed that we would bid for a new electronic giving terminal (a number of which are being made available via the diocese).

Pauline Jones - PCC Secretary

Electoral Roll Report

The Church Electoral Roll has undergone the annual revision, which has resulted in a number of additions (14). There have been a number of deletions, two because of death, and 12 because of non-residency and non-attendance for a period of more than six months. It is important that the electoral roll represents the actual current congregation and doesn't carry names of people who have moved away, or are worshipping elsewhere, from one full revision to another (a six-year period). If this happens then there is often a huge drop in numbers on the roll following the next full revision (which will be in 2025)

The number of those currently on the roll is 129.

Mrs Helen Hicks remains the Electoral Roll Officer for the parish.

Fr Shaun Conlon

Deanery Synod report 2022 Meetings

During the year there were 3 meeting of the Bury & Rossendale Deanery Synod on Tuesday 22nd February, via Zoom, Wednesday 1st June at Bury Parish Church and Wednesday 12th October at St John & St Mark, Sunny Avenue, Bury.

Proceedings of the Church of England's General Synod were reported to members over the year, and finance reports were given at each meeting. Eco Church & Environment was agreed to be a standing item on each agenda at the June meeting so that members could be both up-to-date with diocesan and

national church news and information as well as to allow us to consider our response as a deanery and as individual parishes.

There was some discussion around the shaping of the new **Deanery Mission Action Plan** (MAP) and updates during the year, especially at the October meeting. The Area Dean, Rev'd Dr Rachel Mann, shared the draft and later the finished document which she has drawn up together with the Lay Chair of the Deanery using various information and data from parishes and the diocese. Each of the five Mission Communities in the deanery will connect with its various areas for growth and development around the areas of Growing, Nurturing and Serving. It is intended that this becomes a live working document and not simply a paper exercise.

In February Mike Starkey, the Head of Church Growth in Manchester Diocese, gave a presentation around **strategies for growing churches**, with a particular focus on using the *Stepping Stones for Growth* programme (this can be found on the Diocesan website). He emphasised that, for churches where congregations might be suspicious about the idea of 'evangelism', this programme offered ideas for outreach and growth which most congregations who've used it found non-threatening and easy to connect with.

At the June meeting there was a presentation about eco-church matters from the Rev'd Clive Hamilton, one of the two Diocesan Environment Officers. Clive spoke about the Eco-church project, run by AROCHA and the energy footprint tool which the Church of England is developing and for which all parishes are asked to participate in supplying information about our energy consumption. This needs to be completed by the end of July 2022. Members were reminded that both Diocesan and General Synod had agreed to seek to become net zero carbon by 2030. Clive also outlined a number of other helpful links and resources, including a wealth of Church of England webinars.

Fr Shaun Conlon

Child Protection/Safeguarding

St Mary's takes the protection of children and vulnerable adults seriously and complies with the Church of England's guidelines in these areas. At a Parochial Church Council meeting on 22nd May 2018 the following policy statement was agreed and continues to be in place

Policy Statement on Children, Young People and the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Prestwich

As members of this church, we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all, especially children and young people.

It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children and young people and to report any abuse discovered or suspected.

We recognise that our work with children and young people is the responsibility of the whole church.

Our church is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who work with children and young people and to providing supervision.

Our church is committed to following the policy and procedures published by the Diocese.

The parish will adopt good practice guidelines.

Each worker with children and young people must undertake diocesan Safeguarding training, know the guidelines and undertake to follow them. Each shall be given a copy of the Parish's agreed procedures and good practice guidelines.

As part of our commitment to children and young people, the PCC has appointed SUSIE MAPLEDORAM to be the Safeguarding Officer and EMMA CHADWICK to be the Deputy Safeguarding Officer.

Children and young people are an important part of our Church today

They have much to give as well as to receive

We will listen to them

As we nurture them in worship, learning, and in community life, we will respect the wishes and feelings of children and young people.

The Parochial Church Council has also adopted a [Safe Church Policy](#).

Claire Almond and Sandra Phelan are our named safeguarding officers at St Mary's, and as they take on their new roles they will begin to update all relevant people with appropriate checks and training in the coming year.

Fr Shaun Conlon

Adult Ministry Report

This report outlines the key aspects of adult ministry for the calendar year 2022.

Since church began to re-open fully following the pandemic, we have seen, certainly at St Mary's, a change in the profile of our congregation with a number of new people starting to attend worship on a regular basis. We have therefore continued to develop opportunities for both new and existing disciples to deepen their faith and spirituality. These included the continuation of our monthly (third Wednesday of each month) Breathing Space group - to enable people to take time out from the busyness of life to spend with God through reflective music, a short bible passage, followed by space for silent prayer.

Our adult Lent Group was offered both on Wednesday Mornings in Church after the mid-week Eucharist, and on Tuesday Evenings. The theme each week was the same providing the opportunity for people to attend either session, or even a mixture of some mornings and some evenings, as worked best for them. The Group looked at various 'events' in Jesus' life helping us to think about our own journey of faith in the context of God's faithful love and companionship with us. These included Jesus, the Wilderness and me: Isolation and Temptation; Jesus, Palm Sunday and me: Excitement and Expectation; Jesus, Maundy Thursday and me: Service and Sharing; Jesus, Good Friday and me: Suffering and Faithfulness; and Jesus, Easter and me: Triumph and New.

We also introduced a new monthly group (first Friday evening of each month) Connecting with God involving interactive discussion and providing practical guidance to prayer for those seeking to deepen their personal relationship with God. During 2022, we explored together a number of different ways to connect

with God through prayer, including meditation, praying with the imagination, lectio divina, The Jesus Prayer, the Eucharistic prayer, praying with hands, praying with icons, and praying with music.

In June, we held an all-age event in and around the Church and church grounds entitled Growing Together, Rooted in God with the aim of bringing community together around the theme of Creation including making bees, nature videos, painting on canvas, planting flowers and a new tree at the church gate entrance, tree quizzes, making biscuits, and enjoying packed lunches and mid-afternoon refreshments together.

We were delighted that three adults were prepared for Confirmation during the year with 'classes' taking place both before and after the Confirmation Service in November. It is wonderful to walk together as we grow in faith and we have been amazed by the depth of the questions raised along the way.

During 2023 we will continue to offer similar opportunities for us to grow together in our faith. All are welcome to join us. In particular, our Connecting with God group will be exploring a variety of tried and tested ways of reading the Bible, enabling us to experiment along the way and, hopefully, to be nourished by the results. We have also set up a Mission Committee with the aim of discerning where God is leading us, drawing more people to Him by following the example of Christ, and re-building community as the Body of Christ. A timetable has been put together for the rest of the year and events will be advertised shortly.

My sincere prayer is that as many people as possible will join us and, as we move forward together, we will grow in love for God and for one another. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

The Rev'd Carole Barnet

Choir Report

During the past twelve months the Choir has gone about its work with ever increasing efficiency, and has continued to help in the leadership of Public Worship in this place.

Services have been enhanced with an ever increasing repertoire of Anthems sung by the choir, and these are beginning to include some of the very finest examples of English Church Music, some of which is usually the exclusive preserve of Cathedral and Collegiate Choirs.

We are indeed fortunate in our Choir – a group of people who meet regularly to rehearse on Thursday evenings for 44 or so weeks of the year, as well as turning out on Sundays, and for weekday services as required – all of this is done voluntarily – though the standard of singing attained is quite professional. (Remember, if you are interested in joining us, the prerequisites

are simply a reasonable singing voice, a keen “ear”, a willingness to be *moulded*, and most importantly of all, a sense of humour! If you can commit to Thursdays 7.30pm – 9pm, and Sunday morning Service, then please speak to the Organist).

Sadly, the death of Helen Mashedar last Autumn, brought to an end a connection of over 60 years as a member of the Choir. Helen first joined in 1960 as a young teenager, encouraged along by then Organist, Mr. F.J. Pye. However, it is surprising how a happening of a sad nature is so often followed by a happier one, and following our Service of Nine Lessons and Carols in December, we were delighted that Justine Thomas has rejoined the Choir after an absence of two years or so.

Numbers, therefore remain the same, and produce the following statistics: 7 Sopranos; 4 Altos; 1.5 Tenors; 3 Basses (The Rector and Rev'd Carole are extra to these figures).

On Advent Sunday, we held an Advent Carol Service – the first time this has been done since 1992. The Choir worked hard in the Autumn to produce the Music for this Service alongside the Music for the Annual Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, held on the 4th Sunday in Advent – once again, my good friend Simon Mercer, ARCO, accompanied us at the Organ. Many favourable comments were made by grateful parishioners following both of these Seasonal Services.

As I have said in the past, the enthusiasm generated by these Festival Services should not detract from the all-important round of weekly rehearsals and Sung Services; and it is quite clear, that the work of the Choir in this respect, is very much appreciated by our Congregation and visitors.

I will end this report by expressing my sincere thanks to all the members of the Choir for their continued loyalty and hard work. Also, to Rev'd Carole, for her attendance and singing in rehearsals, and Services as and when she is available; to Rev'd Adele and Rev'd Gary for their obvious appreciation of the music and the Choir. Above all however, sincere thanks are due to the Rector who, despite his ever-increasing workload, rarely misses a rehearsal, and is extremely appreciative of the work done by the Choir and myself.

Gary Hulme, ARCO, LTCL - Organist & Choirmaster

Churchyard Action Group

A brief outline of the activities of our group during the last year – which has been a very busy one with many ups and downs.

The wall in the bottom part of the church yard had fallen down – a fence was erected around the area and all the stones from the wall were removed for safekeeping into the hearse house.

Storm Arwen brought down several large trees (and damaged headstones) – nearly all the tree trunks have been removed (together with others that came down later in the year).

We have spread many tonnes of gravel chippings on the paths. Also, planted several new trees. Three new wooden benches have been erected. Work on the Demetriadi grave needed a block and tackle to lift two of the fallen curb stones. We paid contractors for repairs to the fallen headstones damaged by vandals. As part of the June 'Growing together, rooted in God' event we helped to plant a beech tree. The following week we held a bird box making day which was advertised to the public and a number of children and adults came along.

The local Council made a short video of our members erecting two of the bird boxes.

This Winter has seen more than a usual amount of fallen leaves which needed removing.

Regular work has continued tidying graves/collecting litter/maintaining the gardens around the Church and at the moment we are removing the old roof material from the toilet block/hearse house following repairs. (It saves money if we do it!!!)

Many thanks to all our volunteers – join us on a Tuesday morning if you can or join the team who give guided tours of the churchyard during the Summer.

Bill Cottam

Fabric Report January to December 2022

I can report that the "Terrier's" contents, which were photographed and catalogued in 2015 is up to date. Choir Music copies for use at the Nine Lessons and Carols service have been added.

Sanctuary Items (Candles, Wafers etc.) have been replenished.

The "Logbook" is up to date updated with the inclusion of historic alterations from Faculty records. All modern changes have been recorded.

Silver & Brasses – As mentioned in previous reports several items are showing signs of wear and tear and will require attention and repair.

Altarware – Again, as in previous reports, the Altar frontals and fabric for the high altar, are in a poor condition and in need of repair.

General Building –

1. The Quinquennial report which gives a snapshot of the condition of the building, has taken place by Buttress Architects in Manchester and we await the report.
2. All scheduled annual servicing and maintenance of essential equipment continues to be done. All statutory inspections, (fire extinguishers, alarm, gas, electricity), are up to date and the Gas Boilers and Organ are regularly serviced.
3. The 5-year Electrical Inspection was carried out in 2022.
4. A fault in the electrical circuit for the Fan Heaters in the Porch and Tower Room requires attention.
5. Minor Organ console repairs were undertaken by York Organ Builders during the year.

6. The Bell Striking equipment installed in 1997 was repaired this year (2022) but functioned only for a short time. It is estimated that the cost of upgrading the system to a modern-day equivalent would be £4000 and a service charge of £800 (2021). The system is currently out of action.

7. Movement of the South Aisle flooring, which has been present for several years requires investigation of the supporting brickwork. The stone flooring in the Nave requires some minor repair. The carpeted steps in the nave are awaiting the fitting of edging strips to reduce the potential trip hazard.

8. The restoration of the Lady Chapel, begun in 2019/20, is completed.

9. The condition of the outbuildings gives me great concern. With no money in the pot for restoration of these buildings and other repairs. I would recommend the PCC discuss their future use and the repair and restoration of the fabric. Plans are in hand for making the leaking roofs water-tight.

10. The condition of the choir vestry floor and the cause of damp under the vestry stairs will need investigation.

Churchyard -

1. The section of the retaining wall of one of the older sections of the churchyard, adjacent to the footpath on the southside which gave way last year, is still not reinstated. The rebuild cost estimated to be £16,000 (2022). This work is on hold till finances permit.

Stewart Barnet - Church Warden

APCM AGENDA

Sunday 26th March 2023 at 12.00noon in St Mary's Church

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes from the previous meeting (13th March 2022)
4. Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Opening Prayers
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the previous annual parochial church meeting (13th March 2022)
4. Matters Arising Those items which are not covered by the reports
5. The reports (*please note: most of these can be found in this booklet*)
 - (i) The electoral roll report 2023
 - (ii) Annual report - what the PCC has done since the last APCM
 - (iii) Financial report, including 2022 audited accounts
 - (iv) Annual fabric report
 - (v) Deanery Synod report
 - (vi) Churchwarden's Report

6. The elections and appointments

- (i) Election of PCC members (8 vacancies: 4 x 3 years & 4 X 1 year)
- (ii) Election of Deanery Synod Members (3 vacancies for three-year term)
- (iii) Appointment of independent examiner

7. Chairman's Report *(to be given verbally at the meeting)*

8. Any other business

9. Closing prayers

Followed by a short PCC meeting to elect officers (PCC Vice Chair, Hon Secretary & Hon Treasurer)

Minutes of last year's meetings

ST MARY'S PRESTWICH - ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS **Minutes of the Meeting held on Sunday 13th March at 12.00noon in St Mary's Church**

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer - Fr. Shaun Conlon (Chair) welcomed all those present (21) and opened the meeting in prayer.
2. Apologies for absence - Hazel Froggatt and Max McCarthy
3. Minutes from the previous meeting accepted with no abstentions. Proposer - Hazel Froggatt, Secunder - Anne Parkinson.
4. Election of Churchwardens - Stewart Barnet elected for the coming year. Proposer - Hazel Froggatt, Secunder - Anne Parkinson. The aim is to try to obtain another Churchwarden as there should be two.

ST MARY'S PRESTWICH - ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING **Minutes of the Meeting held on Sunday 13th March at 12.10pm in St Mary's Church**

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Opening Prayers - led by Fr Shaun Conlon
2. Apologies for absence - Hazel Froggatt, Gary Hulme and Max McCarthy
3. Minutes of the previous annual parochial church meeting (25th April 2021) accepted with no abstentions. Proposer - Tony Smith, Secunder - Sandra Merrill
4. There were no matters arising from the items which are not covered by the reports
5. The reports (most contained in booklet)
 - (i) The Electoral roll report 2022 (There has been increase of names, with one removal due to death).

- (ii) Annual report - what the PCC has done since the last APCM
 - (iii) Financial report, including 2021 audited accounts has been approved by PCC and auditors. Report has been prepared by Treasurer. Church's finances are dire for a number of reasons covered in report. Accounts and reports accepted with no abstentions. Proposer - Irene Burwin, Secunder - Emma Chadwick
 - (iv) Annual fabric report
 - (v) Deanery Synod report
 - (vi) Churchwarden's report - Question was raised regarding an update on the bells. Inspection due towards the end of March, however there are no funds available. A parishioner has stated she is prepared to contribute to the cost of repair.
 - (vii) Choir report - congregation not joining in with responses and this is because service booklets need to be updated._
6. The elections and appointments
- (i) Election of PCC members

<u>Candidates name</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Secunder</u>
Max McCarthy	Lindsay Broxap	Alice Terry
Hazel Froggatt	Anne Parkinson	Anne Pickavance
Pauline Jones	Gary Hulme	Stewart Barnet
Lindsay Broxap	Irene Burwin	Sandra Merrill
Tony Smith	Sandra Merrill	Emma Chadwick

At last APCM it was agreed the appointment of PCC members would revert back to regular pattern of serving for up to three years (can resign before this time if necessary) and this comes into effect from this year. PCC made up of clergy, Deanery Synod member, Churchwarden and lay persons. PCC currently carrying vacancies for lay person and it was explained need to be quorate to pass any legal decisions. At next PCC there will be a drawing of straws to determine who serves, one, two or three year period.

- (ii) Appointment of independent examiner - Roger Morley: proposer - Fr Shaun Conlon, secunder - Stewart Barnet; carried unanimously

7. Chairman's report (made by Fr Shaun Conlon)

When I first arrived at St Mary's in the late autumn of 2020 there were a number of occurrences in the first few weeks of me being here that kept pointing me to the East Window above the high altar. Therein is depicted, alongside the crucifixion of Our Lord, illustrations from one of his parables in the Gospels - specifically, one found only in Matthew's Gospel, chapter 25: 31-45, sometimes called *the Judgement of the Nations*.

At the time I felt that God was drawing my attention to the window as it had some significance in what my ministry here might be about.

Let me read the first few verses of the passage to you:

31 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him,

and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." 37 Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" 40 And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." *(41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." 44 Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" 45 Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.)*

I still ponder, quite regularly, what it is in this passage, displayed so prominently for all to see who come into this church building, that God is calling to my – to our – attention.

Is it something to do with building up our work for God's kingdom in the area of pastoral care – visiting the sick and those imprisoned, whether in physical, mental or spiritual ways?

Or maybe it's about responding to people's physical needs – feeding those who are hungry and providing clothes, through things like porch boxes or responding to the Ukrainian crisis and all who are fleeing that country.

Perhaps it's about welcome – about how we as a church welcome those who come here, whatever draws them or leads them through the doors, or even only as far as the churchyard.

I feel there is certainly scope for our prayerful engagement with all these areas of potential (and actual) ministry here.

But increasingly of late I have been wondering if it's not specifically about any of these things at the moment that God wants us to think and pray about. Maybe it's about that sentence in verse 40:

And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

How deeply do we consider that the things we do are done for Jesus Christ? Indeed, that the things we say and do are said and done to those who carry in them the image of Jesus Christ?

How different, I wonder, would our Christian community here be if we REALLY considered this deeply and regularly?

Do we give donations of food to porch boxes because we genuinely think about the people we are helping, and their situation, or do we just unthinkingly add a few extra tins in our trollies from time to time? If we genuinely think of their need, then surely that would lead us to further action, in prayer and in practice – writing to MPs about landlords who leave their tenants in squalid conditions, finding out if there are ways skills we have might help people who perhaps need cookery lessons or budgeting skills to assist in their needs.

Do we think about the people on our prayer lists? Asking how they are if we know them and haven't seen them for a long time? Offering support or companionship through phone calls or visits?

If people truly bear the image of Jesus, then ignoring them is the same as ignoring Jesus.

And what about our relationships with one another? When we are angry or annoyed with each other do we humbly look at how we move on into a better place where that is dealt with lovingly rather than leaving it to fester and become bitter? And when we know someone is ill or bereaved, do we approach them in loving support – even if it's hard because we don't know what to say, or how to say it – or do we avoid any engagement?

If people truly bear the image of Jesus, then ignoring them is the same as ignoring Jesus.

And do we come to worship because we want to be in the presence of Christ himself, and in the presence of Christ found in his body, the Church, with all its members, and be with Christ in the sacrament of the Eucharist, even when services seem a bit pedestrian and people are a bit frustrating? Or do we come because we have nothing better to do on a particular Sunday? Is our worship habit or is it something which provides a bedrock and backbone to our very life?

Do we come because we want to find and hear Christ speaking in Word, and in sacrament, and in the messy lives of each other, or because we're focused solely on ourselves?

These are questions for all of us to ask of ourselves and to carefully consider both the questions and answers as we ponder prayerfully.

(iii)

[Certainly it would be easy for a visitor, looking for evidence of a vibrant community at St Mary's, to be left in uncertainty.

The parish registers wouldn't provide much evidence of people seeming committed: Other than clergy and choir, numbers of people attending at many major festivals have been very low – 7 two weeks ago on Ash Wednesday, 6 last year on Good Friday.

(iv)

Out of 16 children confirmed last summer only 3 or 4 have been in St Mary's to receive communion since then and then only sporadically.]

At the most recent meeting of the PCC I said that it's going to be one of our main pieces of work this year, as a community of Christians in this place, to wait upon God and consider what his vision for us is at this stage of our life in this place. This is not just a piece of work for the clergy to do, or just the PCC, but for us all.

Yes, we are moving into a changed world after Covid-19 and we might not be able to do all the things we did immediately before Covid gripped the world. But it is a world in which people still bear the image of Christ, and a church where we still bear the image of Christ.

How do we do things for Christ?

How is God calling us to be not only citizens of his kingdom but also agents of his love and saving power?

The diocese of Manchester is going through a huge time of change structurally, but is still focused on making new disciples, nurturing existing disciples and caring for the world and all its peoples as God's treasure. It's wonderful to hear children in the church school speaking of the idea that they are God's treasure, an idea that is part of the school vision but which they connect with in a real way. *We are all* God's treasure.

Part of what we must rediscover in our life here is how we treasure each other and how we treasure the gifts and skills God gives us by using them in his service generously and joyously. This will be both by building up our spiritual, practical and financial life as a church; and through doing this in love, together, we will also be led into rediscovering what it is God is calling us to missionally in this parish and in the wider mission community of Prestwich and Kersal.

The key to this happening well, and indeed, happening at all, is us being rooted in Christ's love, forgiveness and joy, and seeing all that we do as being in and for Christ. You don't have to be a Christian to support the foodbank or visit the sick or write to your MP about slum landlords – atheists and agnostics can do these things just as much as Christians can. So we need to be clear about what drives us, about what is distinctive about why and how we do these things.

We need to see Christ and love Christ, and we need others to know we are doing these things because we see Christ and love Christ.

8. There was no other business.

9. A thank you from the Chair for people attending and what people do individually and/or collectively. The meeting then closed in prayer.

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

OF THE PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

for the Year ended

31 December 2022

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

31 DECEMBER 2022

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PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

Statement of Council's Responsibilities

31 December 2022

The Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 requires the Council to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Parochial Church Council for that period. In preparing those Financial Statements, the Council are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- and prepare the Financial Statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to do so.

The Council are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the Parochial Church Council and to enable them to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Parochial Church Council and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

On Behalf of the Trust



Trustee



Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S CHURCH, PRESTWICH

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 5 and 6, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirements of the Regulations and s.145(1) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report of those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under s.145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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 Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations 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:

Mr R Morley, 127 Turton Rd, Tottington, Bury

Date: Sunday 12 March 2023

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ending 31 December 2022

		Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
INCOMING RESOURCES							
	Note:						
Voluntary income	2a	33,235	—	—	—	33,235	38,281
Investment income	2b	9,539	—	626	—	10,165	8,719
Xmas fayre		4,211	—	—	—	4,211	—
Church Fees		10,012	—	—	—	10,012	8,811
Insurance claims		—	—	—	—	—	3,466
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		56,998	—	626	—	57,624	59,277
RESOURCES EXPENDED							
	Note:						
Xmas Fayre donation to school		2,100	—	—	—	2,100	—
Church Activities	3a	50,060	—	—	—	50,060	60,873
Other resources used	3b	4,525	—	—	—	4,525	7,706
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		56,685	—	—	—	56,685	68,580
NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES		313	—	626	—	939	-9,303
Transfers between funds							
Gross transfers between funds - in		1,035	91,225	—	—	92,260	15,278
Gross transfers between funds - out		-91,225	—	-1,035	—	-92,260	-15,278
Net incoming / outgoing before other gains / losses		-89,876	91,225	-408	—	939	-9,303
Other recognised gains / losses							
Gains / losses on investment assets	1	—	—	2,935	—	2,936	1,326
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS:		-89,875	91,225	2,526	—	3,876	-7,976
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		105,689	-88,141	310,296	755	328,600	336,576
Total funds carried forward		15,814	3,084	312,822	755	332,476	328,600

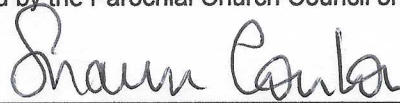
PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

Balance Sheet

As at: 31 December 2022

		General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
Fixed assets							
	Note:						
Tangible	4	—	—	260,000	—	260,000	260,000
Investments	5	-907	3,084	37,722	755	40,654	37,718
Fixed assets		-907	3,084	297,722	755	300,654	297,718
Current assets							
Cash at bank and in hand		21,489	—	14,842	—	36,331	32,949
Current assets		21,489	—	14,842	—	36,331	32,949
Liabilities							
	Note:						
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	6	4,767	—	-257	—	4,510	2,066
Net current assets less current liabilities		16,722	—	15,099	—	31,821	30,882
Total assets less current liabilities		15,815	3,084	312,821	755	332,475	328,600
Represented by							
Unrestricted General fund		15,815	—	—	—	15,815	105,689
Designated Funds		—	3,084	—	—	3,084	-88,141
Restricted funds		—	—	312,821	—	312,821	310,295
Endowment Funds		—	—	—	755	755	755
Funds of the church		15,815	3,084	312,821	755	332,475	328,598

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 12th March 2023 and signed by its behalf by



(PCC Chairman)



(PCC Member)

The notes on pages 7 to 10 form part of these accounts

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2005.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of such members.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resources to which they are related is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything required prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired. There are no assets presently undergoing depreciation of their value.

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2022 (contd)

2. INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
2a. Voluntary income						
Donations	22,485	—	—	—	22,485	26,626
Collections	2,850	—	—	—	2,850	3,904
Miscellaneous	1,570	—	—	—	1,570	2,923
Gift Aid Received	6,330	—	—	—	6,330	4,828
	33,235	—	—	—	33,235	38,281
2b. Investment Income						
Interest received	47	—	626	—	673	610
Rent - 25 Rectory	9,492	—	—	—	9,492	8,109
	9,539	—	626	—	10,165	8,719

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2022 (contd)

3. RESOURCES USED

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
3a. Church Activities						
Parish Share	15,330	—	—	—	15,330	20,000
Utility Costs	10,058	—	—	—	10,058	6,565
Church Insurance	7,249	—	—	—	7,249	6,824
Clergy & Vicarage	6,587	—	—	—	6,587	6,715
Fees for services	6,515	—	—	—	6,515	6,781
Upkeep of Services	3,041	—	—	—	3,041	2,330
Church Maintenance	2,794	—	—	—	2,794	1,644
25 Rectory Lane	124	—	—	—	124	6,509
Fun, Faith, Food	63	—	—	—	63	—
Churchyard Maintenance	-1,701	—	—	—	-1,701	3,505
	50,060	—	—	—	50,060	60,873
3b. Other Resources used						
Community Centre	958	—	—	—	958	930
Major Repairs	—	—	—	—	—	3,579
Fees paid to diocese	3,567	—	—	—	3,567	3,197
	4,525	—	—	—	4,525	7,706

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2022 (contd)

4. FIXED ASSETS

Fixed assets comprise of properties:

1. 25 Rectory Lane, with a market value at 31st December £210,000

2. Church Lane Community Centre, with a market value at 31st December £50,000

In the opinion of the PCC no provision is deemed necessary for the long leasehold property, which comprises the house located at 25 Rectory Lane, Prestwich, Manchester and the freehold property at Church Lane Community Centre

5. INVESTMENTS

Within the total investments, those held by manchester Diocese of Finance remain at the 2021 value of £27,723 as at the time of accounts preparation updated valuations were unavailable.

6. LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	TOTAL 2022 £
Christmas Fayre contribution to school	2,100
Gas bill	1,098
Electricity bill	636
Fees payable to Diocese	343
Curate expenses	315
Photocopier rental	18
Total	£4,510

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

OF THE PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

for the Year ended

31 December 2022

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

31 DECEMBER 2022

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PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

Statement of Council's Responsibilities

31 December 2022

The Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 requires the Council to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Parochial Church Council for that period. In preparing those Financial Statements, the Council are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- and prepare the Financial Statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to do so.

The Council are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the Parochial Church Council and to enable them to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Parochial Church Council and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

On Behalf of the Trust



Trustee



Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S CHURCH, PRESTWICH

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 5 and 6, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirements of the Regulations and s.145(1) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report of those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under s.145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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 Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations 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:

Mr R Morley, 127 Turton Rd, Tottington, Bury

Date: Sunday 12 March 2023

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ending 31 December 2022

		Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
INCOMING RESOURCES							
	Note:						
Voluntary income	2a	33,235	—	—	—	33,235	38,281
Investment income	2b	9,539	—	626	—	10,165	8,719
Xmas fayre		4,211	—	—	—	4,211	—
Church Fees		10,012	—	—	—	10,012	8,811
Insurance claims		—	—	—	—	—	3,466
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		56,998	—	626	—	57,624	59,277
RESOURCES EXPENDED							
	Note:						
Xmas Fayre donation to school		2,100	—	—	—	2,100	—
Church Activities	3a	50,060	—	—	—	50,060	60,873
Other resources used	3b	4,525	—	—	—	4,525	7,706
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		56,685	—	—	—	56,685	68,580
NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES		313	—	626	—	939	-9,303
Transfers between funds							
Gross transfers between funds - in		1,035	91,225	—	—	92,260	15,278
Gross transfers between funds - out		-91,225	—	-1,035	—	-92,260	-15,278
Net incoming / outgoing before other gains / losses		-89,876	91,225	-408	—	939	-9,303
Other recognised gains / losses							
Gains / losses on investment assets	1	—	—	2,935	—	2,936	1,326
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS:		-89,875	91,225	2,526	—	3,876	-7,976
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		105,689	-88,141	310,296	755	328,600	336,576
Total funds carried forward		15,814	3,084	312,822	755	332,476	328,600

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

Balance Sheet

As at: 31 December 2022

		General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
Fixed assets							
	Note:						
Tangible	4	—	—	260,000	—	260,000	260,000
Investments	5	-907	3,084	37,722	755	40,654	37,718
Fixed assets		-907	3,084	297,722	755	300,654	297,718
Current assets							
Cash at bank and in hand		21,489	—	14,842	—	36,331	32,949
Current assets		21,489	—	14,842	—	36,331	32,949
Liabilities							
	Note:						
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	6	4,767	—	-257	—	4,510	2,066
Net current assets less current liabilities		16,722	—	15,099	—	31,821	30,882
Total assets less current liabilities		15,815	3,084	312,821	755	332,475	328,600
Represented by							
Unrestricted General fund		15,815	—	—	—	15,815	105,689
Designated Funds		—	3,084	—	—	3,084	-88,141
Restricted funds		—	—	312,821	—	312,821	310,295
Endowment Funds		—	—	—	755	755	755
Funds of the church		15,815	3,084	312,821	755	332,475	328,598

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 12th March 2023 and signed by its behalf by

Sharon Conlon

(PCC Chairman)

[Signature]

(PCC Member)

The notes on pages 7 to 10 form part of these accounts

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2005.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of such members.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resources to which they are related is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything required prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired. There are no assets presently undergoing depreciation of their value.

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2022 (contd)

2. INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
2a. Voluntary income						
Donations	22,485	—	—	—	22,485	26,626
Collections	2,850	—	—	—	2,850	3,904
Miscellaneous	1,570	—	—	—	1,570	2,923
Gift Aid Received	6,330	—	—	—	6,330	4,828
	33,235	—	—	—	33,235	38,281
2b. Investment Income						
Interest received	47	—	626	—	673	610
Rent - 25 Rectory	9,492	—	—	—	9,492	8,109
	9,539	—	626	—	10,165	8,719

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2022 (contd)

3. RESOURCES USED

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
3a. Church Activities						
Parish Share	15,330	—	—	—	15,330	20,000
Utility Costs	10,058	—	—	—	10,058	6,565
Church Insurance	7,249	—	—	—	7,249	6,824
Clergy & Vicarage	6,587	—	—	—	6,587	6,715
Fees for services	6,515	—	—	—	6,515	6,781
Upkeep of Services	3,041	—	—	—	3,041	2,330
Church Maintenance	2,794	—	—	—	2,794	1,644
25 Rectory Lane	124	—	—	—	124	6,509
Fun, Faith, Food	63	—	—	—	63	—
Churchyard Maintenance	-1,701	—	—	—	-1,701	3,505
	50,060	—	—	—	50,060	60,873
3b. Other Resources used						
Community Centre	958	—	—	—	958	930
Major Repairs	—	—	—	—	—	3,579
Fees paid to diocese	3,567	—	—	—	3,567	3,197
	4,525	—	—	—	4,525	7,706

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2022 (contd)

4. FIXED ASSETS

Fixed assets comprise of properties:

1. 25 Rectory Lane, with a market value at 31st December £210,000

2. Church Lane Community Centre, with a market value at 31st December £50,000

In the opinion of the PCC no provision is deemed necessary for the long leasehold property, which comprises the house located at 25 Rectory Lane, Prestwich, Manchester and the freehold property at Church Lane Community Centre

5. INVESTMENTS

Within the total investments, those held by manchester Diocese of Finance remain at the 2021 value of £27,723 as at the time of accounts preparation updated valuations were unavailable.

6. LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	TOTAL 2022 £
Christmas Fayre contribution to school	2,100
Gas bill	1,098
Electricity bill	636
Fees payable to Diocese	343
Curate expenses	315
Photocopier rental	18
Total	£4,510

Accounts

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

OF THE PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

for the Year ended

31 December 2021

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

31 DECEMBER 2021

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PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

Statement of Council's Responsibilities

31 December 2021

The Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 requires the Council to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Parochial Church Council for that period. In preparing those Financial Statements, the Council are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- and prepare the Financial Statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to do so.

The Council are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the Parochial Church Council and to enable them to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Parochial Church Council and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

On Behalf of the Trust



Trustee

Trustee



9th March 2022

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S CHURCH, PRESTWICH

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 5 and 6, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirements of the Regulations and s.145(1) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report of those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under s.145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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 Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations 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:



Mr R Morley, 127 Turton Rd, Tottington, Bury

Date:

Sunday 27th February 2022

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ending 31 December 2021

		Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL 2021 £	TOTAL 2020 £
INCOMING RESOURCES							
	Note:						
Voluntary income	2a	38,281	—	—	—	38,281	84,665
Investment income	2b	8,263	—	456	—	8,719	9,640
Church Fees		8,811	—	—	—	8,811	3,534
Insurance claims & VAT reclaims		3,466	—	—	—	3,466	40,719
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		58,821	—	456	—	59,277	138,558
RESOURCES EXPENDED							
	Note:						
Cost of generating funds		—	—	—	—	—	22
Church Activities	3a	60,873	—	—	—	60,873	63,664
Charitable activities		—	—	—	—	—	60
Governance costs		—	—	—	—	—	—
Other resources used	3b	7,706	—	—	—	7,706	106,752
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		68,579	—	—	—	68,579	170,498
NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES		-9,758	—	456	—	-9,302	-31,940
Transfers between funds							
Gross transfers between funds - in		14,278	—	1,000	—	15,278	1,566
Gross transfers between funds - out		-1,022	—	-14,256	—	-15,278	-1,566
Net incoming / outgoing before other gains / losses		3,498	—	-12,800	—	-9,302	-31,940
Other recognised gains / losses							
Gains / losses on investment assets		—	—	1,326	—	1,326	1,497
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS:		3,498	—	-11,474	—	-7,976	-30,443
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		14,050	—	321,770	755	336,575	367,020
Total funds carried forward		17,548	—	310,296	755	328,599	336,575

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

Balance Sheet

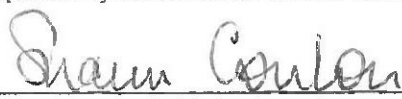
As at: 31 December 2021

		General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2021 £	TOTAL 2020 £
Fixed assets							
	Note:						
Tangible	4	—	—	260,000	—	260,000	260,000
Investments	5	-909	3,084	34,787	755	37,718	36,391
Fixed assets		-909	3,084	294,787	755	297,718	296,391
Current assets							
Debtors		—	—	—	—	—	—
Cash at bank and in hand		108,922	-91,225	15,251	—	32,949	45,135
Current assets		108,922	-91,225	15,251	—	32,949	45,135
Liabilities							
	Note:						
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	6	2,324	—	-257	—	2,066	4,950
Net current assets less current liabilities		106,598	-91,225	15,508	—	30,882	40,185
Total assets less current liabilities		105,689	-88,141	310,295	755	328,598	336,576
Represented by							
Unrestricted General fund		105,689	—	—	—	105,689	102,213
Designated Funds		—	-88,141	—	—	-88,141	-88,163
Restricted funds		—	—	310,295	—	310,295	321,770
Endowment Funds		—	—	—	755	755	755
Funds of the church		105,689	-88,141	310,295	755	328,598	336,576

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on

9th March 2022

and signed by its behalf by


(PCC Chairman)


(PCC Member)

The notes on pages 7 to 10 form part of these accounts

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2005.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of such members.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resources to which they are related is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything required prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired. There are no assets presently undergoing depreciation of their value.

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2021 (contd)

2. INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
2a. Voluntary income						
Donations	26,626	—	—	—	26,626	22,567
Collections at Services	3,904	—	—	—	3,904	2,486
Miscellaneous	2,923	—	—	—	2,923	59,916
Gift Aid Received	4,828	—	—	—	4,828	-304
	38,281	—	—	—	38,281	84,665
2b. Investment income						
Interest received	154	—	456	—	610	640
Rent - 25 Rectory	8,109	—	—	—	8,109	9,000
	8,263	—	456	—	8,719	9,640

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2021 (contd)

4. FIXED ASSETS

Fixed assets comprise of properties:

1. 25 Rectory Lane, with a market value at 31st December £210,000

2. Church Lane Community Centre, with a market value at 31st December £50,000

In the opinion of the PCC no provision is deemed necessary for the long leasehold property, which comprises the house located at 25 Rectory Lane, Prestwich, Manchester and the freehold property at Church Lane Community Centre

5. INVESTMENTS

Within the total investments, those held by manchester Diocese of Finance remain at the 2019 value of £25,129, as at the time of accounts preparation updated valuations were unavailable.

6. LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	TOTAL 2021
	£
Water Plus' utility bill - December	21
Churchyard tree felling	1,920
Choir soloist fee - December	125
Total	£2,066

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2021 (contd)

3. RESOURCES USED

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
3a. Church Activities						
Parish Share	20,000	—	—	—	20,000	31,825
Upkeep of Services	2,330	—	—	—	2,330	4,737
Church Insurance	6,824	—	—	—	6,824	6,906
Church Maintenance	1,644	—	—	—	1,644	1,283
Service Fees	6,781	—	—	—	6,781	6,458
Utility Costs	6,565	—	—	—	6,565	3,369
Clergy & Vicarage	6,715	—	—	—	6,715	3,720
Youth Group	—	—	—	—	—	240
Churchyard Maintenance	3,505	—	—	—	3,505	4,314
25 Rectory Lane	6,509	—	—	—	6,509	808
	60,873	—	—	—	60,873	63,664
3b. Other Resources used						
Community Centre	930	—	—	—	930	941
Major Repairs	3,579	—	—	—	3,579	103,508
Fees paid to diocese	3,197	—	—	—	3,197	2,303
	7,706	—	—	—	7,706	106,754

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2021 (contd)

4. FIXED ASSETS

Fixed assets comprise of properties:

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6. LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	TOTAL 2021 £
<i>Water Plus'</i> utility bill - December	21
Churchyard tree felling	1,920
Choir soloist fee - December	125
Total	£2,066

Accounts

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

OF THE PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

for the Year ended

31 December 2020

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

31 DECEMBER 2020

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PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

Statement of Council's Responsibilities

31 December 2020

The Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 requires the Council to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Parochial Church Council for that period. In preparing those Financial Statements, the Council are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- and prepare the Financial Statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to do so.

The Council are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the Parochial Church Council and to enable them to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Parochial Church Council and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

On Behalf of the Trust

Trustee

Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S CHURCH, PRESTWICH

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 5 and 6, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirements of the Regulations and s.145(1) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report of those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under s.145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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 Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations 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:



Mr R Morley, 127 Turton Rd, Tottington, Bury

Date:

Sunday 11th April 2021

It has clearly been a difficult year with fewer services due to covid restrictions and fewer people allowed or willing to attend these services, which has had a huge impact on voluntary giving.

Let's all hope for a more normal 2021

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ending 31 December 2020

	Note:	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL 2020 £	TOTAL 2019 £
INCOMING RESOURCES							
Voluntary income	2a	29,694	55,000	-29	—	84,665	69,175
Activities for generating funds	2b	—	—	—	—	0	1,873
Investment income	2c	9,199	—	441	—	9,640	13,487
Church Fees		3,534	—	—	—	3,534	7,568
Other incoming resources	2d	30,719	10,000	—	—	40,719	56,818
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		73,146	65,000	412	—	138,558	148,921
RESOURCES EXPENDED							
Cost of generating funds	3a	22	—	—	—	22	1,087
Church Activities	3b	63,424	—	240	—	63,664	101,096
Charitable activities		60	—	—	—	60	294
Governance costs		0	—	—	—	0	0
Other resources used	3c	6,738	100,014	—	—	106,752	108,252
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		70,244	100,014	240	—	170,498	210,729
NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES		2,900	-35,014	172	—	-31,940	-61,808
Transfers between funds							
Gross transfers between funds - in		566	—	1,000	—	1,566	4,800
Gross transfers between funds - out		-1,000	-466	-100	—	-1,566	-4,800
Net incoming / outgoing before other gains / losses		2,466	-35,480	1,072	—	-31,940	-61,808
Other recognised gains / losses							
Gains / losses on investment assets		—	—	1,497	—	1,497	3,959
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS:		2,466	-35,480	2,569	—	-30,443	-57,849
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		99,746	-52,681	319,200	755	367,020	424,866
Total funds carried forward		102,212	-88,161	321,769	755	336,577	367,020

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

Balance Sheet

As at: 31 December 2020

	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2020 £	TOTAL 2019 £
Fixed assets						
	Note: 4					
Tangible	—	—	260,000	—	260,000	260,000
Investments	-909	3,084	33,460	755	36,391	84,920
Fixed assets	-909	3,084	293,460	755	296,391	344,920
Current assets						
Debtors	—	—	—	—	—	6,038
Cash at bank and in hand	108,330	-91,247	28,052	—	45,135	19,047
Current assets	108,330	-91,247	28,052	—	45,135	25,085
Liabilities						
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	5,207	0	-257	—	4,950	2,988
Net current assets less current liabilities	103,123	-91,247	28,309	—	40,185	22,097
Total assets less current liabilities	102,214	-88,163	321,770	755	336,576	367,020
Represented by						
Unrestricted General fund	102,213	—	—	—	102,213	99,754
Designated Funds	—	-88,163	—	—	-88,163	-52,681
Restricted funds	—	—	321,770	—	321,770	319,200
Endowment Funds	—	—	—	755	755	755
Funds of the church	102,213	-88,163	321,770	755	336,576	367,020

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on _____ and signed by its behalf by

(PCC Chairman)

(PCC Member)

The notes on pages 7 to 10 form part of these accounts

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2005.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of such members.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resources to which they are related is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything required prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired. There are no assets presently undergoing depreciation of their value.

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2020 (contd)

2. INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2020	TOTAL 2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£
2a. Voluntary income						
Gift Aid Donations	22,567	—	—	—	22,567	33,517
Collections at Services	2,515	—	-29	—	2,486	7,274
Other giving	4,916	55,000	—	—	59,916	15,781
Gift Aid Received	-304	—	—	—	-304	12,602
	29,694	55,000	-29	—	84,665	69,175
2b. Activities for generating funds						
Fund Raising	—	—	—	—	—	1,873
	—	—	—	—	—	1,873
2c. Income from investments						
Dividends & Interest	199	—	441	—	640	1,164
Rent - 25 Rectory	9,000	—	—	—	9,000	12,321
	9,199	—	441	—	9,640	13,485
2d. Other incoming resources						
Insurance Claims	30,719	—	—	—	30,719	6,818
National Heritage	—	10,000	—	—	10,000	50,000
	30,719	10,000	—	—	40,719	56,818

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2020 (contd)

3. RESOURCES USED

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2020	TOTAL 2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£
3a. Cost of generating funds						
Fund Raising Costs	—	—	—	—	—	416
Refreshments	22	—	—	—	22	669
	22	—	—	—	22	1,085
3b. Church Activities						
Parish Share	31,825	—	—	—	31,825	46,000
Upkeep of Services	4,737	—	—	—	4,737	10,757
Church Insurance	6,906	—	—	—	6,906	6,273
Church Maintenance	1,283	—	—	—	1,283	2,555
Organist fees	6,458	—	—	—	6,458	6,660
Utility Costs	3,369	—	—	—	3,369	13,502
Clergy & Vicarage	3,720	—	—	—	3,720	5,290
Youth Group	—	—	240	—	240	364
Churchyard	4,314	—	—	—	4,314	3,740
25 Rectory Lane	808	—	—	—	808	2,534
Ministry	—	—	—	—	—	1,091
Parish Share 2018	—	—	—	—	—	2,330
	63,424	—	240	—	63,664	101,096
3c. Other resources used						
Community Centre	941	—	—	—	941	952
Major Repairs	3,494	100,014	—	—	103,508	105,600
Fees paid to diocese	2,303	—	—	—	2,303	1,699
	6,738	100,014	—	—	106,754	108,251

PARISH OF ST MARY, PRESTWICH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2020 (contd)

4. FIXED ASSETS

Fixed assets comprise of properties:

1. 25 Rectory Lane, with a market value at 31st December £210,000
2. Church Lane Community Centre, with a market value at 31st December £50,000

In the opinion of the PCC no provision is deemed necessary for the long leasehold property, which comprises the house located at 25 Rectory Lane, Prestwich, Manchester and the freehold property at Church Lane Community Centre

5. LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	TOTAL
	2020
	£
Major repairs	3,495
Utilities - gas/water	584
Expenses - Clergy	496
Churchyard Maintenance	150
Fees for services	225
Total	£4,950