

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

England & Wales · Charity number 1178664

## Details

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**Other names** ASTBURY PCC

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 2018-06-06

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

## Contact

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**Address** St Marys Church  
Peel Lane  
Astbury  
Congleton  
Cheshire  
CW12 4RQ

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**Website** [astburychurch.org.uk](http://astburychurch.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** PROMOTING IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH.

**Activities:** Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Other Finance, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Cheshire East

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£329,266	£135,525	-	-
2024-12-31	£147,182	£100,331	-	-
2023-12-31	£153,512	£114,762	-	-
2022-12-31	£116,317	£96,910	-	-
2021-12-31	£99,998	£104,783	-	-
2020-12-31	£96,614	£87,634	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Rev Heather Morrey-Carter</b>	Chair	2025-03-17
ANDREW BAILEY		2015-03-23
Andrew Robert Bevington		2022-05-09
Brenda Carol Cook		2024-05-20
CAROLE GOODWIN		1994-04-11
DOROTHY BARNETT		2016-03-15
DR JANE ELIZABETH MOORE		2011-03-28
Dr SALLY CONSTANCE DRAGE		2009-03-30
JANET ELIZABETH GOODIER		2024-05-20
JOHN HULSE		2011-03-28
Karen Lynette Bolton		2026-04-26
Karina Lesley Reading		2026-04-26
Lesley Ann Gleaves		2022-05-09
Margaret Grey Armstrong		2024-05-20
Parvinder Kaur		2026-04-26
Pip Blythe		2015-09-14
Professor Denise Morrey-Carter		2025-05-12
Rev Stephanie Ruth Morris		2023-06-01
Thomas John William Buiskool		2025-05-12

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# Accounts

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**Charity registration number 1178664 (England and Wales)**

**THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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### Trustees

Mrs C Goodwin  
Dr S C Drage  
Mr J R Hulse  
Mr A Bailey  
Dr J E Moore  
Mrs D Barnett  
Miss P Blythe  
Mrs M M Keene  
Mr A R Bevington  
Mrs L A Gleaves  
Reverend S R Morris  
Mrs B C Cook  
Mrs J E Goodier  
Mrs M G Armstrong  
Prof D Morrey-Carter (Appointed 12 May 2025)  
Rev H R Morrey-Carter (Appointed 17 March 2025)  
Mr T J W Buiskool (Appointed 12 May 2025)

### Charity registration

England and Wales 1178664

### Principal address

Peel Lane  
Astbury  
Congleton  
Cheshire  
CW12 4RQ

### Independent examiner

Amanda Grint, FCCA  
Hammond McNulty LLP  
Bank House  
Market Square  
Congleton  
Cheshire  
England  
CW12 1ET

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# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

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# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025*

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The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's deed of trust, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

### **Objectives and activities**

#### **Objectives and Constitution of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)**

The object of the PCC is to further the work of the Church of England in the Parish of St Mary's Astbury. Elections to the PCC are held annually: all members on the church electoral role are entitled to vote and stand for election. There is also a power to co-opt members to the PCC.

The PCC is responsible for:

- the financial management of St Mary's Church
- the care and maintenance of the church fabric (including the churchyard)

In order to discharge these responsibilities under the above Measure the PCC may:

- acquire, manage and administer property for ecclesiastical purposes
- formulate and approve an annual budget so as to achieve its objectives
- levy and collect a voluntary church rate
- make representations to the Bishop of Chester concerning the welfare of the Parish

The PCC operates for the public benefit in the Parish of St Mary's Astbury. The PCC has complied with its duty to have due regard for the guidance on public benefit.

#### *Public benefit*

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025*

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### **Minister's Report 2025/6**

Well, what a journey this year has been!

I never imagined when I came to St Mary's this time last year that it would take us this way. As a church we have been challenged by many things and rejoiced over much too.

At my Induction Service last March + Mark said that ministry cannot be carried alone but depends on God's strength and the support of the church community, who commit to sharing in worship, mission, and pastoral care. I am so grateful for the support of the Ministry Team, in all they do in their support and care of us. I'm also so grateful for the members of the congregations who have shown amazing kindness and care throughout this very difficult year.

Tim Stratford challenged us as he preached - asking us which way were we facing forwards or backwards? He encouraged us to a forward-looking mindset, drawing on Isaiah's vision of justice and transformation rather than idealising the past. St Mary's is called to work together; to living out the gospel boldly. It is a call to trust God, look ahead with confidence, and work, pray, and act together for renewal and justice. What is God calling us forward to do?

During the vacancy the church did not stand still, it carried on, they continued with their vision. Bev said to me when we first moved in; "I told everybody on the PC to read your ordination vows; this is what you've come for as the rector; you haven't just come to take a whole bunch of services Sunday by Sunday, you've come to minister among and be among us."

There are reports attached which tell of the activities that have continued and grown through this year. And we know that we have been through the most difficult of times. Financially, as you can see from Rachel's Report, we are in serious difficulties. Much has been rumoured, but the report gives the facts.

Myth 1: We are not a wealthy church. Nor are the Church of England responsible for the upkeep of the building.

Myth 2: We do not get the ticket sale takings from the three nights of Russell Watson Tickets. He gives us a generous donation out of his takings.

Myth 3: This situation will not resolve itself. It's a responsibility of each and every one of us. Without everyone seriously considering how they can help the church further, there is a very real likelihood of us being financially insolvent, later this year.

We have already had one or two people thinking seriously and responding generously. One anonymous promise of £20,000 and one person becoming very active in thinking about new ways of fundraising. The question is, are you able find ways to help?

Our decision in December to cease services at St Mary's for the very cold months and join with St John's in Smallwood was a very difficult decision to make and was not made lightly. We don't have a grasp of how this will affect us going forwards, some will have moved to other churches, and some will have found a new rhythm of not getting up!

But there is also much to rejoice over. We are so very grateful to the generosity of St John's as they welcomed St Mary's for these 12 weeks. For both churches there has been a shared sense of fellowship and mutual benefit as we have shared in tasks and worship. "Different but also lifegiving" was one comment, and "please can we do this again next year" another. There is a hope to return next winter. There is an expressed hope that we might do more things together throughout the year. There have been many, many, comments on how much people have enjoyed the experience. In the end it has been a positive experience.

Alongside this we have continued to hold weddings and baptisms as we celebrate life events; with a number of new couples attending St John's to start their qualifying connection with us for weddings later this year and into 2027.

I have also been privileged to conduct many funerals. And we had a joyous joint Baptism and Confirmation Service with + Julie in June 2025.

Our August Summer Concerts were well attended bringing people into the church.

I am so grateful to Jane Sharman and her team that organize these and look after the details. Also, we are grateful to Brian Vowles in his support of St Mary's and hosting many events to raise funds at Old Biddulph Hall.

So many other people support the work of St Mary's in the faithful and often unseen ways. Thank you.

Rev Heather Carter

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025*

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### **Achievements and performance**

*Significant activities and achievements against objectives*

#### **Somerford Chapel Annual Report 2025**

Somerford Chapel opened for 2025 on Easter Sunday with a Holy Communion service.

The Chapel services take place on the first Sunday of each month until the Harvest Festival service at the end of September. All items donated at the Harvest Festival are given to the foodbank at New Life Church. Attendance throughout the year is constant.

The annual Christmas Carol service in December was very well attended.

In August the Chapel was three hundred years old and hosted a concert to celebrate this anniversary. All monies raised were donated to the Motor Neurone Disease Association in memory of Kath Wainwright, a long-standing worshipper and volunteer at the Chapel.

We have purchased two new heaters during the year which are working well and thanks to a legacy left to the chapel. A new electric smart meter has been fitted and all the electrics PAT tested.

Somerford Parish Council have laid matting along the path by the Chapel and across part of the field outside. This ensures that cars can now park without the worry of getting stuck during bad weather.

Thanks must go to all the volunteers who work to keep the Chapel in the excellent condition it is in and to the Ministry Team who lead the services and encourage everyone to support the Chapel.

Janet Goodier, Somerford Chapel Treasurer

#### **Safeguarding Report APCM 2026**

2026 is a year of change with Jenny Renshaw-Priest stepping back as SGO after many faithful years. Our thanks and prayers go with her, Colin and the girls as they settle in a new church family closer to home. With the support to the PCC and Rev. Heather I've agreed to step in, short term I hope, to help keep us safe... although as you know, it is ALL our responsibility ALWAYS. But if in doubt then I am your first port-of-call [safeguardingastbury@mail.com](mailto:safeguardingastbury@mail.com) Over the past weeks we have updated much of the paperwork associated with the safeguarding here at St. Mary's.

Thankfully it is only the recording of our good practice as we have had no safeguarding issues recorded in the past twelve months. This is great news but it is only the beginning. Our objective is to BE SAFER in everything we do and as we grow and become more diverse our responsibilities must respond accordingly. There are posters in the our buildings which give you all the direction you would need to highlight a safeguarding matter or indeed seek help.

These routes follow strict protocols and levels of escalation but at its route it is private and confidential. There is safeguarding training available for those who would wish to know more about our process and, indeed, there is the opportunity to lead this wonderful and important ministry in partnership with Rev. Heather and the PCC. Thank you all for being safe. It is so important as we welcome each other into worship and service that we can feel safe. If you are unsafe, feel you may become unsafe, see something you think is unsafe - then please do speak up.

Andrew Bevington (SGO) AKA "Bev"

#### **Financial Review of the Year 2025**

The year closed with the church having a net worth of £370,142 held as cash in current and investment accounts. However, the greater part of this is held within restricted funds and is available for specific purposes only and not for day-to-day general running costs and maintenance.

For practical reasons, the charity maintains three current bank accounts to enable the local deposit of cash but an online management of receipts and payments. No single bank can offer both services. All assets are held as cash, with the longer-term restricted funds being invested in interest bearing accounts through the CAF/Flagstone investment platform. In selecting accounts, cash availability is carefully balanced against investment return.

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

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The Seed Building Fund (planned kitchen, toilet etc) benefitted from donations of £19.6k from Russell Watson's management team following his 2024 Christmas concerts and from Canadian friends of the church, a very generous donation of £196k. Somerford received a legacy of £1.5k from the estate of Marie Lycett. The Church Fabric Fund received a £10k donation at the end of the year.

The General Fund benefitted from voluntary income (donations) of £60.5k which included a generous gift from the school PFA following Astbury May Day and a donation from the Parish Council. Church activities (weddings, funerals etc) raised £20.5k. Fundraising contributed £10k which included a summer concert season, fundraising events hosted at Biddulph Old Hall, a sponsored walk along Hadrian's Wall and a two-night Live Nativity event. Thanks go to all organisers and supporters but especially to Jane and Nick Sharman and to Brian Vowles.

The PCC wish to record their thanks for all financial support during the year, whatever the source.

2025 continued the previous year's trend of current general income being insufficient to fully meet church running costs. There was a deficit in general unrestricted Church Running Costs of £12.6k on the year (a £10.5k deficit in 2024) This equates to a shortfall of income to cover our costs of £243 every week of the year.

Our 2025 Parish Share banding appeal was finally upheld in December. Since the unadjusted total had been paid in full, a refund adjustment will be included in the 2026 calculation.

Church Fabric costs for survey, laser scanning and protection of the vestry, phase 1 replacement of lightning conductor mats and for survey of the spire amounted to £19k. The commencement of the work awaits DAC approval.

Despite cashflow concerns, we were able to maintain the PCC general reserve of £15,000 which represents about six weeks normal operating costs. As it is likely that this reserve will be breached in the year to come, all regular costs are currently under review. In an attempt to control excessive winter heating costs, it was decided to pause services in the church from January to March 2026 and join with Smallwood for their services.

New income streams are being sought together with financial appeals within the church and the community. A Crowdfunding web page was set up just in time for Christmas and has initiated public interest and support. Total received to date is £1.7k. We are grateful to the regular donors have taken this opportunity to increase their giving.

If the current financial trend cannot be halted, the PCC are committed to reviewing the charity as a going concern. In the event of a more permanent closure, the future of the restricted funds must be addressed since they can only be used for the purpose donated and it becomes essential to offer their return to the donors. It is sincerely hoped that emergency measures undertaken in 2026 will prevent such an outcome.

Rachel Hulse

#### **Fabric**

General maintenance of the building has continued and the lightning conductors have been upgraded. Laser scanning and photogrammetry have resulted in an accurate survey of the state of the building.

Following advice from a structural engineer, the churchyard wall bordering the road has been monitored to check that there is no significant movement. Measurements have remained within the original 2.5mm tolerance.

The vestry has been fully surveyed. There is some outward movement in the north wall, so a main beam needs to be stabilised and cracks in the north-east and east windows need monitoring and supporting with wooden frames.

The spire has also been surveyed. It needs re-pointing, some stonework needs repair and the weathervane needs re-fixing.

However, no work has been done as yet because Faculty and List B applications await permission from the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

Sally Drage

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025*

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### **Bell Tower**

Events since the last report in May 2025:

All the bell wheels have been painted (and preserved) many thanks to Pip Balcombe for his help with this.

A complete set of new bell ropes installed, many thanks to Heather and her team for the Dedication Service.

6 new ringing chamber ceiling panels replaced due to Water damage again thanks to Pip for his help; at the same time a set of PVC grommets fitted to protect ropes

The stairs to the ringing chamber have been augmented with a banister rope and non-slip striped tape

A ringing Simulator installed, this will be of HUGE benefit to all ringers.

A new Super Secure lock installed to belltower door. Thanks again to Heather, this was supplied from the Bell fund.

Next Required actions:

The clock is currently running app 10 mins slow due to power outage in Astbury village (hopefully to be corrected this weekend) also noted during the outage, the ground floor emergency lights inoperable.

The water damage to the ringing chamber ceiling and belfry floor is not due to masonry defects but the 8 open apertures in the spire only having anti-bat netting, no glass or Perspex'.

Woodworm infestation in ringing chamber- the table which was heavily infested has been removed (thanks to Hayley & Michael) Heather will contact the architect for further action, given the wooden ceiling is also infected.

Rat/mice on ground floor Heather has installed a Humane trap as yet no guests!

On the ringing front: the following has happened:

On 26th April 25 we participated in the Guild Open Day being on route A this raised nearly £2000 for the bell restoration fund.

We also held a May-Day open day raising app £90

Astbury ringers have rung at Chester Cathedral, Quarterly meetings at Bartholmey, Wrenbury & the AGM at Congleton

We have also developed a close link with the Sandbach and Bartholmey bands.

We have 8 new ringing Guild members with another two in waiting. Kevin Tucker has been a huge asset to the tower as lead instructor, fast tracking the learning sequence by many months by offering 3-4 alternative evening practice sessions with bells silenced, to not annoy the neighbours!

We are actively recruiting for new starters via multiple media outlets

Kevin also recently entered the Guild 10-bell striking contest at Stockport (St Mary's)

We have lost 3 members due to the resignation of former tower Captain Steve Stoker in October 2025.

We recently started to offer muffled tolling bells for funerals and so far we have had 4 requests.

Kevin Tucker was elected as Tower Captain at the Tower Meeting on March 11th 2026.

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025*

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### **Music**

As always, we are grateful to those who provide our music ministry. At 11.00am, an informal group of singers support the congregation in hymns and worship songs. Twice a month at 6.30pm, evensong, using the 1662 Book of

Common Prayer, is sung by the robed, 4-part choir. Both groups, together with 'celebration' singers who cannot attend so regularly, united for special services and major festivals, including the induction of our rector, Revd Heather Carter, a 'come and sing' evensong in September, and Christmas. The choir also led two more reflective services: a meditation on Good Friday and carols on Advent Sunday.

2025 was the Royal College of Organists Play the Organ Year, and two workshops were held, resulting in five people trying the organ for the very first time.

Sally Drage

### **Youth at Astbury and Smallwood Report APCM 2026**

YAS Club started in January 2025 as a means of engaging children 11 years and above in Church community. Through art, games and discussion we explore togetherness, themes of social justice and where they might be on their own faith journey. Within a few weeks, we had a well-established group of between 10 and 12 young people attending weekly. The range of faith backgrounds was wide, from no faith to regularly attending services at different local churches. We started this in St Mary's, Astbury and ran from here for 5 months.

Due to logistics (primarily toilet facilities and volunteer ratio numbers) the group was moved to St John's, Smallwood from June 2025. We were given permission by Smallwood Primary Academy to use the playing field at the school for activities and the facilities available meant we would find it easier to secure enough volunteers for each week as the ratio needed was lower.

Unfortunately, due to a bereavement and illness, I was unable to run YAS Club in September and October 2025 and January 2026. Sessions began again, but unfortunately the numbers attending have reduced.

For Lent 2026, I ran a LENT course based on the film, 'Wicked'. Four young people attended. However, it has also been held weekly during a Thursday lunch time at Smallwood Primary Academy as 'YAS Club junior' and 18 families expressed interest, with 12-14 young people attending each week. This group of children are keen for a lunchtime group to continue.

### **Mission work - Highlights**

In March 2025, we prepared a Mothering Sunday Service at Astbury, which was led by Rev Steph Morris and myself (Sophie Molyneux), with the YAS club members choosing music with Sally Drage, helping prepare scripture message labels about love for the flowers, leading prayers and handing out gifts during the service and greeting on the door.

During Holy Week 2025, three members volunteered to help run Easter Storytime at St John's Smallwood. They led craft activities and helped children to plant a mini-Easter Garden to take home

In January, the group created sets of holding crosses for each class in Smallwood Primary Academy which are used in daily reflection time. These have had huge impact in school, with children using them for their own private prayer and moments of spirituality.

We very much value the support from volunteers Trevor Massey, Clare Hayes, Liz Cuttell, Alan Burke, Jane Moore, Nicola Holt and Helen Canham and members of the Ministry Team who have given time to allow it to take place so we have safe ratios of adults to children. We would like to give a special thanks to Rev Steph Morris for encouraging and guiding me, and for helping set up the group and support the running of the sessions. Thank you to Iestyn Lewis, headteacher of Smallwood Academy Primary School for your support and the use of the school facilities, particularly during colder weather! I would like to thank Astbury May Day committee for their generous donation of £250.

Many thanks  
Sophie Molyneux

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025*

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### **Toddler Group Wednesday mornings during term time.**

Toddler group continues to welcome regular and new members each week. We average between 15 and 25 most weeks but occasionally hit a high of 30 which is almost the maximum number we can take. As with all groups, our numbers change as older children move on to school and preschool. In July four of our regulars moved up to school or preschool and at Christmas two more moved on to preschool. However, we are also welcoming new members and new babies to our group with four mums having a new baby in the summer term, one of whom was our Baby Jesus at Live Nativity.

The Christmas party was a huge success as we used our £150 donation from the Mayday committee to hire in a soft play session for the children. However, at this session we also said goodbye to Sonia who helped us to set up before dropping her granddaughter at Astbury school.

We are able keep our entry fee at £3 per child as we are able to cover the rent, the insurance costs and the kitchen expenses. We have a bowl for donations for tea and coffee rather than charging for these. The summer term is always the quietest as parents take advantage of the good weather to spend time outside, however, even during this period we were averaging 20 children each week.

The village hall has added a doorbell to the building which means we can now keep the main door locked during sessions as we have had issues with people coming in to use the toilets and not closing the outside door properly, thus causing a safety issue. We have a colourful sign on the door instructing people to ring the bell for entry, and we noticed that people have taken on the role of opening the door, rather than relying on one of the group leaders to open it. We do occasionally have people leaving early who don't remember to ask someone to lock the door behind them, but this only happens occasionally. At the end of the session, I stand by the door to say goodbye to the children as they leave, and this stops the odd 'escapee' as I can close the door between families in necessary.

Jean and Joan work tirelessly in the kitchen, providing cups of tea and coffee to our mums, dads, grandparents and carers and preparing toast and brioche for the mid-session snack. Margaret Springle hasn't been able to return to toddlers since she had her knee operation in the summer, we thank her for her time supporting toddlers and wish her a speedy recovery. It would be helpful to have a few more volunteers who we could call on if Jean or Joan are unavailable as the kitchen really does need three people to work best. We are most grateful the Brenda and Lesley who have both helped out when we are short-handed in the kitchen.

Our group couldn't run without Mel who is there from 8am almost every week to set up, we also have a couple of grandparents who come early to help with the setting up, especially if Mel is away, as I can't be there until 8:30 at the earliest. Most parents help with to tidy away and are getting experienced at packing everything away into the cupboard and the back room. We are usually all packed up by 10:50 and then with the help of my puppet Jasmine I lead ten minutes of singing time before we finish at 11 am.

Rev Steph Morris

### **Ladies Fellowship**

The Fellowship meets once a month in Astbury village Hall. 17 members come regularly to listen to a speaker on such topics as the Samaritans, keeping yourself fit and Discipleship Explored. Our new Rector, inducted in March, gave us an interesting resume of her life. In June and July we go out for lunch, many friends joining us. We are on the Congleton Committee of the World Day of Prayer, and run a stall at the May Day, proceeds going towards church flowers. We donate to various charities-MIND, MND, the Samaritans. We end our year with a Communion Service and a self-catered lunch in the village hall with guests, which everyone seems to enjoy.

Carole Goodwin Chairman.

St Mary's School Report follows as an appendix.

### **Financial review**

#### *Reserves policy*

The PCC's reserve policy is to keep a minimum of £15,000 in hand should unforeseen events occur. This is also the level deemed sufficient to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow. Other reserves are held in accordance with future plans and requirements, such as building works and improvements. After deducting amounts for future projects and Somerford Chapel assets, the charity held reserves of £2,132 freely available at the end of the year.

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025*

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### Structure, governance and management

#### Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

St Mary's Church Astbury has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent for the time being in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is a corporate body, its composition and procedure regulated by the Church Representation Rules as contained in Schedule 3 of the Synodical Government Measure 1969. The functions and powers of the PCC are contained in the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure (1956).

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mrs C Goodwin	
Dr S C Drage	
Mr J R Hulse	
Mr A Bailey	
Mrs C F Holford	(Resigned 12 May 2025)
Dr J E Moore	
Mrs D Barnett	
Miss P Blythe	
Mrs M M Keene	
Mrs J L Renshaw-Priest	(Resigned 12 May 2025)
Mr A R Bevington	
Mrs L A Gleaves	
Mr C Renshaw-Priest	(Resigned 14 July 2025)
Reverend S R Morris	
Mrs B C Cook	
Mrs J E Goodier	
Mrs M G Armstrong	
Prof D Morrey-Carter	(Appointed 12 May 2025)
Rev H R Morrey-Carter	(Appointed 17 March 2025)
Mr T C Massey	(Appointed 12 May 2025 and resigned 16 March 2026)
Mr T J W Buiskool	(Appointed 12 May 2025)

#### *Recruitment and appointment of trustees*

Trustees are elected at the AGM open to every lay person whose name is on the roll of the parish. Elections must happen at least every 3 years. Full rules on those eligible to be elected and vote can be found here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/legal-services/church-representation-rules/part-9>

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

.....  
Rev H R Morrey-Carter

Date: .....

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary Astbury (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2025.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000, the independent examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ACCA, which is one of the listed bodies.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared the financial statements in accordance with the relevant version of the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn. I understand that this has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act 2011.
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

**Amanda Grint, FCCA**  
Hammond McNulty LLP  
Bank House  
Market Square  
Congleton  
Cheshire  
CW12 1ET  
England

Date: .....

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025*

		Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
	Notes						
<b>Income from:</b>							
Donations and legacies	3	21,507	230,708	252,215	18,777	54,882	73,659
<i>Charitable activities</i>							
Collections at services	4	12,647	1,253	13,900	8,762	912	9,674
Planned giving	4	26,625	1,600	28,225	24,179	1,310	25,489
Burial & wedding fees	4	17,669	-	17,669	20,043	-	20,043
Parish magazine	4	-	535	535	-	664	664
Toddler Group	4	-	2,347	2,347	-	1,873	1,873
Other trading activities	5	10,063	-	10,063	10,944	-	10,944
Investments	6	3,576	736	4,312	4,777	59	4,836
<b>Total income</b>		<u>92,087</u>	<u>237,179</u>	<u>329,266</u>	<u>87,482</u>	<u>59,700</u>	<u>147,182</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Raising funds	7	227	-	227	575	-	575
<i>Charitable activities</i>							
Church running expenses	8	39,955	26,833	66,788	40,550	20,021	60,571
Diocesan parish share	8	65,040	-	65,040	60,276	-	60,276
Parish magazine	8	-	626	626	-	640	640
Mission giving & donations	8	1,410	-	1,410	1,395	-	1,395
Toddler Group	8	-	1,434	1,434	-	1,357	1,357
Exceptional items	8	-	-	-	(23,908)	-	(23,908)
<b>Total charitable expenditure</b>		<u>106,405</u>	<u>28,893</u>	<u>135,298</u>	<u>78,313</u>	<u>22,018</u>	<u>100,331</u>
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>106,632</u>	<u>28,893</u>	<u>135,525</u>	<u>78,888</u>	<u>22,018</u>	<u>100,906</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		(14,545)	208,286	193,741	8,594	37,682	46,276
Transfers between funds		1,904	(1,904)	-	(19,143)	19,143	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	10	(12,641)	206,382	193,741	(10,549)	56,825	46,276
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Fund balances at 1 January 2025		42,867	133,534	176,401	53,416	76,709	130,125
<b>Fund balances at 31 December 2025</b>		<u>30,226</u>	<u>339,916</u>	<u>370,142</u>	<u>42,867</u>	<u>133,534</u>	<u>176,401</u>

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

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	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	14	284		292	
Cash at bank and in hand		374,208		185,686	
		<u>374,492</u>		<u>185,978</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	15	(4,350)		(9,577)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>370,142</u>		<u>176,401</u>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>					
Restricted income funds	16		339,916		133,534
Unrestricted funds	17		<u>30,226</u>		<u>42,867</u>
			<u>370,142</u>		<u>176,401</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on .....

.....  
Rev H R Morrey-Carter

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

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#### 1 Accounting policies

##### Charity information

The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary Astbury is an unincorporated charitable trust.

##### 1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's deed of Trust, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

##### 1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

##### 1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

##### 1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of receipt from HMRC.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

#### 1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

#### 1.7 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

##### *Basic financial assets*

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

##### *Basic financial liabilities*

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

##### *Derecognition of financial liabilities*

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

### 3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Donations and gifts	15,379	225,922	241,301	18,649	46,547	65,196
Legacies	-	1,500	1,500	-	3,500	3,500
Grants	6,128	3,286	9,414	128	4,835	4,963
	<u>21,507</u>	<u>230,708</u>	<u>252,215</u>	<u>18,777</u>	<u>54,882</u>	<u>73,659</u>
<b>Donations and gifts</b>						
Donations	7,824	225,594	233,418	9,550	28,641	38,191
Gift aid recovered	7,555	328	7,883	9,099	565	9,664
Somerford Chapel b/f funds	-	-	-	-	17,341	17,341
	<u>15,379</u>	<u>225,922</u>	<u>241,301</u>	<u>18,649</u>	<u>46,547</u>	<u>65,196</u>

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

### 4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
<b>Collections at services</b>						
Regular giving	12,647	1,253	13,900	8,762	912	9,674
<b>Planned giving</b>						
Regular giving	26,625	1,600	28,225	24,179	1,310	25,489
<b>Burial &amp; wedding fees</b>						
Wedding, funeral & monument fees	15,070	-	15,070	17,071	-	17,071
Other fees and subscriptions	2,599	-	2,599	2,972	-	2,972
<b>Parish magazine</b>						
Other fees and subscriptions	-	535	535	-	664	664
<b>Toddler Group</b>						
Other fees and subscriptions	-	2,347	2,347	-	1,873	1,873
	<u>56,941</u>	<u>5,735</u>	<u>62,676</u>	<u>52,984</u>	<u>4,759</u>	<u>57,743</u>

### 5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Fundraising events	10,063	10,944
	<u>10,063</u>	<u>10,944</u>

### 6 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Interest receivable	3,576	736	4,312	4,777	59	4,836
	<u>3,576</u>	<u>736</u>	<u>4,312</u>	<u>4,777</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>4,836</u>

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025*

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7 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
<b>Fundraising and publicity</b>		
Other fundraising costs	227	575
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

### 8 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Church running expenses	Diocesan parish share	Parish magazine	Mission giving & donations	Toddler Group	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Direct costs</b>						
Mission giving & donations	-	-	-	1,410	-	1,410
Diocesan parish share	-	65,040	-	-	-	65,040
Church insurance	14,265	-	-	-	-	14,265
Clergy & staff expenses	6,399	-	-	-	-	6,399
Mission and evangelism costs	415	-	-	-	-	415
Church running expenses	4,238	-	-	-	1,434	5,672
Church light, heat, water & waste	8,748	-	-	-	-	8,748
Costs of trading	-	-	626	-	-	626
Repairs to church building	16,637	-	-	-	-	16,637
Upkeep of the churchyard	7,387	-	-	-	-	7,387
Architect and survey costs	7,449	-	-	-	-	7,449
	<u>65,538</u>	<u>65,040</u>	<u>626</u>	<u>1,410</u>	<u>1,434</u>	<u>134,048</u>
<b>Share of support and governance costs (see note 9)</b>						
Governance	1,250	-	-	-	-	1,250
	<u>66,788</u>	<u>65,040</u>	<u>626</u>	<u>1,410</u>	<u>1,434</u>	<u>135,298</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>						
Unrestricted funds	39,955	65,040	-	1,410	-	106,405
Restricted funds	26,833	-	626	-	1,434	28,893
	<u>66,788</u>	<u>65,040</u>	<u>626</u>	<u>1,410</u>	<u>1,434</u>	<u>135,298</u>

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

### 8 Expenditure on charitable activities

(Continued)

Previous year:	Church running expenses 2024 £	Diocesan parish share 2024 £	Parish magazine 2024 £	Mission giving & donations 2024 £	Toddler Group 2024 £	Exceptional items 2024 £	Total 2024 £
<b>Direct costs</b>							
Mission giving & donations	-	-	-	1,395	-	-	1,395
Diocesan parish share	-	60,276	-	-	-	-	60,276
Church insurance	13,892	-	-	-	-	-	13,892
Clergy & staff expenses	2,722	-	-	-	-	-	2,722
Mission and evangelism costs	1,104	-	-	-	-	-	1,104
Church running expenses	5,401	-	-	-	1,357	-	6,758
Church light, heat, water & waste	8,980	-	-	-	-	-	8,980
Costs of trading	-	-	640	-	-	-	640
Repairs to church building	9,739	-	-	-	-	-	9,739
Upkeep of the churchyard	7,005	-	-	-	-	-	7,005
Architect and survey costs	11,014	-	-	-	-	-	11,014
Other charitable expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	(23,908)	(23,908)
	59,857	60,276	640	1,395	1,357	(23,908)	99,617
<b>Share of support and governance costs (see note 9)</b>							
Governance	714	-	-	-	-	-	714
	60,571	60,276	640	1,395	1,357	(23,908)	100,331
<b>Analysis by fund</b>							
Unrestricted funds	40,550	60,276	-	1,395	-	(23,908)	78,313
Restricted funds	20,021	-	640	-	1,357	-	22,018
	60,571	60,276	640	1,395	1,357	(23,908)	100,331

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

### 9 Support costs allocated to activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Governance costs	1,250	714
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>Analysed between:</b>		
Church running expenses	1,250	714
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

### 10 Net movement in funds

	2025	2024
	£	£
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	1,250	714
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

### 11 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

### 12 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
Total	-	-
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

### 13 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

### 14 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Other debtors	-	292
Prepayments and accrued income	284	-
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	284	292
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

#### 15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Other creditors	4,350	9,577

#### 16 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 January 2025 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 December 2025 £
Parish news	200	535	(626)	(109)	-
Rector & church wardens	1,795	-	-	(1,795)	-
Church fabric	55,967	13,286	(19,781)	-	49,472
Bell repairs	8,646	1,927	(3,651)	-	6,922
Toddler group	1,813	2,446	(2,283)	-	1,976
Seed building	51,235	216,231	-	-	267,466
Somerford Chapel	13,878	2,754	(2,552)	-	14,080
	<u>133,534</u>	<u>237,179</u>	<u>(28,893)</u>	<u>(1,904)</u>	<u>339,916</u>

Previous year:	At 1 January 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 December 2024 £
Parish news	177	663	(640)	-	200
Rector & church wardens	1,795	-	-	-	1,795
Church fabric	65,071	33,771	(11,014)	(31,861)	55,967
Bell repairs	6,771	1,875	-	-	8,646
Midweek service legacy	843	20	(632)	(231)	-
Toddler group	2,052	1,958	(2,197)	-	1,813
Seed building	-	-	-	51,235	51,235
Somerford Chapel	-	21,413	(7,535)	-	13,878
	<u>76,709</u>	<u>59,700</u>	<u>(22,018)</u>	<u>19,143</u>	<u>133,534</u>

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

### 17 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 January 2025 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 December 2025 £
General funds	42,867	92,087	(106,632)	1,904	30,226
	<u>42,867</u>	<u>92,087</u>	<u>(106,632)</u>	<u>1,904</u>	<u>30,226</u>
<b>Previous year:</b>	<b>At 1 January 2024 £</b>	<b>Incoming resources £</b>	<b>Resources expended £</b>	<b>Transfers £</b>	<b>At 31 December 2024 £</b>
Friends of Astbury	1,416	320	-	(1,736)	-
General funds	52,000	87,162	(78,888)	(17,407)	42,867
	<u>53,416</u>	<u>87,482</u>	<u>(78,888)</u>	<u>(19,143)</u>	<u>42,867</u>

### 18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
<b>At 31 December 2025:</b>			
Current assets/(liabilities)	30,226	339,916	370,142
	<u>30,226</u>	<u>339,916</u>	<u>370,142</u>
	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
<b>At 31 December 2024:</b>			
Current assets/(liabilities)	42,867	133,534	176,401
	<u>42,867</u>	<u>133,534</u>	<u>176,401</u>

### 19 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024 - none).

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

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<b>SOMERFORD CHAPEL</b>			
<b>STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>for the year ending 31st December 2025</b>			
		<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>ACCOUNT OPENING BALANCES</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	RBS BANK		5,087
	BUILDING SOCIETY		12,254
	Held by The PCC St Mary Astbury	13,878	
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		<b>13,878</b>	<b>17,341</b>
<b><u>INCOMING RESOURCES</u></b>			
Collection	Services	1,253	912
Donations:	Legacy	1,500	-
	Somerford PC	-	600
Grants	Congleton Inclosure Trust	-	2,500
Interest	Building Society	-	59
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>2,753</b>	<b>4,071</b>
<b><u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u></b>			
	Halogen heater purchase	523	-
	Service consumables	-	12
	Insurance	1,266	1,250
	Electric	354	234
	Chronicle	120	109
	PAT test and electrical inspection	162	-
	Repairs	-	5,815
	Fire extinguisher (Astbury PCC)	126	96
	Cleaning	-	18
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>	<b>2,552</b>	<b>7,534</b>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		201	(3,463)
<b>BALANCES B/FWD 1st January</b>		13,878	17,341
<b>BALANCES C/FWD at year end</b>		<b>14,079</b>	<b>13,878</b>
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>ACCOUNT CLOSING BALANCES</b>			
	Held by The PCC St Mary Astbury	14,079	13,878
	<b>FUND BALANCE AT YEAR END</b>	<b>14,079</b>	<b>13,878</b>
		<hr/>	<hr/>

*This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements*

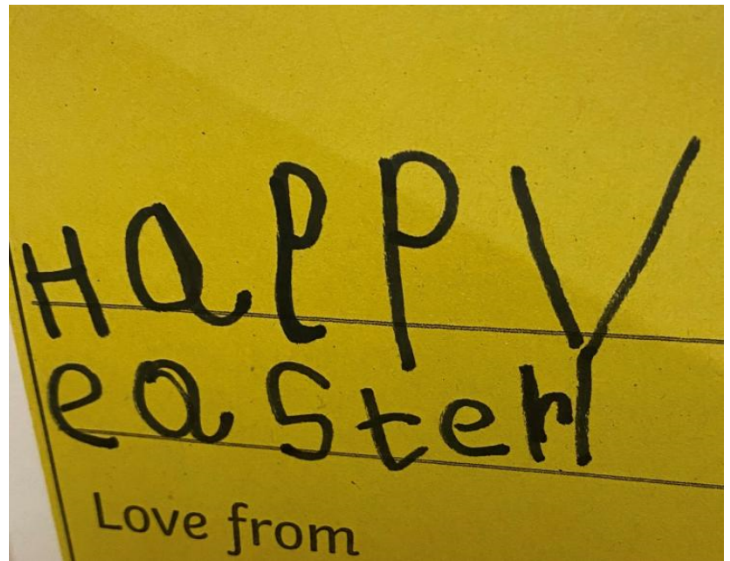
Head Teacher Miss P. Blythe  
[head@astbury.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:head@astbury.cheshire.sch.uk)

## PCC report for the AGM 2026

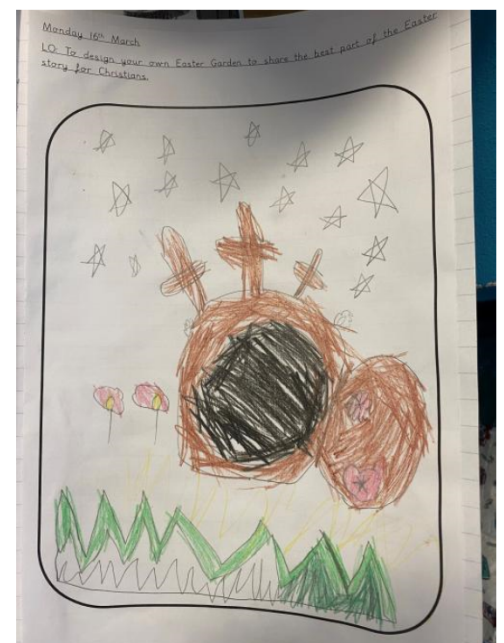
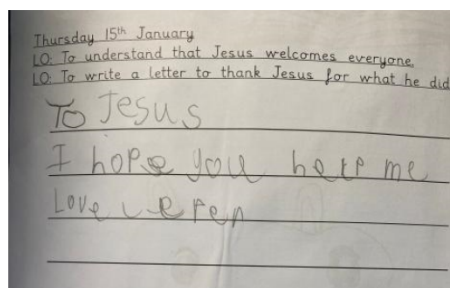
### RE teaching

This last year, we have continued to teach using the Questful RE curriculum following our long term plan. <https://questful-re.org.uk/> Below are a few examples of their learning.

Class Jonah made Easter cards as they were learning about the Christian message of hope in the Easter story. They had hatched the chicks from eggs – it was very exciting!



Class Noah were learning about Bible characters, how Jesus welcomes everyone and designing an Easter garden using a Christian's knowledge of Easter.



Class Mary have been thinking about God's power and looking at artists' portrayal of scenes from the Easter story.

Date: Monday, 21 February 2026  
 L.O.: To be able to reflect on God's power.

**"What is impossible with men is possible with God."** (Luke 18:27)

**What do you think that this means?**  
 I think that it means that things that are impossible for us are possible for God.

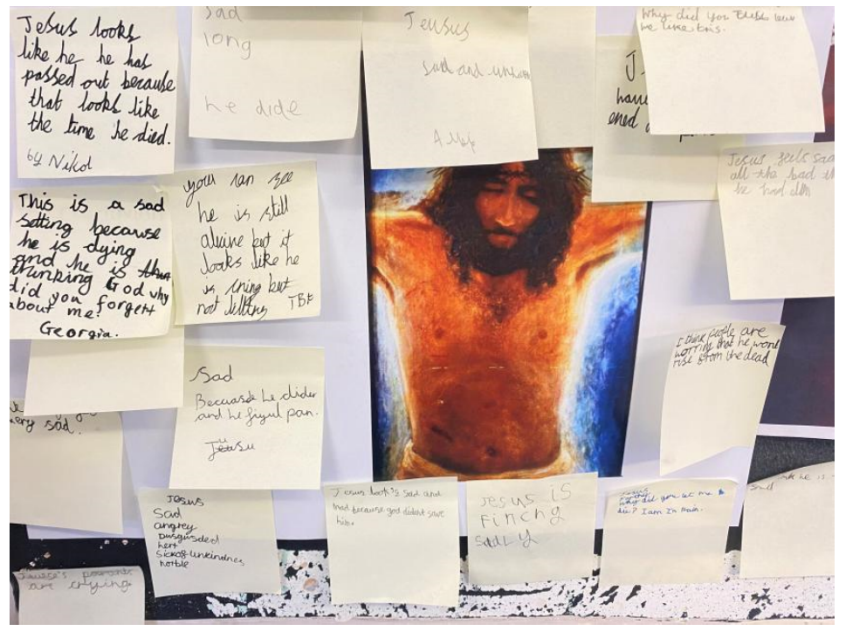
**Give examples from The Bible where God showed His power:**

- When Jesus walked on water ✓
- when God spoke the earth ✓
- Jesus turned water into wine ✓

**Can you think of anything which happens in our lives now which might also show God's power at work?**

- Making people <sup>better</sup> better ✓
- Making family better ✓

Good thoughts (27)



Class Jacob have been focusing on who was Jesus and who is Jesus? Learning was about who Bible characters would say Jesus was, who he said he was and who Christians say he is.

Friday 6th March

I think Zacharias would have said you are a saviour because he help him see what he had done wrong ✓

I think the three kings would have said Jesus is a miracle because they saw his stars ✓

I think the that the parolised man man would of said you change the world a lot because he made him walk again.

bread

bread

bread

bread

I am the bread of life John 6:35 ✓

13.02.26

Christians say that Jesus is a miracle worker because he made a paralysed man walk and has walked on water.

In the song way maker Jesus is a miracle worker because he turned water into wine ✓

The song way maker Jesus is the light in the darkness because zacharias was rebelling people so Jesus helped him stop turning him into night ✓

**Worship**

This last year our worship has focussed on perseverance, forgiveness, and will move onto parables for the next term at school. We have also worshiped through harvest, advent and lent. Each week, children have had the opportunity to respond personally to worship through the class reflection time.

Here are a few examples:

Lent - kindness

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026

"Let everything you say help others grow" Ephesians 4:26.



Words can build up or break down. How will you use words of kindness?

Supportive Words

Positive Messages

Greetings

Reassurance

Compliments

Comfort

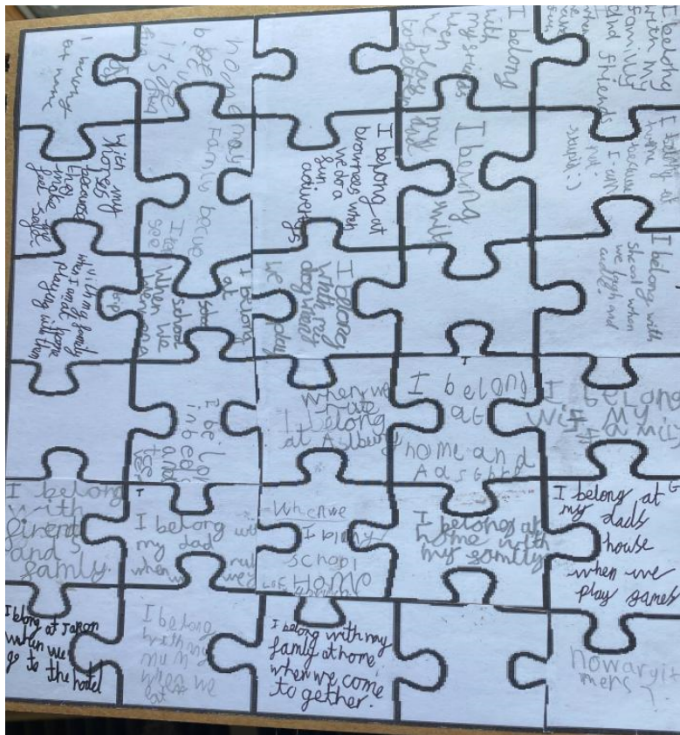
Praise

Patience

Manners

Honest

Understanding



Advent - week one

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Mary's Story  
Joy in Connection

JOY



What helps you to feel connected, where do you feel you belong?



## **Spirituality**

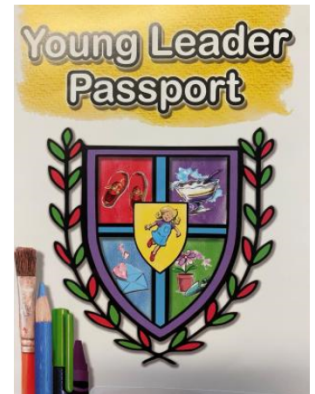
We have continued to teach our children about spirituality through windows, mirrors and doors. What do we see when we look out at our world and when we look at ourselves? How do we then respond. Our responses have been through 'wow' moments and 'ow' moments.

## **Courageous Advocacy – be the change you want to see**

After a successful completion by the children in Y5/6 Children in Class Noah (Y1/2) have taken on the challenge of the Archbishop's Young Leaders' Award this year.

They have been learning about perseverance and why you need this character strength to be a good leader.

A great activity was a 'stick at it stick'. The children collected a stick from the school field and then used items from the craft area to decorate it.



## **School Vision**

This is the agreed school vision:

### **Walk in love as Christ loves you (Ephesians 5:2)**

Giving children a foundation to flourish and live fruitful lives.

Rooted in the security of love we grow in learning, character and courage to equip us for the great adventure of life. In our Astbury family the first fruits of our character are our values of self-control, peace and kindness. We learn and practise these to support all we seek to do together.

This vision is threaded through all we do as a school.

## **CDAT**

Our Academy has grown to thirty schools over the last year. <https://www.cdat.co.uk/>

Chester Diocese has now established a second Academy called the Chester Diocese Learning Trust. <https://cdlt.org.uk/>

## **Pre-School – Astbury Acorns**

Our Pre-School has continued to thrive over the last year under the care of our school's new assistant head teacher, Mrs Whiston. Our provision is full and new families are looking to join us in September.

## **Church community**

Revd Steph has been to school each week to lead worship. She has also spent time in the reception and Pre-School class telling stories and singing songs.

Jane Moore and Clive Wright have been coming in to read with children each week.

Revd Heather led the May Day service last year.

## **Children**

We have ninety nine children in school age 3 – 11. We are aiming for one hundred and twenty six but will be having a small party at one hundred! We took on a full cohort of reception children in September 2024, 2025 and are over-subscribed for 2026.

## **Governors**

Our governing body has no vacancies.

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# Accounts

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**Charity registration number 1178664 (England and Wales)**

**THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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### Trustees

Mr J R Hulse  
Dr S C Drage  
Mrs C Goodwin  
Mr A Bailey  
Mrs C F Holford  
Dr J E Moore  
Mrs D Barnett  
Miss P Blythe  
Mrs M M Keene  
Mrs J L Renshaw-Priest  
Mr A R Bevington  
Mrs L A Gleaves  
Mr C Renshaw-Priest  
Reverend S R Morris  
Mrs B C Cook (Appointed 20 May 2024)  
Mrs J E Goodier (Appointed 20 May 2024)  
Mrs M G Armstrong (Appointed 20 May 2024)

### Charity number (England and Wales)

1178664

### Principal address

Peel Lane  
Astbury  
Congleton  
Cheshire  
CW12 4RQ

### Independent examiner

Amanda Grint, FCCA  
Hammond McNulty LLP  
Bank House  
Market Square  
Congleton  
Cheshire  
England  
CW12 1ET

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# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

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Trustees' report	1 - 6
Independent examiner's report	7
Statement of financial activities	8
Balance sheet	9
Notes to the financial statements	10 - 20

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# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024*

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The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's deed of trust, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

### **Objectives and activities**

#### **Objectives and Constitution of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)**

The object of the PCC is to further the work of the Church of England in the Parish of St Mary's Astbury. Elections to the PCC are held annually: all members on the church electoral role are entitled to vote and stand for election. There is also a power to co-opt members to the PCC.

The PCC is responsible for:

- the financial management of St Mary's Church
- the care and maintenance of the church fabric (including the churchyard)

In order to discharge these responsibilities under the above Measure the PCC may:

- acquire, manage and administer property for ecclesiastical purposes
- formulate and approve an annual budget so as to achieve its objectives
- levy and collect a voluntary church rate
- make representations to the Bishop of Chester concerning the welfare of the Parish

The PCC operates for the public benefit in the Parish of St Mary's Astbury. The PCC has complied with its duty to have due regard for the guidance on public benefit.

#### *Public benefit*

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024*

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### **Achievements and performance**

*Significant activities and achievements against objectives*

#### **REVIEW OF MINISTRY 2024**

Easter was early this year coinciding with the changing of the clocks. Despite this attendance was good and the children enjoyed hunting for eggs in the spring sunshine after the service.

On the 16th June, Bishop Sam led our Confirmation service, 19 people were confirmed, with 6 also being baptised. This month concluded with our first 'digital' communion service, using the screen rather than service booklets. Music was provided by Bev on guitar and Sally on the keyboard. The use of the screen gave the opportunity to sing different worship songs, which we highlighted to people in advance using our social media platform. Many people said they enjoyed the different format of the service, and one person was visibly moved by the experience. This is something the team would like to do more of, and the screen will be used, in conjunction with hymn books and service sheets for the YAS Mothering Sunday service.

On 21st July we said goodbye to Anne-Marie and Andy as they left us for their new adventure in Chester.

St Mary's Day this year fell outside the school term and so only three new starters attended. In 2025 the service will be on the 7th September, which is after the start of term, so there will be more opportunity for school involvement.

For the Harvest festival this year it was felt that a bigger celebration of the season was required. A new service was created which included many of the traditional elements of a harvest festival, presentation of the gifts of the harvest and prayers for our farming community. Local farmers and representatives of the NFU were invited to the service and Jasper and Carrie Sutton kindly provided a tractor and hay bales to display outside church, to increase the awareness of the service in the local community. At the end of the service, alongside the usual coffee, there were baked potatoes and a wide selection of fillings. Thank you to all who contributed to the success of the harvest festival, providing offerings of gifts for the food bank, flowers and veg to decorate the church and potatoes and fillings for our lunch.

I was away for All Saints and All Souls; Simon Chesters led our morning service Andrew Bailey led the All Souls service in the evening.

We started our Advent season with the traditional carol service led by the choir, starting the service in darkness and moving into the light.

Astbury school nativity this year was held in school during the week due to the Sunday morning commitments of many of the children. Next year it would be nice to offer the school an afternoon / evening during the week to hold their nativity in church if they would like the opportunity.

Quinta school used the building for their carol service and Bishop Sam led CHS in their annual end of year carol service for years 7 to 9. Astbury school also came to church for their Christingle service.

Live Nativity benefited from having the in-house ticket sales again this year and over 300 attended across the two nights. This year Bev took on the role of the Spirit of the Yew tree assisted by a cast of characters from the congregation and the new landlord of the Egerton. This year we also were joined by Noddy the Donkey and Lanie the sheep and we are very thankful to Libby and Mhari for the animals and Rob and Lesley for all their assistance. As we see, many people return to Live Nativity every year and it is becoming a family tradition for many. Our main challenge this year was finding a family to be Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus and sadly this year we couldn't find a baby; however, Ben and Becky did a fantastic job as Joseph and Mary.

The Carol Service was very well attended with over 260 people in the congregation. I think attendance at this service, and our crib service, are really boosted by the flyers which we distribute around the parish and especially the new housing estates in Somerford. Next year we need to decide how we want to produce the order of service. This year 150 carol sheets were created for this service which are not reusable, this is costly not just financially but environmentally. I wonder if producing a digital version, stored on the website with a QR code for access, like the Live Nativity carols, might be a better solution, alongside some paper copies for those unable to access the digital version? This is how the Cathedral operates alongside their TV screens.

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024*

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Christmas Eve crib service was also very well attended with many children assisting with the building of the small crib. This year we decided to place the large crib next to the high altar and I think this worked very well in terms of visibility. At the end of the crib service, we invited families to go up to the large crib and then exit via the Lady Chapel, lighting a candle on the way past if they wished too. Bev supervised this activity, and it was heartening to see the queue of people waiting to move through to the Lady Chapel. Sadly, due to her illness Arch Deacon Jane was unable to lead our 11.30 pm service and the ministry team made the difficult decision to cancel the service. However, every effort was made to inform people of this and that there was a service at 10 pm at Smallwood.

During October, we celebrated Andrew's licensing as a Lay Reader at a service in Chester Cathedral. We also blessed Sophie as she started her training to become our Pastoral Worker.

Andrew continues to run his monthly Bible study group, this year looking at The Chosen. He has also spearheaded the shoe campaign.

Our monthly Foodbank donations keep coming in and we regularly receive a thank you note from the Foodbank. Thank you to Sue and Clive for taking our donations each month.

Mid-Week Wednesday communion has moved location a few times this year. We started the year meeting in the village hall, after toddler group had finished, but this became too costly, so we moved over to church while the weather was warmer. Once we all started to shiver too much, Joan very kindly offered the use of her house, and we have been meeting there since November, with just the odd service held either in church or at a different location.

Two marriage preparation sessions have been held this year on the 3rd February and the 2nd March. Ten couples have attended these sessions, and we will run a couple of ad hoc sessions for those who were unable to attend. Similar baptism preparation sessions are run by Lesley Gleaves.

The team have undertaken quite a bit of home visiting over the past six months, we try to attend in pairs where possible for safeguarding reasons. Bev, Sophie and I have visited and taken communion to those in need, as much as possible in our roles as part time self-supporting ministers.

Astbury school came to church once a month for a service until October half term, but services were moved to school due to the temperature of the building. They will resume their visits to church after Easter. I visit school almost every Wednesday and lead worship with years 1 to 6 and read a story with Class Jonah and Acorns (reception and the preschool)

As a Ministry team, Bev, Andrew, Sophie and I have worked hard to cover all aspects of ministry during the interregnum, but we haven't managed to cover all services, and we would like to extend our thanks to Bill, Sally, John C, Ian, Lucy, Simon, Darrel, Angela and Howard for all the help and assistance they have provided covering services for us. Also, to the amazing team we have supporting us 'backstage,' as it were, who have given so much of their time keeping on top of all the administration required in running a parish during an interregnum, we couldn't have done it without you.

Thank You

*Revd. Steph Morris (Assistant Priest)  
and the Ministry Team*

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024*

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### **TODDLER GROUP**

Toddler Group continues to grow over the past year, on our busiest day we had 32 toddlers along with their adults. This did feel rather busy, and on average we have around 28 children, brought to the group by parents or grandparents. Our singing circle at the end gets bigger every week as more people stay for our final fifteen minutes after we have tidied everything away. The group is financially stable covered the rent and the insurance for the past year.

Mel has been doing an amazing job running the group with help from Sonia setting up and tidying away. Margaret, Joan and Jean are fantastic running the kitchen for us. The group WhatsApp group is proving invaluable in sharing information with people.

One thing to note is that we are short of helpers both in the kitchen and helping with setting up and tidying and it would be nice if we had a few more volunteers as we notice the absence of one of our regulars. If more people were able to help maybe a rota could be set up so people aren't committed to coming every week. Also, come September, some of our older children will move on and we will lose their adults who help each week with tidying up.

*Revd Steph Morris*

### **MUSIC**

As always, we are grateful to those who provide our music ministry. At 11.00am, an informal group of singers support the congregation in hymns and worship songs. Twice a month at 6.30pm, evensong, using the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, is led by the robed, 4-part choir. Both groups, together with 'celebration' singers who cannot attend so regularly, unite for special services and major festivals.

Extra singers also participated in three 'come and sing' choral evensongs: Tudor for Holy Week, 18th-century for mid-summer and a centenary commemoration of Charles Villiers Stanford in September.

*Dr Sally Drage*

### **FUNDRAISING**

The church team held 3 events at Biddulph Old Hall (by kind permission of the owner Brian Vowles)

A snowdrop walk at Biddulph Old Hall on Saturday 24th February

A concert by The Little Moreton Singers on Saturday 27th July

A Christmas concert by The Little Moreton Singers on Saturday 14th December

We also sold Astbury mugs at Astbury May Day on 18th May

Concerts were held in the church with tea and cake afterwards on...

12th July...Congleton Community Choir

20th July...Cor Bach

21st July...Nantwich Singers

11th August...Woodwind trio

Throughout the year there was a shop in the church selling amongst other things mugs, tea towels, key rings, bracelets and Christmas cards

Altogether 350 Christmas cards were sold

*Jane Sharman*

### **LADIES FELLOWSHIP**

The fellowship (now 17 members) continued to meet monthly every third Wednesday at 1.30pm in Astbury Village Hall. We have a speaker, then a cup of tea and social time. In January we went out for lunch, friends joining us. In February our Rector, Anne-Marie spoke about her visit to the Holy Land. We have a plant stall at Astbury May Day

which raised £230 towards the cost of flowers in the church. Other speakers included our Reader, Bev, when we explored Christianity; we had a jam making demonstration and learnt about 100 years of Congleton town planning. We support the foodbank and supplied some refreshments for our traditional harvest service in September. At our December meeting we have a service of Holy Communion in the village hall when other members of the church joined us, followed by a self-catered lunch which everyone enjoyed. We have continued to attend the various church services through the year.

*Carole Goodwin*

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# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024*

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### **Financial review**

#### *Reserves policy*

The PCC's reserve policy is to keep a minimum of £15,000 in hand should unforeseen events occur. This is also the level deemed sufficient to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow. Other reserves are held in accordance with future plans and requirements, such as building works and improvements. After deducting amounts for future projects and Somerford Chapel assets, the charity held reserves of £5,674 freely available at the end of the year.

### **Structure, governance and management**

#### **Governing document**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

St Mary's Church Astbury has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent for the time being in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is a corporate body, its composition and procedure regulated by the Church Representation Rules as contained in Schedule 3 of the Synodical Government Measure 1969. The functions and powers of the PCC are contained in the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure (1956).

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr J R Hulse

Dr S C Drage

Mrs C Goodwin

Mr A Bailey

Mrs C F Holford

Dr J E Moore

Mrs D Barnett

Mrs J M Taylor

(Resigned 20 May 2024)

Miss P Blythe

Reverend A Naylor

(Resigned 21 July 2024)

Mrs M M Keene

Mrs J L Renshaw-Priest

Mr A R Bevington

Mrs L A Gleaves

Mr C Renshaw-Priest

Mr R M Naylor

(Resigned 12 August 2024)

Reverend S R Morris

Mrs B C Cook

(Appointed 20 May 2024)

Mrs J E Goodier

(Appointed 20 May 2024)

Mrs M G Armstrong

(Appointed 20 May 2024)

Mr D L Sanderson

(Appointed 20 May 2024 and resigned 1 August 2024)

#### *Recruitment and appointment of trustees*

Trustees are elected at the AGM open to every lay person whose name is on the roll of the parish. Elections must happen at least every 3 years. Full rules on those eligible to be elected and vote can be found here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/legal-services/church-representation-rules/part-9>

**THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024***

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The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

.....  
Mr A R Bevington

Date: .....

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

---

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary Astbury (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared the financial statements in accordance with the relevant version of the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn. I understand that this has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act 2011.
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

**Amanda Grint, FCCA**  
Hammond McNulty LLP  
Bank House  
Market Square  
Congleton  
Cheshire  
CW12 1ET  
England  
Date: .....

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024*

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Income from:</b>							
Donations and legacies	3	18,777	54,882	73,659	50,333	26,229	76,562
<i>Charitable activities</i>							
Collections at services	4	8,762	912	9,674	6,789	-	6,789
Planned giving	4	24,179	1,310	25,489	31,946	2,260	34,206
Burial & wedding fees	4	20,043	-	20,043	21,787	-	21,787
Parish magazine	4	-	664	664	-	816	816
Toddler Group	4	-	1,873	1,873	-	4,296	4,296
Other trading activities	5	10,944	-	10,944	5,893	-	5,893
Investments	6	4,777	59	4,836	3,163	-	3,163
<b>Total income</b>		<u>87,482</u>	<u>59,700</u>	<u>147,182</u>	<u>119,911</u>	<u>33,601</u>	<u>153,512</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Raising funds	7	575	-	575	1,666	-	1,666
<i>Charitable activities</i>							
Church running expenses	8	40,550	20,021	60,571	45,040	6,336	51,376
Diocesan parish share	8	60,276	-	60,276	57,405	-	57,405
Parish magazine	8	-	640	640	-	670	670
Mission giving & donations	8	1,395	-	1,395	1,370	762	2,132
Toddler Group	8	-	1,357	1,357	-	1,513	1,513
Exceptional items	8	(23,908)	-	(23,908)	-	-	-
<b>Total charitable expenditure</b>		<u>78,313</u>	<u>22,018</u>	<u>100,331</u>	<u>103,815</u>	<u>9,281</u>	<u>113,096</u>
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>78,888</u>	<u>22,018</u>	<u>100,906</u>	<u>105,481</u>	<u>9,281</u>	<u>114,762</u>
<b>Net income</b>		8,594	37,682	46,276	14,430	24,320	38,750
Transfers between funds		(19,143)	19,143	-	686	(686)	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	10	(10,549)	56,825	46,276	15,116	23,634	38,750
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Fund balances at 1 January 2024		53,416	76,709	130,125	38,300	53,075	91,375
<b>Fund balances at 31 December 2024</b>		<u>42,867</u>	<u>133,534</u>	<u>176,401</u>	<u>53,416</u>	<u>76,709</u>	<u>130,125</u>

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

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	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	14	292		266	
Cash at bank and in hand		185,686		164,408	
		<u>185,978</u>		<u>164,674</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	15	(9,577)		(34,549)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>176,401</u>		<u>130,125</u>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>					
Restricted income funds	16		133,534		76,709
Unrestricted funds	17		42,867		53,416
			<u>176,401</u>		<u>130,125</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on .....

.....  
Mr A R Bevington

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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#### 1 Accounting policies

##### Charity information

The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary Astbury is an unincorporated charitable trust.

##### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's deed of Trust, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

##### 1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

##### 1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

##### 1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of receipt from HMRC.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

#### 1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

#### 1.7 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

#### *Basic financial assets*

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

#### *Basic financial liabilities*

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

#### *Derecognition of financial liabilities*

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

#### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

#### 3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Donations and gifts	18,649	46,547	65,196	49,219	6,229	55,448
Legacies	-	3,500	3,500	-	-	-
Grants	128	4,835	4,963	1,114	20,000	21,114
	<u>18,777</u>	<u>54,882</u>	<u>73,659</u>	<u>50,333</u>	<u>26,229</u>	<u>76,562</u>
<b>Donations and gifts</b>						
Donations	9,550	28,641	38,191	39,756	6,229	45,985
Gift aid recovered	9,099	565	9,664	9,463	-	9,463
Somerford Chapel b/f funds	-	17,341	17,341	-	-	-
	<u>18,649</u>	<u>46,547</u>	<u>65,196</u>	<u>49,219</u>	<u>6,229</u>	<u>55,448</u>

Donations include £17,341 which is the cash balance transferred from Somerford Chapel; this income is restricted for use by Somerford Chapel only.

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

### 4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Collections at services</b>						
Regular giving	8,762	912	9,674	6,789	-	6,789
<b>Planned giving</b>						
Regular giving	24,179	1,310	25,489	31,946	2,260	34,206
<b>Burial &amp; wedding fees</b>						
Wedding, funeral & monument fees	17,071	-	17,071	17,366	-	17,366
Other fees and subscriptions	2,972	-	2,972	4,421	-	4,421
<b>Parish magazine</b>						
Other fees and subscriptions	-	664	664	-	816	816
<b>Toddler Group</b>						
Other fees and subscriptions	-	1,873	1,873	-	4,296	4,296
	<u>52,984</u>	<u>4,759</u>	<u>57,743</u>	<u>60,522</u>	<u>7,372</u>	<u>67,894</u>

### 5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Fundraising events	10,944	5,824
Other income	-	69
Other trading activities	<u>10,944</u>	<u>5,893</u>

### 6 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Interest receivable	<u>4,777</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>4,836</u>	<u>3,163</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,163</u>

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024*

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7 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
<b>Fundraising and publicity</b>		
Other fundraising costs	575	1,666
	<u>575</u>	<u>1,666</u>

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

### 8 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Church running expenses 2024 £	Diocesan parish share 2024 £	Parish magazine 2024 £	Mission giving & donations 2024 £	Toddler Group 2024 £	Exceptional items 2024 £	Total 2024 £
<b>Direct costs</b>							
Mission giving & donations	-	-	-	1,395	-	-	1,395
Diocesan parish share	-	60,276	-	-	-	-	60,276
Church insurance	13,892	-	-	-	-	-	13,892
Clergy & staff expenses	2,722	-	-	-	-	-	2,722
Mission and evangelism costs	1,104	-	-	-	-	-	1,104
Church running expenses	5,401	-	-	-	1,357	-	6,758
Church light, heat, water & waste	8,980	-	-	-	-	-	8,980
Costs of trading	-	-	640	-	-	-	640
Repairs to church building	9,739	-	-	-	-	-	9,739
Upkeep of the churchyard	7,005	-	-	-	-	-	7,005
Architect and survey costs	11,014	-	-	-	-	-	11,014
Other charitable expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	(23,908)	(23,908)
	<u>59,857</u>	<u>60,276</u>	<u>640</u>	<u>1,395</u>	<u>1,357</u>	<u>(23,908)</u>	<u>99,617</u>
<b>Share of support and governance costs (see note 9)</b>							
Governance	714	-	-	-	-	-	714
	<u>60,571</u>	<u>60,276</u>	<u>640</u>	<u>1,395</u>	<u>1,357</u>	<u>(23,908)</u>	<u>100,331</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>							
Unrestricted funds	40,550	60,276	-	1,395	-	(23,908)	78,313
Restricted funds	20,021	-	640	-	1,357	-	22,018
	<u>60,571</u>	<u>60,276</u>	<u>640</u>	<u>1,395</u>	<u>1,357</u>	<u>(23,908)</u>	<u>100,331</u>

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Page 14 note 8

Architect and survey costs include the cost of traffic management in Peel Lane during the survey of the churchyard wall.

(£23,908) other charitable expenditure is a reversal of a 2015 accrual for the unpaid diocesan parish share.

Previous year:	Church running expenses	Diocesan parish share	Parish magazine	Mission giving & donations	Toddler Group	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Direct costs</b>						
Mission giving & donations	-	-	-	2,132	-	2,132
Diocesan parish share	-	57,405	-	-	-	57,405
Church insurance	11,020	-	-	-	-	11,020
Clergy & staff expenses	6,244	-	-	-	-	6,244
Mission and evangelism costs	1,257	-	-	-	-	1,257
Church running expenses	14,938	-	-	-	1,513	16,451
Church light, heat, water & waste	7,237	-	-	-	-	7,237
Costs of trading	-	-	670	-	-	670
Repairs to church building	2,915	-	-	-	-	2,915
Upkeep of the churchyard	7,105	-	-	-	-	7,105
	<u>50,716</u>	<u>57,405</u>	<u>670</u>	<u>2,132</u>	<u>1,513</u>	<u>112,436</u>
<b>Share of support and governance costs (see note 9)</b>						
Governance	660	-	-	-	-	660
	<u>51,376</u>	<u>57,405</u>	<u>670</u>	<u>2,132</u>	<u>1,513</u>	<u>113,096</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>						
Unrestricted funds	45,040	57,405	-	1,370	-	103,815
Restricted funds	6,336	-	670	762	1,513	9,281
	<u>51,376</u>	<u>57,405</u>	<u>670</u>	<u>2,132</u>	<u>1,513</u>	<u>113,096</u>

#### 9 Support costs allocated to activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Governance costs	<u>714</u>	<u>660</u>
<b>Analysed between:</b>		
Church running expenses	<u>714</u>	<u>660</u>

#### 10 Net movement in funds

	2024	2023
	£	£
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	<u>714</u>	<u>660</u>

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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### 11 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

### 12 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Total	-	-

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

### 13 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

### 14 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	-	(47)
Other debtors	292	10
Prepayments and accrued income	-	303
	<u>292</u>	<u>266</u>

### 15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Other creditors	9,577	34,549

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

#### 16 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Parish news	177	663	(640)	-	200
Rector & church wardens	1,795	-	-	-	1,795
Church fabric	65,071	33,771	(11,014)	(31,861)	55,967
Bell repairs	6,771	1,875	-	-	8,646
Midweek service legacy	843	20	(632)	(231)	-
Toddler group	2,052	1,958	(2,197)	-	1,813
Seed building	-	-	-	51,235	51,235
Somerford Chapel	-	21,413	(7,535)	-	13,878
	<u>76,709</u>	<u>59,700</u>	<u>(22,018)</u>	<u>19,143</u>	<u>133,534</u>

Previous year:	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Organ	2,406	1,210	(3,661)	45	-
Parish news	31	816	(670)	-	177
Rector & church wardens	1,795	-	-	-	1,795
Church fabric	47,081	20,000	(2,010)	-	65,071
Bell repairs	-	7,279	(508)	-	6,771
Midweek service legacy	1,000	-	(157)	-	843
Ukrainian support	762	-	(762)	-	-
Toddler group	-	4,296	(1,513)	(731)	2,052
	<u>53,075</u>	<u>33,601</u>	<u>(9,281)</u>	<u>(686)</u>	<u>76,709</u>

#### 17 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Friends of Astbury	1,416	320	-	(1,736)	-
General funds	52,000	87,162	(78,888)	(17,407)	42,867
	<u>53,416</u>	<u>87,482</u>	<u>(78,888)</u>	<u>(19,143)</u>	<u>42,867</u>

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

### 17 Unrestricted funds

(Continued)

Previous year:	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Friends of Astbury	1,760	420	(764)	-	1,416
General funds	36,540	119,491	(104,717)	686	52,000
	<u>38,300</u>	<u>119,911</u>	<u>(105,481)</u>	<u>686</u>	<u>53,416</u>

### 18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
<b>At 31 December 2024:</b>			
Current assets/(liabilities)	42,867	133,534	176,401
	<u>42,867</u>	<u>133,534</u>	<u>176,401</u>
	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
<b>At 31 December 2023:</b>			
Current assets/(liabilities)	53,416	76,709	130,125
	<u>53,416</u>	<u>76,709</u>	<u>130,125</u>

### 19 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2023 - none).

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

<b>SOMERFORD CHAPEL</b>			
<b>STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>for the year ending 31st December 2024</b>			
		<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>ACCOUNT OPENING BALANCES</b>			
	RBS BANK	5,087	6,473
	BUILDING SOCIETY	12,254	11,184
		<u>17,341</u>	<u>17,657</u>
 <b><u>INCOMING RESOURCES</u></b>			
Collection	Services	912	718
Collection	Easter	-	117
Collection	Funeral	-	270
Donations:	General	-	50
Donations:	Somerford PC	600	-
Grants	Congleton Inclosure Trust	2,500	-
Interest	Building Society	59	256
		<u>4,071</u>	<u>1,410</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>4,071</b>	<b>1,410</b>
 <b><u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u></b>			
	Service consumables	12	-
	Insurance	1,250	1,111
	Electric	234	-
	Chronicle	109	53
	Organist travel expenses (cash)	-	30
	Retirement gift	-	25
	Repairs	5,815	507
	Fire extinguisher (Astbury PCC)	96	-
	Cleaning	18	-
		<u>7,534</u>	<u>1,726</u>
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b>7,534</b>	<b>1,726</b>
 <b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>(3,463)</b>	<b>(316)</b>
 <b>BALANCES B/FWD 1st January</b>		<b>17,341</b>	<b>17,657</b>
 <b>BALANCES C/FWD at year end</b>		<b><u>13,878</u></b>	<b><u>17,341</u></b>
 <b>ACCOUNT CLOSING BALANCES</b>			
	RBS BANK	-	5,087
	BUILDING SOCIETY	-	12,254
	Held by The PCC St Mary Astbury	13,878	-
	<b>FUND BALANCE AT YEAR END</b>	<b><u>13,878</u></b>	<b><u>17,341</u></b>

*This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements*

# Safeguarding Officers Annual Report

Author Jennifer Renshaw-Priest

St Mary's Church

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025

Page 1 of 3

## Our Mission

- Promote a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruit and support all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults within the Church
- Respond promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Care pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons
- Care pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Respond to those that may pose a present risk to others

## **Safer Recruitment:**

Sally Drage and Andrew Bevington were the two PCC Members who was responsible for the appointment of our new incumbent Rev Heather Heather Carter alongside Chester Diocese whom followed the Safer Recruitment policies and procedures and kept everything confidential. A big thank you to you both,

## **DBS checks**

**All PCC Members** are required to have a DBS check completed.

The House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy states that the Church 'will train and equip church officers to have the confidence and skills they need to care for and support children, young people and vulnerable adults and to recognise and respond to abuse.' The Training and Development Framework 2019 outlines the core safeguarding training that is available from dioceses.

All PCC members have a current DBS check

One member is currently in progress to be renewed and is waiting on myself to complete ID check which is planned for Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025

## **Bell Tower**

Steven Stoker is our Tower Captain and is DBS checked

Ethan Tattersall Deputy Tower Captain has left the Tower team of Bell Ringers as he has moved out of the area.

Steven has identified Kevin Tucker in February 2025, as the new person to take over Ethan's old role, he has a current DBS check.

Two other bell ringers have been identified to support with training bell ringers and possibly be a keyholder. Their DBS checks are currently in progress.

## **Safeguarding Officer Report Page 2 of 3**

### **YAS Club**

Sophie Molyneux is the leader of our youth club and Pastoral worker in training. Sophie has a current DBS check through the diocese, she follows safeguarding procedures and ensures they are in place and that the staff to children ratio is appropriate.

Enhanced DBS checked volunteers who currently help run the club do so on a rota basis and the rota is shared with Sophie, Andrew Bailey, Andrew Bevington and Stephanie Morris who are all Enhanced checked

### **Bible Study**

Andrew Bayley runs a bible study. He is also one of our Lay Readers and has enhanced DBS Check.

### **Sides Persons and Refreshment Team**

We have a great team who welcomes people and provide great Coffee and Tea and cakes which follow safeguarding procedures.

### **Safeguarding Training**

- St Mary's Astbury Safeguarding Plan states All PCC Members, Volunteers paid or unpaid be up to date in Safeguarding Training.
- The Basic Awareness and Foundation courses can be completed by any member of the congregation, to support awareness raising and a culture of support and vigilance in the Church.
- They can be undertaken online at <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/login/index.php>.
- However, it is recommended that those in the following roles are encouraged to complete them:
- Vergers, Servers, Welcomers, Caretakers, Refreshment Helpers, Shop Staff, Sides persons, Flower Arrangers, Administrative Staff, Bell-ringers, Choir Members/Music Group Members (including Sound/ AVTechnicians) Youth group Leaders and volunteers.

We are in a healthy position at St Mary's relating to the Safeguarding Training. All PCC members have completed Safeguarding Training and understand they have to continue their safeguarding training every 3 years.

Steven Stoker has completed Bell Captain Leadership Tower Training and Safeguarding Basic and Foundation Training

## **Safeguarding Officer Annual Report Page 3 of 3**

All Bell Tower volunteers have completed the safeguarding Basic training and also bell ringers have completed the basic training which is commendable.

Vergers have completed Safeguarding training

YAS Group leader Sophie has completed Safeguarding Training.

PCC members have completed or are completing the Domestic Abuse training.

### **Safeguarding concerns:**

There have been no safeguarding concerns or allegations that have triggered Safeguarding protocols. Any concerns or potential safeguarding risks that have been discussed with the Safeguarding Officer have been discussed in full and deemed either no risks to the church and community or are low risk concerns that are not safeguarding in nature and more pastoral support or awareness of situations occurring to ensure our congregation are well supported to attend church throughout the last year May 2024- 30th April 2025,

We are on very much on track in fully completing our 3-year Safeguarding plan PCC Approved September 2023. Actions to continue to work towards completion by September 2026 are:

Domestic Abuse Statement - PCC to agree a parish domestic abuse statement including who to contact if there are concerns. Currently no one is appointed or though in this absence any concerns can be discussed with Safeguarding Officer Jenny Renshaw-Priest or Incumbent Rev Heather Carter.

### **Action Plan:**

All renew their safeguarding training in line with the guidance. Any New Members Complete Safeguarding Training

PCC members to agree Domestic Abuse Statement and appoint a person to report any concerns.

PCC Members to agree on Volunteers agreement

PCC have agreed to ensure Safeguarding posters are also displayed in the outside toilets not just in the church.

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# Accounts

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Charity registration number 1178664

**THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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### Trustees

Mr J R Hulse  
Dr S C Drage  
Mrs C Goodwin  
Mr A Bailey  
Mrs C F Holford  
Dr J E Moore  
Mrs D Barnett  
Mrs J M Taylor  
Miss P Blythe  
Reverend A Naylor  
Mrs M M Keene  
Mrs J L Renshaw-Priest  
Mr A R Bevington  
Mrs L A Gleaves  
Mr C Renshaw-Priest  
Mr R M Naylor (Appointed 15 May 2023)  
Reverend S R Morris (Appointed 1 June 2023)  
Mrs B C Cook (Appointed 25 September 2023)

### Charity number

1178664

### Principal address

Peel Lane  
Astbury  
Congleton  
Cheshire  
CW12 4RQ

### Independent examiner

Amanda Grint, FCCA  
Hammond McNulty LLP  
Bank House  
Market Square  
Congleton  
Cheshire  
England  
CW12 1ET

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# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

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# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023*

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The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's deed of trust, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

### **Objectives and activities**

#### **Objectives and Constitution of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)**

The object of the PCC is to further the work of the Church of England in the Parish of St Mary's Astbury. Elections to the PCC are held annually: all members on the church electoral role are entitled to vote and stand for election. There is also a power to co-opt members to the PCC.

The PCC is responsible for:

- the financial management of St Mary's Church
- the care and maintenance of the church fabric (including the churchyard)

In order to discharge these responsibilities under the above Measure the PCC may:

- acquire, manage and administer property for ecclesiastical purposes
- formulate and approve an annual budget so as to achieve its objectives
- levy and collect a voluntary church rate
- make representations to the Bishop of Chester concerning the welfare of the Parish

The PCC operates for the public benefit in the Parish of St Mary's Astbury. The PCC has complied with its duty to have due regard for the guidance on public benefit.

#### *Public benefit*

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023*

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### **Achievements and performance**

*Significant activities and achievements against objectives*

#### **Rector's report for 2023**

2023 has been a year in which we have worked towards our vision of becoming a thriving church with a building more available to the surrounding community. We continue to hold at the forefront our key values of generosity, radical welcome and joy.

In our worshipping life, we have continued to welcome new families as well as those moving into the area and people drawn to explore faith more deeply. Our spiritual life is healthy, with a new monthly Bible study group beginning, adding to our existing prayer group and Thursday group. A group of adults and children were confirmed by the Bishop of Chester in June.

St Mary's holds an important place in the lives of the parish, our school and wider community, and our doors welcome thousands of people through occasional offices of baptisms, weddings and funerals. The PCC have additionally approved opening the church building to the public during the week, and it is intended that this will begin at some point in 2024. Our chapel at Somerford, All Saints, also welcomed new worshippers and continued to extend the number of services through the winter months.

Financially, we aim to meet our ongoing expenses from regular income, whilst relying on the wider community for the sustainability and repair of the church building itself. We owe our financial health to the generosity of many who raise funds in the community, and the dedicated efforts of those who have given concerts and opened their homes for significant events. In the short term we are planning accessibility improvements by improving the car park, and we hope to improve internal facilities in the medium term.

Our quinquennial Architect's report revealed several areas of the fabric of the church which require attention, and the PCC will be looking at these in order of priority. Our internal reordering will be difficult to progress until we have addressed these areas.

Church life depends very heavily on the faithful service of volunteers, and I and the PCC are grateful to the many people from inside and outside the church community who give their time, gifts and skills to ensuring that the operations of the church are smooth. This year a number of people took up new roles, but we have been operating without any church wardens. Historically, the church wardens at St Mary's have given their time particularly generously, and have shouldered heavy responsibilities on behalf of the PCC. It is recognised that in today's society most people would be unable to give up their time in this way. We have continued to work on sharing roles and responsibilities more widely, especially in the area of buildings, so that roles can be undertaken without becoming onerous.

Once again we must thank the Community Payback Probation volunteers and Simon Hopkin from Well Grounded who have kept the church yard and the new cemetery looking good.

### **MUSIC**

As always, we are grateful to those who provide our music ministry. At 11am, an informal group of singers support the congregation in hymns and worship songs. Twice a month at 6.30pm, evensong, using the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, is led by the robed, 4-part choir. Both groups of singers join together for special services and major festivals. In September, a "come and sing" Tudor evensong attracted 20 extra singers.

*Dr Sally Drage*

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023*

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### **TODDLER GROUP**

Toddler group takes place on Wednesday mornings during term time. It continues to grow in numbers, averaging between 15 and 25 but occasionally hits a high of 30 which is almost the maximum number we can take. Jean, Joan and Margaret do a fantastic job in the kitchen, however, more volunteers are always needed and welcomed. Parents help with the tidy away and Mel is a dab hand at packing everything away into the cupboard. I am visiting every other week from about 10:30 and chat with parents and the toddlers and join in the singing with my puppet Jasmine who the children seem to really like.

*Revd Steph Morris*

### **THURSDAY GROUP**

Our wonderful Thursday Group meets weekly to explore faith, fellowship and prayer together. The story of our group begins with Christianity Explored - an outreach to those on the edges of our church family; this then became a Discipleship Explored course and centred around our journey through our new shared faith in God. For many it involved Baptism and Confirmation. More recently we have worked together through the life of Jesus using the work books associated with The Chosen - an Angel Network TV dramatization. We have seen a deepening of faith, a hunger to grow into the likeness and calling of Christ in our lives. Our Thursday group is a warm and welcoming space for all to study and live out faith together - we are open to all who would wish to join us.

*Andrew Bevington*

### **ASTBURY SCHOOL WORSHIP – Wednesday afternoons in term-time**

I am visiting school every Wednesday afternoon to read a story with class Jonah (reception and pre-school) I take Jasmine and Moose (my puppet doll and dog). During the autumn term we started to read “Stories Jesus Told” by Mick Inkpen. We took a break during December to read though the Christmas stories. Now we have started Bob Hartman’s Rhyming Bible.

For main school worship (years 1 to 6) Anne-Marie and I are in school every Wednesday. We made the decision to stop having the services in church from October to Easter as it was just too cold. This has worked well as we are able to use the large screen in school to play videos and songs however, fewer parents come into school than came to church.

During the second half of the Autumn term and the beginning of the of spring term we focused our worship on the Lord’s Prayer, using the resources provided by the Diocese of Chelmsford. During Lent we have been working with the resources provided by the Archbishop of York’s Trust, linked to this year’s theme of Watch and Pray.

Bishop Mark visited school when he was in the deanery at the beginning of March.

*Revd Steph Morris*

### **LIVE NATIVITY 2023**

This year the church took over responsibility for selling tickets for Live Nativity from Glebe Farm. It was decided that having an electronic system for selling tickets would be the best option. Tickets were on sale from 1st November to midnight the night before the performance. There was a quick burst of sales when the marketing first landed. Sales then slowed through early December. Our admin team did a sterling job with Facebook, promoting ticket sales in the two weeks before the event. For Monday night’s performance we had 226 attending and Tuesday we had 194.

Live Nativity takes many people to run successfully, and I would like to thank everyone who was involved in the event. This year ran very smoothly, and everyone seemed to enjoy the experience. A full report is available if people would like to read it, please let me know.

*Revd Steph Morris*

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023*

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### **FUNDRAISING**

This year our team, thanks to the hard work of Jane Sharman, put on a Craft Fair, and a series of summer concerts as well as Open Days at Biddulph Hall kindly given by Brian Vowles. Once more Russell Watson kindly put on a series of Christmas Concerts to aid the church. This was beautifully organised by Rob and Lesley Lomas. Carrie and Jasper Sutton organised Christmas Trees on the village green for business sponsors.

All of these events were hugely enjoyed and we are very grateful to all of the organisers, musicians and stallholders who made these events such a success. Thanks to all the WI, Ladies' Fellowship, Rotarians, vergers and volunteers who supported them behind the scenes.

The team produced a lovely souvenir mug and it is intended to make these and other products available to visitors when the church is open.

Our History Group organised an open day in the late summer.

*Revd Anne-Marie*

### **CHARITABLE OUTREACH**

At St Mary's, many of the congregation are active in their own vocations, including local and international charity work. As a church, we collectively continued to provide support to our school community. We have also helped many individuals in need, particularly through support to our local foodbank, and to refugees from Ukraine. We continue to support the St George Foundation in Sierra Leone.

*Revd Anne-Marie*

### **LADIES FELLOWSHIP**

The fellowship has had a good year. In April twenty members celebrated our 30th Anniversary with a festive lunch joined by Dawn Brazier, our founder.

At the May Day we ran our usual plant stall with some proceeds going towards church flowers and the Christmas Tree. We have had good speakers on various topics including Anne-Marie on her pilgrimage visit to Jerusalem, and Kath Reynolds on "Bringing up Baby in the Sixties."

We have a self-catering Christmas lunch when other members may join us for Communion and indeed may join us for any of our meetings.

We are self-financing, and aim to always have a reserve of £500.

*Carole Goodwin*

### **Financial review**

#### *Reserves policy*

The PCC's reserve policy is to keep a minimum of £10,000 in hand should unforeseen events occur. This is also the level deemed sufficient to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow. Other reserves are held in accordance with future plans and requirements, such as building works and improvements. After deducting amounts for future projects the charity held reserves of £15,771 freely available at the end of the year.

### **Structure, governance and management**

#### **Governing document**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

St Mary's Church Astbury has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent for the time being in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is a corporate body, its composition and procedure regulated by the Church Representation Rules as contained in Schedule 3 of the Synodical Government Measure 1969. The functions and powers of the PCC are contained in the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure (1956).

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023*

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The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr J R Hulse	
Dr S C Drage	
Mrs C Goodwin	
Mr A Bailey	
Mrs C F Holford	
Dr J E Moore	
Mrs D Barnett	
Mrs J M Taylor	
Mrs P E M Price	(Resigned 15 May 2023)
Miss P Blythe	
Reverend A Naylor	
Mr N Price	(Resigned 15 May 2023)
Mrs M M Keene	
Mrs J L Renshaw-Priest	
Mr A R Bevington	
Mrs L A Gleaves	
Mrs M Springle	(Resigned 21 July 2023)
Mr C Renshaw-Priest	
Mr R M Naylor	(Appointed 15 May 2023)
Reverend S R Morris	(Appointed 1 June 2023)
Mrs B C Cook	(Appointed 25 September 2023)

### *Recruitment and appointment of trustees*

Trustees are elected at the AGM open to every lay person whose name is on the roll of the parish. Elections must happen at least every 3 years. Full rules on those eligible to be elected and vote can be found here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/legal-services/church-representation-rules/part-9>

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

.....  
Reverend A Naylor

Date: .....

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary Astbury (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

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

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

**Amanda Grint, FCCA**

Hammond McNulty LLP  
Bank House  
Market Square  
Congleton  
Cheshire  
CW12 1ET  
England

Dated: .....

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023*

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
	Notes						
<b>Income from:</b>							
Donations and legacies	3	50,333	26,229	76,562	37,671	5,813	43,484
<i>Charitable activities</i>							
Collections at services	4	6,789	-	6,789	4,498	-	4,498
Planned giving	4	31,946	2,260	34,206	34,072	50	34,122
Burial & wedding fees	4	21,787	-	21,787	19,772	-	19,772
Parish magazine	4	-	816	816	-	530	530
Toddler Group	4	-	4,296	4,296	-	-	-
Other trading activities	5	5,893	-	5,893	10,046	2,974	13,020
Investments	6	3,163	-	3,163	891	-	891
<b>Total income</b>		<u>119,911</u>	<u>33,601</u>	<u>153,512</u>	<u>106,950</u>	<u>9,367</u>	<u>116,317</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Raising funds	7	1,666	-	1,666	207	-	207
<i>Charitable activities</i>							
Church running expenses	8	45,040	6,336	51,376	34,131	4,834	38,965
Diocesan parish share	8	57,405	-	57,405	55,733	-	55,733
Parish magazine	8	-	670	670	-	705	705
Mission giving & donations	8	1,370	762	2,132	1,300	-	1,300
Toddler Group	8	-	1,513	1,513	-	-	-
<b>Total charitable expenditure</b>		<u>103,815</u>	<u>9,281</u>	<u>113,096</u>	<u>91,164</u>	<u>5,539</u>	<u>96,703</u>
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>105,481</u>	<u>9,281</u>	<u>114,762</u>	<u>91,371</u>	<u>5,539</u>	<u>96,910</u>
<b>Net income</b>		14,430	24,320	38,750	15,579	3,828	19,407
Transfers between funds		686	(686)	-	(81)	81	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	10	15,116	23,634	38,750	15,498	3,909	19,407
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		38,300	53,075	91,375	22,802	49,166	71,968
<b>Fund balances at 31 December 2023</b>		<u>53,416</u>	<u>76,709</u>	<u>130,125</u>	<u>38,300</u>	<u>53,075</u>	<u>91,375</u>

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

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	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	14	266		440	
Cash at bank and in hand		164,408		127,815	
		<u>164,674</u>		<u>128,255</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	15	(34,549)		(36,880)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			130,125		91,375
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>			130,125		91,375
			<u><u>          </u></u>		<u><u>          </u></u>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>					
Restricted income funds	16	76,709		53,075	
Unrestricted funds		53,416		38,300	
		<u>130,125</u>		<u>91,375</u>	
		<u><u>          </u></u>		<u><u>          </u></u>	

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on .....

.....  
Reverend A Naylor

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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#### 1 Accounting policies

##### Charity information

The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary Astbury is an unincorporated charitable trust.

##### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's deed of Trust, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

##### 1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

##### 1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

##### 1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of receipt from HMRC.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

#### 1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

#### 1.7 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

##### *Basic financial assets*

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

##### *Basic financial liabilities*

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

##### *Derecognition of financial liabilities*

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023*

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### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

### 3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Donations and gifts	49,219	6,229	55,448	27,543	5,813	33,356
Legacies receivable	-	-	-	10,000	-	10,000
Grants	1,114	20,000	21,114	128	-	128
	<u>50,333</u>	<u>26,229</u>	<u>76,562</u>	<u>37,671</u>	<u>5,813</u>	<u>43,484</u>
<b>Donations and gifts</b>						
Donations	39,756	6,229	45,985	18,054	2,685	20,739
Gift aid recovered	9,463	-	9,463	9,489	3,128	12,617
	<u>49,219</u>	<u>6,229</u>	<u>55,448</u>	<u>27,543</u>	<u>5,813</u>	<u>33,356</u>

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
<b>Collections at services</b>						
Regular giving	6,789	-	6,789	4,498	-	4,498
<b>Planned giving</b>						
Regular giving	31,946	2,260	34,206	34,072	50	34,122
<b>Burial &amp; wedding fees</b>						
Wedding, funeral & monument fees	17,366	-	17,366	15,664	-	15,664
Other fees and subscriptions	4,421	-	4,421	4,108	-	4,108
<b>Parish magazine</b>						
Other fees and subscriptions	-	816	816	-	530	530
<b>Toddler Group</b>						
Other fees and subscriptions	-	4,296	4,296	-	-	-
	<u>60,522</u>	<u>7,372</u>	<u>67,894</u>	<u>58,342</u>	<u>580</u>	<u>58,922</u>

### 5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Fundraising events	5,824	-	5,824	10,027	2,974	13,001
Trading activity income: other	69	-	69	19	-	19
Other trading activities	<u>5,893</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,893</u>	<u>10,046</u>	<u>2,974</u>	<u>13,020</u>

### 6 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Interest receivable	<u>3,163</u>	<u>891</u>

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 7 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
<b>Fundraising and publicity</b>		
Other fundraising costs	1,666	207
	<u>1,666</u>	<u>207</u>

### 8 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Church running expenses 2023 £	Diocesan parish share 2023 £	Parish magazine 2023 £	Mission giving & donations 2023 £	Toddler Group 2023 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Direct costs</b>						
Mission giving & donations	-	-	-	2,132	-	2,132
Diocesan parish share	-	57,405	-	-	-	57,405
Church insurance	11,020	-	-	-	-	11,020
Clergy & staff expenses	6,244	-	-	-	-	6,244
Mission and evangelism costs	1,257	-	-	-	-	1,257
Church running expenses	14,938	-	-	-	1,513	16,451
Church utility bills	7,237	-	-	-	-	7,237
Costs of trading	-	-	670	-	-	670
Repairs to church building	2,915	-	-	-	-	2,915
Upkeep of the churchyard	7,105	-	-	-	-	7,105
	<u>50,716</u>	<u>57,405</u>	<u>670</u>	<u>2,132</u>	<u>1,513</u>	<u>112,436</u>
<b>Share of support and governance costs (see note 9)</b>						
Governance	660	-	-	-	-	660
	<u>51,376</u>	<u>57,405</u>	<u>670</u>	<u>2,132</u>	<u>1,513</u>	<u>113,096</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>						
Unrestricted funds	45,040	57,405	-	1,370	-	103,815
Restricted funds	6,336	-	670	762	1,513	9,281
	<u>51,376</u>	<u>57,405</u>	<u>670</u>	<u>2,132</u>	<u>1,513</u>	<u>113,096</u>

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 8 Expenditure on charitable activities

(Continued)

Previous year:	Church running expenses 2022 £	Diocesan parish share 2022 £	Parish magazine 2022 £	Mission giving & donations 2022 £	Total 2022 £
<b>Direct costs</b>					
Mission giving & donations	-	-	-	1,300	1,300
Diocesan parish share	-	55,733	-	-	55,733
Church insurance	10,227	-	-	-	10,227
Clergy & staff expenses	4,244	-	-	-	4,244
Mission and evangelism costs	1,204	-	-	-	1,204
Church running expenses	4,824	-	-	-	4,824
Church utility bills	5,943	-	-	-	5,943
Costs of trading	-	-	705	-	705
Repairs to church building	1,942	-	-	-	1,942
Upkeep of the churchyard	7,029	-	-	-	7,029
Conservation management plan	2,892	-	-	-	2,892
	<u>38,305</u>	<u>55,733</u>	<u>705</u>	<u>1,300</u>	<u>96,043</u>
<b>Share of support and governance costs (see note 9)</b>					
Governance	660	-	-	-	660
	<u>38,965</u>	<u>55,733</u>	<u>705</u>	<u>1,300</u>	<u>96,703</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>					
Unrestricted funds	34,131	55,733	-	1,300	91,164
Restricted funds	4,834	-	705	-	5,539
	<u>38,965</u>	<u>55,733</u>	<u>705</u>	<u>1,300</u>	<u>96,703</u>

### 9 Support costs allocated to activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Governance costs	<u>660</u>	<u>660</u>
<b>Analysed between:</b>		
Church running expenses	<u>660</u>	<u>660</u>

### 10 Net movement in funds

	2023 £	2022 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	<u>660</u>	<u>660</u>

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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### 11 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

### 12 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Total	-	-

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

### 13 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

### 14 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	(47)	151
Other debtors	10	-
Prepayments and accrued income	303	289
	<u>266</u>	<u>440</u>

### 15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other creditors	34,549	36,880

Other creditors - 2022 includes £1,752 held on behalf of Toddler Group. The Toddler Group is now fully included in the accounts not in other creditors, the 2023 balance is shown in the restricted funds, see note 15.

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

#### 16 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Organ	2,406	1,210	(3,661)	45	-
Parish news	31	816	(670)	-	177
Rector & church wardens	1,795	-	-	-	1,795
Church fabric	47,081	20,000	(2,010)	-	65,071
Bell repairs	-	7,279	(508)	-	6,771
Midweek service legacy	1,000	-	(157)	-	843
Ukrainian support	762	-	(762)	-	-
Toddler group	-	4,296	(1,513)	(731)	2,052
	<u>53,075</u>	<u>33,601</u>	<u>(9,281)</u>	<u>(686)</u>	<u>76,709</u>

Previous year:	At 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Organ	1,816	1,520	(930)	-	2,406
Parish news	206	530	(705)	-	31
Junior church	50	-	(50)	-	-
Rector & church wardens	2,120	200	(525)	-	1,795
Church fabric	44,407	5,566	(2,892)	-	47,081
Bell repairs	(628)	628	-	-	-
Floodlighting	195	-	(276)	81	-
Midweek service legacy	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Ukrainian support	-	923	(161)	-	762
	<u>49,166</u>	<u>9,367</u>	<u>(5,539)</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>53,075</u>

#### 17 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Friends of Astbury	1,760	420	(764)	-	1,416
General funds	36,540	119,491	(104,717)	686	52,000
	<u>38,300</u>	<u>119,911</u>	<u>(105,481)</u>	<u>686</u>	<u>53,416</u>

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 17 Unrestricted funds

(Continued)

Previous year:	At 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Friends of Astbury	1,240	520	-	-	1,760
General funds	21,562	106,430	(91,371)	(81)	36,540
	<u>22,802</u>	<u>106,950</u>	<u>(91,371)</u>	<u>(81)</u>	<u>38,300</u>

### 18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
<b>At 31 December 2023:</b>			
Current assets/(liabilities)	53,416	76,709	130,125
	<u>53,416</u>	<u>76,709</u>	<u>130,125</u>
	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
<b>At 31 December 2022:</b>			
Current assets/(liabilities)	38,300	53,075	91,375
	<u>38,300</u>	<u>53,075</u>	<u>91,375</u>

### 19 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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<b>SOMERFORD CHAPEL</b>			
<b>STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>for the year ending 31st December 2023</b>			
		<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>ACCOUNT OPENING BALANCES</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	RBS BANK	6,473	629
	BUILDING SOCIETY	11,184	12,189
		<u>17,657</u>	<u>12,818</u>
<b><u>INCOMING RESOURCES</u></b>			
Collection	Services	718	739
Collection	Easter	117	-
Collection	Funeral	270	-
Donations:	General	50	-
	Somerford PC	-	500
Legacy	Susan Whitehurst-Clarke	-	5,000
Interest	Building Society	256	53
		<u>1,410</u>	<u>6,292</u>
<b><u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u></b>			
	Insurance	1,111	1,058
	Electric	-	119
	Chronicle	53	134
	Organist travel expenses (cash)	30	70
	Retirement gift	25	-
	Repairs	507	-
	Fire extinguisher (Astbury PCC)	-	67
	Flowers for Easter (cash)	-	5
		<u>1,726</u>	<u>1,453</u>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		(316)	4,839
<b>BALANCES B/FWD 1st January</b>		17,657	12,818
<b>BALANCES C/FWD at year end</b>		<u>17,341</u>	<u>17,657</u>
<b>ACCOUNT CLOSING BALANCES</b>			
	RBS BANK	5,087	6,473
	BUILDING SOCIETY	12,254	11,184
	<b>FUND BALANCE AT YEAR END</b>	<u>17,341</u>	<u>17,657</u>

*This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements*

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# Accounts

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Charity registration number 1178664

**THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**  
**PAGES FOR FILING WITH REGISTRAR**

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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### Trustees

Mr J R Hulse  
Dr S C Drage  
Mrs C Goodwin  
Mr A Bailey  
Mrs C F Holford  
Dr J E Moore  
Mrs D Barnett  
Mrs J M Taylor  
Mrs P E M Price  
Miss P Blythe  
Reverend A Naylor  
Mr N Price  
Mrs M M Keene (Appointed 9 May 2022)  
Mrs J L Renshaw-Priest (Appointed 9 May 2022)  
Mr A R Bevington (Appointed 9 May 2022)  
Mrs L A Gleaves (Appointed 9 May 2022)  
Mrs M Springle  
Mr C Renshaw-Priest

### Charity number

1178664

### Independent examiner

Colin Higginson  
Hammond McNulty LLP  
Bank House  
Market Square  
Congleton  
Cheshire  
CW12 1ET

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# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

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Statement of financial activities	6
Balance sheet	7
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# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022*

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The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's deed of trust, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

### **Objectives and activities**

#### **Objectives and Constitution of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)**

The object of the PCC is to further the work of the Church of England in the Parish of St Mary's Astbury. Elections to the PCC are held annually: all members on the church electoral role are entitled to vote and stand for election. There is also a power to co-opt members to the PCC.

The PCC is responsible for:

- the financial management of St Mary's Church
- the care and maintenance of the church fabric (including the churchyard)

In order to discharge these responsibilities under the above Measure the PCC may:

- acquire, manage and administer property for ecclesiastical purposes
- formulate and approve an annual budget so as to achieve its objectives
- levy and collect a voluntary church rate
- make representations to the Bishop of Chester concerning the welfare of the Parish

The PCC operates for the public benefit in the Parish of St Mary's Astbury. The PCC has complied with its duty to have due regard for the guidance on public benefit.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

### **Achievements and performance**

#### **Rector's report for 2022**

2022 was our first full year of church activity after the lockdowns of the pandemic, and after a difficult time we are now in a more sustainable position. During 2021, the PCC took the opportunity to reflect on our future vision. We want to see a thriving church with a building more available to the surrounding community. From our vision work, key values of generosity, radical welcome and joy emerged, and in 2022 we made the decision to cement these by joining Inclusive Church.

In our worshipping life, we have welcomed new families as well as those moving into the area and people drawn to explore faith more deeply. Our spiritual life is healthy, with a committed prayer group, and ten people were confirmed by the Bishop of Stockport in June. St Mary's holds an important place in the lives of the parish, our school and wider community, and our doors welcome thousands of people. Our chapel at Somerford, All Saints, also welcomed new worshippers and was able to extend the number of services through the winter months.

Financially, we aim to meet our ongoing expenses from regular income, whilst relying on the wider community for the sustainability and repair of the church building itself. We were deeply touched by the outpourings of love following the theft of our church path during the year, and were very happy that it was replaced without financial loss. We owe our financial health to the generosity of many who raise funds in the community, and the dedicated efforts of those who have given concerts and opened their homes for significant events. In the short term we are planning accessibility improvements by introducing dedicated disabled parking facilities, and we hope to improve internal facilities in the medium term.

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022*

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### WARDENS' REPORT FOR YEAR 2022

We started the year on a more hopeful note than the previous one. Although Covid was still very much with us, thanks to our amazing scientists we now had vaccines with which to fight back! In spite of masks still being worn life was beginning to get back to normal.

Additions to ministry team enabled us to offer new marriage and baptism preparation mornings. Our Reader, Andrew Bevington moved from Lichfield Diocese and was licensed to work in the Diocese of Chester in October. Andrew Bailey has also been accepted to train as a Reader, and we hope that he will be licensed in 2024. Both the Andrews are already enriching our services with their ministry.

The church continues to be grateful to many volunteers for their time, skills and energy. Sadly, after many years of faithful service, William Ball retired from his position as secretary of the PCC and the person in charge of funerals. We are grateful that Bill still continues to lead Morning Prayer, continues to edit and produce the parish magazine, and remains on hand with his historical expertise. Bill's roles have been shared among a number of people, including Michelle Chapman who has been elected as Secretary of the PCC and is also acting as the Rector's PA. Michelle has also taken the role of Weddings Co-ordinator following the retirement of Jean Nadin. Many couples have appreciated Jean's assistance with their arrangements, and our thanks go to her. Peter Stanway retired as Bell Tower Captain at the end of the year after many years of looking after our bells and we also give him our grateful thanks.

As the year progressed our services returned to normality, as masks and social distancing disappeared and post-service refreshments were reintroduced. Thanks go to Bob and Lesley Gleaves, and we are grateful for the quality coffee from the new machine. Lesley has taken the role of Baptism Co-ordinator.

Significant progress on our building project was achieved during the year, thanks to Dr Sam Elbeik who offered his services as project manager, with a dedicated project team. Work was done to develop a statement of need to assist with toilet and kitchen facilities as well as a larger stage area to facilitate concerts and Sunday services. Many design options were considered and received overwhelming community support. As part of this work, we commissioned a Conservation Management Report which will help us as we care for our building in the future. We are also grateful to Sam for his assistance with IT matters.

Our Toddler group was restarted last year and has grown throughout the year thanks in great part to the amazing group of grandparents who set up and put away the equipment. During the summer holidays they turned up to throw out toys beyond repair, mend those which could be saved and wash everything in sterilising solution. At Christmas they organised a party for the children and adults.

Once again, we must thank the Community Payback Probation volunteers and Simon Hopkin from Well Grounded who have kept the church yard and the new cemetery looking good.

During the year we experienced the ups and downs of life. On Ash Wednesday, as we were preparing to celebrate Easter, our path was stolen. We were overwhelmed by offers of help and donations towards the cost poured in, demonstrating just how much the local community sees St Mary's as "their church". By March the Rural Crime police team had found the stones and the men who had taken them. They kept us informed every step of the way in their investigations and the thieves received custodial sentences. Happily, the path is now beautifully repaired.

We also found that we had a problem with one of the steps of the Bell Tower stair which we were able to get repaired very quickly.

After several years of being unable to do any fundraising activity, we were able to begin this again. Dorothy Barnett hosted one of her famous Garden parties; Nick and Jane Sharman came up with different ideas including selling the beautiful Christmas tree baubles with pictures of St. Mary's. Another innovation was put forward by Carrie Sutton and her husband Jasper when they organised "Rent-a-tree" on the village green for business sponsors. Brian Vowles opened his home, Biddulph Old Hall for several events.

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022*

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At the instigation of Town Mayor Margaret Garside, our newly formed History Group held a history day on the 750th anniversary of Congleton's charter. Dressed in medieval robes, Anne-Marie and Andrew Bevington led a party of walkers along the old Priestly trail between St Peter's and St Mary's, which culminated in a tour of the church and afternoon tea in the village hall. Thanks go to our Ladies' Fellowship and WI who have supported many events. The Ladies Fellowship celebrated its 30th anniversary this year.

We also hosted several concerts; including Nantwich Singers, Cor Bach, the Biddulph Male Voice Choir, Archie Hayward and Izzie Naylor amongst others. Finally, just before Christmas, Russell Watson made time in his heavy schedule to give us two performances. Many, many thanks to all these people for giving us so much time and helping with much needed funds. Thanks too to the people behind the scenes who made it possible for these people to perform.

We never forget that the purpose of these activities is the worship which we are able to offer in such a special place, enhanced by its wonderful atmosphere. The Lent season was profoundly moving, culminating in stripping of the altar on Maundy Thursday with a one-hour meditation in the Lady Chapel, which was full of greenery to represent Gethsemane. On Good Friday the church was open from 12 until 3, including a traditional choral service of lamentation. Then on Easter Saturday evening we held a service of light. A brazier was lit outside; the Paschal candle lit and brought into church showing the Light of the World coming into the darkness. Easter Sunday was a splendid joyful celebration with a floral cross created outside.

On Remembrance Sunday we were once more able to hang the beautiful fall of poppies made by the talented and dedicated ladies of the Astbury branch of the Women's Institute.

At Christmas we had our famous Live Nativity play on two evenings, followed by the crib service and midnight mass on Christmas Eve with 8am and 10am services on Christmas Day.

In the summer we celebrated the Diamond Jubilee, but then on the 8th of September we heard the sad news of the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II. During the following week many people attended special services, or visited the opened church to sign a book of condolence.

In ministry outside the church, we continued to provide support to our church school community. We have also helped many individuals in need, particularly through support to our local foodbank, and to refugees from Ukraine. We continue to support the St George Foundation in Sierra Leone.

#### **Financial review**

The PCC's reserve policy is to keep a minimum of £10,000 in hand should unforeseen events occur. This is also the level deemed sufficient to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow.

#### **Structure, governance and management**

##### **Governing document**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

St Mary's Church Astbury has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent for the time being in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is a corporate body, its composition and procedure regulated by the Church Representation Rules as contained in Schedule 3 of the Synodical Government Measure 1969. The functions and powers of the PCC are contained in the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure (1956).

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022*

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The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mrs D L Graham	(Resigned 9 May 2022)
Mr J R Hulse	
Mr W B Ball	(Resigned 9 May 2022)
Mrs B C Cook	(Resigned 9 May 2022)
Dr S C Drage	
Mrs C Goodwin	
Mr A Bailey	
Mrs C F Holford	
Dr J E Moore	
Mr P S Powell	(Resigned 9 May 2022)
Mrs D Barnett	
Mrs J M Taylor	
Mrs P E M Price	
Miss P Blythe	
Reverend A Naylor	
Mr N Price	
Mrs M M Keene	(Appointed 9 May 2022)
Mrs J L Renshaw-Priest	(Appointed 9 May 2022)
Mr A R Bevington	(Appointed 9 May 2022)
Mrs L A Gleaves	(Appointed 9 May 2022)
Mrs M Springle	
Mr C Renshaw-Priest	

Trustees are elected at the AGM open to every lay person whose name is on the roll of the parish. Elections must happen at least every 3 years. Full rules on those eligible to be elected and vote can be found here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/legal-services/church-representation-rules/part-9>

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Reverend A Naylor

15 May 2023

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

---

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary Astbury (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2022.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

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

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



**Colin Higginson**

Hammond McNulty LLP  
Bank House  
Market Square  
Congleton  
Cheshire  
CW12 1ET

Dated: 15 May 2023

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

		Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
	Notes						
<b>Income from:</b>							
Donations and legacies	3	37,671	5,813	43,484	26,307	2,211	28,518
<u>Charitable activities</u>							
Collections at services	4	4,498	-	4,498	776	-	776
Planned giving	4	34,072	50	34,122	36,761	12,510	49,271
Burial & wedding fees	4	19,772	-	19,772	19,059	-	19,059
Parish magazine	4	-	530	530	-	615	615
Other trading activities	5	10,046	2,974	13,020	1,149	-	1,149
Investments	6	891	-	891	612	-	612
<b>Total income</b>		<b>106,950</b>	<b>9,367</b>	<b>116,317</b>	<b>84,664</b>	<b>15,336</b>	<b>100,000</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Raising funds	7	207	-	207	115	-	115
<u>Charitable activities</u>							
Church running expenses	8	34,131	4,834	38,965	36,111	11,589	47,700
Diocesan parish share	8	55,733	-	55,733	54,505	246	54,751
Parish magazine	8	-	705	705	-	893	893
Mission giving & donations	8	1,300	-	1,300	1,325	-	1,325
<b>Total charitable expenditure</b>		<b>91,164</b>	<b>5,539</b>	<b>96,703</b>	<b>91,941</b>	<b>12,728</b>	<b>104,669</b>
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>91,371</b>	<b>5,539</b>	<b>96,910</b>	<b>92,056</b>	<b>12,728</b>	<b>104,784</b>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers</b>		<b>15,579</b>	<b>3,828</b>	<b>19,407</b>	<b>(7,392)</b>	<b>2,608</b>	<b>(4,784)</b>
Gross transfers between funds		(81)	81	-	-	-	-
<b>Net income/(expenditure) for the year/</b>							
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>15,498</b>	<b>3,909</b>	<b>19,407</b>	<b>(7,392)</b>	<b>2,608</b>	<b>(4,784)</b>
Fund balances at 1 January 2022		22,802	49,166	71,968	30,194	46,558	76,752
<b>Fund balances at 31 December 2022</b>		<b>38,300</b>	<b>53,075</b>	<b>91,375</b>	<b>22,802</b>	<b>49,166</b>	<b>71,968</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

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	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	13	440		711	
Cash at bank and in hand		127,815		113,241	
		<u>128,255</u>		<u>113,952</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	14	<u>(36,880)</u>		<u>(41,984)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>91,375</u>		<u>71,968</u>
<b>Income funds</b>					
Restricted funds	15		53,075		49,166
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	16	1,760		1,240	
General unrestricted funds		<u>36,540</u>		<u>21,562</u>	
			<u>38,300</u>		<u>22,802</u>
			<u>91,375</u>		<u>71,968</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 15 May 2023



Reverend A Naylor  
Trustee

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

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#### **1 Accounting policies**

##### **Charity information**

The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary Astbury is an unincorporated charitable trust.

##### **1.1 Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's deed of Trust, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

##### **1.2 Going concern**

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

##### **1.3 Charitable funds**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

##### **1.4 Income**

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of receipt from HMRC.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

#### 1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

#### 1.7 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

##### *Basic financial assets*

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

##### *Basic financial liabilities*

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

##### *Derecognition of financial liabilities*

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022*

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### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

**THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

3 Donations and legacies	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds		Total		Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds		Total	
	2022	£	2022	£	2022	£	2021	£	2021	£	2021	£
Donations and gifts	27,543		5,813		33,356		23,679		1,435		25,114	
Legacies receivable	10,000		-		10,000		2,500		-		2,500	
Grants	128		-		128		128		776		904	
	<u>37,671</u>		<u>5,813</u>		<u>43,484</u>		<u>26,307</u>		<u>2,211</u>		<u>28,518</u>	
<b>Donations and gifts</b>												
Donations	18,054		2,685		20,739		14,109		970		15,079	
Gift aid recovered	9,489		3,128		12,617		9,570		465		10,035	
	<u>27,543</u>		<u>5,813</u>		<u>33,356</u>		<u>23,679</u>		<u>1,435</u>		<u>25,114</u>	

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

### 4 Charitable activities

	Collections at services	Planned giving	Burial & Parish magazine wedding fees		Total 2022	Total 2021
	2022	2022	2022	2022		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Wedding, funeral & monument fees	-	-	15,664	-	15,664	15,559
Other fees and subscriptions	-	-	4,108	530	4,638	4,115
Regular giving	4,498	34,122	-	-	38,620	50,047
	<u>4,498</u>	<u>34,122</u>	<u>19,772</u>	<u>530</u>	<u>58,922</u>	<u>69,721</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>						
Unrestricted funds	4,498	34,072	19,772	-	58,342	56,596
Restricted funds	-	50	-	530	580	13,125
	<u>4,498</u>	<u>34,122</u>	<u>19,772</u>	<u>530</u>	<u>58,922</u>	<u>69,721</u>

### For the year ended 31 December 2021

	Collections at services	Planned giving	Burial & Parish magazine wedding fees		Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Wedding, funeral & monument fees	-	-	15,559	-	15,559
Other fees and subscriptions	-	-	3,500	615	4,115
Regular giving	776	49,271	-	-	50,047
	<u>776</u>	<u>49,271</u>	<u>19,059</u>	<u>615</u>	<u>69,721</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>					
Unrestricted funds	776	36,761	19,059	-	56,596
Restricted funds	-	12,510	-	615	13,125
	<u>776</u>	<u>49,271</u>	<u>19,059</u>	<u>615</u>	<u>69,721</u>

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

### 5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds
	2022	2022	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Fundraising events	10,027	2,974	13,001	687
Trading activity income: other	19	-	19	462
	<u>10,046</u>	<u>2,974</u>	<u>13,020</u>	<u>1,149</u>

### 6 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2022	2021
	£	£
Interest receivable	891	612
	<u>891</u>	<u>612</u>

### 7 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2022	2021
	£	£
Fundraising and publicity		
Other fundraising costs	207	115
	<u>207</u>	<u>115</u>

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

### 8 Charitable activities

	Church running expenses 2022 £	Diocesan parish share 2022 £	Parish magazine 2022 £	Mission giving & donations 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Mission giving & donations	-	-	-	1,300	1,300	1,325
Diocesan parish share	-	55,733	-	-	55,733	54,505
Church insurance	10,227	-	-	-	10,227	9,817
Clergy & staff expenses	4,244	-	-	-	4,244	5,285
Mission and evangelism costs	1,204	-	-	-	1,204	2,860
Church running expenses	4,824	-	-	-	4,824	14,275
Church utility bills	5,943	-	-	-	5,943	5,388
Costs of trading	-	-	705	-	705	893
Repairs to church building	1,942	-	-	-	1,942	4,013
Upkeep of the churchyard	7,029	-	-	-	7,029	5,648
Conservation management plan	2,892	-	-	-	2,892	-
	<u>38,305</u>	<u>55,733</u>	<u>705</u>	<u>1,300</u>	<u>96,043</u>	<u>104,009</u>
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	660	-	-	-	660	660
	<u>38,965</u>	<u>55,733</u>	<u>705</u>	<u>1,300</u>	<u>96,703</u>	<u>104,669</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>						
Unrestricted funds	34,131	55,733	-	1,300	91,164	91,941
Restricted funds	4,834	-	705	-	5,539	12,728
	<u>38,965</u>	<u>55,733</u>	<u>705</u>	<u>1,300</u>	<u>96,703</u>	<u>104,669</u>

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

### 8 Charitable activities (Continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2021

	Church running expenses £	Diocesan parish share £	Parish magazine £	Mission giving & donations £	Total 2021 £
Mission giving & donations	-	-	-	1,325	1,325
Diocesan parish share	-	54,505	-	-	54,505
Church insurance	9,817	-	-	-	9,817
Clergy & staff expenses	5,285	-	-	-	5,285
Mission and evangelism costs	2,614	246	-	-	2,860
Church running expenses	14,275	-	-	-	14,275
Church utility bills	5,388	-	-	-	5,388
Costs of trading	-	-	893	-	893
Repairs to church building	4,013	-	-	-	4,013
Upkeep of the churchyard	5,648	-	-	-	5,648
	<u>47,040</u>	<u>54,751</u>	<u>893</u>	<u>1,325</u>	<u>104,009</u>
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	660	-	-	-	660
	<u>47,700</u>	<u>54,751</u>	<u>893</u>	<u>1,325</u>	<u>104,669</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>					
Unrestricted funds	36,111	54,505	-	1,325	91,941
Restricted funds	11,589	246	893	-	12,728
	<u>47,700</u>	<u>54,751</u>	<u>893</u>	<u>1,325</u>	<u>104,669</u>

### 9 Support costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2022 £	2021 £
Audit fees	-	660	660	660
	<u>-</u>	<u>660</u>	<u>660</u>	<u>660</u>
Analysed between Charitable activities	-	660	660	660
	<u>-</u>	<u>660</u>	<u>660</u>	<u>660</u>

### 10 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

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### 11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
Total	-	-

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

### 12 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

### 13 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	151	429
Prepayments and accrued income	289	282
	<u>440</u>	<u>711</u>

### 14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Other creditors	36,880	41,984

Other creditors - 2022 includes £1,752 held on behalf of Toddler Group (£1,532 in 2021)

**THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

**15 Restricted funds**

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 January 2021	Movement in funds			Balance at 1 January 2022	Movement in funds			Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2022
		£	Incoming resources	Resources expended		£	Incoming resources	Resources expended		
Organ	5,224	970	(4,378)	1,816	1,520	(930)	-	-	2,406	
Parish news	484	615	(893)	206	530	(705)	-	-	31	
Junior church	50	-	-	50	-	(50)	-	-	-	
Rector & church wardens	2,120	-	-	2,120	200	(525)	-	-	1,795	
Church fabric	37,451	10,969	(4,013)	44,407	5,566	(2,892)	-	-	47,081	
Bell repairs	(272)	2,782	(3,138)	(628)	628	-	-	-	-	
Floodlighting	501	-	(306)	195	-	(276)	81	-	-	
Midweek service legacy	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000	
Ukrainian support	-	-	-	-	923	(161)	-	-	762	
	<u>46,558</u>	<u>15,336</u>	<u>(12,728)</u>	<u>49,166</u>	<u>9,367</u>	<u>(5,539)</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>53,075</u>	

# THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

### 16 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds		Movement in funds		Balance at 31 December 2022
	Balance at 1 January 2021	Incoming resources	Balance at 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	
	£	£	£	£	£
Friends of Astbury	720	520	1,240	520	1,760
	<u>720</u>	<u>520</u>	<u>1,240</u>	<u>520</u>	<u>1,760</u>

### 17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2022	2022	2022	2021	2021	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2022 are represented by:						
Current assets/(liabilities)	38,300	53,075	91,375	22,802	49,166	71,968
	<u>38,300</u>	<u>53,075</u>	<u>91,375</u>	<u>22,802</u>	<u>49,166</u>	<u>71,968</u>

### 18 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2021 - none).

**THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY ASTBURY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

		<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>ACCOUNT OPENING BALANCES</b>			
	RBS BANK	629	741
	BUILDING SOCIETY	12,189	12,238
		<u>12,818</u>	<u>12,978</u>
 <b><u>INCOMING RESOURCES</u></b>			
Collection	Services	739	347
Collection	Christening	-	178
Donations:	General	-	110
	Somerford PC	500	300
Legacy	Susan Whitehurst-Clarke	5,000	-
Fees	Grave stone	-	123
Interest	Building Society	53	12
		<u>6,292</u>	<u>1,070</u>
 <b><u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u></b>			
	Insurance	1,058	1,007
	Electric	119	113
	Chronicle	134	100
	Organist travel expenses (cash)	70	10
	Fire extinguisher (Astbury PCC)	67	-
	Flowers for Easter (cash)	5	-
		<u>1,453</u>	<u>1,230</u>
 <b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>4,839</b>	<b>(160)</b>
 <b>BALANCES B/FWD 1st January</b>		<b>12,818</b>	<b>12,978</b>
 <b>BALANCES C/FWD at year end</b>		<b><u>17,657</u></b>	<b><u>12,978</u></b>
 <b>ACCOUNT CLOSING BALANCES</b>			
	RBS BANK	6,473	629
	BUILDING SOCIETY	11,184	12,189
	<b>FUND BALANCE AT YEAR END</b>	<b><u>17,657</u></b>	<b><u>12,818</u></b>

*This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements*

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# Accounts

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**Report of the Trustees and**  
**Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2021**  
**for**  
**St Mary's, Astbury PCC**

Hammond McNulty LLP  
Bank House  
Market Square  
Congleton  
Cheshire  
CW12 1ET

**St Mary's, Astbury PCC**

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**for the Year Ended 31st December 2021**

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**St Mary's, Astbury PCC**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31st December 2021**

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Objectives and Constitution of the PCC**

The object of the PCC is to further the work of the Church of England in the Parish of St Mary's Astbury. Elections to the PCC are held annually: all members on the church electoral role are entitled to vote and stand for election. There is also a power to co-opt members to the PCC.

The PCC is responsible for:

- the financial management of St Mary's Church
- the care and maintenance of the church fabric (including the churchyard)

In order to discharge these responsibilities under the above Measure the PCC may:

- acquire, manage and administer property for ecclesiastical purposes
- formulate and approve an annual budget so as to achieve its objectives
- levy and collect a voluntary church rate
- make representations to the Bishop of Chester concerning the welfare of the Parish

The PCC operates for the public benefit in the Parish of St Mary's Astbury. The PCC has complied with its duty to have due regard for the guidance on public benefit.

St Mary's, Astbury PCC

Report of the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

**ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

**Charitable activities**

**Report for the year 2021**

The first sentence in last year's Annual Report for the Trustees stated "To say 2020 has been a strange year would be an understatement". At the time it seemed unconceivable that the report for 2021 could start with exactly the same sentence, but Covid 19 has continued to have a dramatic effect on the world, our country, our church congregation and our planning of services. Thankfully in 2021 we have had Anne-Marie, our Rector, to guide us through another very difficult year. As wardens we and I am sure the Standing Committee and PCC also are very grateful for her help and wisdom navigating the church through such a difficult time.

At all times the safety of the congregation has been uppermost in our minds in the planning and decisions that have been made. With social distancing in mind, we have retained the system of numbered pews with ticks and crosses, and it was only in July the "fogging" machine was retired. The scheme of using alternate pews has again worked well and kept people safe. There is one advantage of having a draughty church, the virus is unable to thrive.

Despite Covid we have had a full year of church activities and made some new introductions as well.

At the beginning of February, a Wednesday evening discussion / prayer group started meeting on Zoom. This is a relaxed gathering, hosted by Anne-Marie, starting with informal chat and moving on to a Bible study or a time of contemplation or prayer. The Lent sessions were particularly interesting and well received.

On Mother's Day willing volunteers delivered posies of flowers to ladies around the parish and wider area, including Astbury Mere Care home. The response to this simple act was overwhelming gratitude.

It was a joy to be able to have Easter services in church this year as at Easter 2020 all churches were closed. To celebrate the church re-opening we employed a professional cleaning company to thoroughly clean through the church and we are grateful to the anonymous gifts that paid for this.

The traditional Stripping of the Altar service took place on Maundy Thursday and Three Hours before the Cross on Good Friday.

On Easter Saturday evening a Service of the Light took place. A brazier was lit outside church from which the Paschal candle was lit and brought into church for the start of the service.

At the start of April, it was noticed some wood debris had fallen from the roof in the north isle and on the advice of our architect, scaffolding was erected, and a specialist firm contacted. We were all very thankful that it was not a major problem, and a local firm were able to repair the damage.

At the passing of H.R.H. Prince Phillip on April 9th the church was open over the weekend of the 10th and 11th to enable people to sign a book of condolences. Many expressed their gratitude for the opportunity.

At the Annual Parish Meeting in May I was delighted when Margaret Springle was elected to be a churchwarden, a problem shared is a problem halved and we have been working well together.

It is said "Better late than never". As a result of Covid restrictions, it took a year to happen but on June 27th Revd Ann-Marie Naylor was finally inducted as Rector of Astbury and Vicar of Smallwood. The service was conducted by the Ven. Ian Bishop, Archdeacon of Macclesfield and Revd Steve Clapham, our Rural Dean. It was a lovely service and a joy at last to have Anne-Marie officially in post. Again, because of Covid, the numbers able to attend had to be much reduced and we were unable to gather for any form of celebration party afterwards..... one day!

The building project is alive and well and progress is being made. Although Covid robbed us of the planned weekend away, a PCC vision day was held in the Village Hall in late July. Members discussed their thoughts and ideas for the future of St. Mary's in general terms, not just the building itself but how the future of the church can be guaranteed and established in the wider community. It was a very productive day with lots of very good ideas and a general agreement on the way forward.

## St Mary's, Astbury PCC

### Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

At the end of September Mrs Brenda Cook arranged a coach trip around several local churches that have had major building works done. This proved an educational and interesting day out, looking at how change can be achieved tastefully in historic churches.

In early December we had a site visit from the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) to enable them to visualise our hopes and plans for the church interior. In general, their comments were positive and encouraging. The next step is for the architect to draw up more detailed plans.

At this point Mr Sam Elbeik offered the church his experience in project management to lead the plan onward. He is now setting up numerous small working parties to assist him with the task.

We were fortunate that the sun shone when a joint benefice Pet Blessing service was held once again in the grounds of Somerford Chapel at the end of August. It was well attended by both a two and four legged congregation.

Evening services were able to resume in September, with a calendar of Evensong, Compline, Taize and Sung Eucharist each month.

As part of the Remembrance Sunday commemorations this year, the ladies of Astbury Women's Institute knitted between 800 and 900 poppies which were then attached to netting and suspended from the rood screen making a fantastic and moving tribute to all the fallen.

The Toddler group was able to restart again on Wednesdays in the Village Hall just before Christmas and has been well supported. Anne-Marie is able to join us for stories and songs at the end of the session. Also, on Wednesdays staff and pupils from Astbury school come into church in the afternoon. With the easing of Covid restrictions, parents are now encouraged to join in the service.

An innovation this year has been the introduction of a marriage preparation day for couples planning their wedding at St. Mary's. Led by Anne-Marie, the morning is spent in the Village Hall looking at starting and maintaining a good and healthy marriage. Lunch follows in the Egerton Arms followed by a time in the church. These days have been appreciated by all who have taken part so far and it is intended they will become regular calendar events.

As part of our ongoing plan to open the church up for more than worship on Sundays, a series of concerts were held in the summer. We were delighted to welcome back Archie Halward who performed a short program of songs, his stunning voice filling the whole church. The Nantwich Singers performed twice with varied programmes, and we also had a very enjoyable evening listening to Tonik, duo of singers and their accompanists.

It is our hope that in 2022 more musical events can be held and become a way to raise funds for the church.

The Christmas season we feel was a success. The Astbury Live Nativity returned over two nights, albeit in a slightly changed format. In the past it had started in church and finished at Glebe Farm, this year it was reversed, but fortunately the Roman Centurion, grumpy Inn keeper, shepherds and wise men appeared in the correct order, and we welcomed 300 people into church. A manger had been built in the Nave where Mary, Joseph and the Baby sat. The church was in darkness except for spotlighting on the Nativity scene. A magnificent 20ft. Christmas tree had been placed in church and decorated with 100 meters of lights. Many thanks to the willing volunteers who somehow succeeded in these tasks. The tree looked stunning, and we should also extend our thanks for the gift of the tree. The two nights raised over £800.00.

Congleton High School returned for their Christmas service with 600 pupils, not the usual 1,200, and Astbury School had their Nativity service in church.

Advent and Carol Services with readings and carols were held with a welcome return of the church choir. A Crib service, Midnight Communion, 8am and 10am completed our Christmas celebrations.

There has been a slow but steady rebuilding of our church congregation as the pandemic has lessened but many are still nervous about returning to church. The drop in numbers over the last 18 months has, and is still, having a detrimental effect on church finances. In addition, we have been unable to hold our usual fund-raising events. The church reserves are dwindling fast and there is an urgency to start fund raising again.

## St Mary's, Astbury PCC

### Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

The old and new churchyards are kept well maintained thanks to regular attention from the Community Payback Probation volunteers and Simon Hopkin from Well Grounded, and we again pass on our thanks to them. Also, we would like to thank the willing teams who clean the church, the brasses and arrange the flowers so beautifully each week. We are very blessed to have so many willing helpers at St. Mary's. Thank you all.

We are fortunate that we believe that the fabric of the church to be sound and hope that the Quinquennial survey in due in 2022 will prove this so.

**Committees of the PCC:** The Rector is ex officio Chairman of all Committees of the PCC.

**Standing Committee:** the Rector, Mr Hulse, Mrs Springle, Dr Drage, Mr Ball, Mrs Barnett and Mrs Cook. This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. [No such direction has been given by the Council.]

**Astbury & Smallwood Parish News:** The Rector, Mr Ball, Mr Hulse and Mrs Cook. This committee operates a bank account to collect and disburse money to pay for the monthly publication of Astbury & Smallwood Parish News. The PCC are especially grateful for all the continued support, wise counsel and hard work of the Patron of the Living, Sir Richard Baker Wilbraham and the Ven Ian Bishop, Archdeacon of Macclesfield.

The PCC believe that they have complied with their duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (a duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

The new electoral roll (made in 2019, with 134 names) was revised and on 31st December 2021 contained 137 names.

The Deanery Synod comprises all the clergy, together with lay representatives, from all the parishes in Congleton Deanery. The Revd Steve Clapham continued as Rural Dean and Mr William Ball continued as Lay Chairman of the Synod. The Synod met only once during the year, on 21st October at Christ Church, Alsager, for a "catch-up" meeting after the pandemic.

John Hulse, Margaret Springle  
Churchwardens

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

##### **Reserves policy**

The PCC's reserve policy is to keep a minimum of £10,000 in hand should unforeseen events occur. This is also the level deemed sufficient to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow.

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Governing document**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

St Mary's Church Astbury has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent for the time being in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is a corporate body, its composition and procedure regulated by the Church Representation Rules as contained in Schedule 3 of the Synodical Government Measure 1969. The functions and powers of the PCC are contained in the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure (1956).

#### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

##### **Registered Charity number**

1178664

##### **Principal address**

Astbury  
Congleton  
Cheshire  
CW12 4RQ

**St Mary's, Astbury PCC**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31st December 2021**

<b>Trustees</b>		
<b>Rector of Astbury</b>	Revd. Anne-Marie Naylor	Chairman
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Mrs M Springle Mr J R Hulse	From 17th May 2021
<b>Deanery Synod</b>	Mr W B Ball Mr A. Bailey Mrs C Goodwin	Secretary Assistant Secretary Deanery Synod
<b>Parochial Church Council</b>	Dr S C Drage Mrs D Barnett Mrs B Cook Mrs D L Graham Mrs C F Holford Dr J E Moore Mrs J E Nadin Mrs M Pennington Mr P S Powell Mr N Price Mrs P E M Price Mr C Renshaw-Priest Mr P Stanway Mrs J M Taylor Miss P Blythe Mrs L Gleaves	Vice-chairman Treasurer  Until 17th May 2021 Until 17th May 2021  From 5th October 2020  From 17th May 2021 until 17th May 2021  co-opted co-opted

**Independent Examiner**

Hammond McNulty LLP  
Bank House  
Market Square  
Congleton  
Cheshire  
CW12 1ET


**Bankers**

Clydesdale Bank PLC (re-branded as Virgin Money)  
136-138 New Street, Birmingham B2 4QJ

National Westminster Bank  
46 High Street, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 1BE

CAF Bank  
25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4QJ

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 9th May 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



Revd. A-M Naylor - Trustee

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
St Mary's, Astbury PCC**

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of St Mary's, Astbury PCC**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Mary's, Astbury PCC (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2021.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Colin Higginson  
FCCA  
Hammond McNulty LLP  
Bank House  
Market Square  
Congleton  
Cheshire  
CW12 1ET

Date: 7th May 2022.....

**St Mary's, Astbury PCC**

**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**for the Year Ended 31st December 2021**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31/12/21 Total funds £	31/12/20 Total funds £
<b>VOLUNTARY INCOME FROM</b>					
Donations and legacies		26,306	2,210	28,516	31,470
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Burial & wedding fees		19,059	-	19,059	19,680
Collections at services		776	-	776	1,073
Parish Magazine		-	615	615	736
Planned giving		36,761	12,510	49,271	41,909
Other trading activities	2	1,149	-	1,149	1,094
Investment income	3	612	-	612	652
<b>Total</b>		<b>84,663</b>	<b>15,335</b>	<b>99,998</b>	<b>96,614</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
Raising funds		115	-	115	456
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Church running expenses		35,148	11,589	46,737	29,163
Diocesan parish share		54,505	-	54,505	54,099
Mission giving & donations		2,287	246	2,533	1,852
Parish Magazine		-	893	893	828
Other		-	-	-	1,236
<b>Total</b>		<b>92,055</b>	<b>12,728</b>	<b>104,783</b>	<b>87,634</b>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		<b>(7,392)</b>	<b>2,607</b>	<b>(4,785)</b>	<b>8,980</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		<b>30,194</b>	<b>46,558</b>	<b>76,752</b>	<b>67,772</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>22,802</b>	<b>49,165</b>	<b>71,967</b>	<b>76,752</b>

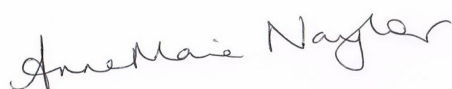
The notes form part of these financial statements

**St Mary's, Astbury PCC**

**Balance Sheet**  
**31st December 2021**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31/12/21 Total funds £	31/12/20 Total funds £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	6	711	-	711	1,738
Cash at bank		<u>62,543</u>	<u>51,325</u>	<u>113,868</u>	<u>111,520</u>
		<b>63,254</b>	<b>51,325</b>	<b>114,579</b>	113,258
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>(40,452)</u>	<u>(2,160)</u>	<u>(42,612)</u>	<u>(36,506)</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>22,802</u>	<u>49,165</u>	<u>71,967</u>	<u>76,752</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>22,802</u>	<u>49,165</u>	<u>71,967</u>	<u>76,752</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>22,802</u>	<u>49,165</u>	<u>71,967</u>	<u>76,752</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>	9				
Unrestricted funds				22,802	30,194
Restricted funds				<u>49,165</u>	<u>46,558</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				<u>71,967</u>	<u>76,752</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 9th May 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:



Revd. A-M Naylor - Trustee

St Mary's, Astbury PCC

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

**Going Concern**

The trustees have considered the potential impact of COVID-19 on the principal activities of the charity and they believe that they have sufficient resources in place to operate for the foreseeable future. Thus, they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

**Income**

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

**Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

**Taxation**

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

**2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES**

	<b>31/12/21</b>	31/12/20
	£	£
Fundraising events	<b>687</b>	352
Other income	<b>462</b>	742
	<b><u>1,149</u></b>	<u>1,094</u>

St Mary's, Astbury PCC

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

**3. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	31/12/21	31/12/20
	£	£
Dividends & interest	<u>612</u>	<u>652</u>

**4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

Revd. Anne-Marie Naylor received a benefit as part of her employment with the Church of England; the charity paid £2,254 which is 80% of council tax and £268 which is 80% water rates for the rectory running costs. This is permitted in the Trust deed and the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure (1956).

**Trustees' expenses**

Trustees expenses paid in the year totalled £1,760.09 to four trustees as follows: Routine check maintenance £12.99 to one trustee, other church running expenses £47.69 to two trustees, printing, postage and stationery £836.11 to two trustees, service consumables £203.91 to one trustee, digital communications and technology £30.00 to one trustee, registration and licences £70.00 to one trustee, other resources expended £73.75 to one trustee and school worship resources £485.64 to one trustee.

**5. COMPARATIVES FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
<b>VOLUNTARY INCOME FROM</b>			
Donations and legacies	22,206	9,264	31,470
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Burial & wedding fees	19,680	-	19,680
Collections at services	1,073	-	1,073
Parish Magazine	-	736	736
Planned giving	40,004	1,905	41,909
Other trading activities	1,094	-	1,094
Investment income	<u>652</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>652</u>
<b>Total</b>	84,709	11,905	96,614
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>			
Raising funds	456	-	456
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Church running expenses	26,207	2,956	29,163
Diocesan parish share	54,099	-	54,099
Mission giving & donations	1,752	100	1,852
Parish Magazine	-	828	828
Other	<u>1,236</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,236</u>
<b>Total</b>	83,750	3,884	87,634
<b>NET INCOME</b>	959	8,021	8,980
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	<u>68</u>	<u>(68)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	1,027	7,953	8,980

St Mary's, Astbury PCC

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

<b>5.</b>	<b>COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued</b>	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
	<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
	<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	29,167	38,605	67,772
	<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<u>30,194</u>	<u>46,558</u>	<u>76,752</u>

<b>6.</b>	<b>DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>	<b>31/12/21</b> £	31/12/20 £
	Trade debtors	429	652
	Prepayments and accrued income	<u>282</u>	<u>1,086</u>
		<u>711</u>	<u>1,738</u>

<b>7.</b>	<b>CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>	<b>31/12/21</b> £	31/12/20 £
	Bank loans and overdrafts (see note 8)	628	272
	Other creditors	<u>41,984</u>	<u>36,234</u>
		<u>42,612</u>	<u>36,506</u>

Other creditors - 2021 includes £1,532 held on behalf of Toddler Group (£1,552 in 2020)

**8. LOANS**

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	<b>31/12/21</b> £	31/12/20 £
Amounts falling due within one year on demand:		
Bank overdrafts	<u>628</u>	<u>272</u>

The bank overdraft is a Bell fund shortfall pending January income, there is no bank loan because the general fund has covered this amount from the main bank account.

St Mary's, Astbury PCC

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

9. **MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	At 1/1/21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/12/21 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	29,474	(7,912)	21,562
Friends of Astbury	<u>720</u>	<u>520</u>	<u>1,240</u>
	<b>30,194</b>	<b>(7,392)</b>	<b>22,802</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Organ	5,224	(3,409)	1,815
Parish news	484	(278)	206
Junior church	50	-	50
Rector & church wardens	2,120	-	2,120
Church fabric	37,451	6,956	44,407
Bell repairs	(272)	(356)	(628)
Floodlighting	501	(306)	195
Midweek service legacy	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	<u><b>46,558</b></u>	<u><b>2,607</b></u>	<u><b>49,165</b></u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><b>76,752</b></u>	<u><b>(4,785)</b></u>	<u><b>71,967</b></u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	84,143	(92,055)	(7,912)
Friends of Astbury	<u>520</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>520</u>
	<b>84,663</b>	<b>(92,055)</b>	<b>(7,392)</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Organ	969	(4,378)	(3,409)
Parish news	615	(893)	(278)
Church fabric	10,969	(4,013)	6,956
Bell repairs	2,782	(3,138)	(356)
Floodlighting	<u>-</u>	<u>(306)</u>	<u>(306)</u>
	<u><b>15,335</b></u>	<u><b>(12,728)</b></u>	<u><b>2,607</b></u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><b>99,998</b></u>	<u><b>(104,783)</b></u>	<u><b>(4,785)</b></u>

**St Mary's, Astbury PCC**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31st December 2021**

**9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

**Comparatives for movement in funds**

	At 1/1/20 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/12/20 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	28,967	439	68	29,474
Friends of Astbury	<u>200</u>	<u>520</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>720</u>
	29,167	959	68	30,194
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Organ	6,031	(807)	-	5,224
Parish news	575	(91)	-	484
Junior church	50	-	-	50
Rector & church wardens	2,220	(100)	-	2,120
Church fabric	30,017	7,434	-	37,451
Bell repairs	(288)	16	-	(272)
Floodlighting	-	569	(68)	501
Midweek service legacy	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	<u>38,605</u>	<u>8,021</u>	<u>(68)</u>	<u>46,558</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><u>67,772</u></u>	<u><u>8,980</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>76,752</u></u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	84,189	(83,750)	439
Friends of Astbury	<u>520</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>520</u>
	84,709	(83,750)	959
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Organ	533	(1,340)	(807)
Parish news	737	(828)	(91)
Rector & church wardens	-	(100)	(100)
Church fabric	8,301	(867)	7,434
Bell repairs	705	(689)	16
Floodlighting	629	(60)	569
Midweek service legacy	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	<u>11,905</u>	<u>(3,884)</u>	<u>8,021</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><u>96,614</u></u>	<u><u>(87,634)</u></u>	<u><u>8,980</u></u>

**St Mary's, Astbury PCC**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31st December 2021**

**9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1/1/20 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/12/21 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	28,967	(7,473)	68	21,562
Friends of Astbury	<u>200</u>	<u>1,040</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,240</u>
	29,167	(6,433)	68	22,802
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Organ	6,031	(4,216)	-	1,815
Parish news	575	(369)	-	206
Junior church	50	-	-	50
Rector & church wardens	2,220	(100)	-	2,120
Church fabric	30,017	14,390	-	44,407
Bell repairs	(288)	(340)	-	(628)
Floodlighting	-	263	(68)	195
Midweek service legacy	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	<u>38,605</u>	<u>10,628</u>	<u>(68)</u>	<u>49,165</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><u>67,772</u></u>	<u><u>4,195</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>71,967</u></u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	168,332	(175,805)	(7,473)
Friends of Astbury	<u>1,040</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,040</u>
	169,372	(175,805)	(6,433)
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Organ	1,502	(5,718)	(4,216)
Parish news	1,352	(1,721)	(369)
Rector & church wardens	-	(100)	(100)
Church fabric	19,270	(4,880)	14,390
Bell repairs	3,487	(3,827)	(340)
Floodlighting	629	(366)	263
Midweek service legacy	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	<u>27,240</u>	<u>(16,612)</u>	<u>10,628</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><u>196,612</u></u>	<u><u>(192,417)</u></u>	<u><u>4,195</u></u>

St Mary's, Astbury PCC

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

**10. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31st December 2021.

**St Mary's, Astbury PCC**

**Detailed Statement of Financial Activities**  
**for the Year Ended 31st December 2021**

	31/12/21 £	31/12/20 £
<b>VOLUNTARY INCOME</b>		
<b>Donations and legacies</b>		
Donations	15,077	9,754
Gift aid	10,035	9,893
Legacies	2,500	7,901
Grants	<u>904</u>	<u>3,922</u>
	28,516	31,470
<b>Other trading activities</b>		
Fundraising events	687	352
Other income	<u>462</u>	<u>742</u>
	1,149	1,094
<b>Investment income</b>		
Dividends & interest	612	652
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Planned giving & collections	50,047	42,982
Burial & wedding fees	19,059	19,680
Parish magazine	<u>615</u>	<u>736</u>
	<u>69,721</u>	<u>63,398</u>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>99,998</b>	<b>96,614</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Raising donations and legacies</b>		
Fundraising expenses	115	456
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Sundries	309	27
Diocesan parish share	54,505	54,099
Church running expenses	46,428	29,136
Parish magazine	893	828
Missionary & charitable giving	<u>1,873</u>	<u>1,852</u>
	104,008	85,942
<b>Support costs</b>		
<b>Governance costs</b>		
Accountancy and legal fees	660	660
Legal fees	<u>-</u>	<u>576</u>
	660	1,236

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St Mary's, Astbury PCC

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities  
for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

	31/12/21	31/12/20
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Total resources expended	<u>104,783</u>	<u>87,634</u>
<b>Net (expenditure)/income</b>	<u><u>(4,785)</u></u>	<u><u>8,980</u></u>

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**SOMERFORD CHAPEL**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**for the year ending 31st December 2021**

<b>ACCOUNT OPENING BALANCES 1st January 2021</b>		£
	RBS BANK 16-1712 10011373	740.81
	BUILDING SOCIETY 58.44.04356.01	<u>12,237.51</u>
		<b><u>12,978.32</u></b>
 <b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		 £
Collection	Services	346.70
Collection	Christening	178.00
Donations:	Youngs	110.00
	Somerford PC	300.00
Fees	Grave stone	123.00
Interest	Building Society	11.90
		<hr/>
	<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>1069.60</b>
 <b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		
	Insurance	1,007.28
	Electric	112.56
	Chronicle	99.84
	Organist	10.00
		<hr/>
	<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>	<b>1229.68</b>
		 -160.08
	<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>	<b>-160.08</b>
	 <b>BALANCES B/FWD 1st January</b>	 <b>12,978.32</b>
		<hr/>
	<b>BALANCES C/FWD at year end</b>	<b><u>12,818.24</u></b>
 <b>ACCOUNT CLOSING BALANCES</b>		
	RBS BANK 16-1712 10011373	<b>629.01</b>
	BUILDING SOCIETY 58.44.04356.01	<b><u>12,189.23</u></b>
	<b>NET WORTH</b>	<b><u>12,818.24</u></b>

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