

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

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 Buiscool (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

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

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

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

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 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

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

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

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 Cuttall, 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 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

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

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

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							
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	21,507	230,708	252,215	18,777	54,882	73,659
Charitable activities							-
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
Total income		<u>92,087</u>	<u>237,179</u>	<u>329,266</u>	<u>87,482</u>	<u>59,700</u>	<u>147,182</u>
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	7	227	-	227	575	-	575
Charitable activities							
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)
Total charitable expenditure		<u>106,405</u>	<u>28,893</u>	<u>135,298</u>	<u>78,313</u>	<u>22,018</u>	<u>100,331</u>
Total expenditure		<u>106,632</u>	<u>28,893</u>	<u>135,525</u>	<u>78,888</u>	<u>22,018</u>	<u>100,906</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		(14,545)	208,286	193,741	8,594	37,682	46,276
Transfers between funds		1,904	(1,904)	-	(19,143)	19,143	-
Net movement in funds	10	(12,641)	206,382	193,741	(10,549)	56,825	46,276
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 January 2025		42,867	133,534	176,401	53,416	76,709	130,125
Fund balances at 31 December 2025		<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

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

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

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>
Donations and gifts						
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 £
Collections at services						
Regular giving	12,647	1,253	13,900	8,762	912	9,674
Planned giving						
Regular giving	26,625	1,600	28,225	24,179	1,310	25,489
Burial & wedding fees						
Wedding, funeral & monument fees	15,070	-	15,070	17,071	-	17,071
Other fees and subscriptions	2,599	-	2,599	2,972	-	2,972
Parish magazine						
Other fees and subscriptions	-	535	535	-	664	664
Toddler Group						
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

6 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Interest receivable	<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

7 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Fundraising and publicity		
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
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Direct costs						
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
	65,538	65,040	626	1,410	1,434	134,048
Share of support and governance costs (see note 9)						
Governance	1,250	-	-	-	-	1,250
	66,788	65,040	626	1,410	1,434	135,298
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds	39,955	65,040	-	1,410	-	106,405
Restricted funds	26,833	-	626	-	1,434	28,893
	66,788	65,040	626	1,410	1,434	135,298

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 £
Direct costs							
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
Share of support and governance costs (see note 9)							
Governance	714	-	-	-	-	-	714
	60,571	60,276	640	1,395	1,357	(23,908)	100,331
Analysis by fund							
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
Analysed between:		
Church running expenses	1,250	714

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

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 Number	2024 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

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other debtors	-	292
Prepayments and accrued income	284	-
	284	292

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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Previous year:	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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	53,416	87,482	(78,888)	(19,143)	42,867
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

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

SOMERFORD CHAPEL			
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES			
for the year ending 31st December 2025			
		2025	2024
ACCOUNT OPENING BALANCES		£	£
	RBS BANK		5,087
	BUILDING SOCIETY		12,254
	Held by The PCC St Mary Astbury	13,878	
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		13,878	17,341
 <u>INCOMING RESOURCES</u>			
Collection	Services	1,253	912
Donations:	Legacy	1,500	-
	Somerford PC	-	600
Grants	Congleton Inclosure Trust	-	2,500
Interest	Building Society	-	59
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	2,753	4,071
 <u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u>			
	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/>
	TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	2,552	7,534
 NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS			
		201	(3,463)
BALANCES B/FWD 1st January		13,878	17,341
BALANCES C/FWD at year end		14,079	13,878
		<hr/>	<hr/>
ACCOUNT CLOSING BALANCES			
	Held by The PCC St Mary Astbury	14,079	13,878
	FUND BALANCE AT YEAR END	14,079	13,878
		<hr/>	<hr/>

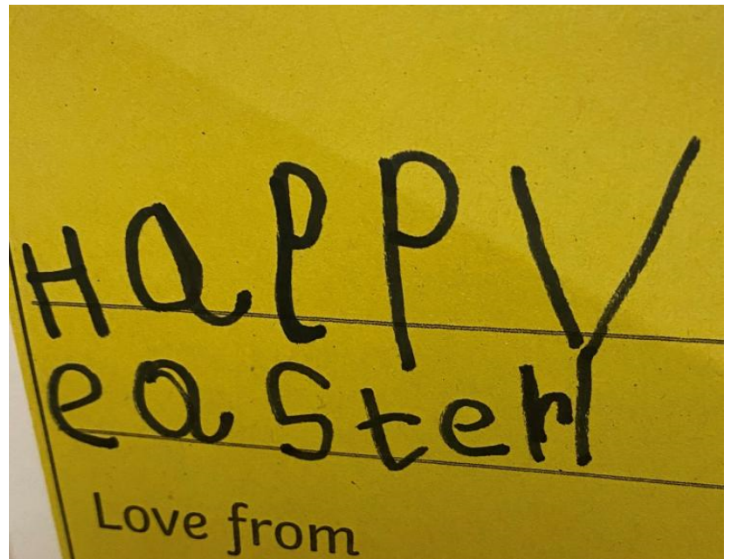
This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

PCC report for the AGM 2026

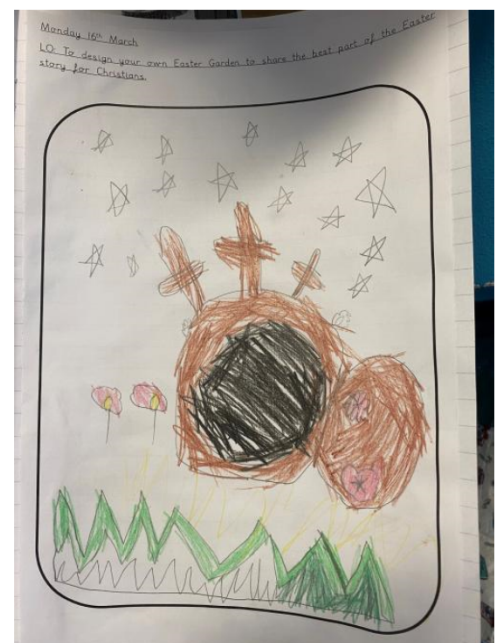
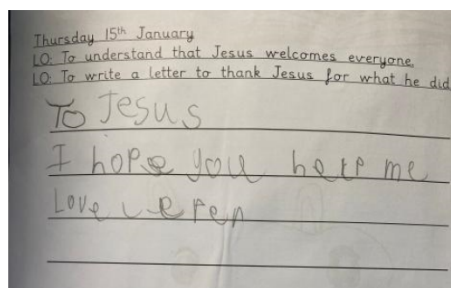
RE teaching

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, 2 January, 2028
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:

- Where Jesus walked on water ✓
- Where God parted the sea ✓
- 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 better. ✓
- Making family. ✓

God makes. (27)

[illegible]

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 yes or
a saviour because he helped 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 that the parolised man
man would of said you charge the
world a lot because he made him
walk again.

bread bread bread bread

(11) (11)

I am the bread of life John 6:35

13-03-26

Christians say that Jesus is a miracle worker because he made a paralyzed man walk and he's 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 Zacchaeus was robbing people so Jesus helped him stop turning him into right.

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 5th 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

I belong at home

I belong with my family

I belong at school

I belong with my friends

I belong at church

I belong with my community

I belong at home

I belong with my family

I belong at school

I belong with my friends

I belong at church

I belong with my community

I belong at home

I belong with my family

I belong at school

I belong with my friends

I belong at church

I belong with my community

I belong at home

I belong with my family

I belong at school

I belong with my friends

I belong at church

I belong with my community

Advent – week one

Thursday 27th November 2025

Mary's Story

Joy in Connection

JOY



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

Letting people play with you.

Helping everyone.

Showing kindness to everyone.



How do you show that you are including everyone in your friendships?

Let people come to our party even if they don't like it.

You can play with me.



Dear God,
Please help us to be kind to everyone, even at our parties.
Amen @

Spirituality

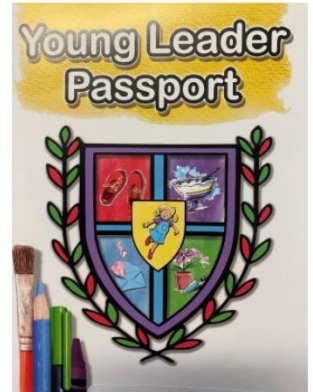
We have continued to teach our children about spirituality through windows, mirrors and doors. What do we see when we look out at our world and when we look at ourselves? How do we then respond. Our responses have been through 'wow' moments and 'ow' moments.

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

Rev'd 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.

Rev'd 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.