

2024 Annual Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of St Mary the Virgin Lymm

Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting 27 April 2025

Aim and Purposes

St Mary the Virgin Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent Rector Reverend Beverley Jameson in promoting the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral evangelistic social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church of St Mary the Virgin, Church Road Lymm and the Church Hall off Crouchley Lane Lymm. The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and become part of our parish community.

Mission Statement

St. Mary's is a worshipping community which seeks to nurture people in faith and serve the needs of the wider community through practical engagement.

Aims

1. To share the good news of Jesus Christ to people of all ages and backgrounds
2. To nurture and grow disciples in Jesus Christ
3. To be a Christian presence at the heart of the community in Lymm
4. To provide a resource for the community

Objectives

- a) Attract and retain families and young people to grow the church and be a more broadly based church family (*supporting Aim 1*)
- b) Diversify worship to have some informal services whilst retaining more formal worship (*supporting Aim 1*)
- c) Provide an open, welcoming experience especially to those new to St Mary's (*supporting Aim 1*)
- d) Provide regular discipleship and bible study opportunities to explore faith (*supporting Aim 2*)
- e) Provide Co-ordinated Pastoral Care within church family and within the wider community (*supporting Aim 2&3*)
- f) Sustain and increase links to schools and young people (*supporting Aim 3*)
- g) Sustain and develop projects and events by networking within the church and the wider community (*supporting Aim 3 & 4*)
- h) Maximise the use of the church building and the Church Hall (*supporting Aim 4*)

Achievements and Performance

The church is at the heart of the community and provides civic services including Rushbearing Service, Lymm High Founders Day Service and Remembrance Sunday Service. The popular Christmas Tree Festival was a huge success with forty-nine trees on display, entertainment from local groups and schools, refreshments and a craft stall.

St Marys pastoral Team provides services and pastoral support to those in need and the Care Homes in Lymm. These include Brookfield, Cheshire Grange, Keate House and Statham Manor Care Homes. Regular contact was maintained with the care home staff through Ian Bunday and Derek Buckthorpe our Lay Readers.

St Mary's links to children and young people is through links with the local schools and through St Mary's children's choir (launched in October 2021) which continues to be led by Choir Director Susan Gadd and is drawn from the wider community. The children's choir sing at St Mary's family services (attended by their families) and festivals (e.g. St Mary's Community Christmas Tree Festival). Visits to the church by the school children as part of their religious education continues to be very popular with Ravenbank, Cherry Tree and Statham, Primary Schools participating again this year. Experience Easter, an interactive way of telling the Easter story and was visited by over 300 Children from Cherry Tree, Ravenbank, Statham and Oughtrington primary schools. Reverend Beverley and Reverend Jill continued to support the four secular local primary schools and the schools through frequent visits and their visits to St Mary's church for various activities.

Rector Reverend Beverley Jameson is the Rural Dean for Great Budworth Deanery supporting and helping other ministers and licenced laity in the Deanery both from a Pastoral and organisation viewpoint. Reverend Beverley is also Chaplain to the Royal British Legion, Lymm and District and Bishops Advisor for Ecumenical Partnerships for the Diocese of Chester. Reverend Beverley Jameson is a member of the Diocesan Synod and the Committee for Ministry and is co-opted into the Diocesan Central Services Committee.

Reverend Jill Elston led a team to enable St Mary's to achieve the Bronze ECO award and in helping St Mary's becoming an Eco Church. Reverend Jill supported Reverend Beverley in working with many of the primary schools and their visits to St Mary's and has been a keen supporter of other Eco groups within Lymm, involved in re-creating St Mary's Church Hall Garden and its use for services.

There were 101 parishioners on the 2024 revision of the Electoral Roll with two deaths and one person moved away.

The average weekly attendance in 2024 was 35 adults, 2 children, with more attending the Family Services (approximately 39 adults 10 children) and considerably more attending the occasional and festival services.

St Mary's serves the community with a range of occasional offices including 10 Baptisms 2 Weddings and 5 funerals (2 in church, 2 at a crematorium, 1 graveside). There was also one burial of ashes in the churchyard.

Church Building and Church Hall

Church

All maintenance is up to date including PAT testing, Lightening, Clock mechanism etc. Military Cleaning now clean the church once every two weeks. The repairs to roof leaks are holding out well.

The Quintennial Inspection report arrived last year. The 'Immediate' elements have been addressed, and more items will be undertaken this year. It will be mainly remedial work to the exterior masonry...and will be expensive. A scheduled programme of works has been prepared by Duggan and Parr.

The churchyard was legally closed in October 2006 and responsibility for the maintenance of the churchyard including walls and fences lies with Warrington Borough Council. The collapsed wall (which collapsed February 2020) is now finally near completion. After taking the previous one down which was rented Warrington Borough Council had to install another footbridge to allow access to lower part of the churchyard and the war Memorial in time for the November 2024 Remembrance Service. We are awaiting the next meeting of the rebuilding committee. Kath has emailed the contractors for an update – the pre-Christmas meeting was cancelled by them.

The Fellowship room floor has been replaced. Plans for an Audiovisual system and new lighting in the church are in the pipeline. These have been brought to the PCC by the Building Fund Group (BFG).

We finally have a faculty to repair the vandalised window, and that will begin soon.

Church Hall

The Hall is currently fairing well. We have replaced the curtains, with fireproof versions which along with the new radiators have much improved the warmth and general atmosphere of the place. Kath has sent the paperwork after completion to Warrington Borough Council to fulfil the grant requirements.

Tim Old and a small team have worked throughout 2024 to ensure that the garden behind the Hall is useable for workshops and services to be held there.

Deanery Synod

Great Budworth Deanery Synod has met three times in 2024. In March at Christchurch, Latchford, where Jon Pocock explained the Diocese' Strategic vision process and the four key themes. In July at St. Thomas' Church, Stockton Heath, where an update on the Diocesan Vision was given. In October at St. Matthew's Church, Stretton, where Parish vacancies were discussed and in small groups, members worked to debate ways to meet the challenge. A checklist was produced at this meeting. At each meeting, there is a finance report, a report from Diocesan Synod and a report from the Rural Dean. Our Rural Dean is the Reverend Beverley Jameson. The elected representatives from St Mary's Church are Ian Bunday, Jill Wasey and Michael Hall; Derek Buckthorpe is a de facto member as a Diocesan Synod member.

Ecumenical Relationships

Churches Together in Lymm and District (CTLD) continues to meet and work together within the Lymm and district with a focus on reaching out to encourage and nurture belonging and involvement within our community of Christian activity. A particular development has been the activities of the Sanctuary Café and Sanctuary Hub providing linking possibilities for families, the lonely, those with memory loss, those caring for others and through social meetings. The combined Church community continues to reach out into local primary schools, support Messy Church, Open the Book, a local food bank initiatives in support of the environment. Other activities include the week of Christian prayer and unity, special Easter and Lent activities, participation in united services, local festivals, appeals and communication through websites and booklets. Representatives on the Churches Together Committee from St Mary's are Reverend Beverley Jameson, Reverend Jill Elston and Derek Buckthorpe.

Structure Government and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Mary's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (Rector), curate, church wardens, readers and those elected by members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general importance to the parish deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. Throughout 2024 the trustees held 8 business and specialized meetings in order to fulfil the management of the Charity. Average attendance throughout the year has

been around 76% with the meetings held in church. Detailed minutes and records have been maintained.

Safeguarding

1. The P.C.C. continues to adopt and implement the Safeguarding guidelines of the Church of England and the diocese of Chester. All details of the above can be found on the diocesan website – Safeguarding and Vulnerability policy and procedures: Safe in our Care. The Safeguarding Officer's number is on display along with Warrington Borough council Children's and Adult Services are displayed in the Church and at the Church Hall.
2. The Safeguarding Policy was signed off by Arch Deacon M Gilbertson in Rev Beverly Jameison's absence on January 13 the 2025 meeting.
3. The PCC and volunteers are encouraged to complete basic safeguarding training which is online. The certificate that acknowledges the completion of the training will be stored with the Safeguarding Officer. This is on-going
4. All parents for the children's choir are to fill in again the necessary paperwork with regard to taking photographs/recording and social media. The Safeguarding officer attended the first rehearsal on 15th September 2024.
5. The Safeguarding Officer has spoken about safeguarding at the service in November 2024 and has again distributed information to the congregation.
6. The data input required by the Diocese has been completed to level One. The next level will be completed mid-year.
7. All volunteers have completed either a DBS or the appropriate certification or both. The Safeguarding officer has checked that they will be informed when a DBS must be reviewed. So far two have been renewed.

GDPR

The PCC of St Mary's Lymm complies with its obligations under data protection and GDPR by keeping personal data up to date; by storing and destroying it securely; by not collecting or retaining excessive amounts of data; by protecting personal data from loss, misuse, unauthorised access and disclosure and by ensuring that appropriate technical measures are in place to protect personal data.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all those who gave their time in 2024 for the parish including the wardens Kath Buckley and George Bainton, Lay Reader Ian Bunday, PCC Secretary and Lay Reader Derek Buckthorpe, GDPR lead & Data Controller Carol

Roberts, Organist and Musical Director Susan Gadd, The Choir, Safeguarding Officer Kath Buckley, Mothers Union, Liz France and the team of bell ringers, Kath Hough for supporting the Church Hall and all those who work tirelessly for the church. We would also like to thank Reverend Jill Elston who completed her training and left the Church at the end of June 2024.

We would also like to thank our Rector Reverend Beverley Jameson, for all her hard work, care for our church community and her work in the wider community in Lymm.

Special thanks to those who volunteered to be part of our various teams in 2024

- Finance Team (David Young, Treasurer, David Critchley, Liz France, Michael Hall)
- Grants Team (Lewis Denton, Mike Hall, Tim Morris)
- Pastoral Care Team (Reverend Beverley Jameson, Reverend Jill Elston, Derek Buckthorpe, Pauline Buckthorpe, Ian Bunday)
- Building Fund Group (Tim Morris, Simon Fathers, Derek Buckthorpe, George Bainton, Lewis Denton)

Administrative Information

St Mary the Virgin Lymm is situated on Church Road, Lymm, WA13 0QS. It is part of the Diocese of Chester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Rectory, 46 Rectory Lane, Lymm WA13 0AL. St Mary's Church Hall is situated off Crouchley Lane Lymm WA13 0AS. The PCC is the body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission Charity Registration number 1179339

Officers

St Mary's Safeguarding Officer – Kath Buckley
GDPR Officer & Data Controller- Carol Roberts
Electoral Roll Officer – Vanessa Lees
PCC Secretary – Derek Buckthorpe

Deanery Synod Elected Members (Ex-officio PCC members)

Ian Bunday, Jill Wasey and Michael Hall

Diocesan Synod Representatives

Derek Buckthorpe

Rector - Reverend Beverley Jameson

PCC Members

Rector - Reverend Beverley Jameson
Curate - Reverend Jill Elston

Wardens – Kath Buckley and George Bainton
Licensed Lay Readers – Derek Buckthorpe, Ian Bunday

PCC Elected Members at the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting 2024

Susan Brooks,
Lewis Denton,
Simon Fathers,
Liz France
Vanessa Lees,
Tim Morris
Jonathan Wide
David Young (Treasurer)
Malcolm Young

PCC Co-Opted Members

Peter Clark

Financial Review David Young, Treasurer

Income

Our Income receipts remain relatively flat year on year. There were fluctuations in the receipt categories with a decrease in Christian Responsibility Schemes being offset by an increase in other receipts. We saw a decrease in the bookings of Weddings at St Mary's and we expect this trend to continue through 2025 and beyond. On a more positive note, the Christmas Tree Festival continues to be a great success and is more popular than ever.

Expenses

2025 saw an increase in our overall expenditure, with inflationary pressures and the need for further investment in improving the condition of the church hall. However, we believe this to be a wise investment and that they will reap the benefits of increasing church hall revenues in the coming years.

Overall

Even with the increased expenditure we were still able to post a positive return.

Budget 2025

We have allowed for utilisation of building fund reserves being used for PCC approved projects. Inflationary pressures will continue on our day-to-day expenditure during the coming years.

Thank You

I am grateful to a number of people for their support David and Sylvia's continued dedication is beyond admiration. Mike Hall for his endeavours with utilities and all-round support. Lewis and Tim doing great work in the background on Grant applications Liz for chasing in the tax rebate. Simon and Tim on reviewing Building Fund Projects.

Independent Examiner Report, Christopher Callaway

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary the Virgin, Lymm
For the year ended 31 December 2024

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements- to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act;- to prepare accounts with accord with these accounting records have not been met;

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Christopher Callaway MSc
181 Pensby Road, Heswall, Wirral, CH61 6UB

Date 24/03/2025

2024 Accounts, David Young, Treasurer

LYNN PARISH CHURCH					
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS A/C to December 2024					
	2023		2024		2023 ACT
	£		£		£
RECEIPTS					
Christian Responsibility Scheme					
Envelopes	5,844		5,684		5,844
Other Gift Aid	39,489		40,271		39,489
Taxation Refund	20,096		13,369		20,096
	65,429		59,324		65,429
Non C.R. Scheme					
General Offerories - Collections	2,366		3,186		2,366
Special Offerories - Weddings Funerals etc.	2,728		2,728		2,728
	70,523		65,238		70,523
P.C.C. Fees Weddings and Funerals	6,760				6,760
TOTAL RECEIPTS	77,283		69,794		77,283
Church Hall Rentals Received	19,570		18,210		19,570
Other Receipts					
Bank Interest Received	118		6,866		118
Legacy Interest	74		61		74
	0		0		
Hindley Evans/David Maars	1,600		1,594		1,600
	0		0		
Fundraising Receipts Donations and Other	7,279		8,171		8,879
			16,692		0
TOTAL RECEIPTS					
	105,924		104,696		105,924
	105,924		93,366		8,827
			11,330		

LYMM PARISH CHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS A/C TO December 2024

2023		ACTUAL 2024		
£	£	£	£	£
	105,924	TOTAL RECEIPTS B/D		104,696
		<u>PAYMENTS</u>		
		<u>CHURCH AND SERVICES</u>		
4,056		Organ, Organist and Choir		4,061
5,660		Insurance		6,075
2,558		Gas		4,399
1,133		Water		622
533		Electricity		2,299
2,337		Cleaning		612
415		Internet		462
3,158		Repairs and Maintenance		2,968
2,343		Repairs to the Boiler		607
605		Printing Stationery and Office Ex	900	468
	22,798			22,573
	5,177	<u>RECTORS EXPENSES AND RECTORY AND CLERIC</u>		6,648
	56,889	<u>MINISTRY SUPPORT COSTS</u>		56,298
		<u>CHURCH HALL</u>		
1,052		Gas		2,465
157		Water		524
1,914		Electricity		595
1,415		Insurance		1,519
2,100		Hall Cleaning		2,275
0		Refuse Collection		259
300		General Repairs and Maintenance		2,837
0		Other		168
	6,938		10,642	0
	0	MAGAZINE PAYMENTS		10642 0
	2,935	WEDDING AND FUNERAL PAYMENTS		2,192
		<u>OTHER PAYMENTS</u>		
2,799		Other Costs	2,445	
	2,799			2,445
		<u>Special Payments</u>		
0		Architects Fees		
0		Less Received from Insurance		
0	0		0	0
	97,536		100,798	100,798
	8,388	Excess of Payments over Receipts		3,898

**LY/M/M PARISH CHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS A/C 12 MONTHS TO December 2024**

<u>8,388</u>	Excess of Payments over Receipts	<u>3,898</u>		ACTUAL 2023
0	Transfer from Rectors Fund	0		8388
<u>8,388</u>	Excess of Receipts over Payments	<u>3,898</u>		<u>8,388</u>
8,388				699
	Bank Balance 31st December 2023	90,709	Bank Balance 31st December 2022	82,321
	Bank Balance 31st December 2024	94,607	Bank Balance 31st December 2023	90,709
		<u>3,898</u>		<u>8,388</u>
	Taxation refund	0		
	Insurance church	0		
	Insurance church hall	0		
	cross check balance	<u>3,898</u>	final balance	8,388
		0		

[illegible]

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

<u>2023</u>	<u>CASH FUNDS</u>	<u>2024</u>
£		£
<u>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</u>		
70,766	Bank Account Barclays	71,172
23,035	Bank Account Lloyds	24,162
0	Weddings and Funeral Account	0
93,801	Total Unrestricted Funds	95,334
<u>RESTRICTED FUNDS</u>		
8,235	Hindley Evans	8,977
25,000	David Mairs	23,406
746	Rectors Trust	758
3,353	Education Trust	3,403
14,241	St Mary's Reordering Funds	12,457
80,000	St Mary's Reordering Funds	80,000
131,575		129,001
<u>225,376</u>	TOTAL	<u>224,335</u>
	Tax Recoverable	There is approximately £13,200 of Income tax due for 2024.
	Assets Retained	Lymm PCC own the church hall , both the land and the buildings
	Liabilities	There are no significant liabilities
	Endowments/Deposit	We have two endowment deposit accounts which total £6,000

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS A/C 12 MONTHS TO 31st DECEMBER 2024

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	£	£	£
<u>Christian Responsibility Scheme</u>			
Envelopes		5,684	
Other Gift Aid Lloyds		40,271	
Taxation Refund		<u>13,369</u>	59,324
<u>Non C.R. Scheme</u>			
General Offertories - Collections		3,186	
Special Offertories - Weddings Funerals etc.		<u>2,728</u>	5,914
			<u>65,238</u>
P.C.C. Fees Weddings and Funerals			<u>4,556</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS			<u>69,794</u>
Church Hall Rentals Received			18,210
<u>Other Receipts</u>			
Bank Interest Received			6,866
Legacy Interest			61
Hindley Evans/David Mairs/Buiilding Fund			1,594
Fundraising Receipts Donations and Other			8,171
		<u> </u>	
TOTAL RECEIPTS			<u>104,696</u>

RECEIPTS

£ £ £

Envelopes

5,798

Other Gift Aid

39,063

Taxation Refund

13,200

58,061

General Offertories - Collections

3,218

Special Offertories - Weddings For

2,783

64,061

P.C.C. Fees Weddings and Funerals

4,693

TOTAL RECEIPTS

68,754

Church Hall Rentals Received

19,121

Bank Interest Received

4,950

Legacy Interest

78

Hindley Evans/David Mairs/Building Fund

28,500

Fundraising Receipts Donations and Other

7,926

TOTAL RECEIPTS

129,328

LYMM PARISH CHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS A/C 12 MONTHS TO DECEMBER 2024

	ACTUAL 2024		
	£	£	£
TOTAL RECEIPTS B/D			104,696
<u>PAYMENTS</u>			
<u>CHURCH AND SERVICES</u>			
Organ, Organist and Choir			4,061
Insurance			6,075
Gas			4,399
Water			622
Cleaning			612
Electricity			2,299
Internet			462
Repairs and Maintenance			2,968
Repairs to the Boiler			607
Printing Stationery and Office Expenses			468
			<hr/> 22,573
<u>RECTORS EXPENSES AND RECTORY AND CLERIC</u>			6,648
<u>MINISTRY SUPPORT COSTS</u>			56,298
<u>CHURCH HALL</u>			
Gas		2,465	
Water		524	
Electricity		595	
Insurance		1,519	
Hall Cleaning		2,275	
General Repairs and Maintenance		3,096	
Other		168	10,642
 WEDDING AND FUNERAL PAYMENTS			 2,192
<u>OTHER PAYMENTS</u>			
Other Costs			2,445
		<hr/>	0
		0	0
		<hr/>	
			100,798
Excess of Payments over Receipts			<hr/> 3,898

BUDGET 2025			
	£	£	£
TOTAL RECEIPTS B/D			129,328
<u>PAYMENTS</u>			
<u>CHURCH AND SERVICES</u>			
Organ, Organist and Choir			4,264
Insurance			6,379
Gas			4,487
Water			634
Cleaning			624
Electricity			2,368
Internet			471
Repairs and Maintenance /Enhancements			27,116
Repairs to the Boiler			657
Printing Stationery and Office Expenses			491
			<u>47,492</u>
<u>RECTORS EXPENSES AND RECTORY AND CLERIC</u>			6,781
<u>CLERICAL SUPPORT</u>			
<u>MINISTRY SUPPORT COSTS</u>			55,500
<u>CHURCH HALL</u>			
Gas	2,712		
Water	534		
Electricity	613		
Insurance	1,565		
Hall Cleaning	2,100		
General Repairs and Maintenance	2,250		
Other	240	10,013	10,013
 WEDDING AND FUNERAL PAYMENTS			
			2,800
<u>OTHER PAYMENTS</u>			
Other Costs			2,800
			<u>0</u>
		0	<u>0</u>
			125,878
Excess of Payments over Receipts			<u>3,450</u>

