

ST MARY'S PCC GREAT SANKEY

England & Wales · Charity number 1180928

Details

Other names	ST MARY'S CHURCH GT SANKEY
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2018-11-30
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	St. Marys Church Liverpool Road Great Sankey Warrington WA5 1RE
Phone	07719171191
Email	stmarysofficesankey@gmail.com
Website	www.stmarysgreatsankey.org.uk

Activities

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

Activities: Regular public worship, including funerals, weddings and baptisms. A weekly Place of Welcome plus monthly community lunch. Pastoral work, including visiting the sick, bereaved and housebound. Holding monthly services in local care homes. Taking religious assemblies in local schools. Sunday school activities. Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Warrington

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£168,225	£238,864	-	-
2023-12-31	£90,736	£120,058	-	-
2022-12-31	£83,283	£96,446	-	-
2021-12-31	£118,570	£118,674	-	-
2020-12-31	£74,577	£72,468	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
John Taylor	Chair	2021-10-21
David Tanner		2025-05-11
Janet Kerswell		2024-04-28
Julie Shaw		2026-02-16
Keith White		2025-05-11
Lynn Parish		2017-07-25
Nathan Grannell		2025-05-11
Rev Sarah Peppiatt		2015-09-26

Accounts

The Church of St Mary- Great Sankey

Liverpool Road, Great Sankey, Warrington WA5 1RE



Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

For the year ending 31st December 2024

St. Mary's, Great Sankey

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31st December 2024

A member of the West Warrington Church Team

1. Reference and Administrative Information

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary, Great Sankey is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. Charity registration number: 1180928.

St. Mary's Church is located on Liverpool Road, Great Sankey, Warrington, WA5 1RE. The parish is part of the Diocese of Liverpool.

Official correspondence should be sent to the Rev. Jeremy Tear, St. Mary's Church, Liverpool Road, Great Sankey, Warrington WA5 1RE

For the period 1st January 2024 until the date of approval of this report, the following people served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Pioneer Team Rector Rev. Jeremy Tear
Chair

Churchwardens Jane Hampton (stepped down, April 2024)
John Taylor (appointed April 2022)

Elected members Amanda Adlington (resigned April 2024)
Pam Billingsley (appointed April 2024)
Janet Kerswell (appointed April 2024)
Lynn Parish (appointed April 2023)
Carole Rafter (appointed April 2024)
Joan Rotheram (appointed September 2022)
Keith White (resigned April 2024)

Ex-officio members Rev. Martin Thorpe, Pioneer Team Vicar (resigned September 2024)
Rev. Sarah Peppiatt, Pioneer Team Vicar

Deanery Synod Representatives Kate Forrest (appointed April 2023)

Electoral Roll Jean Lawrence

DBS Verifier and Safeguarding Officer Caroline Baskett (from July 2023)

Treasurer Paul Ng

Assistant Treasurer	Alvin Lau
Finance Assistant	Fiona Barnard, appointed 2018. Fiona was invited to attend meetings but could not vote. Fiona resigned as PCC secretary in April 2024 and has been replaced by Lisa Yu.
Assistant Warden	Kate Forrest and Ian Knight were re-appointed in April 2024 but are not members of the PCC.
Employees	Gail Cordon, Derek Bowden, Mick and Doreen Hartop, and Lynn Parish undertook ad hoc duties as vergers/bell ringers
Independent Examiner	P Carty FCA, 70 Longbarn Lane, Woolston, Warrington, WA1 4QR

2. Structure, Management and Governance

St. Mary's Sankey PCC is a body corporate and operates under the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956* and the *Church Representation Rules*.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Day to day management of the Church was delegated by the PCC to the Standing Committee: **Rev. Jeremy Tear** (Pioneer Team Vicar appointed 2015) **John Taylor** (Churchwarden from April 2022) and **Joan Rotheram** (Appointed April 2024)

The **Standing Committee** can be contacted by telephone as shown in the Church Suite app; Rev Jeremy Tear can be contacted by e-mail at: revjeremytear@gmail.com or phone on 01925-485288.

Safeguarding Procedures

The PCC has complied with its duty to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. Individual PCC members receive online training as and when deemed appropriate. The Safeguarding Officer undertook Diocesan training (after an initial session with Diocesan Advisor Ruth Reed in 2018) and the whole PCC received training in child protection policy and procedures during this session. All members of the PCC are in the process of completing DBS checks. We received additional training on GDPR by Helen Aghanian, our Church Administrator in 2018.

Risk Assessments

The PCC undertook a programme of risk assessments to identify their major risks, including for the church extension work. Procedures were then put in place to manage those risks and minimise their impact on the life of the church.

Financial Risk

An annual budget is prepared to ensure short-term viability. Actual results compared with budget are reported to the PCC every half year. The charity has two main sources of income; namely the giving by members to the Church by cash on plates, legacies, Parish Giving Scheme & envelopes; and baptisms, weddings and funerals.

The PCC review their investments regularly. Investments are only made in approved low risk funds.

All assets are insured. A review was carried out in 2018 to ensure cover at an appropriate level.

The PCC has approved internal and external controls for annual accounts.

- *Compliance with Law and Regulation*
A health and safety review has been undertaken by a member of the church with specific experience in this area. The PCC was appraised of the risks and the necessary requirements and these are undergoing compliance.
- *Operational risk*
Regular maintenance checks are done on the building by way of a Quinquennial on the structure and checks on internal electrical items like boiler, heating system, fire extinguishers, fire & security alarms.

3. Objectives and Activities

The general functions of the PCC are stated within section 2 of the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956*.

At St. Mary's our vision statement says that we desire 'to be a growing church making a growing difference'. We desire to grow both numerically, spiritually and through the facilities we offer.

When planning our activities for the year, the PCC gave consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance to charities concerned with the advancement of religion.

Our activities in 2024 provided the following public benefits:

- Regular public worship open to all, both on Sundays, midweek and for funerals, weddings and baptisms. The Church has easy access and was awarded a '**Child Friendly Award**' in 2017 by the Liverpool Diocese and the bronze Eco Church award in 2022.
- The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation and praying for those who ask for assistance.
- Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved. Home Communion is taken out to some who are unable to attend church by a small authorised team.
- We held Christmas services in church for Great Sankey and Barrow Hall Primary Schools. Park Road Primary school children came into church for sessions and our Vicar went to share in their Harvest service. Kids Planet Nursery school attended Easter, Summer, Harvest and Christmas events and we went into nursery to read bible stories for pre-school children during the year.
- Sunday school activities for those aged 4-11 called 'Lightnings', in church.
- Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas with 10% of income, plus special collections. Also, practical support for the Food Bank in Warrington, and for children in need in our town through a Toy Service.
- We held a Summer and Christmas Fair to raise funds for the church and to provide opportunities for the community to connect with one another
- We have a monthly community lunch to provide a means for people to connect with each other and avoid isolation
- We rented out the church to a local Pilates teacher for weekly sessions, and occasionally to other bodies, e.g. Great Sankey Parish Council.

Churches Together in West Warrington

St. Mary's Church continues to work with other churches in West Warrington. This included a Churches Together Good Friday service and a Prayer Walk on Ascension Day. We also worked with other churches in West Warrington to share God's love through providing 'Open the Book' bible story telling sessions in local schools.

West Warrington Team Ministry

On a team note, St. Mary's is part of the West Warrington Team Ministry which comprises St. Mary's, Great Sankey; St. Paul's, Penketh; St. James', Hood Manor; and St. Philip's, Westbrook. The clergy meet together regularly, and the churches worship together on specific occasions throughout the year.

Church Buildings

A variety of general maintenance tasks were completed, and we began work on a new extension for the church, funded by the generosity of church members, grant making trusts, and the sale of the former church hall.

Charitable giving policy

At St. Mary's we give away a tithe (10%) of our annual giving through the Parish Giving Scheme, a weekly envelope scheme, standing orders and cash on the plate.

We also support the following charities: - Leprosy Mission, Church Army, Church Mission Society, The Children's Society, and The Food Bank in Warrington (part of the Trussell Trust).

4. Achievements and performance

Electoral roll

There were 102 people registered on the electoral roll at the APCM in 2024.

Worship

Average attendance at Sunday Services in 2023 was around 7 people attending the 8am communion service and around 54 adults/children attending an average 10am service. We also had a consistent figure of around 11 attending the Wednesday Holy Communion service.

Pastoral care and service to our community

It has always been a top priority of the church to care for members and to serve the local community. This takes place within both regular and special church services (including an annual memorial service for the bereaved), monthly home communion visits and through the Pastoral Care Team. The Vicar writes a monthly letter sent by email/post.

Growing in Faith

In spring 2024, we ran a Growing in Faith course, followed by The Talking Jesus course in the summer. In the autumn, we ran an Alpha course which was attended by members of the church and those connected to it.

5. Financial review

See Treasurer's Report.

Reserves Policy

We keep a reserve of £5,000.

6. Plans for the future

We undertook 2 Pyramid reviews with a member of the Diocesan Cultivate team as part of the Fit for Mission process and began to put into place objectives agreed regarding leadership, mission, discipleship, community, and worship.

Pioneer Team Rector's Report

2024 was a year of significant change within the life of the Team as Martin Thorpe retired as Pioneer Team Vicar at St. James' and Rebecca Lloyd came to the end of her curacy and currently awaits to be licensed as Assistant Priest at that church. Martin's retirement marked the end of 12 years ministry at St. James as well as a significant period of time spent as Vicar of St. Philip's prior to the introduction of the team. We can be thankful for much including his pioneering spirit which oversaw the introduction of the ACE and Sunday Supper Club congregations at St. James. I am grateful to Rebecca, Paul Smalley (the Local Missional Leader), Mike Cox and Julie Behan (the churchwardens) and other members of the PCC and Standing Committee at St. James who have helped to keep the 'show on the road' whilst they await the appointment of a new Vicar (to be shared with St. Barnabas). More than that, they have helped the church to grow in these last 9 months, which is a considerable feat, given the demands of a vacancy. But it does go to show what is possible, even in challenging circumstances.

Life has continued apace at St. Paul's and St. Philip's under the skillful guidance of Sarah Peppiatt, whilst also juggling the roles of being one of the Assistant Area Deans and the Fit for Mission Change leader. It has been encouraging to see the continued development of the Lifetime, Sunday Lunch and Café church congregations at St. Paul's alongside the existing Sunday morning service, as well as the ongoing ministries at the Oaks Centre. St. Philip's has continued to develop its worship opportunities with the introduction of Family Fishes to supplement its Little Fishes group and the Tea and Toast and Café services remain popular.

St. Mary's finally got underway with its long-awaited extension project in July, and I am pleased to report that finished in January 2025 (albeit with the inevitable snagging!). Its Messy Church service remained at a fairly constant number through the year, and it continues to draw people to its Alpha, Growing in Faith, and Talking Jesus courses.

Together across the Team, we shared in worship on a number of occasions last year. This began with the Ash Wednesday service at St. Mary's followed by the Maundy Thursday Communion service and vigil there, the last hour at the cross service at St. Philip's on Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil at St. James on Easter Eve. There were also joint confirmation services for children from St. Philip's and adults from St. Mary's in March, plus a joint confirmation service between St. James and St. Barnabas in May. Worship was also shared with other churches across West Warrington at the Good Friday service at Honiton Square, and the Thy Kingdom Come event on Ascension Day.

Regular monthly meetings were held of the clergy, Local Missional Leader at St. Philip's and churchwarden at St. Mary's, as well as the twice-yearly meetings of the Team Fund Committee. I am grateful to John Harrop, the Team Treasurer for continuing to oversee the use of team funds which supported not only the employment of the youth worker, Alex Stewart, between St. Mary's and St. Paul's, but also ongoing missional activities at St. Mary's, St. Philip's and St. James. Thanks also to Rosie Cox, the treasurer at St. James, who has continued to allow the team accounts to be reported within their accounts.

Finally, as the PCC's of our deanery churches vote on whether to go ahead with their involvement with the Fit for Mission programme, we stand on the cusp of significant change within the life of our team as we potentially move to become part of a larger single parish for Warrington. Please pray for wisdom for our PCC members as they vote on this important matter. As I prepare to leave the Team on 1 June with my last service at St. Mary's (do join us for the faith lunch afterwards!), I would like to end by saying thank you to all my clergy colleagues (Martin, Sarah and Rebecca) as well as my retired clergy colleagues (Steve, Mal and Andrew) and our local missional leaders (June, Marise and Paul) for all their help and support during my nearly ten years here in West Warrington. It has been a privilege to serve as the Team Rector and I hope and pray that the next ten years may be an equally exciting time in the life of our churches as we look to see what God is doing and to join in.

Jeremy Tear, March 2025

Pioneer Team Vicar's Report

2024 was the year the extension finally started in mid-July, and we took significant steps to complete it by the end of the year (finally completing it in mid-January 2025). I am very grateful to all who have worked so hard to make this happen including our project managers Andie Harper and Margaret Emsley (plus other members of the building team), our architect Bill Schafer, and our main contractors GAC. We have ended up with a quality build and I am pleased to say that we are making good use of it both for church and non-church purposes, so helping (in part) to realise our vision of becoming 'a growing church making a growing difference.'

But 2024 was, as ever, more than about buildings. Indeed, St. Mary's is primarily about people, and we should never forget that. It is a collection of people who come to worship God, week in and week out, and some only for special occasions, such as Christmas, Easter, baptisms, weddings, and funerals. In 2024, we trialled the first of our café style services in June and this went down well so we had another one on Advent Sunday. The PCC has agreed to continue with these on a termly basis to date. We also continued with our Messy Church on the third Saturday afternoon of the month, and this has provided a good way for young and old, those who attend other services and those who don't, to come together for crafts, worship, and food. If you have never been before, why not give it a go – it is suitable for all ages!

As well as worshipping God through services, it is good to grow in our faith through other ways as well. And so we continued with our growing in faith course in the Spring (during which we had Debbie Horley, Carl Taylor and Margaret Emsley confirmed at St. Philip's by Bishop John). We also ran the Talking Jesus course in the summer and the Alpha course again in the autumn. My thanks to Joan Rotheram and to Debbie Horley for helping with these courses and to all who provided food for the Alpha course. Our small groups continue to operate during the week, and we had various members take part in the ecumenical Lent groups as well.

In 2022, we were awarded the bronze Eco church award, a significant step along our journey of seeking to become a net zero carbon church by 2030. In 2024, we made significant progress to the silver Eco church award (and were subsequently awarded this in February 2025). My thanks to Margaret Emsley, Kate Forrest and Zarah Ross from Faiths4All for their help and support with this.

On a less positive note, we experienced a decline in numbers of about 10 per cent during 2024, our first decline since the pandemic. If we are to seek to reverse this and to grow, we will need to continue to reach out to others though things such as the Alpha course, our youth work now headed up by Alex Stewart our part-time youth worker, as well as to care well for those we already have contact with. My thanks to the pastoral care team – Lynn Parish, Caroline Baskett, Jean Lawrence and Sue Gibbons - for their help and help and support with this.

Finally, my thanks to everyone all for the financial support given this past year (particularly with the gift day for the extension) as well as the giving of your time and talents to enable the church to function. A big thank you to John Taylor, our churchwarden, who has been ably supported by Lynn Parish, Ian Knight and Kate Forrest as assistant wardens. Thanks too to the members of our PCC, to our church co-ordinators Margaret Emsley, Sue Chinn and Isabella Barton, to Paul Ng and Alvin Lau as our treasurer and assistant treasurer, and to all who are part of our various church teams and who help in various ways. Lastly, my thanks to the clergy - Martin (who retired in July) Sarah, Rebecca, Steve and Mal - for all their help and support this past year too.

Jeremy Tear, April 2025

Church Warden's Report

It's been another extremely busy year behind the scenes for the Church Warden Team this year. With my working away with the RAF, the vast majority of the day to day tasks has fallen on the shoulders of the Vicar and the Assistant Wardens, Ian, Kate and Lynn. We have had lots of assistance from Joan, in her final year on the PCC, as well. The other PCC members have regularly attended meetings and have represented the congregation well over the year, with some good discussions on the way forward. In April, we meet to make a final decision on Fit for Mission and by the time you read this report, we will have made a decision on the way forward for St. Mary's.

The disruption caused by the building of the extension caused lots of issues, including the tough decision to close the balcony temporarily to comply with fire regulations. This restricted a number of activities over the festive period. But!! We made it to the other side and our fabulous extension is already being used by the Church and local community. Thanks to Margaret and Andie for their project management.

Since Covid restrictions were lifted, our aim was still to protect the congregation as much as possible from any spread of any virus. The "Dual Cup System" for Communion seems to be working well and our plan is to retain this option going forward.

The individual teams running routine and special events have been outstanding again this year, the garden looks better than ever, successful community lunches have restarted and fayres happened. Thank you all so much for your support. The church lighting upgrade to LED makes us greener for the environment.

I end my annual report with a tribute to Jeremy. Over the last 3 years, I have discovered a lot about his dedication to St. Mary's, his attitude to life and his endless patience with a Warden whose brain is often full and forgets an awful lot. His attention to detail and his unsung work 'behind the scenes' is to be admired by all. Without a shadow of a doubt, Jeremy made our extension happen, and he has taught me to have real faith in my times of doubt. I wish him and his family the very best in his new endeavours in Liverpool and hope that you can all join us for the faith meal after the 10am service on 1 June 25.

It gets interesting after this, let's do it together.....

John Taylor, Church Warden

St Marys Church Great Sankey

Treasurer's Report

This is a Summary Report of the church's financial position as of 31st December 2024

1.Overall Balance and Fund balance details

The overall balance of Church funds amounts to £107,493 which was (£70,639) less than the 2023 balance.

These balances were split over several different bank accounts held by St Mary's. They represented several different funds set aside for the Church's operation.

1a) Church Hall Fund (Designated Fund) balance £78,019 which was a decrease in 2023 of (£70,345) due to the extension work being carried out on the church as agreed by the PCC.

1b) Building & Restoration & Roof Funds (Restricted Funds) balance £2,243 had an increase of £445 in donations in 2024.

1c) Community Lunch Fund (Designated Fund) balance £2,177 after the costs for food and the 1/3 of the net balance being transferred to the General fund towards Heating & Lighting as agreed by the PCC. This was an increase of £464 in 2024.

1d) General Fund (Unrestricted Fund) pays for the normal running costs of the church. The balance was £1,772 which was (£753) lower than 2023.

1e) Tithing (Restricted Fund) balance of £10,052 which is £672 higher than 2023. We have paid out £5,050 in charitable donations (listed below) and received income of £5,722.

Charitable donations had been made this year to:

Locally: Booklets for primary school leavers

International and others: Church Army, Leprosy Mission

1f) Garden and Flower Funds (Restricted Funds) The Garden fund balance was £218 which was made up income and expenditure during the year. The Flower fund balance was £89 which had no movements during the year.

1g) Other Restricted & Designated – Designated balance £7,358 Restricted balance £5,565.

2. Parish Share

The Parish Share is an amount payable to the Diocese as a contribution to the costs of clergy in the Diocese.

At the end of 2023 the balance owing was £45,381. The Parish Share contribution expected for 2024 was £68,101 whereas the PCC agreed that we could manage to pay £51,200. By end of December 2024, we paid £46,933, leaving a closing balance of £66,549. We settled the balance of 4,267 in 2025. For 2025, the expected payment is £53,132, and the PCC have indicated that we hope to pay £51, 200 once again.

3. Income

The income for the year amounted to £168,225, out of which £94,854.55 was extension-related. The usual (non-extension) income of £73, 370.45 was £17,365.47 less than in 2023, mainly due to less one-off grants and donations.

Regular giving, loose plate and ad hoc donations are down by £1,491 against 2023, the reason being perhaps the effect of fund-raising activities focusing on the extension project.

4. Expenditure

The Expenditure for 2024 was £238,864, where £165,170 was extension-related. The usual (non extension) expenditure of £73,694 was £46,364 less than that in 2023, mainly due to the Quinquennial work undertaken that year.

I would like to thank all the staff at St Mary's who continue to support the Church and myself with day to running, services and financial information.

The figures have been rounded and detailed figures can be found in the Church's full year end accounts (2024). The Parish share balance owed is a note to the accounts and not on the reports.

Paul Ng, St Mary's Treasurer

Planned Giving – Gift Aid Envelopes

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) continues to be the most popular way to donate to the Parish. This is the most advantageous way for the Parish, including a consistent and regular form of income, monthly receipt of gift aid (improving cash flow) and a reduction in the volume of cash to be counted by the volunteers each week. The monetary value of the PGS is considered elsewhere in the annual report. However, a small number of donors still use weekly donation envelopes presented on the collection plate and these donations still contribute significantly to the Parish income. In 2024 these donations amounted to £5,184, producing £1,296 in gift

aid reclaims. Loose cash donations via the collection plate amounted to £7,074. It is expected that this will produce £1,768 in tax relief under the Small Donation Gift Aid Scheme. These tax recovery estimates are subject to HMRC review. Leaflets detailing the Parish Giving Scheme are available in church if any donor requires further information.

Terry Finnegan, Gift Aid Coordinator

Electoral Roll Report

The total number of people on the new roll stands at 67.

Jean Lawrence, Electoral Roll Officer

Safeguarding Report

I took over the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer in June 2023 along with the role of Lead Recruiter. This has proved to be a challenging role, with some volunteers failing to recognise the importance of meeting the Church of England requirements, despite support from Jeremy who kindly arranged and led three safeguarding services in January 2025.

I have continued to review the filing system and spreadsheet log to help us to monitor and maintain compliance with DBS checks and safeguarding training updates.

As part of the Fit for Mission process we have now been allocated a Safeguarding dashboard to support our reporting and monitoring process. This will need to be populated with input from members of the PCC and will provide a useful tool for auditing and producing reports.

The Church of England is planning to carry out audits of Parish safeguarding compliance in 2026, so we will therefore all need to work together to ensure that St. Mary's can demonstrate compliance and is using the dashboard effectively. This is the responsibility of the Clergy, PCC, Churchwarden as well as the PSO. This shared work will be particularly relevant once Jeremy has left us.

Online safeguarding training remains a challenge for some volunteers who are less familiar with technology or don't have access. I am willing to meet with people on a 1-1 basis to assist with this and have contacted the Diocese to request training to deliver face to face sessions and am waiting for this to be arranged.

During my time in this role there has only been one safeguarding referral made to me. Following discussion and liaison with the Diocese it was confirmed there was no action required.

I would like to thank Jeremy for his support with this role and wish him well for the future.

Caroline Baskett, Safeguarding Officer

Sunday School Lightnings

In April 2024, Clare Grimes, Jane Pearson and I were supported by David Scarisbrick, Frances Knight, Caroline Kay and Sharon Sin-Pin Leung. Sadly, Frances Knight died in April 2024 and Caroline Kay was unable to help in the latter part of the year. Lynn Parish kindly helped when no cover was available.

The number of children attending in April 2024 was still low. However, since September 2024, we have seen an increase in numbers and now have a small group of regular attendees.

As part of the “Growing Faith” initiative, which encourages alternative ways of worship, we held our first intergenerational “Cafe Church” service in June. We received a lot of positive feedback and held our second Advent themed “Cafe Church” in December. Looking forward, we hope to hold a “Cafe Church” service once every 3 months.

Children and leaders continue to meet and sit at the back of church and leave after the first hymn, returning at the end of the service to rejoin parents and receive a blessing at Communion. Once work began on the church extension, with no access to the family room, children and leaders remained at the back of church. Sessions were relatively simple, aiming to create minimum disruption to the service. The children enjoy sharing their work with the congregation at the end of the service and joining in with instruments in the final hymn.

In October Jane led our first “Eco church” session, when the children ventured into the church grounds, completing activities based on the Landmark Trust’s “Autumn” theme. This was received with great enthusiasm. We hope to hold an “Eco” session each new season in the coming year.

In December the children performed a “Godly style” Nativity Play, in which the congregation took an active part. The Nativity was received with great joy and appreciation of the children’s efforts. At the end of the service, we were very sad to say goodbye to Clare Grimes. We really appreciate all the years of hard work that Clare gave to Lightnings and wish her every success for the future.

In January, we were excited to move into the new extension and look forward to adapting to our new space. We are also delighted to welcome Margaret Emsley, who has kindly volunteered to become a leader and look forward to working with her. Ideally, we need another helper to join the team. We continue to learn more about the “Growing Faith” initiative and are exploring new ways in which St. Mary’s can connect with school and home. We would like to pray for all the children within the West Warrington Team and wish them well on their journey through faith.

Jean Lawrence

Schools' Report

St. Mary's continued to have a good relationship with its local schools in 2024.

Great Sankey and Barrow Hall Primary schools came to church before Christmas for their annual services. Park Road Primary also came to visit the church in April and October, and I went take part in their School Harvest service.

Secondary school-wise, Martin Thorpe led the Great Sankey High School annual service of remembrance for former students and staff in March. Alex Stewart, our new part time youth worker, began working in Penketh High in January and quickly established a good working relationship there being invited to lead assemblies, take RE lessons and mentor children. He also set up a weekly drop-in session at the Penketh baths on Friday evenings.

I continued to go into the nursery to provide monthly bible stories for the rising 3s and pre-schoolers. The nursery also came to church at Easter, Harvest and at Christmas when I shared with them and their parents/grandparents the Christian meaning of these special seasons in the life of the church. They also came for their end of 'school' year visit in July.

I am grateful to all who helped me with the nursery and primary schools' services, to Martin and Alex for their work with our secondary schools, as well as to the members of St. Mary's who continue to go into local primary schools as part of the Open the Book teams. If you would like to be involved with this important part of our engagement with our local community, please let me or Alex know.

Jeremy Tear

Deanery Synod Report

It's been a busy year for Deanery Synod.

Deanery Parish Share (DPS)

An agreement about individual church contributions in 2025 was reached and has resulted in St. Mary's paying a lower parish share in 2025, for which we are grateful.

Clergy Deployment Plans and Deanery Parish Share (DPS)

The Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee (DMPC) proposed a significant change to our clergy numbers from to 10 to 8:

- i. One appointment to St. Margaret's and St. Andrews.
- ii. One appointment to St. James and St. Barnabas.
- iii. One appointment to Christ Church, Padgate and Church Collective.

Fit for Mission (FfM)

- i. The Navigation Team has completed its survey of church and each church has been given a short list of outstanding jobs to be progressed.
- ii. The Finance Team has met fortnightly to look at how the centralisation of accounts could work and benefit parishes.
- iii. A series of meetings called The Cultivate Course was held for lay people to explore how we could take the Gospel “out” into our communities by looking for different ways of “doing church”.

Church Collective Update

Looking beyond the bounds of the existing deanery churches, Church Collective continues to work across the town, focussing much effort on The Youth Zone which regularly hosts 200-300 young people in any one session.

Jeremy Tear

10th Warrington (Sankey St Mary’s) Scout Group Report

It’s been another busy year for 10th Warrington Scouts with the group fulfilling its purpose; preparing young people with skills for life.

Our Squirrels section for 4 and 5 year olds has expanded and has been very popular and successful. The leader team have done a fantastic job and delivered some great experiences for the young people. In common with the other more established sections we are always in need of more adult volunteers to keep things running. If you know of anyone who might be interested in helping please get in touch.

All of the sections have run a varied and exciting programme with many craft activities, outdoor events, camps and getting involved in the local community. We’ve also attended all-age worship at Church and our beavers have got involved in some of the services.

We are happy to say that once again we are holding a spring bedding plant sale this year. Working with other Scout groups in the area we have a selection of great quality, professionally-grown plants for sale. Please support us if you can and visit our on-line shop at: www.warringtonwestscouts.org.uk/plant-sale.

Lastly, if you know any young people who are interested in joining scouts, or anyone who would be interested in volunteering with us in any way (not just section leadership, we are also looking for help with maintenance and trustee board members), please put them in touch and we will be happy to have a chat.

Thank you.

Ian Skilling, Group Lead Volunteer

Girlguiding Report

Our Cheshire Forest District has now been restructured as the numbers of girls and voluntary leaders have been affected since the Covid period. Bucking the trend our units have seen an increase in girls between 4-18 years.

In our area we have girls in 6 Units: 2 Rainbows units, 2 Brownie Units and 1 Guide and 1 Ranger Unit affiliated to St. Marys church. We have participated in leading the annual Girlguiding Carol service, Rainbows and Brownies have taken part in an All-Age service and collected Food for our food bank and toys for the town at Christmas.

One unit supports a local cancer charity, Claire House, and have also done their annual bulb planting and pots of spring bulbs have been given to those housebound and carers within Great Sankey.

Lynn Parish

St. Mary's Community Lunch

This year's run of Community Lunch was interrupted by building works at church which saw a postponement for 6 months. Community Lunch resumed in February 2025, taking advantage of the wonderful facilities of our new fully equipped kitchen.

We were very pleased that following the health and hygiene inspection in March this year, our grading was restored to the top rating of 5, the new extension having provided necessary implementations needed for this (hand washing area in kitchen and hot water to the toilet areas).

Jeremy continued with his "Thought for the Day" which is still well received by all attendees. Community Lunch is well appreciated by all our visitors who say they enjoy, not only the food, but the joyful friendly atmosphere provided by all the CL team.

Again, a huge thank you is extended to all the CL volunteers for their continued generous contributions each month to enable the lunch to be provided. Grateful thanks for giving so much of their time each month also in attending and running the lunch service.

Joan Rotheram, Community Lunch Leader

Alpha Course

The Alpha course has again been run successfully this year from September to December 2024 led by Jeremy, Debbie Horley and myself. Due to the building works at church, all of our meetings were held at the Vicarage.

The group this year included a good mix of ages which helped to encourage more varied opinions on the topics discussed. Over the duration of the course, we had an adequate number of volunteers who provided meals for each session. These were very much enjoyed

and appreciated. Grateful thanks to Emma, Jeremy's wife who hosted and cleared away after each meal, having also provided us with some of her delicious homemade desserts. Thank you, Emma.

The course away day was held at an old Methodist Chapel in High Leigh, Cheshire. It was a beautiful October day, very much enjoyed by all participants who were able to attend the day.

Feedback suggests that all course attendees gained much from the small group discussions which have enabled them to deepen their understanding, teaching, scripture and fellowship with one another. They also commented that they felt the course has aided their progress and personal development of their faith. Two participants went on to Confirmation in March 2025.

Joan Rotheram

Music Group

We meet most Thursday evenings and are blessed with 2 keyboard players, a flautist, drummer, 2 guitarists and 4 singers.

We have learned new, older and modern songs, including You Tube music in the service.

We always endeavour to enhance the worship and enjoy the challenges!

Lynn Parish and the Music Group

Traidcraft

I have had some opportunities over the last year to provide fairly-traded chocolate, tea, coffee and items for people to buy.

I supply the church with tea and coffee to maintain our support for Fairtrade.

Lynn Parish

Garden Report

At this moment of time, we have a trusty band of three staff with an additional two others who join us on specific days.

The trusty three are Eric McGonagle, David Scarisbrick and Kate Forrest. Derek Bowden is our 'Honorary President' conferred after many years of service. The additional two are Debbie Horley and Edmund Chiang.

A little history to set the scene. Derek and Bob Woodall in 2001, set up and established the Remembrance Garden where the ashes of any members of the church could be buried. Eric joined the team at the same time. David joined the team in 2010 and Kate joined around 2018. Members of the team included Jack Lloyd and Ted Rigby, both of whom left some years ago.

The church garden is large and extensive and is manageable if certain parts are left unattended. Despite this, Eric does a sterling job every week keeping the lawn well mown and every so often tackles the bushes, keeping them under control.

Two flower beds, one in front of the shed and the other one running down the side of the church are becoming established with a variety of perennials. Eric now is planting up annuals in a flowerbed by the main door as well as other parts of the garden.

During the year, on about four occasions, we are joined by Debbie and Edmund who have helped recently planting dwarf laurel bushes down each side of the ramp at the back of church leading into the new extension. We were also joined by Jeremy at that time. They have also helped also in planting up plants in the front such as crocuses and dwarf daffodils. Eric and David planted the rest of the bushes at the front of the new extension.

The church is keen to obtain a Gold Eco award, having recently gained the Silver one. To this end, apart from planting up more perennials and annuals in the garden, we have recently set up three new bird boxes, regularly fill the bird feeders and plan to clear a large grass patch by the side of the small stone memorial area and create a wild-flower garden.

Kate Forrest and Derek Bowden

Church Mission Society (CMS)

Church Mission Society (CMS) is an Anglican mission agency that seeks to share the love of Jesus with people in both word and deed around the world, including here in the UK. As a church, we support Eric and Sandra Reed, who are our CMS mission partners in the Philippines. They work on an organic farm and help local church leaders to reach out to their communities. They have two children, Peter and Atiyah, who are working and studying in this country. In 2024, we agreed to give £2,000 to support the Reeds from our tithing fund.

I am pleased to say that Eric and Sandra came to visit St. Mary's on 3 November to update us about their work. The PCC has also subsequently made an additional payment of £500 to support the Reeds in 2025. We are still looking for a new CMS representative to champion its work in our congregation, so if you would be interested in doing this, please let me know.

Jeremy Tear

Church Army

During the past year 12 people have taken the CA inFocus magazine, which includes prayers for individual evangelists and information about CA projects and Centres of Mission. Bing Liu, evangelist at Rochdale Centre of Mission came to preach and inform us about his involvement there. Following this the vicar and one parishioner made a trip to Rochdale to see Bing in action. We support him through our Giving Fund.

Church Army is facing a major upheaval in the way they operate by concentrating on their original remit to evangelise and seek “the lonely and the lost”, instead of focusing on social problems. Increased expenses and dwindling resources have also been a factor in decision making. Please continue to pray for all CA evangelists and the work they do in bringing the knowledge and love of Jesus into the lives of those who don’t know Him.

This will be my last report as I step back from being CA rep after 11 years. Please consider whether this is something you could take on.

Janet Kerswell

The Leprosy Mission



In the west “Leprosy” is almost a forgotten disease ... globally however 200,000 people are newly diagnosed each year ... that’s about two people every minute!

Leprosy has existed for over 4000 years and is even mentioned in the bible, written about 68 times! It is a devastating illness. Starting as a skin condition causing severe nerve damage leaving those affected, with severe deformities and disabilities. Left untreated, it can be contagious, meaning people become both unwell and socially isolated.

The Leprosy Mission was founded 150 years ago. Its current mission statement says, “Following Jesus Christ, we aim to bring about transformation, breaking the chains of Leprosy and empowering people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness.”.

We at St. Mary’s continue to play our role in supporting this statement. Last year, I took over the role of church representative from Janet Kerswell who has been a faithful friend to the Mission for many years. Currently, several of our congregation support the work financially through home collection boxes, by direct debit and through supporting fund-raising events. If you would like to join them, please contact me. Prayer is also of vital importance and several of our congregation receive the Mission Updates via the “New Day” magazine and the yearly prayer diary.

In the next year I hope to hold two fundraising events and on Sunday 22nd June at our 10:00am service we will be welcoming the new Co-ordinator for the North West, Sam Stockill, to bring us up to date with the Mission’s work.

Janet Tanner

PCC Secretary's Report

There were 13 PCC meetings held in the year on 17th January, 21st February, 20th March, 28th April (after the APCM), 15th May, 26th May, 19th June, 17th July, 28th July, 18th September, 16th October, 20th November and 4th December (in the church or at one of the members' houses). No meeting is planned for August or around Christmas.

The APCM was held on 28th April in the church.

The PCC also reviewed the minutes from the Standing Committee meetings held on 4th January, 14th March, 1st May, 9th July, 4th September and 6th November.

Throughout the year, the PCC discussed various items besides standard church business. These included the Fit for Mission process and related decisions, LYCIG (Leading Your Church to Growth) actions, youth engagement activities, the approval for David Tanner to preach and/lead worship and for Alex Steward to preach, completing the pyramid review, achieving Fairtrade place of worship status, conducting an environmental awareness survey and obtaining Eco Church status, discussing the organisation of the racial justice exhibition and film screening, legacy bequests, and the use of the Prayers of Love and Faith. It also closely monitored the construction and completion of the extension while considering its best use and reviewing hiring rates and requests.

Lisa Yu, PCC Secretary

Children's Society Report

The Children's Society are a well-established national charity that help vulnerable and needy children, many in our local area. One of their traditional ways of collecting is to give people 'House Boxes', small sealed money boxes that people can place loose change in throughout the year. These are collected early in the New Year and administered by local coordinators. This year's collection raised over £800. We would like to thank all box holders and donors for their ongoing support for this very worthy cause. In recent years, our number of box holders has reduced and we would like you to consider taking on a box. After Easter, John will offer people the chance to do this; the difference between this method and traditional giving is that you can deposit as little or as much as you like, whenever able. A little bit of loose change can make a real difference.

The Christingle Christmas Eve Services were disrupted by our building work this year, but still raised a total of over £450 in church, close to last year's figure! Some people may also have donated directly through the Children's Society website. Many thanks to all who contributed so generously.

This brings the total amount donated to the Children's Society from St. Mary's Church in 2024-25 to over £1250, another fantastic response, which we hope to continue into 2026.

John and Claire Taylor

Church Magazine Report

The St Mary's Church Magazine is published bi-monthly and there were about 425 copies produced last year.

I collect all the material for the magazine and compose the finished article. I also collect the money for the magazine which is then forwarded to our Church Treasurer.

The magazine covers most of the events and occasions in then church and as a result we know what future events will be held.

A big thank you to Eric McGonagle, who does a sterling job in producing high quality photographs for the magazine.

Thank you also to Edmond Chiang, one of our Hong Kong friends, and Joan Rotherham who take the photographs in Eric's absence.

Many thanks also to Sue Gibbons and Clive Stannard for their help in distributing and collecting the money in for the magazines that they deliver. Sadly, Clive passed away this year.

Emma Thompson from Sankey Valley Methodist, who for many years printed the magazines, left the area with her husband John last July to settle in Edinburgh. Our magazines are now printed by Jamie at Cheshire Print.

With regards to the contents of the magazine I would ask all our readers to send myself or Eric anything that you may think would be of interest to our readers.

You will have noticed that Eric always has his camera with him - he has taken thousands of photographs which he still has.

Houghton's Funeral Directors is the only Advertiser we have now.

St Mary's Church Magazine Account: January – December 2024

Total income from sale of magazines and advert: **£452.00**

Total outlay for printing of 6 editions for the year: **£406.43**

This leaves a balance of **£45.57** which will go to church funds.

Jo Jackson, Magazine Editor

Eco Team Report

Work has continued during the past year on improving the environmental impact of St. Mary's Church in the categories of Worship and Teaching, Buildings, Land, Community and Local Engagement and Lifestyle. The ultimate aim was to be able to submit an application for a

Silver Eco Church award, following our Bronze award in 2022. To do this we now needed to achieve Silver status in each of the five categories (previously some categories could have remained at Bronze level as long as the overall score was at Silver level). Ultimately, as stated elsewhere in this report, we were awarded a Silver award in February 2025.

With support from Zara Ross from Faiths4Change we also conducted a Lifestyle Survey and followed that up with a “Lunch and Chat” event to discuss environmental lifestyle issues with members of the congregation. We will be using the information gained from these initiatives as we move forward with our “Eco Church” work and we especially thank Zara for her ongoing support.

At the same time, we are committed to working towards the Church of England’s Net Zero Carbon 2030 initiative, which also includes a commitment to Eco Church. Initiatives we have already undertaken, such as switching to a 100% green electricity tariff and having energy-efficient lighting installed throughout, are part of this initiative, but, moving forward we will also need to consider “big” initiatives such as solar panels and a heat pump.

As indicated by the Eco Church categories of Community and Local Engagement and Lifestyle, embedding environmentally friendly behaviour into our lifestyle is something that needs us all to be engaged in, so we thank you for your commitment to this. We would also welcome anyone who would like to join our team.

Margaret Emsley on behalf of the ECO team (Kate Forrest and Jeremy Tear)

Messy Church

We started 19 months ago and have a good team of helpers to facilitate the activities, story, worship and food.

We have had some (around 18 each month including helpers) who have come regularly and have come to experience this form of church on a Saturday afternoon.

We advertise personally, with baptism families, through the West Warrington Church Facebook page and through services in church.

Edmond kindly recorded a video to give people a taster of what and why we have Messy church. This has been played in the church during the service when other groups are in the church.

Ages range from 1-6, 7-12, 13-15, 25-85 years.

Lynn Parish and the Messy team

Small Groups

The small groups for study, prayer, care and witness have continued to meet throughout 2024 in people's homes throughout the parish, including in Lent when members of other churches in West Warrington joined to give them an ecumenical flavour.

During the year, the studies focused on the parables, with the exception of Lent when they followed the Churches Together course 'On the Third Day' which focused on the resurrection and what it means for us to live as resurrection people.

I am grateful to the group leaders who give their time and hospitality to lead the groups in different parts of our parish – Keith and Ali White, Janet Kerswell and Joan Rotheram, and David and Janet Tanner. If you do not currently attend one of our groups, why not give them a try? The groups meet on Monday afternoons, and Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Speak to me or one of the group leaders for further details.

Jeremy Tear

Great Sankey, St Mary
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts					
Donations and legacies	129,397.10	707.22	-	130,104.32	76,486.12
Income from charitable activities	10,196.16	-	-	10,196.16	6,878.00
Other trading activities	20,010.15	346.50	-	20,356.65	4,064.11
Investments	7,448.73	-	-	7,448.73	3,307.69
Other income	119.11	-	-	119.11	-
Total income	167,171.25	1,053.72	-	168,224.97	90,735.92
Payments					
Raising funds	4,997.50	-	-	4,997.50	421.73
Expenditure on charitable activities	232,316.05	1,550.76	-	233,866.81	119,636.42
Other expenditure	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	237,313.55	1,550.76	-	238,864.31	120,058.15
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(70,142.30)	(497.04)	-	(70,639.34)	(29,322.23)
Transfers:					
Gross transfers between funds - in	15,025.94	-	-	15,025.94	14,014.55
Gross transfers between funds - out	(15,025.94)	-	-	(15,025.94)	(14,014.55)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains/losses on investment assets	-	-	-	-	-
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(70,142.30)	(497.04)	-	(70,639.34)	(29,322.23)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	169,520.06	8,612.72	-	178,132.78	207,455.01
Total funds carried forward	99,377.76	8,115.68	-	107,493.44	178,132.78

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT (SORP 2015) TO THE PCC OF
ST. MARYS, GREAT SANKEY

I report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St. Marys, Great Sankey on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024, as set out on the pages of your Annual Report, which comprise of the Balance sheet, Statement of Financial Activities, and the related notes.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Association of Accounting Technicians.

It is my responsibility to:

- 1- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- 2- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 125(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- 3- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

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

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

No material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act
or the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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



P. Carty MAAT
Carty and Co Accountants Ltd
234 Manchester Road
Warrington
WA1 3BD

Dated: 04/04/2025

Accounts

The Church of St Mary- Great Sankey

Liverpool Road, Great Sankey, Warrington WA5 1RE



Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

For the year ending 31st December 2023

St. Mary's, Great Sankey

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31st December 2023

A member of the West Warrington Church Team

1. Reference and Administrative Information

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary, Great Sankey is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. Charity registration number: 1180928.

St. Mary's Church is located on Liverpool Road, Great Sankey, Warrington, WA5 1RE. The parish is part of the Diocese of Liverpool.

Official correspondence should be sent to the Rev. Jeremy Tear, St. Mary's Church, Liverpool Road, Great Sankey, Warrington WA5 1RE

For the period 1st January 2023 until the date of approval of this report, the following people served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Pioneer Team Rector Rev. Jeremy Tear
Chair

Churchwardens Jane Hampton (appointed April 2023, Vice chair)
Lynn Parish (term of office ended April 2023)
John Taylor (appointed April 2022)

Elected members Amanda Adlington (appointed April 2023)
Susan Gibbons (resigned January 2023)
Jane Hampton (appointed April 2022)
Roxy Jones (term of office ended April 2023)
Lynn Parish (appointed April 2023)
Joan Rotheram (appointed September 2022)
Julie Shaw (Treasurer, resigned April 2023)
Keith White (appointed May 2023)

Ex-officio members Rev. Martin Thorpe, Pioneer Team Vicar
Rev. Sarah Peppiatt, Pioneer Team Vicar

Deanery Synod Representatives Roxy Jones (term of office ended April 2023)
Kate Forrest (appointed April 2023)

Electoral Roll Jean Lawrence

DBS Verifier and Safeguarding Officer Clare Grimes

Finance Assistant	Fiona Barnard, appointed 2018. Fiona was invited to attend meetings but could not vote. Fiona has kindly been taking the minutes of meetings.
Assistant Warden	Kate Forrest and Ian Knight were re-appointed in April 2023 but are not members of the PCC.
Employees	Gail Cordon, Laura Hampton, Derek Bowden, Mick and Doren Hartop, and Lynn Parish undertook ad hoc duties as vergers/bell ringers
Treasurer's Report	See attached.
Independent Examiner	P Carty FCA, 70 Longbarn Lane, Woolston, Warrington, WA1 4QR

2. Structure, Management and Governance

St. Mary's Sankey PCC is a body corporate and operates under the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956* and the *Church Representation Rules*.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Day to day management of the Church was delegated by the PCC to the Standing Committee: **Rev. Jeremy Tear** (Pioneer Team Vicar appointed 2015) **John Taylor** (Churchwarden from April 2022) and **Jane Hampton** (Churchwarden from April 2023)

The **Standing Committee** can be contacted by telephone as shown in the Church Suite app; Rev Jeremy Tear can be contacted by e-mail at: revjeremytear@gmail.com or phone on 01925-485288.

Safeguarding Procedures

The PCC has complied with its duty to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. Individual PCC members receive online training as and when deemed appropriate. The Safeguarding Officer undertook Diocesan training (after an initial session with Diocesan Advisor Ruth Reed in 2018) and the whole PCC received training in child protection policy and procedures during this session. All members of the PCC are in the process of completing DBS checks. We received additional training on GDPR by Helen Aghanian, our Church Administrator in 2018.

Risk Assessments

The PCC undertook a programme of risk assessments to identify their major risks. Procedures were then put in place to manage those risks and minimise their impact on the life of the church.

Financial Risk

An annual budget is prepared to ensure short term viability. Actual results compared with budget are reported to the PCC every half year. The charity has two main sources of income; namely the giving by members to the Church by cash on plates, legacies, Parish Giving Scheme & envelopes; and baptisms, weddings and funerals.

The PCC review their investments regularly. Investments are only made in approved low risk funds.

All assets are insured. A review was carried out in 2018 to ensure cover at an appropriate level.

The PCC has approved internal and external controls for annual accounts.

- *Compliance with Law and Regulation*
A health and safety review was undertaken by a member of the church with specific experience in this area. The PCC was appraised of the risks and the necessary requirements and these are undergoing compliance.
- *Operational risk*
Regular maintenance checks are done on the building by way of a Quinquennial on the structure and checks on internal electrical items like boiler, heating system, fire extinguishers, fire & security alarms.

3. Objectives and Activities

The general functions of the PCC are stated within section 2 of the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956*.

At St. Mary's our vision statement says that we desire 'to be a growing church making a growing difference'. We desire to grow both numerically, spiritually and through the facilities we offer. At the PCC's away day in July 2021, we devised a three-year strategy document for the period 2021-2023.

When planning our activities for the year, the PCC gave consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance to charities concerned with the advancement of religion.

Our activities in 2023 provided the following public benefits:

- Regular public worship open to all, both on Sundays, midweek and for funerals, weddings and baptisms. The Church has easy access and was awarded a '**Child Friendly Award**' in 2017 by the Liverpool Diocese.
- The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation and praying for those who ask for assistance.
- Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved. Home Communion is taken out to some who are unable to attend church by a small authorised team.
- We held Christmas services in church for Great Sankey and Park Road Primary Schools. Kids Planet Nursery school attended Easter, Harvest and Christmas events and we went into nursery to read bible stories for pre-school children during the year.
- Sunday school activities for those aged 4-11 called 'Lightnings', in church.
- Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas with 10% of income, plus special collections. Also, practical support for the Food Bank in Warrington, and for children in need in our town through a Toy Service.
- We held a Summer and Christmas Fair to raise funds for the church and to provide opportunities for the community to connect with one another
- We have a monthly community lunch to provide a means for people to connect with each other and avoid isolation
- We rented out the church to a local Pilates teacher for weekly sessions, and occasionally to other bodies, e.g. Great Sankey Parish Council.

Churches Together in West Warrington

St. Mary's Church continues to work with other churches in West Warrington. This included a Churches Together Good Friday service and a Prayer Walk on Ascension Day. We also worked with other churches in West Warrington to share God's love through providing 'Open the Book' bible story telling sessions in local schools

West Warrington Team Ministry

On a team note, St. Mary's is part of the West Warrington Team Ministry which comprises St. Mary's, Great Sankey; St. Paul's, Penketh; St. James', Hood Manor; and St. Philip's, Westbrook. The clergy meet together regularly, and the churches worship together on specific occasions throughout the year.

Church Buildings

A variety of general maintenance tasks were completed including work to the roof and tower as part of our Quinquennial inspection

Charitable giving policy

At St. Mary's we give away a tithe (10%) of our annual giving through the Parish Giving Scheme, a weekly envelope scheme, standing orders and cash on the plate.

We also support the following charities: - Leprosy Mission, Church Army, Church Mission Society, The Children's Society, and The Food Bank in Warrington (part of the Trussell Trust).

4. Achievements and performance

Electoral roll

There were 96 people registered on the electoral roll at the APCM in 2023.

Worship

Average attendance at Sunday Services in 2023 was around 7 people attending the 8am communion service and around 59 adults/children attending an average 10am service. We also had a consistent figure of around 12 attending the Wednesday Holy Communion service.

Pastoral care and service to our community

It has always been a top priority of the church to care for members and to serve the local community. This takes place within both regular and special church services (including an annual memorial service for the bereaved), and monthly home communion visits. The Vicar writes a weekly letter sent by email/post.

Growing in Faith

In spring 2023, we ran a Growing in Faith course, followed by The Talking Jesus course in the summer. In the autumn, we ran an Alpha course which was attended by members of the church and those connected to it.

5. Financial review

See Treasurer's Report.

Reserves Policy

We keep a reserve of £5,000.

6. Plans for the future

See 'Strategy Document for 2021-2023' which we have reviewed at PCC.

Great Sankey, St Mary
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	72,279.05	4,207.07	-	76,486.12	67,974.30
Income from charitable activities	6,878.00	-	-	6,878.00	8,334.87
Other trading activities	3,852.73	211.38	-	4,064.11	3,856.59
Investments	3,307.69	-	-	3,307.69	1,336.78
Other income	-	-	-	-	84.00
Total income	86,317.47	4,418.45	-	90,735.92	81,586.54
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	421.73	-	-	421.73	1,464.49
Expenditure on charitable activities	118,086.02	1,550.40	-	119,636.42	93,285.10
Other expenditure	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	118,507.75	1,550.40	-	120,058.15	94,749.59
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(32,190.28)	2,868.05	-	(29,322.23)	(13,163.05)
Transfers:					
Gross transfers between funds - in	14,014.55	-	-	14,014.55	-
Gross transfers between funds - out	(14,014.55)	-	-	(14,014.55)	-
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains/losses on investment assets	-	-	-	-	-
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(32,190.28)	2,868.05	-	(29,322.23)	(13,163.05)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	201,710.34	5,744.67	-	207,455.01	220,618.06
Total funds carried forward	169,520.06	8,612.72	-	178,132.78	207,455.01



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

St Marys PCC Great Sankey

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1180928

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 12 / 2023.

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 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the 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 (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

08/04/2024

Name:

Paul Carty

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Association of Accounting Technicians

Address:

234 Manchester Road

Warrington

WA1 3BD

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

Accounts

The Church of St Mary- Great Sankey
Liverpool Road, Great Sankey, Warrington WA5 1RE



Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ending 31st December 2022

St. Mary's, Great Sankey

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council **For the year ended 31st December 2022**

A member of the West Warrington Church Team

1. Reference and Administrative Information

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary, Great Sankey is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. Charity registration number: 1180928.

St. Mary's Church is located on Liverpool Road, Great Sankey, Warrington, WA5 1RE. The parish is part of the Diocese of Liverpool.

Official correspondence should be sent to the Rev. Jeremy Tear, St. Mary's Church, Liverpool Road, Great Sankey, Warrington WA5 1RE

For the period 1st January 2022 until the date of approval of this report, the following people served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Pioneer Team Rector Rev. Jeremy Tear
Chair

Churchwardens Lynn Parish (re-appointed APCM 2022, Vice chair)
John Taylor (appointed April 2022)

Elected members Julie Shaw (Treasurer, appointed October 2021)
Susan Gibbons (appointed April 2021)
Jane Hampton (appointed April 2022)
Roxy Jones (appointed October 2020)
Gemma Tocher (stepped down April 2022)
Leanne Turner (Vice chair, stepped down June 2022)

Ex-officio members Rev. Martin Thorpe,
Pioneer Team Vicar
Rev. Sarah Peppiatt, Pioneer Team Vicar

Deanery Synod Roxy Jones (appointed April 2021)
Representatives

Electoral Roll Jean Lawrence

DBS Verifier and Clare Grimes
Safeguarding Officer

Finance Assistant Fiona Barnard, appointed 2018. Fiona was invited to attend meetings but could not vote. Fiona has kindly been taking the minutes of meetings.

Assistant Warden Kate Forrest and Ian Knight were re-appointed in April 2022 but are not members of the PCC.

Employees Gail Cordon, Laura Hampton, Derek Bowden, Mick and Doren Hartop, and Lynn Parish undertook ad hoc duties as vergers/bell ringers

Treasurer's Report See attached.

Independent Examiner P Carty FCA, 70 Longbarn Lane, Woolston, Warrington, WA1 4QR

2. Structure, Management and Governance

St. Mary's Sankey PCC is a body corporate and operates under the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956* and the *Church Representation Rules*.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Day to day management of the Church was delegated by the PCC to the Standing Committee:

Rev. Jeremy Tear (Pioneer Team Vicar appointed 2015) **Lynn Parish** (Churchwarden from July 2017), **John Taylor** (Churchwarden from April 2022), **Susan Gibbons** (appointed April 2022) , and **Jane Hampton** (appointed April 2022)

The **Standing Committee** can be contacted by telephone as shown in the Church Suite app; Rev Jeremy Tear can be contacted by e-mail at: revjeremytear@gmail.com or phone on 01925-485288.

Safeguarding Procedures

The PCC has complied with its duty to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. Individual PCC members receive online training as and when deemed appropriate. The Safeguarding Officer undertook Diocesan training (after an initial session with Diocesan Advisor Ruth Reed in 2018) and the whole PCC received training in child protection policy and procedures during this session. All members of the PCC are in the process of completing DBS

checks. We received additional training on GDPR by Helen Aghanian, our Church Administrator in 2018.

Risk Assessments

The PCC undertook a programme of risk assessments to identify their major risks. Procedures were then put in place to manage those risks and minimise their impact on the life of the church.

Financial Risk

An annual budget is prepared to ensure short term viability. Actual results compared with budget are reported to the PCC every half year. The charity has two main sources of income; namely the giving by members to the Church by cash on plates, legacies, Parish Giving Scheme & envelopes; and baptisms, weddings and funerals.

The PCC review their investments regularly. Investments are only made in approved low risk funds.

All assets are insured. A review was carried out in 2018 to ensure cover at an appropriate level.

The PCC has approved internal and external controls for annual accounts.

- ***Compliance with Law and Regulation***

A health and safety review was undertaken by a member of the church with specific experience in this area. The PCC was appraised of the risks and the necessary requirements and these are undergoing compliance.

- ***Operational risk***

Regular maintenance checks are done on the building by way of a Quinquennial on the structure and checks on internal electrical items like boiler, heating system, fire extinguishers, fire & security alarms.

3. Objectives and Activities

The general functions of the PCC are stated within section 2 of the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956*.

At St. Mary's our vision statement says that we desire 'to be a growing church making a growing difference'. We desire to grow both numerically, spiritually and through the facilities we offer. At the PCC's away day in July

2021, we devised a three-year strategy document for the period 2021-2023.

When planning our activities for the year, the PCC gave consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance to charities concerned with the advancement of religion.

Our activities in 2022 provided the following public benefits:

- Regular public worship open to all, both on Sundays, midweek and for funerals, weddings and baptisms, as well as online worship provided during periods of concern about Covid and when the church was open. The Church has easy access and was awarded a **'Child Friendly Award'** in 2017 by the Liverpool Diocese.
- The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation and praying for those who ask for assistance.
- Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved. Home Communion is taken out to some who are unable to attend church by a small authorised team.
- We held Christmas services in church for Great Sankey and Barrow Hall Primary Schools. Kids Planet Nursery school attended Easter, Harvest and Christmas events and we went into nursery to read bible stories for pre-school children during the year.
- Sunday school activities for those aged 4-11 called 'Lightnings', in church.
- Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas with 10% of income, plus special collections. Also, practical support for the Food Bank in Warrington, and for children in need in our town through a Toy Service.
- We held a Summer and Christmas Fair to raise funds for the church and to provide opportunities for the community to reconnect with one another
- We re-introduced a monthly community lunch to provide a means for people to connect with each other and avoid isolation
- We rented out the church to a local Pilates teacher for weekly sessions.

Churches Together in West Warrington

St. Mary's Church continues to work with other churches in West Warrington. This included a Churches Together Good Friday service and a Prayer Walk on Ascension Day. We also worked with other churches in West Warrington to share God's love through providing 'Open the Book' bible story telling sessions in local schools

West Warrington Team Ministry

On a team note, St. Mary's is part of the West Warrington Team Ministry which comprises St. Mary's, Great Sankey; St. Paul's, Penketh; St. James', Hood Manor; and St. Philip's, Westbrook. The clergy meet together regularly, and the churches worship together on specific occasions throughout the year.

Church Buildings

A variety of general maintenance tasks were completed including work to the roof and tower as part of our Quinquennial inspection

Charitable giving policy

At St. Mary's we give away a tithe (10%) of our annual giving through the Parish Giving Scheme, a weekly envelope scheme, standing orders and cash on the plate.

We also support the following charities: - Leprosy Mission, Church Army, Church Mission Society, The Children's Society, and The Food Bank in Warrington (part of the Trussell Trust).

4. Achievements and performance

Electoral roll

There were 104 people registered on the electoral roll at the APCM in 2022.

Worship

Average attendance at Sunday Services in 2022 was around 10 people attending the 8am communion service and around 57 adults/children attending an average 10am service. We also had a consistent figure of around 12 attending the Wednesday Holy Communion service.

We also have had a regular 5 adults/children who have attended our online services at 10am.

Pastoral care and service to our community

It has always been a top priority of the church to care for members and to serve the local community. This takes place within both regular and special church services (including an annual memorial service for the bereaved), and monthly home communion visits. The Vicar writes a weekly letter sent by email and a monthly letter sent by email/post.

Growing in Faith

In spring 2022, we ran a Growing in Faith course, followed by The Talking Jesus course in the summer. In the autumn, we ran an in-person Alpha course which was attended by members of the church and those connected to it.

5. Financial review

See Treasurer's Report.

Reserves Policy

We keep a reserve of £5,000.

6. Plans for the future

See 'Strategy Document for 2021-2023' which we have reviewed at PCC.

Pioneer Team Rector's Report

2022 was a much more 'normal' year in the life of our team as we finally emerged into the post-pandemic period. Not that Covid has gone away, of course, but life in general (and church life in particular) felt more like it used to, with numbers of different activities getting up and running again within our churches, including our Team Growing Leaders course.

A particular highlight of the year was the ordination of Rebecca Lloyd as Deacon at Liverpool Cathedral on 26 June. Rebecca's appointment is to serve primarily in St.James' parish, where she is involved in a number of different ways, but she has also been getting some experience of leading worship at St.Mary's as well. Please do continue to pray for her and for her family as they adjust to Rebecca's new role and as she is priested on 10th June at Liverpool Cathedral.

Service-wise, all team services were back in person this year. We had an Ash Wednesday service at St.Mary's, a Maundy Thursday communion at St.Paul's, a Good Friday service at St.Philip's and Easter Eve vigil at St.James. We also held a Team Confirmation Service at St.Elphin's in May, confirming around 30 children from St.Philip's and St.James. Finally, in late October, we had the annual Team Memorial Service at St.Mary's, and the post Christmas team service was held at St.Philip's.

Ecumenically, we joined together with other Christians from West Warrington for the Good Friday service at Honiton Square once again and reinstituted the prayer walk around West Warrington on Ascension Day as part of Thy Kingdom Come, visiting St.Paul's and St.Mary's en route. Members of our Team were also involved in the Churches Together stall at Penketh carnival on a blazing hot summer's day in July, and continue to be involved in the Open the Book presentations in local primary schools.

As well as the bi-weekly meetings of the core team of clergy/ordinand and local missional leaders, the Team Fund Committee continued to meet regularly to consider how we use the team funds available to us. During 2022, we supported an application from St. James for their Year 6 Leavers Prom and also conducted a review of the remaining team funds, which were getting quite low. As a result, it has been decided that churches will need to be responsible for paying the expenses of their own clergy/local

missional leaders in future. I am very grateful to John Harrop, our Team Treasurer, for all his hard work with the Team Accounts for 2022 and for his work with the clergy expenses reconciliation exercise. I am also grateful to Rosie Cox who continues to allow our Team accounts to be reported on within St.James accounts.

As we look forward to what lies ahead in the remainder of 2023, including exploring the potential implications of the Diocesan Fit for Mission programme and the Church Warrington Year of Mission, I pray that we will not lose sight of our unity in Christ as brothers and sisters in this part of town. Let's continue to do together those things we can, whilst acknowledging those things which are best done in our own churches.

Finally, I would like to thank my clergy colleagues, Revds. Martin Thorpe, Sarah Peppiatt and Rebecca Lloyd, the Local Missional Leaders Marise Seville, June Dunning and Paul Smalley, and our retired clergy including Revds. Steve Parish, Andrew Hetherington and Mal Martin for all their help and support in various ways across our team churches this past year.

Jeremy Tear, March 2023

Pioneer Team Vicar's Report

This past year has been marked by a sense of returning to 'normal' at St.Mary's, as we moved into a post-pandemic world. Attendances significantly increased at all our services and we ended the year with a weekly average in-person attendance of 75 people, nearly double that of the previous year. The community lunch restarted in May and we are now getting around 40 people each month which is great. Lightnings, our Sunday School for children, also restarted in person in 2022, though it is taking time to re-establish numbers.

One of the great encouragements of the past year has been the continued influx of new members of the Hong Kong community, and I am grateful for the way in which they are contributing to the life of our church, alongside others. We had a fantastic Hong Kong Harvest Supper and Quiz in October, and it was a delight to welcome many others to that. It was also great to welcome many in our community to our Summer and Christmas fairs, which raised good sums of money for the church, and I am grateful to Sarah Lavelle and Amanda Adlington for their help in organising these.

Another ongoing encouragement has been the Alpha, Growing in Faith and Talking Jesus courses as we have continued to engage existing and new church members with the basics of the Christian faith and how it applies to our lives. We also ran the course based on the BBC TV drama 'Broken' about a Catholic priest ministering in inner city Liverpool, which was also well received.

Building wise, it was great to have our new chairs delivered to church in May and I hope that people are enjoying sitting on them! Being much

lighter, they also make it much easier to rearrange the church for services and events, and my thanks go to all who assist with that each week, and indeed to the Co-op who provided the funding. We also began a series of major repairs to the tower and other smaller repairs in October as part of our Quinquennial (five yearly inspection) and these have now largely been finished. We received the faculty from the diocese for our proposed church extension in November and are currently waiting on council planning permission before hopefully going out to tender. Having agreed to use some of our hall sale funds for the necessary Quinquennial work, we will need to raise some additional funds for this and have these in place before any building work can begin, which may not now be until early next year.

I am grateful to Lynn Parish and to John Taylor who have served as church wardens this past year, as have Kate Forrest and Ian Knight as assistant wardens. Thanks to all our PCC and Deanery Synod members; our baptism, wedding, funeral and interment co-ordinators; and to all who have served, given and prayed for St.Mary's in 2022. We simply couldn't function without you. As Lynn prepares to stand down as warden this year after 6 years of service, and Julie Shaw after two years as treasurer, please pray for good replacements to carry on their excellent work. Finally, my thanks to our clergy - Martin, Sarah, Rebecca and Steve - for all their help this past year too.

Jeremy Tear, March 2023

Church Warden's Report

We have had another year with the aftermath of the pandemic although lessening of restrictions we were used to last year meant that our PCC has had to have regard for government and Church of England guidelines. Our church has been kept open and has kept people attending services, keeping people as safe as possible. No masks being worn now although gel is available as people enter the church and for those still feeling vulnerable wearing masks and keeping their distance. Risk assessments were made and updated when necessary.

Holy Communion has been provided but intincting wafers and given individually. The church now has the new red chairs which have made a huge difference when activities in the church necessitate moving them. They are stackable and lighter to move.

Much thanks to those members who kept in touch with church contacts by email, phone or safe face to face to help keep spirits up; gardens and church building have been kept in good order.

My thanks to Jeremy for his continuing support to John and myself as churchwardens and to Ian and Kate who have assisted in helping us.

Treasurer's Report

This is a Summary Report of the church's financial position as of 31st December 2022.

1. Overall Balance and Fund balance details

The overall balance of Church funds amounts to £207,455 which is (£13,163) less than the 2021 balance.

These balances are split over several different bank accounts held by St Mary's. They represent several different funds set aside for the Church's operation.

1a) Church Hall Fund (Designated Fund) balance £179,100 which is a decrease in 2022 of £4,618 due to agreed quinquennial work being carried out on the church as agreed by the PCC. We earned Interest on the Nationwide accounts of £898 and Interest for 2021 on the Charity Bank of £421.91 which is only available in March each year.

1b) Building & Restoration & Roof Funds (Restricted Funds) balance £1,599 has an increase of £323 in donations in 2022.

1c) Co Op for Chairs (Restricted Fund) balance (£4) after the chairs were paid for.

1d) General Fund (Unrestricted Fund) pays for the normal running costs of the church. The balance is £6,411 which is (£8,021) lower than 2021. We paid additional costs out of the General Fund in 2022 which related to 2021, one of them being the Parish Share balance of £6k to balance it to £50,000 for the year. Also, the negative balance on the Team Fund on the balance sheet was adjusted (£4,219) after a discussion with the Auditor and it was agreed we didn't need a Team fund account.

1e) Tithing (Restricted Fund) balance of £7,382 which is £990 higher than 2021. We have paid out £4,575 in charitable donations (listed below) and received income of £5,565.

Charitable donations have been made this year to:

Locally: St. Mary's, Pickersley; Churches together.

International and others: Church Mission Society, Church Army, Leprosy Mission, Ukraine appeal and Pakistan appeal.

1f) Garden and Flower Funds (Restricted Funds) The Garden fund balance is £310 which is made up income and expenditure during the

year. The Flower fund balance is £117 which is £115 less than 2021 again due to income and expenditure during the year.

1g) Other Restricted & Designated - Designated balance £8,818
Restricted balance £3,723.

2. Parish Share

The Parish Share is an amount payable to the Diocese as a contribution to the costs of clergy in the Diocese.

At the end of 2021 the balance owing was £26,724. The Parish Share contribution expected for 2022 was £67,421.04. The PCC agreed that we could again manage to repay £50k in 2022 leaving a closing balance at the end of 2022 of £44,145.04. The PCC have been seeking to agree a parish share payment plan with the deanery/diocese which includes addressing our parish share deficit.

3. Income

The income for the year amounted to £83,283. The income is less than in 2021 by £10,288. Included in last year's income was a £25k legacy which I have not included here. We had the Stewardship Initiative in March-April. We had a pledged increase of £476 per month and one-off donations of £1,735. Unfortunately, we have not had an increase in Hall Lettings and Wedding income which we had budgeted for.

4. Expenditure

The Expenditure for 2022 was £96,445 which although less than 2021 due to the building work, we have still exceeded our income by £13,163. Which is due to expenses from 2021 being paid in 2022, £6k balance of 2021 Parish Share, £8k Chairs, and the rest is the general running costs of the church, church maintenance Fire and Burglar alarms, utilities, staff costs.

5. Support

I would like to thank all the staff at St Mary's who continue to support the Church and myself with day to running, services and financial information.

The figures have been rounded and detailed figures can be found in the Church's full year end accounts (2022). The Parish share balance owed is a note to the accounts and not on the reports.

Julie Shaw, St Mary's Treasurer

Planned Giving - Gift Aid Envelopes

Most of the planned giving is now donated through the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). This provides the Parish with several advantages over other forms of giving, including a consistent and regular income, monthly receipt of gift aid improving cash flow and a reduction in the volume of

cash to be counted by the volunteers each week. The monetary value of the PGS is considered elsewhere in the annual report.

A small number of donors continue to use weekly donation envelopes presented on the collection plate and these donations still contribute significantly to the Parish income. In 2022 these donations amounted to £6,592 which will also produce annual gift aid reclaims estimated at £1,474. Loose cash donations via the collection plate amounted to £6,700 in 2022 with a tax refund via the Small Donation Gift Aid Scheme of £1,675. These tax recovery estimates are subject to HMRC review.

Some donors also contribute by payments directly to the Parish bank account and via the Contactless Payments System.

If anyone would like any information regarding the Parish Giving Scheme, their eligibility to gift aid their donations, or on donations generally, please see me in church or telephone me on 07955 126429.

Terry Finnegan, Gift Aid Coordinator

Electoral Roll Report

Over the past year, 3 people have been added to the electoral roll and 11 people have been removed.

The total number of people currently on the roll stands at 96.

Jean Lawrence, Electoral Roll Officer

Safer Recruitment and Safeguarding Report

We continue as a church community and PCC to follow the diocese safer recruiting and safeguarding guidelines and aim to ensure all volunteers and employees in our community go through the relevant checks for recruitment.

We continue to renew our forms and templates based on any changes we see in the Church of England practices and will continue to monitor this going forward.

Since March 2022, 8 people have renewed their safeguarding training using both basic and where required foundation courses.

We have safely recruited 17 volunteers since the last report. We continue to ensure our volunteers receive a DBS check where required and are currently undergoing 2 check processes and have completed 5 DBS checks since the last report.

Over the last year, no safeguarding issues for the church have been brought to my attention.

Clare Grimes, Safeguarding Officer

St. Mary's Sunday School Lightnings

The year from April 2022 to April 2023 has seen the gradual return of families to church after the end of the pandemic.

From April to December 2022, Clare Grimes, Jane Pearson and I, supported by David Scarisbrick, have attempted to cover the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of each month. In January 2023 we were very grateful to welcome Frances Knight as additional support for the new rota. Lynn Parish has also kindly offered to help if needed.

It is good to be back in church, however at our scheduled meetings, we acknowledge that the number of children attending continues to be very low. We have discussed and implemented a variety of strategies for "reaching out" in an attempt to encourage families. No volunteers for helpers were forthcoming from Stewardship forms. Leaflets advertising Lightnings were given out at the Summer Fayre and information sent to local schools and nurseries via Parentmail at the start of the new term in September. Adverts have been placed on Facebook, St. Mary's homepage and the Church Near You website.

Children and leaders continue to meet and sit at the back of church and leave after the first hymn, returning at the end of the service to rejoin parents and receive a blessing at Communion. An extra row of chairs has now been turned to face the coffee table to make more space for Lightnings and parents with babies and toddlers. The children enjoy sharing their work with the congregation at the end of the service and joining in with instruments in the final hymn.

As Christmas approached, emails were sent out to the parents of children who had come to church in the last twelve months to invite them to take part in the Nativity. We were delighted to perform a simple nativity, which was received with great joy and appreciation of the children's efforts by the congregation.

We will continue to discuss new ideas to attract and engage the children. Wherever possible we will continue to offer Lightnings on 3 Sundays of the month, recognising that with few leaders and helpers, this may not always be possible.

We look forward in 2023 to the growth of Lightnings at St Mary's. We would like to pray for all the children within the West Warrington Team and wish them well on their journey through faith.

Jean Lawrence

Schools' Report

In 2022, I continued to go into the nursery to provide monthly bible stories for the rising 3s and pre-schoolers. The nursery also came to church at Easter, Harvest and at Christmas when I shared with them and their parents the Christian meaning of these special seasons in the life of the church.

Great Sankey and Barrow Hall Primary schools came to church before Christmas for their annual services, and we distributed chocolate coins and details of our Christmas services to children at Great Sankey and Park Road primary in the last week of term.

I also lead the Great Sankey High School annual service of remembrance for former students and staff in March.

I am grateful to all who helped me with the nursery and primary schools' services, and Christmas coins distribution, as well as to the members of St. Mary's who continue to go into local primary schools as part of the Open the Book teams.

Jeremy Tear

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod met twice during 2022 - on 28th June and 16th November. A summary of the key areas covered is given below.

1 Fit for Mission

This was one of two key areas of focus during 2022. In June we had a presentation from Richard Gedge, Laura Jones and Gill Dottie from Liverpool Cathedral, laying out some of the ground that needs to be covered within the Deanery in order to progress towards FFM.

In November the clergy were able to report on a fruitful AwayDay at which they looked in much more detail at how FFM could look in Warrington. These are early days in the planning process and we await further opportunities to work out the details ready for consultation with each parish and its members.

2 Leading Your Church Into Growth (LYCIG)

This is the second major area of focus for the deanery. In June, representatives of all interested parishes attended a residential conference to explore in detail what LYCIG could mean for each of

them. Our representatives were Jeremy Tear, Joan Rotheram and Sharon Leung. PCC is currently working through what they brought back with them and is working hard to make growth a reality.

3 Parish Share

It was reported in June that we are continuing with the process identified the previous year, towards a Parish Share that has a 2% increase and looking at putting out figures to review church by church shortly. Transitional Relief at that point was expected to be phased out. For 2023 we will have some additional funds due to the vacant position at Cinnamon Brow.

4 Deanery Updates

At every meeting we receive updates from all parishes in the Deanery. These can be viewed via the minutes of the meetings. Of particular note, due to them being new congregations, are:-

Central Church which has been meeting at the Salvation Army building since the Spring of 2022, with numbers increasing.

Church Collective which meets as 4 communities around the town centre, engaging in the local community, worshipping creatively, loving generously and serving locally. At the time of the June meeting, Church Collective was trying to appoint a Town Centre Pioneering Chaplain in partnership with the University of Chester.

Jeremy Tear

10th Warrington (Sankey St Mary's) Scout Group Report

It has been another great year for 10th Warrington Scouts with the group fulfilling its purpose, giving young people, skills for life.

There have been quite a few science related activities this year, with Beavers and Cubs attending the science jamboree at Liverpool University, and then Cubs and Scouts visiting Jodrell Bank.

Highlight of the year was the space-themed Chamboree (Cheshire Jamboree) camp in July/August at Tabley near Knutsford. This spectacular, week-long event, held once every four years saw over 5,000 young people from Scouts and Guides join together. A full programme of exciting activities was provided for Beavers for a day, Cubs for a weekend and Scouts for the full week. Highlight for Scouts was a day trip to Manchester involving a silent dancing tour of the city and an activity at the Apple Store. A great team effort by our leaders and all of the other adult helpers who made this such an enjoyable event for everyone.

We also once again held our group awards evening in October, celebrating all of the successes and achievements of young people throughout the year. A lovely social event enjoyed by all.

The number of young people in the group has remained steady last year. At this moment, we have around 90 on our roll. This is definitely down to the varied and engaging programme of activities that the leaders deliver week-in week-out.

Our scouts visited Meadowview Care Home just before Christmas with some presents for the residents. Their visit was really appreciated and they spent some time chatting and getting to know each other.

The project to replace our worn-out kitchen and toilet block was finally completed this year. It is a massive improvement on what we had before. Well done to our fundraising and building project teams for making it happen. Our thoughts now turn to the next challenge of what to do with the rest of the building, whilst not in critical condition, will require a lot of maintenance expenditure to keep it going. Maybe now is the time to think big and look at sympathetically replacing it?

It was great to see a better turn out for the recent Mother's Day all-age service. We will try and maintain at least this level of attendance for the rest of the year.

Our Beaver Leader of many years, Steve Pennington, will be retiring this year so we need a strong leader team in place to keep things going. Steve will retain his connection with the group but in a supporter and advisory role. Our best wishes to Steve, and a massive thank-you for everything he's done.

We are happy to say that once again we are holding a spring bedding plant sale this year. Working with other scout groups in the area we have an improved selection of great quality, professionally-grown, plants for sale. Please support us if you can by visiting our on-line shop at www.warringtonwestscouts.org.uk/plant-sale.

Lastly, if you know any young people who are interested in joining scouts, or anyone who would be interested in volunteering with us, please put them in touch and we will be happy to have a chat.

Ian Skilling, Group Scout Leader

Girlguiding Report

We have as an organisation only met face to face from September 2021 when Girlguiding guidance restricted meetings. We have Rainbow, Brownies, Guides and Rangers. St Mary's Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

Units are still operating live. Some units have changed hands as leaders have retired but all units are active albeit with changes to face to face meetings and risk assessed.

Numbers dropped last year but we are beginning to see numbers increase again, which is encouraging. For example, our St Mary's 35th Rainbow Unit has seen a steady 150% increase in new girls since May 2022. Now have 15 girls and 7 on the waiting list for this year. We met for our annual Girlguiding Carol Service for Sankey District and had 100 girls and parents attending the service. We collected food donations for our Food Bank.

Lynn Parish

St. Mary's Community Lunch Report

The change of approach with the Community Lunch, resuming on the second Tuesday of the month, rather than on a Friday was a concern, but has proved hugely successful. With a small, committed band of volunteers making soup, supplying and making cakes, shopping ahead of time and attending each month to serve the attendees, we are regularly filling all seven tables and making on average £120-£150 towards church funds.

Jeremy's THOUGHT FOR THE DAY on each occasion reminds us all of why continuing to welcome members of the community into church is so important. His words are always well received and add to the enjoyment of the lunch.

We have worked within the regulations set by the Health and Hygiene Officer from Warrington Borough Council, with checks made before and after each event to ensure that we continue to achieve the top grade.

The Community Lunch is a friendly, vibrant and successful venture; continuing with this helps bring people into St. Mary's who might not otherwise cross the threshold; guiding people who may be seeking a new pathway into faith and continuing to warmly care for those whose faith is already established.

Joan Rotheram

Alpha/Growing in Faith/Talking Jesus

The Alpha course has run successfully again this year from September to December 2022, led by Jeremy, Sharon and myself. We were able to establish two full discussion groups and managed to find volunteers to provide meals for the group over the 12-week period. At times, it was

difficult to find volunteers to do this but all weeks were covered eventually.

A grateful thanks to Gaynor Smith to attended each week to help wait on and clear up after the meal.

The course included an away day at the Gladstone's Library in Hawarden, Flintshire. This event focused on the topic of The Holy Spirit and all of the course participants were able to attend and enjoyed the day.

People who attended were a mix of established St. Mary's Church congregation members and those new to the church. As a result of attending the course we have welcomed one couple into our regular congregation. Feedback suggests that attendees gained much from small group discussions, which has enabled them to deepen their understanding of teaching and scripture to aid their personal progression and development of their faith.

The Growing in Faith course led by Jeremy and myself followed the Alpha course and ran for a further six weeks. This course was once again well attended by nine people who were able to engage in lively discussions as the group members explained their individual faith and sought answers to their questions in their aim to deepen their faith. It has been very encouraging to watch people grow in confidence and enjoy their exploration of their own Christian faith.

The 'Talking Jesus' course is due to commence 18th April and run for six weeks. The aim of this course is to enable people/church members to feel more confident in talking about their faith in the hope that others will be encouraged to come to know Jesus and the Christian way of life.

Previous 'Talking Jesus' courses have proved extremely helpful to people wanting to share their faith but who have previously felt embarrassed or reticent to do so.

All of these courses are designed to encourage people on their Christian journey in small and supportive groups which help to develop long term friendships.

Joan Rotheram

Music Group Report

We met in church to practice singing and then onwards restrictions were lifted middle of the last year. We have live music rather than YouTube and Glyn joined with Peter H playing keyboard. Two new young oboists in our group have made a great difference to the sound, which has been appreciated by church members. Another member, David, has joined us

on guitar and another singer, Debra. Kate's friend Richard has been choosing songs for us occasionally and supplying us with sheet music.

Lynn Parish

Traidcraft

Traidcraft goods have been accessible using the catalogue and they are advertised in our bi-monthly church magazine. We also enable pre ordering of Easter eggs and Advent calendars. The restrictions have reduced the orders. St Mary's uses Fairtrade tea bags and instant coffee.

We have resumed refreshments in the week and after services and, following Fairtrade fortnight March 2022, Traidcraft goods were on sale at the back for everyone to access. This year Traidcraft have started the process of finishing due to changes in people's ordering habits. Lynn can still access products from the Fairtrade Stall in Warrington Market.

Lynn Parish

Church Mission Society (CMS)

Church Mission Society is an Anglican mission agency that seeks to share the love of Jesus with people in both word and deed around the world, including here in the UK. As a church, we support Eric and Sandra Reed, who are our CMS mission partners in the Philippines. They work on an organic farm and help local church leaders to reach out to their communities. They have two children, Peter and Atiyyah, who are studying in this country. Last year we agreed to give £2,000 to support the Reeds from our tithing fund.

It was great to be able to welcome Eric and Sandra to share with us during our All Age Service in March last year, whilst they were on leave, and to hear what life has been like for them during the challenges of the coronavirus crisis. We are still looking for a new CMS representative to champion its work in our congregation, so if you would be interested in doing this, please let me know.

Jeremy Tear

Church Army

In the last year 12 people have received the combined Church Army Prayer Diary and Catalyst magazine. This had been reformatted and is now entitled 'CA in Focus'. Each week a different area of their work is focused on plus prayer points and list of individual evangelists to pray for.

The booklets cover a three month period. Money for their work was raised at a stall at the church summer. An annual donation is made to Church Army from our Church Giving Fund.

In 2022, Church Army celebrated 140 years of reaching out and bringing hope on the streets to those in need of spiritual, mental and physical help.

Janet Kerswell

The Leprosy Mission

Next year The Leprosy Mission will achieve the milestone of 150 years of ministering to the physical, psychological and discriminatory needs of people with leprosy.

Ten people receive the quarterly New Day magazine, which features the lives of leprosy sufferers and how TLM has changed their lives through medicine, surgery, self-help groups and advocacy programmes.

Ten people take the annual TLM prayer diary, which each week focuses on a different country, either one that is a donating country or one that has leprosy sufferers. On a couple of occasions after a service a stall was available to buy a variety of goods and raised £261 for TLM funds plus another £100 private donation towards the vital work of The Leprosy Mission whose motto is Leprosy Defeated, Lives Transformed. The Giving Fund also makes an annual donation.

Janet Kerswell

PCC Secretary's Report

There were 10 PCC meetings held during a year which became more typical in the latter half. The 19th January, 16th February, 23rd March, 27th April, 15th June, and 19th October meetings were held on Zoom. The 8th May meeting (after the APCM), 21st September and 23rd November meetings were held in Church. The 18th July meeting was an Away Day at Marks and Spencer, Gemini. There were no meetings planned in August and December.

The APCM was held on 8th May in the Church. The PCC also had a PCC Tonight training evening on 10th May.

The PCC reviewed the minutes from six Standing Committee meetings, which were held on 5th January, 1st March, 4th May, 14th July, 14th September and 16th November.

The Giving Group now meets only once a year (previously twice) and this year it met on 16th May (in person at one of the members' houses).

As well as general church business, some items of PCC focus this year have been: the purchase of the new chairs (and carpet cleaning), the LyCiG course (Leading your church into growth), the Quinquennial building quotes and works, Parish Share arrears, Eco church and progressing permissions for an extension.

Fiona Barnard

The Children's Society Report

The Children's Society is a charity that helps vulnerable and needy children, many in our local area. One of their traditional ways of collection is to give people 'House Boxes', small, sealed money boxes that people can place loose change in throughout the year. These are collected in the summer and administered by local coordinators. This year's collection raised over £800. Many thanks to all box holders and donors for their ongoing support for this very worthy cause. After Easter, John will offer people the chance to take on a box; the difference between this method and traditional giving is that you can deposit as little or as much as you like, whenever able. All boxes make a difference.

The Christingle collections, over both Christmas Eve Services, raised a total of over £400 in church. Some people may have donated directly through the Childrens Society website. Thanks to all who contributed so generously.

This brings the total amount donated to the Children's Society from St. Mary's Church in 2022 to over £1200, a fantastic response.

Please consider being part of this wonderful charity and take on a box this year.

John and Claire Taylor

Church Magazine Report

The St Mary's Church Magazine continues in the same format and is still edited by Jo Jackson bi-monthly. There were **85** magazines produced in December 2022 and there were **90** produced this month. This is a trend we would like to improve on as we only just cover our costs each year. However, thanks again to Jo for continuing to produce and distribute our magazine as she has for many years.

Thanks to all who have contributed, the advertisers, Sue Gibbons and Clive Stannard who help with the sale and distribution.

Please think of the magazine if you have anything which might interest our readers. I would just like to add that I would welcome help with taking photographs.

I have been taking photos in church since 1986 and as you can imagine I now have a few thousand. Also, if you would like a print of anything I have taken please ask.

We are thankful to Emma Thompson from the Sankey Valley Methodist Circuit for the printing and stapling of the magazines.

With regard to the finances of the Magazine in 2022, the details are as follows:

Total income for sale of magazines and adverts: **£552.00**

Total outlay for printing of 6 editions for the year: **£438.01**

Leaving a Balance of **£113.99** which will go to church funds.

Eric McGonagle Magazine Treasurer and Photographer

ECO Church

St Mary's Church was awarded a Bronze ECO award in 2022. The scheme encourages churches to take action to become more environmentally conscious and to lessen their environmental impact, through focusing on five main topics:

- Worship and Teaching
- Buildings
- Land
- Community and Local Engagement
- Lifestyle

The aim is now to work towards being able to achieve a Silver award. We have recruited some new members onto the ECO Church Team during the past year, but our Eco Church journey will be more sustainable if we can get additional members of the congregation to join us. Moving forward it is planned that the ECO Team will also be involved in The Church of England's target for all parts of the church to become 'net zero carbon' by 2030.

Margaret Emsley

St Marys PCC Great Sankey
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<i>Receipts</i>					
Planned giving	27,983.70	—	—	27,983.70	24,754.74
Collections and other giving	16,225.61	—	—	16,225.61	22,497.77
Other voluntary receipts	4,929.31	2,738.95	—	7,668.26	39,777.17
Gift Aid recovered	11,911.07	—	—	11,911.07	8,373.79
Other receipts	3,985.66	284.00	—	4,269.66	6,376.23
Activities for generating funds	3,856.59	—	—	3,856.59	3,825.03
Investment Income	1,336.78	—	—	1,336.78	385.99
Receipts from church activities	10,030.87	—	—	10,030.87	12,580.24
Total income	80,259.59	3,022.95	—	83,282.54	118,570.96
<i>Payments</i>					
Cost of generating funds	1,564.49	—	—	1,564.49	1,806.65
Missionary and Charitable Giving	583.62	5,075.00	—	5,658.62	5,179.89
Parish Share	56,000.00	—	—	56,000.00	73,000.00
Clergy and Staffing costs	7,694.85	—	—	7,694.85	7,464.33
Church Running Expenses	14,337.01	404.23	—	14,741.24	10,542.24
Hall Running Costs	—	—	—	—	—
Church Repairs & Maintenance	—	8,940.39	—	8,940.39	14,975.03
Hall Repairs & Maintenance	—	—	—	—	—
New Building work	—	—	—	—	—
Governance Costs	1,846.00	—	—	1,846.00	5,706.45
Total expenditure	82,025.97	14,419.62	—	96,445.59	118,674.59
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(1,766.38)	(11,396.67)	—	(13,163.05)	(103.63)
<i>Transfers</i>					
Gross transfers between funds - in	18,714.22	282.38	—	18,996.60	9,968.29
Gross transfers between funds - out	(15,570.02)	(3,426.58)	—	(18,996.60)	(9,968.29)
<i>Other recognised gains / losses</i>					
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	—	—	43.50
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds	1,377.82	(14,540.87)	—	(13,163.05)	(60.13)
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>					
Total funds brought forward	201,814.07	18,803.99	—	220,618.06	220,678.19
Total funds carried forward	203,191.89	4,263.12	—	207,455.01	220,618.06



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
St Marys PCC Great Sankey

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2022

Charity no
(if any)

1180928

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 / 12 / 2022**.

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 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the 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 (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

07/04/2023

Name:

Paul Carty

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Association of Accounting Technicians

Address:

234 Manchester Road

Warrington

WA1 3BD

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

Accounts

The Church of St Mary - Great Sankey
Liverpool Road, Great Sankey, Warrington WA5 1RE



Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ending 31st December 2021

St. Mary's, Great Sankey

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council **For the year ended 31st December 2021**

A member of the West Warrington Church Team

1. Reference and Administrative Information

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary, Great Sankey is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. Charity registration number: 1180928.

St. Mary's Church is located on Liverpool Road, Great Sankey, Warrington, WA5 1RE. The parish is part of the Diocese of Liverpool.

Official correspondence should be sent to the Rev. Jeremy Tear, St. Mary's Church, Liverpool Road, Great Sankey, Warrington WA5 1RE

For the period 1st January 2021 until the date of approval of this report, the following people served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Pioneer Team Rector Rev. Jeremy Tear
Chair

Churchwardens Mrs. Lynn Parish (re-appointed APCM 2021)

Elected members Leanne Turner (Vice chair, appointed October 2020)
Julie Shaw (Treasurer, appointed October 2021)
John Taylor (appointed October 2021)
Susan Gibbons (appointed April 2021)
Roxy Jones (appointed October 2020)
Gemma Tocher (appointed October 2020)
Sarah Lavelle (stepped down April 2021)
Jean Lawrence (stepped down April 2021)

Ex-officio members Rev. Martin Thorpe,
Pioneer Team Vicar
Rev. Sarah Peppiatt, Pioneer Team Vicar

Deanery Synod Roxy Jones (appointed April 2021)
Representatives

Electoral Roll Jean Lawrence

DBS Verifier and Clare Grimes
Safeguarding Officer

Finance Assistant Fiona Barnard, appointed 2018. Fiona was invited to attend meetings but could not vote. Fiona has kindly been taking the minutes of meetings.

Assistant Warden Kate Forrest and Ian Knight were re-appointed in April 2021 but are not members of the PCC.

Employees Gail Cordon, Laura Hampton, Derek Bowden, and Lynn Parish undertook ad hoc duties as vergers/bell ringers

Treasurer's Report See attached.

Independent Examiner D Carty FCA, 70 Longbarn Lane, Woolston, Warrington, WA1 4QR

2. Structure, Management and Governance

St. Mary's Sankey PCC is a body corporate and operates under the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956* and the *Church Representation Rules*.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Day to day management of the Church was delegated by the PCC to the Standing Committee:

Rev. Jeremy Tear (Pioneer Team Vicar appointed 2015) **Lynn Parish** (Churchwarden from July 2017), **Jean Lawrence** (term ended April 2021), **Leanne Turner** (Vice Chair of PCC, appointed April 2021) and **Gemma Tocher** (appointed April 2021)

The **Standing Committee** can be contacted by telephone as shown in the Church Suite app; Rev Jeremy Tear can be contacted by e-mail at: revjeremytear@gmail.com or phone on 01925-485288.

Safeguarding Procedures

The PCC has complied with its duty to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. Individual PCC members receive online training as and when deemed appropriate. The Safeguarding Officer undertook Diocesan training (after an initial session with Diocesan Advisor Ruth Reed in 2018) and the whole PCC received training in child protection policy and procedures during this session. All members of the PCC are in the process of completing DBS checks. We received additional training on GDPR by Helen Aghanian, our Church Administrator in 2018.

Risk Assessments

The PCC undertook a programme of risk assessments to identify their major risks. Procedures were then put in place to manage those risks and minimise their impact on the life of the church.

Financial Risk

An annual budget is prepared to ensure short term viability. Actual results compared with budget are reported to the PCC every half year. The charity has two main sources of income; namely the giving by members to the Church by cash on plates, legacies, Parish Giving Scheme & envelopes; and baptisms, weddings and funerals.

The PCC review their investments regularly. Investments are only made in approved low risk funds.

All assets are insured. A review was carried out in 2018 to ensure cover at an appropriate level.

The PCC has approved internal and external controls for annual accounts.

- ***Compliance with Law and Regulation***

A health and safety review was undertaken by a member of the church with specific experience in this area. The PCC was appraised of the risks and the necessary requirements and these are undergoing compliance.

- ***Operational risk***

Regular maintenance checks are done on the building by way of a Quinquennial on the structure and checks on internal electrical items like boiler, heating system, fire extinguishers, fire & security alarms.

3. Objectives and Activities

The general functions of the PCC are stated within section 2 of the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956*.

At St. Mary's our vision statement says that we desire 'to be a growing church making a growing difference'. We desire to grow both numerically, spiritually and through the facilities we offer. At the PCC's away day in July 2021, we devised a three-year strategy document for the period 2021-2023.

When planning our activities for the year, the PCC gave consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance to charities concerned with the advancement of religion.

Our activities in 2021 provided the following public benefits:

- Regular public worship open to all, both on Sundays, midweek and for funerals, weddings and baptisms, as well as online worship provided during periods of national lockdown and when the church was open. The Church has easy access and was awarded a '**Child Friendly Award**' in 2017 by the Liverpool Diocese.
- The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation and praying for those who ask for assistance.
- Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved. Home Communion is taken out to some who are unable to attend church by a small authorised team.
- Due to the coronavirus crisis, we were not able to take religious assemblies in local Primary Schools (Park Road, Great Sankey & Barrow Hall Lane Primary Schools) but we did hold Christmas services in church for Great Sankey and Barrow Hall Schools, and provided an online assembly for Park Road School. Kids Planet Nursery school were also unable to attend services in church but we did go into nursery to read bible stories for pre-school children during the year and to take part in their Christmas event.
- Sunday school activities for those aged 4-11 called 'Lightnings', both in church and online.
- Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas with 10% of income, plus special collections. Also, practical support for the Food Bank in Warrington, and for children in need in our town through a Toy Service.
- We held a Summer and Christmas Fair to raise funds for the church and to provide opportunities for the community to reconnect with one another
- We rented out the church to a local Pilates teacher for weekly sessions.

Churches Together in West Warrington

St. Mary's Church continues to work with other churches in West Warrington. This included a Churches Together Prayer Walk on Ascension Day. Members took part in small group studies in Lent through Churches Together in West Warrington. We also worked with other churches in West Warrington to share God's love through providing 'Open the Book' bible story telling sessions in local schools

West Warrington Team Ministry

On a team note, St. Mary's is part of the West Warrington Team Ministry which comprises St. Mary's, Great Sankey; St. Paul's, Penketh; St. James', Hood Manor; and St. Philip's, Westbrook. The clergy meet together regularly, and the churches worship together on specific occasions throughout the year.

Church Buildings

A variety of general maintenance tasks were completed

Charitable giving policy

At St. Mary's we give away a tithe (10%) of our annual giving through the Parish Giving Scheme, a weekly envelope scheme, standing orders and cash on the plate.

We also support the following charities: - Leprosy Mission, Church Army, Church Mission Society, The Children's Society, and The Food Bank in Warrington (part of the Trussell Trust).

4. Achievements and performance

Electoral roll

There were 100 people registered on the electoral roll at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in 2021.

Worship

Average attendance at Sunday Services in 2021 (excluding the 3 months we were closed due to the lockdown) was around 10 people attending the 8am communion service and around 36 adults/children attending an average 10am service. We also had a consistent figure of around 9 attending the Wednesday Holy Communion service. However, it should be noted that figures were much lower for 10 am services due to the limits on numbers we could safely accommodate within the building.

We also have had a regular 20 adults/children who have attended our online services at 10am on Sunday mornings during the lockdown but this figure has decreased since we returned to services in-person.

Pastoral care and service to our community

It has always been a top priority of the church to care for members and to serve the local community. This takes place within both regular and special church services (including an annual memorial service for the bereaved), and monthly home communion visits. During the pandemic, we also had a telephone visiting scheme in place for church members, and the Vicar wrote a weekly letter sent by email and a monthly letter sent by email/post.

Growing in Faith

In spring 2021, we ran an online Growing in Faith course, followed by The Talking Jesus course in the summer, which was also online. In the autumn, we ran an in-person Alpha course which was attended by members of the church and those connected to it.

5. Financial review

See Treasurer's Report.

Reserves Policy

We keep a reserve of £5,000.

6. Plans for the future

See 'Strategy Document for 2021-2023' which we have reviewed at PCC.

Pioneer Team Rector's Report

As I write this report on National Reflection Day, to mark the second anniversary of the first coronavirus lockdown in March 2020, it seems a very appropriate time to reflect on the life of our team here in West Warrington. 2021 was, once again, a very unusual year with the third lockdown between January to March and various restrictions continuing to be in place for much of it, meaning that a lot of our church life continued online. With the easing of restrictions, we all resumed worship in person at Easter and gradually began to return to some kind of normality as a result.

Given the above, we had an online Team Ash Wednesday service this year, and a number of people from our churches joined in the online Churches Together Lent course looking at the environment and how we care for it. During Holy Week, we managed to hold a vigil on Maundy Thursday at St. Mary's as well as an online Service on Good Friday afternoon, streamed live from St. Philip's. By Ascension, we had returned to our Team/Churches Together prayer walk for Thy Kingdom Come around West Warrington and in October we held our Team memorial Service at St. Mary's once again, plus we joined together for worship on the Sunday after Christmas.

During the year we continued as a team to operate the West Warrington Church Befriending Scheme, offering a valuable listening ear to all in our local community who wanted it, with volunteers from our churches. Just before Christmas, we reviewed the Scheme and decided that with falling numbers of volunteers, it was the right time to stop this. However, I would like to place on record again my thanks to Heather Copperwheat from St. Philip's who administered the scheme and all those from our churches who gave up their time to be part of this valuable outreach.

As well as the bi-weekly meetings of the core team of clergy, ordinand and local missional leaders, the Team Fund Committee continued to meet on a termly basis to consider how we use the team funds available to us. During 2021, we supported applications from St. James for their Easter outreach, from St. Mary's for their autumn Alpha course, from St. Paul's for their Light Party at Halloween, from St. Philip's for their Muddy Church, and from St. Mary's and St. Paul's for a youth worker to be shared with Youth for Christ. We also agreed once again to offer churches a grant of half their usual team clergy expenses for 2022 (in view of the challenging financial situation we continued to face), and so St. Mary's and St. James were offered £2,000 each, and St. Paul's and St. Philip's £1,000 each (since they share Sarah as their Vicar). I am very grateful to Rosie Cox who kindly agreed to deal with the Team accounts for 2021 and who also dealt with the clergy expenses reconciliation exercise. The good news to report this year, on the financial front, is that we appointed John Harrop as our team treasurer in the autumn, and so he will be taking on responsibility for these matters in the future – thank you John.

As we look to continue building back as team churches in 2022, I want to share with you our new team bible verse for the year from 1 Philippians chapter 3 verses 13b-14: **Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.** As I said in my recent team Rector's letter, it is not that we should, or can, forget the hurts and the pains of these past two years of Covid, but rather we felt that as a core team we didn't want to be held back by them as we seek to move forward into the future under God's direction and guidance. One of the things we shall be doing this year is restarting the Team Growing Leaders course in May, both in person and online, as well as continuing to offer opportunities to worship together as a team throughout the year. It may be there are other ways we can join together in ministry and mission this year as well.

Finally, I would like to thank my clergy colleagues, Revds. Martin Thorpe and Sarah Peppiatt, the Local Missional Leaders Marise Seville, June Dunning and Paul Smalley, the ordinand at St. James' Rebecca Lloyd, and our retired clergy including Revds. Steve Parish and Andrew Hetherington for all their help and support in various ways across our team churches this past year.

Jeremy Tear, March 2022

Pioneer Team Vicar's Report

It seems hard to believe that another year has gone by and what a year that has been! A further lockdown followed by the gradual easing of restrictions has meant that we now have some degree of normality back

into our life together as a church community. But we are still on a journey of returning to the new normal, and so I want to begin by thanking you for your patience as we do that.

The effects of the past two years of lockdowns, restrictions, infections, hospital admissions and of course deaths have been massive, ground shaking if you like, for us and for our world. Having a faith in Jesus, who as the letter to the Hebrews reminds us, is 'the same, yesterday, today and forever' has, I have found, been a great comfort and source of stability, as I hope it has been for you.

Given the pandemic, online worship (and meetings), have once again been a key feature of this past year. I am so grateful that we have had Zoom for this! Numbers on Zoom remained strong during the third lockdown, and there is still a smaller group who are currently engaging in worship this way. The return to in-person worship during Holy Week was a source of great joy, and relief, to me, and it has been encouraging to see the return to worship of many of our congregation since. Indeed, it is great to note that numbers in church are now back to what they were pre-pandemic, aided by a very welcome influx of new members from the Hong Kong community.

During the year, fundraising and finance were two of the big themes. We held a very well attended late Summer and Christmas Fair, and I am grateful to all who contributed in any way, including Sarah Lavelle and Clare Archibald who masterminded these for us. We also had a very successful Gift Day last Easter, raising over £11,000 (including Gift Aid) which enables us to deal with some of the financial challenges of the pandemic. I am very grateful to all who contributed.

We also saw some real spiritual growth emerging out of the Growing in Faith, Talking Jesus and Alpha courses we have run this past year and it was wonderful to see four of our newer members (Kathryn Hayward, John Taylor, Julie Shaw, and Jane Hampton) being confirmed by Paul Bayes, the recently retired Bishop of Liverpool, last October. It was also a great sadness to see Kathryn and Phil Hayward leave our fellowship to move over to the east side of the town, where they are now contributing to the life of a different church. We said farewell also to Jack Lloyd, a sterling member of our gardening team and member of our 8 o'clock congregation, who died in August.

2021 also saw some changes in terms of our baptism and funeral coordinators, with Jean Morris and Ella Finnegan stepping down from their roles after 18 months of excellent service. It has been great to have Sue Chinn and Margaret Emsley take over from them, and I remain grateful to them and to Jane Hampton for her ongoing work with funerals and interments.

Building wise, we also finally agreed as a PCC on plans for the extension and our faculty has been submitted and we are awaiting the outcome of the DAC meeting at the end of March as I write. Obtaining the relevant permissions from the diocese and the council is likely to take some time however, but I am hopeful that we may be able to receive these by the end of this year and start work soon afterwards. We are also hoping to start work soon on the quinquennial works needed to the building, and to have the new chairs (and tables) installed, thanks to the generosity of the Co-op.

Finally, I would like to thank Lynn Parish who has continued to do a sterling job as our sole Warden since April 2020, ably supported by Ian Knight and Kate Forrest as Assistant Wardens. Thanks also to our PCC members and in particular to Julie Shaw, who has taken on the role of treasurer. If you would like to serve as Churchwarden, on the PCC or Deanery Synod, do let me know as elections will be due at our APCM this year on Sunday 8 May. Finally, my thanks to our clergy – Martin, Sarah, and Steve for all their help this past year – and to each and every one of you for the countless number of ways in which you have contributed to St. Mary's through your giving, service, and prayer.

Jeremy Tear, March 2022

Church Warden's Report

We have had another year with the pandemic and restrictions meant that our PCC has had to have regard for government and Church of England guidelines. Our church has been kept open and has kept people attending services keeping people as safe as possible. Wearing masks when moving in and around the church and when singing.

Risk assessments were made and updated when necessary.

The church voted to change the current chairs and we applied for a faculty to change the heavy red chairs for lighter ones.

Much thanks to those members who kept in touch with church contacts by email, phone or safe face to face to help keep spirits up; gardens and church building have been kept in good order.

My thanks to Jeremy for his continuing support and to Ian and Kate who have assisted in helping me as sole Churchwarden.

Lynn Parish, Church Warden

Treasurer's Report

This is a Summary Report of the church's financial position as of 31st December 2021

1.Overall Balance and Fund balance details

The overall balance of Church funds amounts to £220,574 which is (£103) less than the 2020 balance.

These balances are split over several different bank accounts held by St Mary's. They represent several different funds set aside for the Church's operation.

1a) Church Hall Fund (Designated Fund) balance £183,718 which is an increase on 2020 of £355 due to Interest earned on the Charity Bank and the Nationwide accounts.

1b) Building & Restoration & Roof Funds (Restricted Funds) balance £1276 with a reduction of £8908 based on £11,283 payments to GAC and Shafer for Organ Chamber & Roof work carried out in 2020. We received in £2,290 Vat refund on the invoices paid and £85 in donations.

1c) Co Op for Chairs (Restricted Fund) balance £8,579 we have transferred £4,639 into this fund from the Postbox, Community Lunch, Magazine, Defib to cover the cost of the chairs to be purchased in 2022.

1d) General Fund (Unrestricted Fund) pays for the normal running costs of the church. The balance is £10,169 which is £5,100 higher than 2020 even allowing for a negative Team Fund expense of £4,219

1e) Tithing (Restricted Fund) balance of £6392 which is £438 higher than 2020. We have paid out £4,809 in charitable donations (listed below) and received income of £5247.

Charitable donations have been made this year to:

Locally: Youth for Christ, Church Army, Bethany Church

International and others: Church Missionary Society, Church Army, Leprosy Mission.

1f) Garden and Flower Funds (Restricted Funds) The Garden fund balance is £278 which is £212 less than 2020 which is made up income and expenditure during the year. The Flower fund balance is £232 which is £61 less than 2020 again due to income and expenditure during the year.

1g) Other Restricted & Designated - Designated balance £7,883
Restricted balance £2,047

2. Parish Share

The Parish Share is an amount payable to the Diocese as a contribution to the overall running costs to all Churches in the Diocese.

The monthly payment due from St Mary's was £5,414. per month but an agreement was reached by the PCC for us to repay £4,000 per month for 11 months and £6,000 for 1 month totaling £50k (for 2021).

At the end of the previous year, we owed £39,600 Parish Share. Our 2021 contribution of £64,973 was added to this balance. This has now been reduced by a Legacy of £25k and the agreed reduced payments for 2021. This leaves a current amount owing to the Diocese of £26,724.

3. Income

The income for the year amounted to £118,571 which included £25k Legacy. Last year in 2020 our income fell by £19,000 due to the Covid Epidemic. In 2021 we recovered to our normal level of income due to the Pledge Weekend and income from the increased number of Church services and Hall rental.

4. Expenditure

Our major expenditure during the year included the increased Parish Share payments and the building work that was deferred from 2020 (£12k). The rest is the general running costs of the church, church maintenance, fire and burglar alarms, utilities and staff costs.

5. Support

I would like to thank all the staff at St Mary's who continue to support the Church and myself with day to day running, services and financial information.

This report has been prepared in a slightly different format to previous years which is due to the changeover in Treasurers and different working methods. The figures have been rounded and detailed figures can be found in the Church's full year end accounts (2021). The Parish share balance owed is a note to the accounts and not on the reports.

Julie Shaw, St Mary's Treasurer

Planned Giving Report - Gift Aid Envelopes

This report excludes giving and tax recovery made through The Parish Giving Scheme and by direct payments to the Church general bank account.

During 2021 the Covid-19 pandemic continued to cause disruption to church services and restricted church attendance. This contributed to a continued reduction in the amount donated through gift aid envelopes and loose cash donation compared to earlier years.

The total donated via gift aid envelopes in 2021 was £5,874 (£8,447 in 2020). The amount of gift aid tax recoverable on these donations is expected to be around £2,020 subject to HMRC approval.

A further £1,440 was given by regular envelopes donors not eligible for tax relief (£1,233 in 2021).

The government continues to provide limited tax recovery on small individual cash donations of up to £30 – subject to a maximum reclaim of £2,000 – via the Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme (GASDS). The amount of such cash donations in 2021 was £5,289 (2020 £3,805) resulting in a potential tax reclaim of £1,322.

If anyone would like any information regarding their eligibility to gift aid their donations, or on donations generally, please see me in church or telephone me on 07955 126429.

Terry Finnegan, Gift Aid Coordinator

Electoral Roll Report for St Mary's Parish Church

Over the past year, 5 people have been added to the Electoral Roll and 1 person has been removed.

The total number of people currently on the **Roll** stands at 104.

Jean Lawrence, Electoral Roll Officer

Safer Recruitment and Safeguarding Report

We continue as a Church community and PCC to follow the Diocese safer recruiting and safeguarding guidelines and aim to ensure all volunteers and employees in our community go through the relevant checks for recruitment.

This year we have renewed our safeguarding process in line with the new safeguarding training guidelines and 10 people have renewed their training using both basic and where required foundation courses. We continue to ensure our volunteers receive a DBS check where required and are currently undergoing 2 check processes and have already renewed 7 DBS since the last report.

We will continue to recruit in this way and pledge to keep up to date records at all times.

Over the last year, no safeguarding issues for the church have been brought to my attention.

St. Mary's Sunday School Lightnings Report

The year from April 2021 to April 2022 has continued to be dominated by the effects of the Covid pandemic.

In April 2021, Clare Grimes, Jane Pearson and I, supported by Nicola Asprey and David Scarisbrick continued to hold Zoom sessions on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month. As previously, we had a small group of regular attendees. We also continued to post each lesson on Facebook, including pictures of the lovely craft work completed after the session. This pattern continued until October.

As Christmas approached and restrictions were lifted a little, we planned to produce a simple nativity performance. The children came to church and rehearsed their parts. However, just before the planned performance, several of the children and adults contracted Covid and unfortunately the children's nativity could not take place. This was a huge disappointment for all. We were also sad to see Nicola Asprey step down as helper. We are very grateful for all the help we received from Nicola and wish her well.

We have attempted to cover three Sundays per month in the new 2022 rota, recognising that with less leaders and helpers, this may not always be possible,

In January, Jane sent an email to all families announcing that Lightnings was going to be restarting in Church. Some adjustments were made in light of the circumstances. Children would now sit at the back of church in a couple of reserved rows and leave for the family room after the first hymn. All leaders and helpers would take a lateral flow test the evening before the service. We also limited numbers to twelve people in the family room. Jane also outlined plans to give the children an opportunity to do a performance on Mothering Sunday, to make up for the disappointment of the cancelled nativity. Sessions resumed on January 9th. It was good to be back in church, however the number of children attending was very low.

At our scheduled meeting in February, we discussed how we might encourage families back to church. Each leader contacted three families directly, to inform them of the plans for the Mothering Day service. We had a great response and welcomed eight children to Lightnings the following Sunday. We made Mother's Day cards and "Thank You" jars. We were delighted that seven children read poems and showed their crafts on Mothering Sunday. The congregation were very appreciative of the children's efforts.

We look forward in 2022 to the continued growth of Lightnings at St Mary's. We would like to pray for all the children within the West Warrington Team and wish them well on their journey through faith.

Jean Lawrence

Report for Great Sankey Primary and Barrow Hall Primary Schools

School Services Christmas 2021

Two services were held for Great Sankey Primary school and two for Barrow Hall Primary School on 14th and 16th December respectively. In the region of four hundred children, teachers and assistants attended to hear the story of the Nativity. Once again, a great group of lay church members worked hard together to bring the 'Word' to children. Before leaving each child was given a drink of fruit juice or water. Feedback from both schools was very good.

George Jones

Report for Kids Planet Nursery and Park Road Primary School

in 2021, I provided bible stories for the nursery on Zoom and reverted to giving these in person later in the year. The nursery dropped off goods to church for the foodbank at Harvest time. They were due to come to church for their Christmas singalongs but the rise of the Omicron variant put paid to that. I did however go to provide a Christmas story outdoors in their garden as part of their singalong there.

I gave an online assembly for Park Road Primary at Easter however despite offering further assemblies, I have had no contact from the school since. I am hoping that this may be re-established this year.

In the meantime, I have been asked by Great Sankey High to lead their annual service of remembrance for former students and staff in March.

Jeremy Tear

Open House Report

Open House, which is our weekly drop in on Wednesdays open to all in our community for a cuppa and a chat has not restarted this past year due to the ongoing lockdowns and subsequent restrictions.

The Open House team did have a meeting at the end of August and we agreed to revisit the possibility of restarting in the spring of 2022. If we do restart, we will need more people on the team. Do let me know if you would be interested in helping out on a monthly rota basis

Jeremy Tear

Deanery Synod Report

Deanery Synod met three times during 2021 – by Zoom on 20th January and 21st April and at St Elphin's on 13th October. A summary of the key areas covered is given below.

1. Warrington Collective

Church Collective (previously called Transform North West) is planting small, organic communities around the town centre, engaging in the local community, worshipping creatively, loving generously and serving locally. Active groups are based in Howley, Orford Park, hopefully shortly online, in the University of Chester campus in the town centre, and also a Youth Collective. Prayer from across the Deanery would be appreciated, especially for the newly appointed leaders, Simon Renison and Heather Haddow

2. Parish Share

This continues to be a concern for individual churches, especially as the Deanery is to be largely responsible for how it is apportioned and spent in the future. For now, we continue with our original formula, but we can expect change and some difficult discussions going forward. National Church has provided some financial support via a Parish Share Credit Scheme during the pandemic, and the final round of this is due to be released shortly. Our Diocese has put in requests for some of this funding, which is a gift.

3. Deanery Mission Planning Framework

Closely associated with planning for changes in Parish Share, the DMPF is a detailed self-assessment tool from which three key areas for future work have arisen.

- i) Resourcing growth and prayer to reverse decline
- ii) Paying our way with parish share without transitional relief.
- iii) Supporting the Transform project

- iv) In response to the first of these, the Deanery has now enrolled in the Diocese-promoted Leading your Church into Growth scheme which, it is hoped, will produce new leaders across all forms of mission across the Deanery

4. Fit for Mission

Supported by funding from national church, Fit for Mission works on ways of introducing people to Jesus, deepening discipleship, devoting Christian leaders and working for justice. It aims to reduce the burden on individual parishes by providing funding for specialist help over a wide range of functions, eg finance, building oversight, thus releasing more committed lay people to get directly involved in mission. There is currently pilot scheme in Wigan that would be used as a template for work in Warrington to start in 2022-3.

5. Living in Love and Faith

All churches in the deanery were encouraged to take part in a national consultation about issues of sexuality, gender and relationships. The scheme included a number of face to face and online meetings, following a course designed by the national church. It helped participants explore their own attitudes and to look at their churches and how they welcome all into their number.

Jeremy Tear

10th Warrington (Sankey St Mary's) Scout Group Report

The on-going covid restrictions in 2021 meant that a lot of our activities needed to be outside as our hut is not large enough to maintain social distance between 40 scouts. This is no bad thing however when it comes to scouting and the leaders adapted their programme to suit.

Some stand-out activities during the year were the cubs and scouts both trying out climbing at North West Face, scouts water-based fun at Wild Shore Delamere, and with added mud at Manley Mere, cubs night walk around Walton, cubs and scouts Christmas parties at Gravity trampoline centre, and our AGM held on Zoom again.

Highlight of the year was our full group camp in September at Sandiway where we had well over 100 people camping for the weekend or visiting for the day as a Beaver. A really great team effort and a fantastic re-introduction to scout camping after the enforced break.

We also once again held our group awards evening in October, celebrating all of the successes and achievements of young people throughout the year.

The number of young people in the group has continued to grow again last year. At this moment, we have around 95 on our roll. This is definitely down to the varied and engaging programme of activities that the leaders deliver week-in week-out.

Our scouts spent some time helping to tidy the cemetery in preparation for Remembrance day. The group also refreshed the poppy pebbles that we first did in 2020. On the day we had a great turnout from our Group which is good to see the importance our community places on this annual event.

We made great progress last year with the project to replace our worn-out kitchen and toilet block. Demolition of the old structure was completed on a sunny day in April. There was some difficulty finding a builder due to the post-pandemic surge in demand. Construction started in July and we had a water-tight building by January this year. Things have not gone as smoothly as we would have hoped with building regulations being more onerous than we envisaged and difficulties in sourcing some materials. The building is already in use but we hope to have it completely finished in time for our AGM in June.

It was great recently to finally get back to attending the monthly All-age services now that rules allow. We will look to build our numbers in attendance and get more involved in the proceedings for the benefit of our young people.

Unfortunately, last year our spring bedding plant sale was not able to go ahead. However, it is back for 2022 so watch out for the publicity and support us if you can.

Lastly, if you know any young people who are interested in joining scouts, or anyone who would be interested in helping us, please put them in touch and we will be happy to have a chat.

Ian Skilling, Group Scout Leader

Girlguiding Report

We have as an organisation only met face to face from September 2021 when girlguiding guidance restricted meetings. Keeping units across our Sankey District has been a challenge, hand delivering packs to unit members or using Zoom sessions for those able. We have Rainbow, Brownies, Guides and Rangers. St Mary's Rainbows, Brownies and Guides Units are still operating although we are hoping to start again when guidance changes.

Some units have changed hands as leaders have retired but all units are active albeit with changes to face to face meetings and risk assessed. Numbers dropped throughout last year due to no face to face but we are beginning to see numbers increase again which is encouraging. For example, our St Mary's 35th Rainbow Unit has seen a steady 70% increase in new girls since September 2021.

Lynn Parish

St. Mary's Community Lunch Report

Since the start of COVID we have not restarted the monthly lunch. We have had several meetings with a small number of volunteers and it was decided we will try and start the lunch again, the second Monday or Tuesday in May. To make this happen we need more people to commit to it. I hope the congregation will seriously think about this.

Carole Rafter, a member of the team

Alpha/Growing in Faith

Despite another year of lockdown and restrictions, we managed to run three courses exploring faith at St. Mary's this past year. In early 2021, we ran our second 'Growing in Faith' course online. This built on Alpha and we used material from the Church of England Pilgrim course, exploring what faith looks like in terms of our prayer, giving, time at home and at work, our relationships, justice and the environment.

In the summer of 2021, we ran our first ever 'Talking Jesus' course. Talking Jesus is a course produced by the Church of England, the Hope charity and Kingsway Community Church, designed to help get Christians talking about their faith. It ran for 6 weeks and proved helpful in enabling us to think about how we 'gossip the gospel' in our everyday lives

Then in the autumn of 2021 and spring 2022, we held another in-person Alpha course at church, which consisted of 10 people plus Joan Rotheram, John Taylor and myself as co-leaders (ably assisted by Gaynor Smith who helped with serving food and doing the washing up!). It was good to be meeting in person again and it was humbling to see how God was at work in people's lives over the duration of the course, including another Away Day at St. Joseph's prayer centre in Formby.

It's worth saying that 4 people who have completed our Alpha and Growing in Faith courses were confirmed by Bishop Paul at St. Mary's on Sunday 17 October, namely Kathryn Hayward, John Taylor, Julie Shaw and Jane Hampton.

If you would be interested in attending the Alpha/Growing in Faith/Talking Jesus courses, do have a word with me. It's always good to explore your faith, grow in it and have the confidence to share that with others (and it's never too late to be confirmed!)

Jeremy Tear

Music Group

We met in church to practice singing from September 2021 and then onwards restrictions meant we sing with masks on. We now have live music rather than YouTube and Glyn playing keyboard. We have welcomed two new young oboists to our group which has made a great difference to the sound which has been appreciated by church members.

Lynn Parish

Traidcraft

Traidcraft goods have been accessible using the catalogue, advertised in our bimonthly church magazine and through pre-ordering Easter eggs and Advent calendars. The restrictions have reduced the orders. St Mary's uses Fairtrade tea bags and instant coffee, although we have not been able to offer refreshments.

We hope that we can start again with refreshments in the week and after services. Following Fairtrade fortnight March 2022 Traidcraft goods are now on sale at the back for everyone to access.

Lynn Parish

Church Mission Society (CMS)

As a church, we support Eric and Sandra Reed, who are our CMS mission partners in the Philippines. They work on an organic farm and help local church leaders to reach out to their communities by both words and deeds. They have two children, Peter and Atiyyah, who are studying in this country. Last year we agreed to give £2,000 to support the Reeds from our tithing fund.

It was great to be able to welcome Eric and Sandra to share with us during our recent All Age Service in March this year, whilst they were on leave, and to hear what life has been like for them during the challenges of the coronavirus crisis. We are looking for a new CMS representative to champion its work in our congregation, so if you would be interested in doing this, please let me know

Jeremy Tear

Church Army Report

In September we had a visit from Cherith Withington , the Church Army Evangelist, based at The Liverpool Centre of Mission at Norris Green . She talked about how she is involved there and showed slides and video. At the Church Fair two weeks later I had a stall and raised £ 135 for the Liverpool Centre.

Every two months Church Army send their Prayer diary/ Catalyst booklet and I distribute them to twelve members of the congregation.

Many thanks to all who support the Church Army through prayer and donations.

Janet Kerswell

The Leprosy Mission

In February we had a speaker from The Leprosy Mission, Marilyn Gregory, who gave an inspiring talk about the mission and its work helping with research, diagnosis, treatment and aftercare for those suffering with leprosy. She also spoke about the need to support the rebuilding of laboratories at Anandaban Hospital in Nepal, which carries out vital research. As a result of this information The Leprosy Mission received £600 as a donation. Our church giving fund also supports TLM on an annual basis plus four people have TLM boxes.

Twelve people take the TLM New Day magazine, and the same number receive the annual prayer diary.

Many thanks to all who support the Leprosy Mission through prayer and donations.

Janet Kerswell

PCC Secretary's Report

There were 10 PCC meetings held during another unusual year. The 20th January, 23rd February, 17th March, 19th May and 17th November meetings were held on Zoom, with the 25th April meeting (after the APCM) in the Church. The 16th June, 24th July (Away Day), 15th September, 21st October meetings were also held in Church. There were no meetings planned in August and December.

The APCM was held on 25th April. The Church Forum also met on 11th July in the Church.

The PCC reviewed the minutes from each of the seven Standing Committee meetings, which were held on 4th January, 13th January, 1st March, 11th May, 19th July, 7th September and 3rd November.

The Giving Group usually meets twice a year and this year it met on 24th February (on Skype) and 19th July (in Church), with its recommendations reviewed at the following PCC meeting.

As well as general church business, some items of PCC focus this year have been the replacement of the current wooden chairs, vision and strategy, Covid measures, the Quinquennial building report, the Parish Review Meeting with Archdeacon Simon in October, the level of Parish Share we can pay in the future and the plans for an extension.

Fiona Barnard, PCC Secretary

The Children's Society Report

The Children's Society are a charity that help vulnerable and needy children, many in our local area. One of their traditional ways of collection is to give people 'House Boxes', small sealed money boxes that people can place loose change in throughout the year. These are collected in the summer and administered by local coordinators. Due to Covid 19, the Children's Society house boxes were not collected for 2 years. This year's collection raised a fantastic £1316.41. Many thanks to all box holders and donors for their ongoing support for this very worthy cause. After many years of great organisation, John and Ros Lawrie handed over to John and Claire Taylor, thanks to them for all they have done!

The Christingle collections, over both Services, raised a total of £248.57. Some people donated directly through the Society website and their system did not allow us to audit the amount given, due to it all going into the central Christingle pot. They are changing this for 2022. Thanks to all who contributed so generously.

This brings the total amount donated to the Children's Society from St. Mary's Church in 2021 to £1564.98.

In the summer, we will be offering House Boxes for 2022-23, please consider being part of this wonderful charity.

John and Claire Taylor

Magazine Report

I am pleased to report that our Church Magazine continues to be produced bi-monthly due to the hard work and expertise of our Editor Jo Jackson. Thank you, Jo, for your efforts which are very much appreciated.

The magazine covers most of the events and occasions in church and as a result we know what to look forward to and we also have a permanent record to be able to look back on.

The magazine is well planned and is interesting to read. The reproduction of the photographs continues to improve, and we are thankful to Emma Thompson from the Sankey Valley Methodist Circuit for the printing and stapling of the magazines. We also have a new Advertiser which helps with our cash flow.

Thanks also to Sue Gibbons and Clive Stannard who with Jo continue to distribute magazines and collect the cash or cheques. All the monies collected is forwarded to Julie Shaw our Church Treasurer.

On behalf of our Editor, I would encourage our church members to subscribe to the magazine by way of articles or anything which may be of interest to our readers and also to purchase one.

90 magazines were produced in December 21.

The Magazine Fund at 31st December 2021 is as follows:

Opening Balance	£1601.18
Income	£601.00
(From sale of magazines and income from Advertisers)	
Outgoing (Printing)	£ 300.44
Closing Balance 2021	£1901.74

This shows a surplus of **£300.56p** which has gone to Church Funds.

Agreement has been reached for **£840.00p** to be taken from the Magazine Fund for the Tree Pollarding and **£365.00** for the increase in the cost of the new chairs.

Eric McGonagle, Magazine Treasurer

Eco Church Report

Eco Church is a project which has a vision for churches of all denominations to care for creation as an integral part of loving their neighbours and following God faithfully.

To participate in the project we, as a church, are required to complete a questionnaire which has 94 questions divided into 5 categories

Worship and Teaching: which asks questions such as:

Does our church pray for environmental issues? And, if so, how often?

Buildings: questions in this section include

Is the energy we use generated from renewable resources?

Do we use energy saving or LED light bulbs?

Do we have cycle racks and recycling facilities?

Land:

Do we manage our land to encourage native wildlife?

Community and Global Engagement:

Do we participate in campaigns concerning global environmental issues?

Do meals provided by the church use food that is grown locally and/or organic and/or uses Fair trade ingredients?

Lifestyle:

Do we encourage a reduction in the use of cars and are our church funds invested ethically?

Progress has been made towards completing the questionnaire and it seems very likely that currently we will be eligible for a Bronze award. But even without that as an incentive to encourage us, it is vital that we regard completing the questionnaire as the first step on our journey. Wherever possible we need to ensure the practices we follow in respect of the physical assets we have – our building and our land – are environmentally friendly. We also need to make sure our behaviours in respect of our worship, our community and global engagement and our lifestyle as a church reflect our responsibility to care for God's creation. So, once we have submitted our application for an award, our next step will be to develop an improvement plan.

Margaret Emsley, a member of the Eco Church Team

St Marys PCC Great Sankey
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<i>Receipts</i>					
Planned giving	24,754	—	—	24,754	32,590
Collections and other giving	22,497	—	—	22,497	9,859
Other voluntary receipts	33,106	6,670	—	39,777	3,532
Gift Aid recovered	8,373	—	—	8,373	9,507
Other receipts	4,086	2,290	—	6,376	1,111
Activities for generating funds	3,825	—	—	3,825	376
Investment Income	385	—	—	385	1,920
Receipts from church activities	12,580	—	—	12,580	15,679
Total income	109,610	8,960	—	118,570	74,577
<i>Payments</i>					
Cost of generating funds	1,806	—	—	1,806	123
Missionary and Charitable Giving	183	4,996	—	5,179	7,100
Parish Share	73,000	—	—	73,000	32,579
Clergy and Staffing costs	7,464	—	—	7,464	10,591
Church Running Expenses	10,185	356	—	10,542	13,322
Church Repairs & Maintenance	—	14,975	—	14,975	457
New Building work	—	—	—	—	4,353
Governance Costs	5,706	—	—	5,706	3,940
Total expenditure	98,345	20,328	—	118,674	72,468
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	11,264	(11,368)	—	(103)	2,109
<i>Transfers</i>					
Gross transfers between funds - in	—	9,968	—	9,968	28,669
Gross transfers between funds - out	(6,867)	(3,101)	—	(9,968)	(28,669)
<i>Other recognised gains / losses</i>					
Net movement in funds	4,397	(4,500)	—	(103)	2,109
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>					
Total funds brought forward	197,301	23,376	—	220,678	218,569
Total funds carried forward	201,698	18,875	—	220,574	220,678

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
St Marys PCC Great Sankey

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st December 2021

**Charity no
(if any)**

1180928

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 / 12 / 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 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the 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 (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Paul Carty

Date:

12/4/2022

Name:

Paul Carty

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Association of Accounting Technicians

Address:

234 Manchester Road

Warrington

WA1 3BD

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

Accounts

The Church of St Mary- Great Sankey

Liverpool Road, Great Sankey, Warrington WA5 1RE



Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

For the year ending 31st December 2020

St. Mary's, Great Sankey

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31st December 2020

A member of the West Warrington Church Team

1. Reference and Administrative Information

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary, Great Sankey is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. Charity registration number: 1180928.

St. Mary's Church is located on Liverpool Road, Great Sankey, Warrington, WA5 1RE. The parish is part of the Diocese of Liverpool.

Official correspondence should be sent to the Rev. Jeremy Tear, St. Mary's Church, Liverpool Road, Great Sankey, Warrington WA5 1RE

For the period 1st January 2020 until the date of approval of this report, the following people served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Pioneer Team Rector Rev. Jeremy Tear
Chair

Churchwardens Mrs. Lynn Parish (re-appointed APCM 2020)
Mrs. Sylvia Morris (resigned 2020)

Elected members Janet Kerswell (*Vice-Chair/Asst Warden*, term ended October 2020)
Ian Knight (*Asst Warden*, term ended October 2020)
Frances Knight (term ended October 2020)
Susan Gibbons (term ended October 2020)
Jean Lawrence
Roxy Jones (appointed October 2020)
Sarah Lavelle (appointed October 2020)
Leanne Turner (appointed October 2020)
Gemma Tocher (appointed October 2020)

Deanery Synod Representatives Gail Patullo and Carole Rafter (terms ended October 2020)

Electoral Roll Officer Sylvia Morris (stepped down in November 2020 and replaced by Jean Lawrence)

DBS Verifier and Safeguarding Officer Clare Grimes

Assistant Treasurer	Nigel Cordon, appointed 2017. Nigel was invited to attend meetings but could not vote.
Finance Assistant	Fiona Barnard, appointed 2018. Fiona was invited to attend meetings but could not vote. Fiona has kindly been taking the minutes of meetings.
Assistant Warden	Kate Forrest was appointed in October 2020 but is not a member of the PCC.
Treasurer's Report	See attached.
Independent Examiner	D Carty FCA, 70 Longbarn Lane, Woolston, Warrington, WA1 4QR

2. Structure, Management and Governance

St. Mary's Sankey PCC is a body corporate and operates under the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956* and the *Church Representation Rules*.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Day to day management of the Church was delegated by the PCC to the Standing Committee: **Rev. Jeremy Tear** (Pioneer Team Vicar appointed 2015) **Lynn Parish** (Churchwarden from July 2017), **Sylvia Morris** (Churchwarden from April 2019, resigned April 2020), **Nigel Cordon** (Treasurer appointed 2017), Assistant Warden **Ian Knight** (appointed APCM 2017, term ended October 2020), **Janet Kerswell** (Assistant Warden appointed 2018, term ended October 2020) and **Jean Lawrence** (appointed October 2020).

The **Standing Committee** can be contacted by telephone as shown in the Church Suite app; Rev Jeremy Tear can be contacted by e-mail at: jeremy@westwarringtonchurch.uk or phone on 01925-485288.

Safeguarding Procedures

The PCC has complied with its duty to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. Individual PCC members receive online training as and when deemed appropriate. The Safeguarding Officer undertook Diocesan training (after an initial session with Diocesan Advisor Ruth Reed in 2018) and the whole PCC received training in child protection policy and procedures during this session. All members of the PCC are in the process of completing DBS checks. We received additional training on GDPR by Helen Aghanian, our Church Administrator in 2018.

Risk Assessments

The PCC undertook a programme of risk assessments to identify their major risks. Procedures were then put in place to manage those risks and minimise their impact on the life of the church.

Financial Risk

An annual budget is prepared to ensure short term viability. Actual results compared with budget are reported to the PCC every half year. The charity has two main sources of income; namely the giving by members to the Church by cash on plates, legacies, Parish Giving Scheme & envelopes; and baptisms, weddings and funerals.

The PCC review their investments regularly. Investments are only made in approved low risk funds.

All assets are insured. A review was carried out in 2018 to ensure cover at an appropriate level.

The PCC has approved internal and external controls for annual accounts.

- *Compliance with Law and Regulation*
A health and safety review was undertaken by a member of the church with specific experience in this area. The PCC was appraised of the risks and the necessary requirements and these are undergoing compliance.
- *Operational risk*
Regular maintenance checks are done on the building by way of a Quinquennial on the structure and checks on internal electrical items like boiler, heating system, fire extinguishers, fire & security alarms.

3. Objectives and Activities

The general functions of the PCC are stated within section 2 of the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956*.

At St. Mary's our vision statement says that we desire 'to be a growing church making a growing difference'. We desire to grow both numerically, spiritually and through the facilities we offer. At the PCC's away day in July 2018, we devised a three-year strategy entitled '2020 Vision'.

When planning our activities for the year, the PCC gave consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance to charities concerned with the advancement of religion.

Our activities in 2020 provided the following public benefits:

- Regular public worship open to all, both on Sundays, midweek and for funerals, weddings and baptisms, as well as online worship provided during periods of national lockdown. The Church has easy access and was awarded a '**Child Friendly Award**' in 2017 by the Liverpool Diocese.
- The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation and praying for those who ask for assistance.
- Provision of a weekly 'Place of Welcome' (known as 'Open House') for all in the community plus a monthly community lunch.
- Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved. Home Communion is taken out to some who are unable to attend church by a small authorised team.
- Visiting / holding regular monthly services in local homes for the elderly: Green Park Nursing Home on a Wednesday evening and also at Whittle Hall Care Home on a Friday each month.
- Due to the coronavirus crisis, we were not able to take religious assemblies in local Primary Schools (Park Road, Great Sankey & Barrow Hall Lane Primary Schools) and holding services for them in church, as we usually do. Kids Planet Nursery school were also unable to attend services in church but we did go into nursery to read bible stories for pre-school children before the crisis hit.
- Sunday school activities for those aged 4-10 called 'Lightnings', both in church and online.
- Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas with 10% of income, plus special collections. Also, practical support for the Food Bank in Warrington, and for children in need through a Toy Service.
- The Social Committee organized a Hot Pot Supper to raise money for the Leprosy Mission but we were not able to have our usual Strawberry Cream Tea to raise funds for the Church Army this year
- We rented out the church to the Liverpool Diocese for an ongoing diocesan course.

Churches Together in West Warrington

St. Mary's Church continues to work with other churches in West Warrington. This included a joint Ash Wednesday service in church, and a joint service on Ascension Day. Members took part in small group studies in Lent through Churches Together in West Warrington. We also worked with other churches in West Warrington to share God's love through providing 'Open the Book' bible story telling sessions in local schools

West Warrington Team Ministry

On a team note, St. Mary's is part of the West Warrington Team Ministry which comprises St. Mary's, Great Sankey; St. Paul's, Penketh; St. James', Hood Manor; and St. Philip's, Westbrook. The clergy meet together regularly, and the churches worship together on specific occasions throughout the year.

Church Buildings

We undertook work on converting the former organ chamber into a storage room, and also had the chancel roof re-tiled. A variety of general maintenance tasks were also completed

Charitable giving policy

At St. Mary's we give away a tithe (10%) of our annual giving through the Parish Giving Scheme, a weekly envelope scheme, standing orders and cash on the plate.

We also support the following charities: - Leprosy Mission, Church Army, Church Mission Society, The Children's Society, and The Food Bank in Warrington (part of the Trussell Trust).

4. Achievements and performance

Electoral roll

There were 93 people registered on the electoral roll at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in 2020.

Worship

Average attendance at Sunday Services in 2020 (excluding the 4 months we were closed due to the lockdown) was 12 people attending the 8am communion service and around 33 adults/children attending an average 10am service. We also had a consistent 8 attending the Wednesday Holy Communion service. However, it should be noted that figures were much lower for 10 am services due to the limits on numbers we could safely accommodate within the building.

We also have had a regular 20-25 adults/children who have attended our online services at 10am on Sunday mornings since the start of the pandemic.

Pastoral care and service to our community

It has always been a top priority of the church to care for members and to serve the local community. This takes place within both regular and special church services (including an annual memorial service for the bereaved), through our weekly Place of Welcome (now 'Open House'), our monthly community lunch, and monthly home communion visits. During the pandemic, we also had a telephone visiting scheme in place for church members, and the Vicar wrote a weekly letter sent by email and a monthly letter sent by email/post.

Growing in Faith

In spring/summer 2020, we ran an online Alpha course which was attended by members of the church and those connected to it. We also ran a Growing in Faith course in the autumn.

5. Financial review

See Treasurer's Report.

Reserves Policy

We keep a reserve of £5,000.

6. Plans for the future

See 'Strategy Document for 2018-2020' which we have reviewed at PCC regularly.

Pioneer Team Rector's Report

What a strange year 2020 has been! It started off well for us as a Team with the beginning of a Team Growing Leaders course, followed by a Team Celebration morning at St. James' in early February at which we were honoured to have Bishop Bev, the Bishop of Warrington, come to speak and to share with us (including her dog, James the Less!). There was another Team Communion service at St. Mary's on Ash Wednesday evening (shared with friends from other churches in West Warrington) and a very successful Team Wellbeing Day at St. Philip's in the middle of March (despite the growing concerns about coronavirus). Then we entered the first lockdown and our Growing Leaders course and Team services planned for Easter got put on hold. Despite the lockdown, I believe that our team churches responded quickly and well to the pandemic, putting services online and making service material available offline, as well as setting up pastoral care systems for those in our congregations. As a result of collaborating with one of our local councillors, Amanda King, and a local mental health charity called Rise, we also set up the West Warrington Church Befriending Scheme. Administered by Heather Copperwheat from St. Philip's, the scheme has offered a listening ear to local residents not connected with our churches and helped to address the isolation which the virus has brought. It is, I believe, an excellent scheme, and something of which we as a Team can be rightly proud, so thanks not only to Heather but also to all those who volunteer their time each week from our churches. If you would like further information about volunteering, do have a word with Heather or myself, or find details on the St.Mary's website: www.stmarysgreatsankey.org.uk.

At Ascension, we have in recent years joined in with the Archbishops 'Thy Kingdom Come' initiative, to pray for others to come to know Jesus. This moved online in 2020, and so - unable to walk around the benefice praying for others and for key places within it- we met online (with other churches too) for a communion service. Incidentally, the dates this year are 13-23 May and Churches Together in Warrington are inviting us to join them for another prayer walk on Thursday 20 May when hopefully restrictions will have eased again, making this more of a possibility. So, watch this space!

The Team Fund Committee has continued to administer applications for the Team Fund and awarded funding to St. Philip's for hosting the wellbeing day, to St. Paul's for an Alpha course, and to St. James for its Christmas outreach activities. It has also agreed to award churches a grant of half their usual team clergy expenses for 2021 (in view of the challenging financial situation we all face), and so St. Mary's and St. James have benefitted to the tune of £2,000 each, and St. Pauls' and St. Philip's £1,000 each (since they share Sarah as their Vicar). I am very grateful to Rosie Cox who kindly agreed to deal with the Team accounts for 2020 (though these were not eventually published due to a diocesan delay) and who also dealt with the clergy expenses reconciliation exercise. We continue to look for a Team Treasurer and currently the post is being advertised via Warrington Voluntary Action and through our individual churches. The post is expected to take around an hour each week to do – if you are interested please have a word with me, or you can find details on the St. Mary's website.

Finally, I would like to thank my clergy colleagues, Revds. Martin Thorpe and Sarah Peppiatt, the Local Missional Leaders Marise Seville, June Dunning and Paul Smalley, the ordinand at St. James' Rebecca Lloyd (who is now a member of the core team), and our retired clergy Revds. Andrew Hetherington and Steve Parish for all their help and support this past year.

Jeremy Tear, March 2021

Pioneer Team Vicar's Report

As I write this report on the anniversary of our first going into lockdown, I guess none of us could ever have imagined at the time, that we would still be dealing with the pandemic in the way we are a year on. 'Hands-Face-Space' has become the new mantra and we have become used to dealing with restrictions in our everyday lives, including when meeting in church when that has been possible. So, at the outset of this report, I would like to say thank you to each and every one of you for the gracious ways in which you have responded to this crisis, not least in terms of how we do church.

So, what has changed this past year? Perhaps most significantly, our worship has moved online, initially via Skype and then for most of the time via Zoom. It's good to know that we are now getting 30 people join our regular services, and there have been occasions such as Remembrance Sunday, Christingle, and Mothering Sunday when numbers have been in the 50-80 mark. Holding worship via Zoom (with Zoom coffee afterwards!) has enabled our fellowship as a worshipping community to remain. Our discipleship has also moved online with the holding of a successful Alpha course in the spring and summer, followed by two Growing in Faith courses, one in the autumn and also one early this year. We have also run a weekly bible study group online and sent out a weekly thought for the day, and my thanks go to Kathryn Hayward for this, and for helping to lead our worship also. Various meetings have moved online too including the PCC, Standing Committee, Building Project Team and Giving Group. However, I am very conscious that not everyone has access to the internet or indeed feels comfortable using it for worship or meetings, and so I have written a monthly congregational letter (to supplement my weekly emails) which has been distributed to everyone in the congregation and we have also set up a system of pastoral care contacts who have been keeping in touch with people by phone. As we move out of the current lockdown,

I am also conscious that people will return to our church building at different times as they feel comfortable, and so maintaining our online services, monthly letters and phone calls will remain important for probably sometime yet.

What else happened in 2020? Just prior to the first lockdown, it was very good to welcome Professor Ian Tracey, the organist from Liverpool Cathedral, to formally mark the refurbishment of our organ with a first-class recital. Many thanks to Jean Lawrence who worked so hard to make this possible for us and to raise £450 in the process. As mentioned above, our building team has continued to meet and we have been progressing our plans for the extension and car park, though it was disappointing to learn just before Christmas that Warrington Borough Council were not in favour of the idea of a car park. The newly elected PCC, following our delayed APCM in October, have also been thinking hard about the plans and we will be sharing our thoughts at this year's annual general meeting. We have also been grappling with the realities of our finances (see the Treasurer's report elsewhere) and these continue to remain a source of much concern.

Finally, I would like to thank Lynn Parish who has continued to do a sterling job as our sole Warden since April last year, ably supported by Ian Knight and Kate Forrest as Assistant Wardens. My thanks to Sylvia Morris and to Janet Kerswell who stood down as Warden and Assistant Warden this past year. Thanks also to our PCC members and to Nigel Cordon, our Treasurer, who steps down this year after 5 years hard work. This past year also saw Helen Aghanian finish her role as our Parish Administrator, so my thanks to her too, and to Jean Morris, Ella Finnegan, and Jane Hampton who have taken on responsibility for coordinating baptisms, funerals, weddings, and interments between them. Finally, my thanks to our clergy – Martin and Sarah, Steve and Andrew – for all their help this past year, and to each and every one of you for the countless number of ways in which you have contributed to St. Mary's through your giving, service, and prayer.

Jeremy Tear, March 2021

Church Warden's Report

We have had a tricky time over the past year with the pandemic and restrictions we have had regard for to ensure times church has been opened has kept people attending services were kept as safe as possible.

Risk assessments were made and updated when necessary.

The church building has seen the chancel rafter boards replaced and the organ space work completed with a few minor adjustments to finish off.

Much thanks to those members who have kept in touch with church contacts by email, phone or safe face to face to help keep spirits up; gardens and church building kept in good order. My thanks to Jeremy for his support and to Ian and Kate who have assisted in helping me.

Lynn Parish, March 2021

Treasurer's Report

This is a Summary Report of the church's financial situation at 31st December 2020.

0/ Parish Share Debt

I have been asked to present the accounts as "Receipts and Payments" Accounts and NOT as "Accruals" Accounts which would include known debts.

As a result, the accounts **do not** show that **we owe £39,600** in Parish Share in 2020.

In the accounts, the church's funds are about **£1,500 more** than at Dec 31st 2018.

At 31st December we owed **£39,600** in Parish Share Payments, so on balance we are **£38,000 worse off** than at January 2020.

1/ Overall Balance

The church's funds are about **£1,500 more** than at Dec 31st 2018.

However, at 31st December we are **£38,000 worse off** than at January 2020.

*In February 2021, of this debt, we have now paid off a further **£33,000**, including paying £25,000 received as a legacy in mid-February 2021. We need to add to this the debts for January and February totalling **£7,100 per month**.*

*At 1st March 2021, we owe **£20,800** in Parish Share fees due.*

The Church's shortfall is made up, primarily, of £38,000 in Parish Share Payments; payments that were delayed by our low income this year (2020), caused by the Coronavirus Restrictions.

The St Marys Church has £220,600 in the bank including £183,300 from the sale of the Church Hall, £3,900 from the COOP for Chairs, and £12,000 in Building and Restoration Funds (and ROOF Funds).

The remaining Building Funds have since been spent on building and roof repairs in January 2021, relating to the organ chamber and the roof.

£162,000 of the Church Hall Money is currently split between 2 deposit accounts with the Nationwide and the Charity Bank.

2/ General Fund Balance

The General fund pays the normal running costs of the church.

The general fund made **a GAIN of £5,000** over the year.

This figure does not take account of the impact of Coronavirus. This balance does not include the unpaid Parish Share, stated above.

The income for the year 2020 is **less than for 2019 by £19,000**, primarily due to a reduction in Loose Plate takings of £7,000, Donations and Appeals income reduced by £7,000 and in Planned Giving (Envelopes) reduced by £4,000.

The outgoings, excluding Parish Share, have **decreased by £12,000** primarily in the Running Costs, the Gas and Electric Bills and Staff costs.

There was an **increase in Charitable Giving of £5,000**, more than in 2019.

The church is spending about £1,120 per month more than it is earning on average.

3/ Restricted and Designated funds

These funds, including the Tithing Fund made **a loss of £20,000** over the year.

Designated funds paid out £18,000 to cover last year's loss of £17,000 and £2,000 for work related to the planning of the new extension.

Restricted Funds paid out £2,000 composed mainly of the outgoing "Tithe Fund" Charitable Payments. (See below.)

4/ Outstanding (unspent) Legacy funds.

Legacy funds received in 2017 have now been spent.

The residual Legacy of £4,500 from last year was used to pay off part of the 2019 general fund deficit.

An additional legacy of £25,000, due in February 2021, has been earmarked by the PCC to pay the Parish Share Backlog noted above.

5/ Major Purchases

There have been no major purchases in 2020. £2000 was spent on preparations for the new Extension.

The actual sum spent on preparations for the new Extension was £3,900 but this was offset by income from the Church Hall funds' deposit accounts of about £1,900 in Interest Earned.

Payment for work is outstanding for the room behind the Organ and the Roof repairs.

(This has now been paid in January 2021.)

6/ Tithing and charity payments

The Tithing fund started the year with £8,000 which has decreased to £5,900.

The Fund had an income of £5,000 and **has paid out charitable donations of £7,100.**

Charitable donations have been made this year to:

Locally: Open the Book, Youth for Christ

International and Others: Church Missionary Service, Church Army, Leprosy Mission.

7/ Thank you for your support.

My thanks to all the people that have helped with the finances over the year: -

Terry Finnegan for the Gift Aid; Ella, Jane and Jean for the Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms; Eric McGonagle for the Magazine costs; Derek Bowden for the Garden Fund; Janet Kerswell and Fiona Barnard for Charity funds; Fiona Barnard - Finance Assistant (Gas and Electricity), Jean Lawrence (Sunday School), Gail Pattullo (Community Lunch), and Audrey Scarisbrick (Social Fund).

In particular, I would like to thank Terry Finnegan and Julie Shaw for their help with the church accounts.

For simplicity I have rounded figures to the nearest £100. Accurate and detailed figures can be found in the Church's Full year end accounts (for 2020), excluding the Parish Share debt.

Thanks, and Best Wishes

Nigel Cordon, St Mary's Church Assistant Treasurer.

Planned Giving – Gift Aid Envelopes

This report excludes giving and tax recovery made through The Parish Giving Scheme.

The restrictions on Church services throughout most of 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic had a profound effect on donations and the method of donating.

The normal course of planned giving through donation envelopes and cash donations on the collection plate has been severely reduced. However, donors have continued to be very generous and resourceful and have found alternative ways of providing their regular giving. These included payments by standing order, by direct transfer payments from their personal bank account, by online and contactless payments and by saving their donation envelopes and sending them to the church whenever possible.

The total number of people using gift aid envelopes fell from 19 in 2019 to 17 in 2020 with many of these opting not to use envelopes in 2021.

Regular donations eligible for gift aid from all sources totalled £13,742 (2019 £14,583). The amount of gift aid tax recoverable on these donations is expected to be around £3,435 (2019 £3,645) subject to HMRC approval.

The number of regular donors using non gift aided envelopes fell from 11 to 7 with a fall in the value of donations from £3,938 in 2019 to £1,233 in 2020.

The government continues to provide limited tax recovery on small individual cash donations of up to £30 – subject to a maximum reclaim of £2,000 – called the Gift Aid Small Donation

Scheme (GASDS). The amount of such cash donations in 2020 was £2,807 (2019 £7,795). This will result in a reduction of GASDS recoverable of £1,188.

If anyone would like any information regarding their eligibility to gift aid their donations, or on donations generally, please see me in church or telephone me on 01925 726539 or 07955 126429.

Terry Finnegan
Gift Aid Coordinator

Electoral Roll Report for St Mary's Parish Church

Over the past year, 10 people have been added to the electoral roll and 2 people have been removed.

The total number of people currently on the roll stands at 100.

Jean Lawrence
Electoral Roll Officer

Safeguarding Report

Although 2020 was a quiet year due to COVID 19 and spending the majority of it away from the Church, we were able to continue to keep our safer recruiting and safeguarding process up to date.

During 2020, we conducted 6 DBS checks for members of the PCC and volunteers working with schools. We also began to collect self-declaration forms for all historical positions held at church. This process has been held up due to COVID, but we intend to continue this process in the coming months. We continue to invite new recruits to complete safeguarding training but in an online capacity in lieu of face to face due to current conditions.

Clare Grimes
Safeguarding Officer

Report from St. Mary's Sunday School Lightnings

The country went into Lockdown in March 2020. For a period, everyone was uncertain how to adapt to the new way of life. Clare Grimes and myself have continued to run Sunday School in 2020, with the support of Nicola Asprey and David Scarisbrick.

At the beginning of April, Clare posted information about Skype services over the Easter period, on our "Lightnings at St. Mary's" Facebook page. After some discussion, we decided to start Facebook Sunday school lessons, in line with our normal Sunday school lessons, on

the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. At the end of June, Jeremy introduced a children's slot into the Morning Worship on the third Sunday of the month.

As the year progressed and we were still unable to meet our children in church, we decided to start Zoom Lightnings sessions. Our first "Welcome Back" Zoom session was on October 11th. It was lovely to see each other again. Clare and I took it in turns to lead on the 2nd and 4th Sunday each month, supported by Nicola Asprey and David Scarisbrick. Each lesson was also posted on Facebook, including pictures of the lovely craft work posted after the session. In December, we had a fun Lightnings Nativity Zoom session, when the children sang some lovely carols. Clare videoed this session, which was then relayed in church and received a great response from the congregation. On December 20th, we had a special Lightnings class making Christingles, led by Gemma Tocher, which the children could then light in Jeremy's Zoom Christingle service.

At the beginning of 2021, we were still unable to meet face to face in church and so we have continued with our Zoom Lightnings sessions as before. Our Zoom sessions have a small number of regular attendees.

In February, Clare and I were delighted to be joined by a new leader, Jane Pearson. Jane has brought her girls along to Sunday school for a number of years. This means that we can finally add an extra week back into the Lightnings calendar so we will now be holding 3 sessions each month.

We look forward in 2021 to the time we will be able to meet our children in church. In the meantime, we would like to pray for all the children within the West Warrington Team and wish them well on their continued journey through faith.

Jean Lawrence

Great Sankey Primary and Barrow Hall Primary Schools

Due to schools being closed, no services have been held since December 2019 details of which were in the 2019 APCM report.

George Jones

Report for Park Road Primary and Kids Planet Nursery

As 2020 began, I was continuing with making a monthly visit to the nursery to read bible stories to the pre-schoolers. I also had made arrangements to continue to go into Park Road primary to lead assemblies and lessons for all the children there, and we were about to go to schools to deliver Easter eggs and flyers with our services on. Then the introduction of the first national (and subsequent) lockdown put all these activities on hold. I continued to have some email contact with nursery and school, and the nursery continued to support Warrington foodbank at harvest time, but visiting was not an option. I'm pleased to say that

in 2021, I have resumed bible stories for the nursery on Zoom and am about to have my first online assembly with Park Road for Easter. If you would be interested in being involved with this important and fun outreach to local children, do let me know.

Jeremy Tear

Open House Report

Open House, which is our weekly drop in on Wednesdays open to all in our community for a cuppa and a chat continued as usual for the first couple of months of the year until lockdown happened. With the subsequent restrictions, it has not been possible for us to offer refreshments at church, and so unfortunately we have not been able to provide this service. Some contact has been maintained with those who were regularly attending prior to lockdown, but this has been limited. We are waiting to see what happens with the Government's current roadmap for easing restrictions as to when this might be able to re-start. If you would be interested in helping on a monthly rota basis, do let me know.

Jeremy Tear

Listening Ear Service

After Phil and I prayed about the forced isolation people of our parish were facing because of the COVID pandemic, we felt we should be available to anyone who was struggling in any way.

We completed an online training course through ACORN Christian Healing Foundation. We organised, through Eric, posters to be designed and printed. We were given permission by the PCC to utilise the church for this service.

On 4th August 2020, we went to St. Mary's and were there from 11am to 12 noon. We adhered to the sanitising process and were masked and socially distant. We had no one come through the doors.

This session ran until the end of September with a total of NIL seeking the service we offered. We unfortunately had only one person who came through the doors i we in the entire weeks we were there, and this lady was a live-in carer who was curious to see what the church looked like inside as she saw the door open!!

Our thanks were conveyed to Jeremy Tear for the trust and availability to use the church premises.

Kathryn and Phil Hayward

Deanery Synod

At the last zoom meeting in October 2020 of the Deanery Synod (via Zoom) each Church PCC member was asked to indicate how parish share should be decided in future:

Should it be on the basis purely of paying for the clergy they have

or

Should it be on the basis of the clergy they have, plus a 40 percent weighting to take account of the different social economic situations that each parish faces.

here was a general discussion and the meeting closed at 8.30pm with prayer.

Carole Rafter

Deanery Synod Representative

10th Warrington (Sankey St Mary's) Scout Group Report

2020 started off with such optimism with all of our sections keen to get going and improve on the activities of the previous year. The Cubs took part in the district craft competition, the scouts went caving in Derbyshire and then had a winter camp weekend. Then in March, as for everyone else, we were thrust into the first coronavirus lockdown.

All of a sudden, our planned activities started to be cancelled and we were not allowed to meet face-to-face. Our leaders did a fantastic job responding to this and very quickly coming up with a programme of online activities to keep our scouting going. To help out, our scouting families we stopped charging our subscriptions for five months. The Scout Association provided us with full access to the Zoom software and the team made best use of it, even keeping going through what would have been the school holidays.

Thankfully in September we were allowed to get back to some face-to-face activities, initially outdoors and then in November and December back in the hut. All of this had to be done in a Covid-safe way so there were lots of risk assessments to undertake and additional measures to think about. A main limitation was on the size of group allowed, which meant we had to double up on sessions and run them back to back to ensure everyone had the opportunity to attend. Everything else moved online; we have attended the all-age worship services and we had our Group AGM and awards evenings online as well.

The quality of the programme that the leaders delivered, both online and in-person, is borne out by us retaining the vast majority of our members through the year, and also recruiting some new ones. Our young people and their parents have been very patient and supportive of everything we've had to cope with.

Although this year we were not able to attend the Remembrance Day service, our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts all painted poppies on pebbles. These were then laid around the war memorial as a surrogate for us being there to remember.

As I mentioned in this report last year, we are planning to replace our worn-out kitchen and toilet block at the scout hut. Due to the lockdown our plans have not progressed as quickly as they might have. However, in the year we have gained planning permission and made a significant grant application which we hope will be successful and go about halfway towards the costs. We're grateful for the church providing us with a letter of support to help us with the grant application.

Our fundraising ability was also somewhat hampered this year. Our spring bedding plant sale went really well working with the other groups in the area and its something we'll look to repeat in the future. We also managed to have a winter plant sale again and improved it quite a bit from the first year. Hopefully next year will be better as we need to raise significant amount of funds for our big build project.

Lastly, if you know any young people who are interested in joining scouts, or anyone who would be interested in helping us please put them in touch and we will be happy to have a chat.

Ian Skilling
Group Scout Leader

Girlguiding Report

We have as an organisation only met face to face up to March 2020 when guidance restricted our face to face meetings.

Keeping units across our Sankey District has been a challenge, hand delivering packs to unit members or starting Zoom sessions for those able. We have Rainbow, Brownies, Guides and Rangers. St Marys Rainbows, Brownies and Guides Units are still operating although we are hoping to start again when the guidance changes.

Lynn Parish

St. Mary's Community Lunch Report

The last Community Lunch was held in January 2020 just before the first lock down. I can only report that the volunteers who helped regularly making cakes and soups stepped away from the Community lunch for various reasons, so we had to ask for more volunteers.

Income from lunches in February and March 2020 was £198 making our current outstanding balance to date £1,220.34. The remaining team members agreed the remaining monies would go towards the purchase of new chairs the PCC were looking at to replace the existing chairs, which were too heavy to lift. Our balance now stands at zero.

Carole Rafter

Alpha/Growing in Faith

Despite a year of lockdown, we managed to run three courses exploring faith at St. Mary's this past year. After Easter, we began our first ever Alpha course online. This was attended by 8 people meeting together on Zoom each week over the course of a 12 week period including an online 'away day' in June. It was a great privilege to lead the course and to see people explore faith and experience the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. It was hoped that we would run another online course in the autumn, which Phil and Kathryn Hayward were preparing to lead, but unfortunately we did not have the numbers wanting to take part to make this viable. I do hope that we will be able to run another course at some stage this year.

Then in the autumn of 2020, and also in early 2021, we ran our first ever 'Growing in Faith' courses online. These built on the Alpha courses and were attended by 12 people who had either attended Alpha in person or online. We used material from the Church of England Pilgrim course and explored what faith looks like in terms of our prayer, giving, time at home and at work, our relationships, justice and the environment. Again, it was real privilege to run these courses and to see people develop in their faith. It is encouraging to know that there are three people waiting to be confirmed as a result of the above courses.

If you would be interested in attending the Alpha/Growing in Faith course, do have a word with me. It's always good to explore and grow in your faith (and never too late to be confirmed!)

Jeremy Tear

Bible Study Group

Following on from the first Alpha Course held at St. Mary's in 2019, it was good to start a mid-week Bible Study group in March 2020. Four people met on the 14th March in the family room of the church after the Communion service. We studied the Epistle to the Romans. There was the interest from another 3 people to attend.

After the second week, the group had to stop meeting as the National lockdown began. This was disappointing.

By May, the use of Zoom to meet remotely came on the scene! This was good news and was quickly embraced by the church to interact with those able to access this facility.

Initially, it was a small group – Julie Shaw, Phil and myself meeting weekly. It was decided not to continue with Romans as we were hopeful that soon we would be able to get back to meeting in church. So, we looked at topics such as The Lord's prayer. The study then went on to an entire Gospel – the Gospel of John.

As we were studying this book, Jane Hampton joined and later, Lynn Parish and Carole Rafter joined. Numbers fluctuated week on week due to other commitments.

The structure of this Bible study was similar to the Alpha format in that discussion was encouraged with the emphasis on what does John tell us about His Saviour and ours. The study ended in January 2021.

After that, we looked at a 6 week study on the Holy Spirit. It was decided we would then return to the Letter to the Romans and as this is a 7 week study we plan to finish this by the end of April.

As Phil and myself will be formally leaving St. Mary's, the Bible study will be ending then.

Kathryn and Phil Hayward

Music Group

We met in Church up to March 2020 and from then onwards restrictions prevented singing in Church. CDs and Zoom services or using PowerPoint showing YouTube songs and hymns have been used. Many are missing the live singing and are hoping and praying that soon we will be able to sing again!

Lynn Parish

Traidcraft

Traidcraft goods were accessible up to March 2020 in church. The restrictions have reduced the orders. St Mary's uses Fairtrade tea bags and instant coffee, although we have not been able to offer refreshments. Fairtrade Easter Eggs and Christmas Advent Calendars were ordered for those who requested them.

Lynn Parish

Garden Report

The start of the garden season coincided with the start of the first Covid National Lockdown on the 23rd March 2020 and government restrictions meant that only 2 of the team of 5 gardeners were allowed to work together (with social distancing) at any one time. Also, two of the team would not be able to attend the garden at all as they fell into the highly vulnerable category and had to shield. We had visions of the garden becoming overgrown and beyond recovery. However, David Scarisbrick, Eric McGonagle and Ted Rigby working under difficult circumstances within the rules, did a great job and managed to keep the garden under

control. Then in July, when some of the restrictions were lifted, we were able to proceed with a little more normality and with the help of good weather, in the end we had another successful year in the garden.

The Church garden is an asset to the Church and also the local community and beyond. However, as we all know, a lovely garden is not just a case of time and effort, it needs investment in plants, shrubs and fertilizers. Also, we have a contract to meet with Green Thumb who treat the lawns 4 times a year. The Garden of Remembrance is now 17 years old and all the shrubs and plants in the centre need replacing.

The only guaranteed income streams we have are fees received for non-church members' interments and bell ringing at weddings, which are then diverted and credited into the Garden Fund.

Donations can be passed to any member of the garden team or placed in the garden donation box at the back of the Church (God's little acre). They will be gratefully received and faithfully applied.

Derek J Bowden

Church Mission Society (CMS)

As a church, we support Eric and Sandra Reed, who are CMS mission partners in the Philippines. They work on an organic farm and help local church leaders to reach out to their communities by both words and deeds. They have two children, Peter and Atiyyah, who are studying in this country.

Last year we agreed to give £2,000 to support the Reeds from our tithing fund. A box collection for CMS also raised around £100.

We are now looking for a new CMS representative to champion its work in our congregation, after Gail Pattullo has fulfilled this role for the last few years. Please let me know if you would be interested. It is hoped that Eric and Sandra may be able to come and visit St.Mary's this autumn, and if so, I do encourage you to come and hear first-hand of their work.

Jeremy Tear

Church Army

There are twelve church members who take the Prayer Diary and Catalyst publications. These are delivered every two months; more can be ordered if anyone else would like them.

Unfortunately, because of the pandemic it has not been able to hold the annual Strawberry Tea. Hopefully as soon as circumstances permit, we will be able to have an event to support the work of the Church Army evangelists.

Many thanks to everyone who support Church Army through prayer and finance.

Janet Kerswell

The Leprosy Mission

There are fifteen church members who receive the Prayer Diary and eight who take Newday, the newsletter from TLM.

Although unable to have the usual fundraising event in February, the response to the Unconditional Appeal has raised £600 from seventeen members of the congregation. The Leprosy Mission has managed to achieve match funding from UK government between January 24th and April 24th so our contribution will provide £1200. Since I remitted this money to TLM the church tithing fund has donated £500. This contribution to TLM is usually sent later in the year, but having the opportunity to have the money doubled seemed ideal.

Paul Moores, the North West Regional Manager, spoke at our church Zoom service in November.

Thank you to everyone who responded to the appeal and to all who support TLM through prayer.

The Leprosy Mission's aim is Leprosy defeated, lives transformed.

Janet Kerswell

PCC Secretary's Report

There were 10 PCC meetings held during this highly unusual year. The 15th January and 11th February meetings were held in the Church, but the 18th March meeting did not take place due to the coronavirus situation. Consequently, some decisions were taken by email and reviewed at the next meeting on 29th April, which was instead held on Skype. Further meetings were held via Skype on 20th May, 17th June, 2nd July (an extra meeting to discuss the reopening of the Church) and 15th July. Due to technical issues, the PCC used Zoom for the meetings on 16th September, 21st October and 25th November. There were no meetings planned in August and December.

The APCM was due to be held on 26th April, but was postponed until 18th October. The Church Forum also met on 19th January in the Church.

The PCC reviewed the minutes from each of the seven Standing Committee meetings, which were held on 6th January, 10th March, 20th April, 29th June, 4th August, 5th October and 5th November.

The Giving Group usually meets twice a year and this year it met on 13th February (in person) and 13th July (on Zoom), with its recommendations reviewed at the following PCC meeting.

As well as general church business, some items of PCC focus this year have been: the work on the organ chamber, the repair of the chancel roof, the level of Parish Share we can pay in the future and the plans for an extension and car park using the money from the sale of the Parish Hall and fundraising.

Fiona Barnard
PCC Secretary

The Children's Society

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic it was not possible to complete the House Box collection this year. Also, we were not able to enjoy our regular Christingle Services in Church. However, the Zoom Christingle Service managed to raise £85 online, and we also received donations of £265. This meant that we were able to forward the sum of £350 to the Children's Society, a good result in these difficult times. Thanks to everyone who contributed. We will continue with the House Box collections as soon as the circumstances allow, and in the meantime hope that box holders will continue to support this really worthwhile Charity which is in urgent need of funds. We hope to be in a position to once again send contributions from St. Mary's Church to the Children's Society later this year.

Ros and John Lawrie

Magazine Report

I am writing this report on behalf of our Editor Jo Jackson whose husband Glenn sadly passed away suddenly on 2nd March. We send Jo and her family our deepest sympathy and hold them in our prayers.

Jo has had problems, mainly in having the magazine printed during 2020 due to the pandemic and the lockdowns. As a result, during 2020 we have had four magazines printed and one sent to all our subscribers by email. The Advertisers have also decreased and in some cases had their fees reduced. For the last edition in April/May this year, we are down to 81 copies being printed.

We are indebted to Emma Thompson, Circuit Administrator for Sankey Valley Methodist Circuit, who print the magazine for us. Thanks to Jo for her hard work and dedication as Editor for many years. Thanks to Sue Gibbons who also for many years has helped encouraging and recording new subscribers, collecting the cash from the magazines sold and distributing them.

You will see that we had quite a profit in **2020** but this year we will probably 'break about even'.

As the situation hopefully will be easing soon and we will be back in Church, I would ask you to keep our magazine in mind and support it with anything you may think would be of interest to our readers as well as ordering a copy yourselves.

St Mary's Church Magazine Account January - December 2020

Total collected for the sale of magazines including income from Advertisers
(120 per month in January and 84 per month in December) - **£716.00**

Total Cost of printing four Editions - **£197.09**

This leaves surplus of **£518.91** which has gone to Church funds.

Eric McGonagle

Social Team Report

The last time the Social Team met was on Tuesday 4th February 2020. One of the main discussions at the meeting was the coming event of the Organ Recital, which was held on the 14th March 2020 and organised by Jean Lawrence and the Social Team offering their help in required.

When we last met, we were so few in numbers, that we did not feel able to continue planning and organising social events. Our only option was to dissolve the existing Social Team. The organisation of a Summer Fair, therefore, will need to be embraced by a new group of volunteers. We as individuals, are happy to assist the newly formed team.

An email was sent to the Vicar, Jeremy Tear on 2nd March 2021 informing him of this.

Audrey Scarisbrick
Chairperson – Social Team

St Marys PCC Great Sankey

Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts						
Planned giving	£32,585.07	—	£5.00	—	£32,590.07	£31,361.56
Collections and other giving	£9,632.82	—	£226.90	—	£9,859.72	£20,217.52
Other voluntary receipts	£2,632.71	£583.65	£316.02	—	£3,532.38	£10,963.46
Gift Aid recovered	£9,507.31	—	—	—	£9,507.31	£8,709.81
Other receipts	£1,111.62	—	—	—	£1,111.62	£22,116.97
Activities for generating funds	—	£376.00	—	—	£376.00	£1,500.40
Investment Income	£13.56	£1,906.46	—	—	£1,920.02	£82.58
Receipts from church activities	£15,679.98	—	—	—	£15,679.98	£17,825.85
Total income	£71,163.07	£2,866.11	£547.92	—	£74,577.10	£112,778.15
Payments						
Cost of generating funds	£123.19	—	—	—	£123.19	£710.48
Missionary and Charitable Giving	—	—	£7,100.00	—	£7,100.00	£1,828.15
Parish Share	£32,579.20	—	—	—	£32,579.20	£62,498.98
Clergy and Staffing costs	£6,072.99	£4,518.51	—	—	£10,591.50	£13,722.50
Church Running Expenses	£12,835.49	£266.40	£220.90	—	£13,322.79	£41,859.82
Hall Running Costs	—	—	—	—	—	—
Church Repairs & Maintenance	—	—	£457.92	—	£457.92	—
Hall Repairs & Maintenance	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Building work	£390.00	£3,963.50	—	—	£4,353.50	—
Governance Costs	£3,940.00	—	—	—	£3,940.00	£2,920.69
Total expenditure	£55,940.87	£8,748.41	£7,778.82	—	£72,468.10	£123,540.62
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	£15,222.20	(£5,882.30)	(£7,230.90)	—	£2,109.00	(£10,762.47)
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	£17,697.61	£5,338.00	£5,434.01	—	£28,469.62	£49,684.67
Gross transfers between funds - out	(£10,772.01)	(£17,547.61)	(£150.00)	—	(£28,469.62)	(£49,684.67)
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds	£22,147.80	(£18,091.91)	(£1,946.89)	—	£2,109.00	(£10,762.47)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	(£12,574.61)	£205,820.05	£25,323.75	—	£218,569.19	£229,331.66
Total funds carried forward	£9,573.19	£187,728.14	£23,376.86	—	£220,678.19	£218,569.19

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT (SORP 2015) TO THE PCC OF
ST. MARYS, GREAT SANKEY

I report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St. Marys, Great Sankey on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020, as set out on the pages of your Annual Report, which comprise of the Balance sheet, Statement of Financial Activities, and the related notes.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Association of Accounting Technicians.

It is my responsibility to:

- 1- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- 2- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directors given by the Charity Commission (under section 125(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- 3- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

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

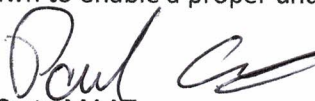
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, the only matter that has come to my attention is that no provision has been made for accruals.

Subject to the above no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act
or the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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


P. Carty MAAT
Carty and Co Accountants Ltd
234 Manchester Road
Warrington
WA1 3BD

Dated: 15/04/2021