

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

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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.