

Wrexham Mission Area

Registered Charity 1199546

Annual Report 2023



Our Churches

We maintained ministry across seven churches together with our support for St Mary's Church, Bersham, overseen by its own charitable trustees. All churches reported continuing challenges resulting from the covid pandemic but growth in numbers and activity was seen in many areas. St Giles' has seen good congregations for its mixed menu of worship alongside the many events it hosts for the city and its pastoral activities. Greater numbers of visitors have been received because of Wrexham's media exposure in the light of the renaissance of the football club. Late in the year, the possibility of St Giles' becoming a 'Hub Church' in the diocese was explored and this has now been assured in 2024 with the appointment of an associate minister with responsibilities to develop musical worship.

Caia Food Club at St Mark's, supported by the MA, has become well established, All Saints has seen growing congregations and St Margaret's developed some innovative events which have attracted many beyond the congregations. Prayer, bible study and outreach groups have taken place across the churches. Sadly, a number of factors and events began to point towards the closure of St James. Reports for individual churches can be found at: <https://ur0.jp/hUsOa>

Shared Mission Area Events

An Easter vigil for the Mission Area was held at St Giles' when the Paschal Candles of all the church were first lit. An open invitation was made to an early morning Ascension Day service on the tower of St Giles' followed by a cooked breakfast. Bishop Gregory presided at a confirmation service at St Mark's and commemorative reflective books were purchased for the Coronation of King Charles 3rd. In the autumn, a clergy swap around was well received.

Mission Area Conference

The MAC is both the PCC and the Board of Trustees for the Mission Area. It met on six occasions during 2023 together with an 'Away Day' facilitated by Mat Ineson from CPAS held in Gresford. This helped the MAC focus on the changing culture in which our churches operate and consider what steps to take to be better prepared for our ministry in today's world.

Other topics discussed have included a new Mission Area Action Plan, the possibility of St Giles' becoming a 'Hub Church' financed directly from the diocese and the viability of

our churches. The MAC also has the responsibility to sign off faculty applications for the Mission Area Churches and discuss significant building projects, notably at St Mark's and Giles'. A considerable amount of time was given to the appointment of an Administrative Assistant and developing a post for Shaun Davies, our Hall's manager. We are delighted to welcome Karen Reynolds to the post of Administrator. Both roles began formally on January 1st 2024.

Personnel

During 2023, the MA has supported four stipendiary clergy alongside 3 curates in the earlier part of the year. Luke Bristowe left St Mark's and St Margaret's at Easter to minister in Ruthin and Patrick Williams moved from St James' and St John back to St Mary's, Johnstown. Marcus Pipe was ordained priest and continued to serve in St Giles'. It has also been good to support a number of placement students from St Padarn's Institute.

Church Army Centre of Mission & Hope Street

The Ministry Team works closely with these other expressions of Anglican ministry in Wrexham. The Mission Area Leader line manages the Centre of Mission which runs the Tin Can Youth Centre providing a Christian witness to many young people with no church background. In turn, the Centre of Mission works collaboratively with Hope Street on projects such as the Coleg Cambria Chaplaincy and Bridge the Gap football ministry. Links are also maintained with St Giles' school and St Joseph's school, its chaplain and chaplaincy services at HMP Berwyn.

Finance

Since the Mission Area was formally constituted in its present form as a single parish and registered charity, the accounts of all the churches are required to be consolidated and professionally examined. They are also required by the diocese to be uploaded to a software package. This has involved a huge amount of work, and we are indebted to Carol, our treasurer assisted by Sue Williams and Karen, our administrator for completing this task for the 2022 accounts and now 2023.

We have managed to pay the Mission Area share to the diocese in respect of our clergy and support services for 2023, but all our churches are struggling to maintain these obligations alongside the maintenance of our buildings. In 2023, the diocese provided £25,000 of support and is doing so again in 2024, but this is not sustainable. Financial considerations are part of the reason for the discussions around the viability of our churches noted above. Going forward, it is inevitable that the shape of the MA will change. Our prayer is that this reshaping will enable new growth to emerge.

Jonathan Smith, Mission Area Leader

June 2024

Wrexham Mission Area
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31st December 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year funds
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	177,256	301,385	478,641	211,567
Income from charitable activities	29,234	240	29,474	33,423
Other trading activities	96,882	59,006	155,888	114,987
Investments	16,218	4,541	20,759	16,541
Other income	-	1,900	1,900	-
Total income	319,590	367,072	686,662	376,519
Expenditure on:				
Expenditure on charitable activities	326,145	140,704	466,849	475,334
Raising funds	6,106	4,650	10,756	7,481
Other expenditure	-	-	-	1,300
Total expenditure	332,251	145,354	477,605	484,115
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(12,661)	221,718	209,057	(107,596)
Transfers:				
Gross transfers between funds - in	9,324	7,298	16,622	32,316
Gross transfers between funds - out	(5,048)	(11,574)	(16,622)	(32,316)
Other recognised gains / losses				
Gains/losses on investment assets	617	16,413	17,030	(45,338)
Net movement in funds	(7,767)	233,854	226,086	(152,934)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	246,989	263,695	510,684	663,618
Total funds carried forward	239,221	497,548	736,770	510,684
Represented by				
Unrestricted				
General fund	239,221		239,221	246,989
Restricted				
Caia Food Club		9,890	9,890	3,679
Parish of Wrexham Fabric Fund		18,468	18,468	18,824
St Giles 100 Club		-	-	772
St Giles Babes in the Pews Fund		322	322	322
St Giles Bellringers		3,380	3,380	3,415
St Giles Chancel Repair Fund		10,496	10,496	9,529
St Giles Fabric Fund		36,517	36,517	33,152
St Giles Flower Fund		97	97	91
St Giles Kitchen Fund		-	-	1
St Giles upkeep fund		108,485	108,485	98,512
St James - Church door refurbishment		130	130	130
St James - GroWrexham		808	808	3,782
St John's - Evangelism Fund		-	-	2,250
St John's - Toilet And Lighting Fund		841	841	8,141
St Margaret's - Capital Gift		12	12	12
St Margaret's - Church hall		6,590	6,590	13,172
St Margaret's - Lady Chapel		95	95	95
St Margaret's - Roof Fund		-	-	8,285
St Margaret's - Steeple Fund		4,898	4,898	4,898
St Margaret's - Robes		150	150	-
St Mark's - Building fund		240,212	240,212	14,247
St Mark's - Eclis project		-	-	8,813
St Mark's - Holiday Hunger Project		23,316	23,316	4,307
Sunday School Fund		-	-	90
Wrexham MA - Admin		4,300	4,300	4,300
Wrexham MA - Foster Rd		18,291	18,291	14,654
Wrexham MA - St Peter's		10,251	10,251	8,224
	239,221	497,548	736,770	510,684

Wrexham Mission Area
Balance Sheet
as at 31st December 2023

	Unrestriced Funds	Restricted Funds	At 31/12/2023	At 31/12/2022
Fixed assets				
Investments	131,634	173,666	305,300	327,750
Current assets				
Cash At Bank And In Hand	107,587	323,882	431,469	182,934
Liabilities				
Creditors:Amounts falling due within 1 year	-	-	-	-
Total assets less current liabilities	239,221	497,548	736,770	510,684

Wrexham Mission Area
Movement in Funds
For the year ended 31st December 2023

	At 01/01/23	Incoming	Outgoing	Tranfers	Gains and	At 31/12/23
	£	resources	resources	between	losses	£
		£	£	funds	£	
				£		
Unrestricted funds	246,989	319,590	332,251	4,277	617	239,222
Restricted funds						
Wrexham MA - Admin	4,300					4,300
Wrexham MA - Foster Rd	14,654	4,400	763			18,291
Wrexham MA - St Peter's	8,224	10,467	8,440			10,251
St James - Church door refurbishment	130					130
St James - GroWrexham	3,782		2,974			808
St John's - Evangelism Fund	2,250			(2,250)		-
St John's - Toilet And Lighting Fund	8,141	2,900	12,450	2,250		841
All Saints - Sunday School Fund	90			(90)		-
St Mark's - Building fund	14,247	261,847	35,882			240,212
St Mark's - Eclas project	8,813		3,808	(5,005)		0
St Mark's - Holiday Hunger Project	4,307	24,490	5,480			23,316
St Mark's - Caia Food Club	3,679	23,308	17,097			9,890
St Margaret's - Capital Gift	12					12
St Margaret's - Church hall	13,172	34,841	41,821		399	6,590
St Margaret's - Lady Chapel	95					95
St Margaret's - Roof Fund	8,285	3,101	11,386			-
St Margaret's - Steeple Fund	4,898					4,898
St Margaret's - Robes	-	150				150
Parish of Wrexham Fabric Fund	18,824			(2,059)	1,703	18,468
St Giles - 100 Club	772	1,398	660	(1,510)		-
St Giles - Babes in the Pews Fund	322					322
St Giles - Bellringers	3,415	261	794	498		3,380
St Giles - Chancel Repair Fund	9,529				967	10,496
St Giles - Fabric Fund	33,152				3,365	36,517
St Giles - Flower Fund	91		600	600	6	97
St Giles - Kitchen Fund	1	(90)	3,200	3,289		-
St Giles - Upkeep fund	98,512				9,972	108,485
Total Funds	510,684	686,662	477,605	-	17,030	736,770

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Wrexham Mission Area

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Mission Area Conference (MAC) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

The MAC considers that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act)
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- 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 records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees 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 those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, the following matters have come to my attention:

1. Documentation of fund balances as the year end not being readily available.
2. Trivial differences between balances on finance co-ordinator and the supporting documentation. No amendment has been made on these financial statements.
3. Evidence of funds provided where no such fund was included on finance co-ordinator. This issue was resolved prior to the completion of these financial statements.

Therefore, the above points give me no reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met.

(Name) LORRAINE HUGHES (Date) 28th October 2024
(Qualification, if any) FMAT
(Address) 25 Grosvenor Road
Wrexham

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