

ST MARY'S CHURCH ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Overview of the financial position

The overall reported result for the year is a deficit of £4,664. This, however, does not include the full Parish Share due for the year as £31,393 relating to 2024 was paid in February 2025. The actual deficit for the year after adjusting for this timing difference is therefore £36,057.

This is significantly larger than in previous years (the prior year deficit, excluding legacies, was £3,559) predominantly due to an increase in maintenance costs relating to the church roof and clock (£16,864), reduced income from donations and fees for weddings and funerals (£9,989) and inflationary increases in costs of approximately £6,000.

The following balances, adjusted for the outstanding Parish Share, were held at the year end of the year:

- Church current account – £87,047
- Church Hall account - £22,821
- CCLA Deposit account - £10,498
- CCLA Investment account - £14,302

Total cash and investment balances therefore amounted to £134,668.

If the current level of deficit was to continue year on year, all other things being equal, St Mary's would run out of funding within four years.

Unfortunately, we know that a large element of the running costs will increase over this period. Parish share has increased in 2025 to £77,704 from £75,344 in 2024, insurance costs have increased by £100 per month and utility charges are set to increase imminently.

Whilst we were fortunate to receive an exceptionally large legacy in 2023, we cannot rely on these one-off gifts to support the finances of the Church.

It is imperative therefore that regular donations are maximized to ensure the sustainability of St Mary's into the next decade.

Church Hall

Whilst the Church Hall has its own bank account, its results are included within the consolidated accounts. The result for the year ended 31 December 2024 was a surplus of £8,526. Rental income amounted to £15,750 and operating expenses, £7,224.

Restricted Funds

Donations for repairs to the roof and windows have been treated as restricted funds as they were given specifically for that purpose. The surplus of £2,265 will be spent in Spring/Summer 2025 when weather conditions improve.

The restricted funds relating to the organ remain at £5,664.

Helen McCourt Treasurer

Full accounts are on a separate sheet.

Parochial Church of St Mary, Sandbach

Year ended 31 December 2024

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts						
<i>Donations and legacies</i>						
Other planned giving	27,989	-	3,008	-	30,997	38,200
Loose plate collections	23,087	-	-	-	23,087	19,509
Giving through Church boxes	4,074	-	-	-	4,074	3,476
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	11,713	-	-	-	11,713	12,231
	66,863	-	3,008	-	69,871	73,416
Legacies	2,044	-	-	-	2,044	130,543
	68,907	-	3,008	-	71,915	203,959
<i>Income from Charitable Activities</i>						
Fees for weddings and funerals	10,169	-	-	-	10,169	16,616
<i>Other trading activities</i>						
Parish magazine	1,970	-	-	-	1,970	1,253
<i>Investments</i>						
Dividends and bank interest	552	-	-	-	552	763
<i>Other income</i>						
Teas, coffees, tiddlers, fundraising events	17,822	-	-	-	17,822	14,770
Total receipts	99,420	-	3,008	-	102,428	237,361
<i>Excluding legacies</i>	97,376	-	-	-	97,376	106,818
Payments						
Parish share	43,951	-	-	-	43,951	74,275
Staff costs	7,548	-	-	-	7,548	2,850
Church running - insurance	10,712	-	-	-	10,712	9,964
Church office expenses	5,671	-	-	-	5,671	5,030
Church utilities	7,902	-	-	-	7,902	7,469
Upkeep of services	6,692	-	-	-	6,692	4,284
Council tax	3,210	-	-	-	3,210	2,975
Working expenses	4,037	-	-	-	4,037	2,648
Organist fees	2,400	-	-	-	2,400	2,400
Church maintenance	6,419	-	743	-	7,162	3,233
Major repairs	14,312	-	-	-	14,312	1,377
Giving to societies	2,021	-	-	-	2,021	705
Total payments	114,875	-	743	-	115,618	117,210
Church net payments	(15,455)	-	2,265	-	(13,190)	120,151
Church Hall net receipts	8,526	-	-	-	8,526	7,329
Net (payments)/receipts	(6,929)	-	2,265	-	(4,664)	127,480
Opening balance	162,669	-	6,832	-	169,501	
Deficit for the year	(6,929)	-	2,265	-	(4,664)	
Increase in value of investments	1,224	-	-	-	1,224	
Closing balance	156,964	-	9,097	-	166,061	

Held in:

Church current account	118,440
Church Hall current account	22,821
CCLA deposit account	10,498
CCLA investment account	14,302
	166,061

St Mary's Church

Accounts Year Ended 31 December 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
INCOME		
Collections	20,770.79	17,738.59
Gift aid	11,712.87	16,233.35
Standing order collections	30,996.61	25,759.37
Funerals, weddings, baptisms, PCC	10,169.00	20,296.25
Donations	6,414.55	11,161.78
CBF dividends & interest	548.01	440.61
Investment value increase/(decrease)	1,223.45	1,528.02
Church magazine	1,970.21	1,252.60
Fundraising	6,499.39	4,801.16
Teas, coffees, Tiddlers	11,322.55	10,719.08
Legacies	2,044.00	131,042.72
	<u>103,671.43</u>	<u>240,973.53</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Parish share	43,950.90	76,615.00
Clergy expenses	4,037.38	3,763.00
Vicarage expenses	5,305.62	3,639.00
Other Ministry expenses	3,518.06	6,870.00
Organist Honorarium	2,400.00	2,400.00
Heat & light	5,805.54	5,280.00
Insurance	10,712.25	9,964.00
Church maintenance & cleaning	9,870.95	2,431.00
General administration	13,217.04	7,082.00
Charity payments	984.05	1,005.00
Church Hall (surplus)/deficit	(9,038.81)	(5,226.75)
Home mission	1,037.28	-
Visiting speakers	999.37	-
Major repairs	14,312.03	-
	<u>107,111.66</u>	<u>113,822.25</u>
Opening net assets	169,501.02	42,349.74
Surplus/(deficit)	(3,440.23)	127,151.28
Closing net assets	<u>166,060.79</u>	<u>169,501.02</u>
Church account	118,440.26	132,142.75
Church Hall account	22,821.08	13,782.27
CBF investment account	14,301.62	13,607.00
CBF deposit account	10,497.83	9,969.00
	<u>166,060.79</u>	<u>169,501.02</u>

Difference

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We have examined the books and records as provided by St Mary's Church and can confirm that the above accounts are in accordance therewith.



For and on behalf of The Rural Partnership Group

27 March 2025