

**The Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Nantwich**  
**Registered Charity Number 1130903**  
**Trustees' Annual Report**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2017**

**Aims and Purposes**

St Mary's PCC, in conjunction with the incumbent is responsible for the whole mission of the church – through worship, teaching, nurture, social gatherings and special events, pastoral care, evangelism and ecumenical cooperation. The PCC also seeks to recognise gifts and skills in others, encouraging them to share in this mission.

**Objectives and Activities**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community. Our vision statement is "Know God, Show His Love, Grow His Church" so our mission in the parish is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. In particular we seek to enable parishioners to live out their faith as part of our growing parish community.

As stewards of the church's resources, the PCC seeks to fulfil this objective as efficiently and effectively as reasonably possible. When planning our activities for the year, the Rector and the PCC considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and especially the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain and develop the fabric of our Grade 1 listed 14th century church.

**Staff**

During the year we had significant changes in the ministry team as one of our previous children and youth workers was ordained and is working in a neighbouring parish. In June, whilst we welcomed a part time Associate Minister, Rev Professor Bernard Moss, our curate, Rev Kaushal David, moved on to a team ministry in Bedfordshire and in September our Rector, Rev Canon Dr Barry Wilson, moved to the role of Vice Dean at Chester Cathedral. Our Pastoral Care Co-ordinator also changed as Vanessa Layfield moved to a Diocesan role and Mary Harris took on her post. We were pleased that on 31 December it was announced that our next Rector would be Rev Dr Mark Hart. Throughout the time our part time Associate Rector Rev Stephen Snelling with the team of lay leaders, readers, and retired ministers maintained the ongoing ministry of St Mary's.

**Property**

During the year the PCC agreed that the house used to house our curate, 22 Beatty Road, should be sold with a view to purchasing another more practical property in the future. The sale was not completed within the year.

## **Achievements and Performance**

### ***Worship and Prayer***

The slight increase recorded at last year's Annual Parochial Church meeting continued. Since the previous year's meeting in 2016, when there were 461 on the Electoral Roll, it had had a net increase to 466.

The PCC and ministry team continue to offer a range of services on a Sunday, during the week and over the course of the year. These gather our community together for different forms of worship and provide opportunities to invite others to join us. The variety of styles and times of services are planned to enable as many people as possible to worship and feel part of the parish community. Our weekly Sunday services and average attendances throughout the year are as follows:

8 am Holy Communion –35

9:30 am Family Service – 91

10:45 am Parish Communion – 122

3:00 pm Seniors Lounge - 30 (monthly)

3:00 pm Richmond Village Care Home, communion – 27 (bimonthly)

3:00 pm Messy Church – 60 (bi-monthly, term-time)

6:00 pm Evening Service (includes special services) – 56

7:15 pm Encounter - 20 (fortnightly)

We also have two mid-week communion services:

11:00 am Wednesday – 18

8:00 am Friday – 9

10:00 am Thursday, Little Fish, a service for pre-schoolers and carers - 30

Attendance on Easter Sunday and vigil on Easter Eve - 667.

Attendance on Christmas Eve and Day totalled 2790.

In addition, we take communion services in 5 of our local residential homes once a month and lead worship in another home, again on a monthly basis.

There are 15-20 people to whom we take home communion.

The Bishop of Chester confirmed 5 St Mary's adults and 3 young people as well as baptising 3 of the adult candidates at a service in May. We enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. St Mary's

The occasional offices ministry continues to be a significant part of our outreach.

During the year, there were 84 Baptisms including 3 adults, also a service of thanksgiving. There were 24 Weddings and 61 Funerals in our church, and 41 St Mary's Funerals at the Crematorium. We also held two memorial services to help the bereaved which were appreciated by the many families who attended.

## **Pastoral Care and Outreach to the Local Community**

### ***Nurture***

St Mary's seeks to nurture and encourage people of all ages in their Christian faith. Baptism team provides support for families both before and after the Baptism has taken place. There is a home visit with a card on the first anniversary and an e-card sent for the following 2 years.

Mary Harris took on the role of Pastoral Care Coordinator. Along with a pastoral care team she and her predecessor enabled packs for the homeless which included food vouchers and sleeping bags to be distributed and, working with CAP (Christians

against Poverty), provided money budgeting courses. They have taken on the organisation of the Friday Soup Lunch too.

We have Home Groups for adults as well as groups for young people across all age ranges. The Lent Course, based on the in-house Rhythms of Grace material, provided sermons and discussion material otherwise each group sets its own syllabus providing a variety of content. There are also weekly prayer groups and occasions supporting prayer for various church activities.

The Home Groups aim to encourage members to grow in fellowship and confidence to share God's love with others. Both Men's and Ladies' Breakfasts continue to be held regularly with a variety of speakers. A Julian Prayer Group meets on a monthly basis in the parish and continues to grow in support.

A regular lecture series is also organised with invited speakers introducing challenging topics.

### ***Volunteers***

We would like to thank all the volunteers who live out their faith through practical action, amongst them, the Readers, retired clergy, as well as those who have served on the PCC or other committees and groups, for their valuable contributions.

We have a well-respected choir which supports many of our regular and special services and were pleased to appoint Alison Phillips, a member of our church choir and leader of our young choir "Sing @ St Mary's" as Director of Music. In addition there is a worship band and singers who continue to support the 9:30 family service. Our church building is open for visitors 6 days a week from 8:30am to 4:00pm with a rota of stewards in attendance. This provides a place for quiet prayer and contemplation. The Church Visitors' Centre, situated off the south porch, is open from March to December, where volunteers meet and welcome visitors, serve refreshments and sell books, cards, CDs, DVDs, church guides and souvenirs. Volunteers enable us to carry out other outreach work. Open House met monthly on Wednesdays for those recently bereaved or lonely and we continued to hold a monthly Seniors' Lounge with the aim to provide friendship and support for those who might otherwise be on their own on a Sunday afternoon. This also meets at Richmond Village, a local care home, on the intervening fortnight. The Friday soup lunch initiative, previously under the auspices of Churches Together in Nantwich is now run in-house.

Members of the Mothers' Union, the Flower Club, the Housekeeping team, the Tapestry Group, Choir and Bell Ringers all seek to show the love of Christ to the wider community in their service to St Mary's.

### ***Ecumenical Relationships and Outreach***

St Mary's works alongside its partner churches under the umbrella of the Churches Together in Nantwich. The partner churches worship and collaborate together at a number of key points throughout the year. These include: The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Good Friday open-air witness, Nantwich Show, Christian Aid events, Women's World Day of Prayer and a Christmas Day lunch for those who would otherwise be on their own.

Grants are also made available to young people undertaking significant humanitarian or evangelical work, usually overseas, in the form of Millennium Bursaries.

Churches Together supports the Street Pastors' scheme which is appreciated by the town, club goers and the police. In addition, it supports the Foodbank which

continues to assist a significant number of struggling individuals and families throughout the year.

Although decreasing in number our Parish Magazine, "This Month", is still distributed to 420 households and businesses every month and 380 copies of the news sheet "This Week" are printed weekly. We also maintain a website providing useful information for enquirers, visitors and congregation members alike.

[www.stmarysnantwich.org.uk](http://www.stmarysnantwich.org.uk)

### ***The Visits Team Ministry***

We continue to welcome large numbers of visitors, tourists, organised groups to the church and school parties both local and from further afield. These come following our close association and working with Nantwich Museum.

We are a member of the Greater Churches Network and the Cathedrals Plus network which may also attract group visits.

### ***Outreach ministry***

The church is a much-appreciated venue for many additional events including Reaseheath, the local agricultural college, graduation ceremony, a varied summer season of concerts including those for the Royal British Legion, Cheshire Freemasons as well as the Nantwich Choral Society and Nantwich Singers. As part of the town's Jazz Festival Nantwich Singers sang Bob Chilcott's Little Jazz Mass on Easter Sunday and we hosted- Elaine Delmar on Easter Monday.

### ***Children's and Young People's Work***

St Mary's is very active in youth and children's work, from babes in arms to young adults, in a variety of settings. Following the ordination of one of our Children and family workers Andrea Clews continued to oversee the three or four children's groups that meet during the 9.30 am service on Sunday mornings: Church Mice (pre-schoolers), Launch Pad (KS1), Orbit (KS2) and Gravity (KS3). Friday Nite Live is a lively, friendly group for young people in Year 7 and up that meets fortnightly.

Our children's choir, Sing @ St Mary's continues to flourish under the leadership of Alison Phillips and often sings at our 9.30 am service, and at other special events.

Other groups for pre-school children continue to be well attended, including Mums and Tots and a bi-monthly Messy church. The new term-time weekly service for pre-schoolers and their carers, "Little Fish", has become a well-established part of our programme of services.

St Mary's has links with all the Nantwich schools and regularly leads school assemblies. Local primary schools have taken part in special services such as Primary Carols and Experience Easter. Brine Leas and Malbank secondary, as well as Pear Tree primary, schools all held their annual carol service in church. In addition many school parties have visited to explore various aspects of their National Curriculum studies. Our young people's guides and clergy continue to support groups in this way.

### ***Mission Support***

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. St Mary's Mission Support Committee with the approval of the PCC channelled £15,350 to different charities, local, national and international.

We continued in our commitment to the local Foodbank and supporting two Kenyan students in their schooling. We also supported CAP (Christians against Poverty) with

a contribution to the start-up costs of a local project. A donation was made to the YMCA and emergency funding provided to Christian Aid Myanmar Appeal. Money was still allocated for a Deanery Support Initiative although to date no firm proposal has yet been received.

## **Financial Review**

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £223,056. Restricted income of £15,780 was also received and is detailed in the Financial Statements.

The planned giving through stewardship envelopes and standing orders increased by £650 (1%) whilst loose plate remained the same. Unrestricted income was similar to the previous year.

£230,336 was spent to provide the Christian ministry from St Mary's Church, including the contribution to the diocesan parish share which increased by £1,532 (2.5%) in the year and largely provides the stipend and housing for the clergy. The restricted income was £15,780 and the restricted expenditure was £11,048 both figures being much reduced as the recent development project has finished.

The net result for the year was an excess of income over expenditure of £3,768 unrestricted and an excess of income over expenditure of £4,732 restricted, totalling £8,498 surplus. After adding the balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at 31st December 2017 were £51,432 unrestricted (including General Fund) and £152,502 restricted

## **Reserves policy**

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (if possible) of £20,000 to cover emergency situations. The balance of £51,432 held on unrestricted funds more than matched this target.

The balance of £152,502 in restricted funds is retained for the purposes described in the Financial Statement for each fund.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity.

The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules 2015 and since registration in July 2009 with the Charity Commissioners, PCC members are also Trustees.

The number of elected lay members of the PCC varied within 2017, the year ended with 12 elected members and 2 co-opted. The 4 elected Deanery Synod representatives reduced to 3 after the APCM. These together with the ex-officio members, the Incumbent (Rev Canon Dr Barry Wilson, until September), the Associate Rector (Rev Stephen Snelling), the Associate Minister (Rev Prof Bernard Moss, from June) and the Curate (Rev Kaushal David, until June) plus the 2 Churchwardens latterly made a total membership of 21 in 2017. A decision was made at the 2016 APCM to reduce the elected members of PCC to 4 (each for a 3 year term) each year in order to reduce the overall size of the PCC.

There were 11 full Council meetings during the year. These included one short meeting after the APCM, the required meeting under section 11 of the Patronage (Benefices) Act 1986 to deal with the matters arising from the interregnum and an extra-ordinary meeting to deal with the sale of the Curate's house in September. The incumbent together with the Associate Rector, Associate Minister, the two churchwardens, Secretary and two members of the PCC formed the Standing Committee which met between PCC meetings.

The PCC monitored the work of various sub-committees and working parties - Mission Support, Stewardship, Visitors' Centre and the Fabric. They also receive reports from the Pastoral, and Children and Youth Workers. PCC receives regular reports on the finances of the church and decide how the funds should be spent.

Dates of PCC meetings and Minutes, once approved, were displayed in the church so that parishioners may read about matters discussed and decisions reached. The APCM minutes were also published with the opportunity for comment before approval by the PCC during the year.

The PCC worked under the Safeguarding and Vulnerability Policy and Procedures, 'Safe in Our Care', produced by the Diocese of Chester in 2015. The Parish Policy on the Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk together with 'St. Mary's Safeguarding Policy and Good Practice Guidelines for Working with Children and Adults at Risk' are maintained in line with the Diocesan Policy and approved by the PCC.

We have a Safeguarding Children Co-ordinator and a Safeguarding Adults at Risk Co-ordinator.

## Administrative information

This report is in respect of the Parochial Church Council of St Mary Nantwich in the Diocese of Chester. The correspondence address is St Mary's PCC, The Parish Office, Church Walk, Nantwich, CW5 5RQ  
The Registered Charity Number is 1130903

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2017 until the date this report was approved are:

### Ex Officio members:

Incumbent: The Reverend Canon Dr Barry Wilson (Chairman) (until 3 September 2017)  
Curate: The Reverend Kaushal David (until June 2017)  
Associate Rector: The Reverend Stephen Snelling  
Associate Minister: The Reverend Professor Bernard Moss (from July 2017)  
Churchwardens: Mr Steve Lockett (Treasurer)  
Mrs Pat Stalker

### Lay members:

Until APCM 2017  
Mrs Ros Reid (Deanery Synod representative)  
Mr Simon Russell  
Mrs Margaret Whitehurst (Deanery Synod representative)  
Elected until April 2017 and then co-opted until APCM 2018  
Mrs Belinda Coghlan  
Miss Beth Roberts (Secretary)  
Until APCM 2018  
Mrs Jackie Ford  
Mrs Marie Hamner (resigned June 2017)  
Mr Nick Hutt  
Miss Helen Lockett  
Until APCM 2019  
Mrs Vanessa Layfield  
Mrs Kath Leonard  
Mr Paul O'Brien  
Mr Nigel Winzer  
Mrs Dot Woods  
Until APCM 2020  
Mrs Gill Appleton (Deanery Synod representative)  
Mrs Penny Beeston (From APCM 2017)  
Mr Peter Bennett (From APCM 2017)  
Mr Bryan Coghlan (Deanery Synod representative & PCC Lay Vice Chair)  
Mr Chris Harris (From APCM 2017)  
Mr Andrew Kelly (Elected until May 2017 then Deanery Synod representative)  
Mrs Anne Vetter (From APCM 2017)

Approved by the PCC on 27 March 2018 and signed on their behalf by Bryan Coghlan (PCC Lay Vice Chairman)

  
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