

**Anglican Diocese of Chester – Middlewich Deanery  
Mid Cheshire Circuit of the Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District of the Methodist Church**

**St Mary's Church, Weaverham**



**Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Ecumenical Church Council  
for the year ended 31 December 2019**

**Incumbent**  
Reverend Paul Withington, The Vicarage, Church Street, Weaverham, NORTHWICH,  
CW8 3NJ

**Minister**  
Reverend Chris Pritchard, 36 Earls Way, Kingsmead, NORTHWICH, CW9 8GQ

**Secretary**  
Mrs Cath Henshall, 14 Fieldway, Weaverham, NORTHWICH, CW8 3HW

**Treasurer**  
Mr John Freeman, Stable Court, 20a Leigh Way, Weaverham, NORTHWICH, CW8 3PR

**Banks**  
Santander, Bridle Road, BOOTLE, L30 4GB  
CCLA Investment Management Ltd., Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, LONDON, EC4V 4ET

**Honorary Independent Examiner**  
Kevin D Pickering, 5 Withens Close, Weaverham, NORTHWICH, CW8 3JJ

**Registered Charity Number: 1135093**

# ST. MARY'S CHURCH, WEAVERHAM ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE ECUMENICAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2019

St. Mary's Church is situated in Church Street, Weaverham. It is a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) between the parish church of the Church of England in the parish of St Mary in the Middlewich Deanery and Chester Diocese and the Methodist Church within the Mid Cheshire Circuit of the Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District. The partnership looks for support, encouragement, advice and overview to the relevant denominations, the Diocese and the Methodist District. The correspondence address is St Mary's Lighthouse Centre, Church Lane, Weaverham, CW8 3NN.

ECC members who have served in the year are: -

<i>Incumbent:</i>	Revd. Paul Withington	Chairman
<i>Methodist Minister:</i>	Revd. Chris Pritchard	
<i>Wardens:</i>	Ted Smith	
	Vicky Rushton	
<i>Representatives on the Deanery Synod:</i>	John Freeman	Treasurer
	Peter Wilkinson	
	David Whitfield	
<i>Methodist Stewards:</i>	David Whitfield	
	Mike Hornby	
<i>Representatives from lay church roles:</i>	Linda Jones	
	Jules Sanders	
	Mike Sanders	
<i>Elected members:</i>		
Carol Johnson – <i>(elected 2017)</i>	Louise Parry <i>(elected 2018)</i>	
Cath Henshall – <i>(elected 2017 and secretary)</i>	Mike Hornby – <i>(elected 2018)</i>	
Chris Hornby – <i>(elected 2019)</i>	Robert Owens – <i>(elected 2019)</i>	
Colin Weeks – <i>(elected 2019)</i>	Ruth Kunzi – <i>(elected 2018)</i>	
Gillian Edwards – <i>(elected 2017)</i>	Sue Winnington – <i>(Co-opted 2018)</i>	
Jean Bracegirdle – <i>(elected 2019, Died 2019)</i>	Yvonne Williams <i>(elected 2018)</i>	

Sadly, Mrs Jean Bracegirdle died on 16/08/2019. Jean was a keen and dedicated member of the ECC, who stood once again to serve the Committee at the Annual General Meeting of 2019.



## **Structure, governance and management**

The method of appointment of ECC members (trustees) is set out in the Constitution of the Local Ecumenical Partnership signed in November 2009. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the ECC.

## **Objectives and activities**

St Mary's ECC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd. Paul Withington and Methodist Minister the Revd. Chris Pritchard in promoting the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical in the ecclesiastical parish. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the buildings associated with the church.

St Mary's is fully integrated as an LEP between the Anglican and Methodist Churches in Weaverham. We worship at the Anglican Church building with our services varied between Anglican and Methodist styles and leadership. United services began this year, members of all four services meeting at one service to worship together. 2019 marked St Mary's 10<sup>th</sup> year as an Ecumenical church and this anniversary was celebrated on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

The vision statement for St Mary's Ecumenical Church, Weaverham is as follows:

*St Mary's Church Weaverham, sharing the light and hope of Jesus with our community.*

## **Achievements and performance**

### *Church attendance*

In 2019 Cath Henshall (Secretary) stated the electoral roll consisted of 142 parishioners. We have a duality of Anglican and Methodist members; members can be either or both. Average regular weekly attendance for 2019 was 108 over four services.

### *Review of the year*

The Reverend Paul Withington has already been the incumbent of St Mary's for over 12 months, having been installed on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018. At the ECC meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019 he stated he intends to lead our church using Ephesians 4 and the hymn "The church's one foundation" as his fundamental guide. Revd. Paul was asked to consider offering a curacy to candidate Phil Bishop. Having spent some time together, both Revd. Paul and Phil are very keen to begin working together in June of 2020.

The ECC met nine times during the year, including the Annual Church Meeting, with good attendance. The Fabric and Standing Committees met between meetings, minutes of all of these meetings are available on request. ECC meetings begin with a voluntary time of open prayer. The meetings formally begin with a reading and reflection from the Bible and prayer. This is followed by agenda items for 'People and Mission' as well as 'Business and Reports' and is driven by our desire to serve Christ within our local community, whilst maintaining the organisation, structures and fabric needed to support the mission.

Health and Safety is now a standing item at each ECC meeting. Any issues or incidents are recorded in ECC minutes.



Safeguarding is also a standing item at each ECC meeting; we take our duty and obligation to safeguard and protect all extremely seriously. We have adopted the national Church of England's robust procedures and guidelines. There are currently no known outstanding effects to legislation for the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, Section 5. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukcm/2016/1/section/5> National policies and procedures are at [www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding](http://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding)

The main church building remains in very good condition and maintenance has been ongoing. An automatic clock winder has been installed and the boiler had several repairs throughout the year. The next quinquennial inspection is due in 2021.

The ECC would like to recognise the commitment and dedication of those members who give of their gifts, talents, time and finances to the church.

The church continues to support a wide range of groups and events that are aimed at meeting the social, spiritual and practical needs of our members and the wider village community. The majority of these are utilising our newly refurbished Lighthouse. The Upcycling Shed is a new outreach activity launched this year and is proving very popular, being attended regularly by members of the church and village.

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE ECUMENICAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN, WEAVERHAM**

This report on the accounts of the ECC for the year ended 31 December 2019 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church of England Accounting Regulations 2006 (the Regulations) and Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act). As members of the ECC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirements of the Regulations and Section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 43(7) (b) of the Act and to be found in the Church of England Guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the ECC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given on the accounts.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the Act, to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or to which, in my opinion attention, should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Kevin D Pickering – Hon Independent Examiner – February 2020



## FINANCIAL REVIEW

The normal revenue activities of the Church for the year indicate an excess of payments over receipts of £11 431. This is mainly due to higher than expected costs for servicing and repairing the main boiler in Church and £4266 to mechanise the tower clock winding mechanism. There was an additional expenditure of £3045 to complete the funding of the Lighthouse Annexe bringing the excess of payments over receipts to £14 476. This was slightly offset by an increase of £263 in the value of the War Memorial investment shares.

Activities at the Lighthouse made a small operating loss for the year but remains close to break-even mainly due to the Lunch Club and the Thursday afternoon Leg Club use of the premises. We need to increase usage of the Lighthouse by none church activities.

Looking ahead to 2020 no significant new expenditure is planned with the exception of having a curate from the middle of the year. Fixed cost for the curate has been indicated at £6000 per year to which will be added some expenses. An appeal has been successfully launched to help cover the increased cost whilst we have a curate. Parish share increases by 2% to £61 184 and the Circuit fee by 5% to £5796.

Energy usage for the year was as follows, 2018 figures in brackets. Gas, church 74 306 kWh (91 170), Lighthouse 19 960 kWh (19 951) and electricity church 4945 kWh (6347), Lighthouse 8632 kWh (7011).

Gas consumption fell in church due to higher average temperatures during the year and a spell with no gas supply. Electricity consumption also fell as more energy savings bulbs in use. Consumption has increased at the Lighthouse.

## RESERVES POLICY

Long term reserves policy agreed by the Church Council is to have a minimum amount of cash for 3 months' normal activities of £25 000 plus around £10 000 to provide funds for unexpected repairs to the Church, a Grade 1 listed building. We effectively dipped into this money during the year with the costs of the boiler repair and the fitting of an automatic tower clock winder. We continue to hold an amount of £29 677 against a possible VAT liability.

## ACCOUNTING POLICY

The accounts of the Council have been prepared in accordance with the Church of England Accounting Regulations taking into account the SORP 2005 revisions on a receipts and payments basis. Movable church furnishings are held on trust for the Council by the Church Wardens and would require faculty approval before removal. Accounts of the Men's Society, Hope Café, Men' and Ladies' breakfasts and activities with pre-school children are not included as they are small and make no direct call on Council funds. The Mothers Union accounts are not included as they respond to their headquarters for accounting purposes.

# ACCOUNTS FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	2018
		£	£	£	£
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
Voluntary income	A	90759		90759	103428
Church activities	B	13802		13802	18096
Fund raising					
Income from investments	C	444	48	492	383
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>105005</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>105053</b>	<b>121907</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>					
Church activities	D	113916		113916	99322
Fund raising					
Salaries		2520	—	2520	2520
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>116436</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>116436</b>	<b>101842</b>
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>-11431</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>-11383</b>	<b>20065</b>
Gains/losses on investment assets			263	263	-49
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>-11431</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>-11120</b>	<b>20016</b>
<b>BALANCES 1 JANUARY</b>		<b>762511</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>764502</b>	<b>744486</b>
<b>BALANCES 31 DECEMBER</b>		<b>751080</b>	<b>2302</b>	<b>753382</b>	<b>764502</b>

## BALANCE SHEET 31 DECEMBER 2019

<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Tangible asset – Lighthouse	E	684440		681395
Investment assets	F		1438	1175
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Short term deposits	F	51775	864	64167
Cash at banks	F	<u>14865</u>		<u>17765</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>751080</b>	<b>2302</b>	<b>764502</b>

The notes A to E form part of the accounts

<b>A Voluntary income</b>				
Planned giving				
Gift aid	59728	59728	57662	
Tax recovered	15990	15990	31508	
Other	8307	8307	7347	
Collections	4082	4082	2803	
Donations - General	1779	1779	2500	
- Lighthouse			1108	
- Curate	873	873		
Legacy	<u>90759</u>	<u>90759</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>103428</u>
<b>B Church activities</b>				
Lighthouse	7764	7764	8557	
Fees	<u>6038</u>	<u>6038</u>	<u>9539</u>	
	13802	13802	18096	

**C** Income from investments



Deposit account	424		424	319
Wayleave	20		20	20
War Memorial	<u>444</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>44</u>
		48	492	383

<b>D Church activities</b>	£	£	£	£
Giving				
Overseas missions	1000		1000	3000
Overseas development agencies	2000		2000	1000
Home missions	2411		2411	2025
Others	1000		1000	
Ministry				
Parish share	59693		59693	58236
Circuit fee	8368		8368	5451
Other ministry costs	5736		5736	3089
Church running and maintenance	17888		17888	14718
Clock winder	4266		4266	
Training	1451		1451	2472
Lighthouse	7973		7973	7127
Administration	<u>2130</u>		<u>2130</u>	<u>2204</u>
	113916		113916	99322

During the year the PCC employed an organist and verger. The organist deals with his own tax and payments to the verger were too small to attract social security payments. Together they equate to less than one full time employee. Reimbursement of out of pocket expenses were made to some ECC members all supported by the necessary invoices.

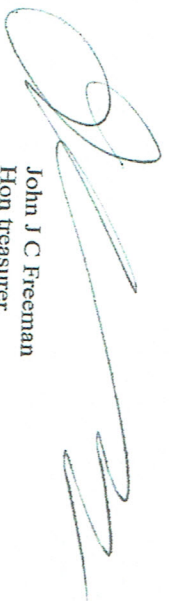
E Money from Church funds of £3045 has been spent on the Lighthouse project, capitalized and added to its value lifting it from £681 395 to £684 440 which represents the final payment for the project.. This brings total expenditure on modernising the Lighthouse to £339 479 and on the Lighthouse Annexe to £199 032.

<b>F Cash balances at 31 December</b>				
Current accounts	3563		3563	9057
Deposit account	51775		51775	63350
Church House	11302		11302	8708
War Memorial deposit		864	864	826
War Memorial 74 CBF shares	<u>66640</u>	<u>1438</u>	<u>1438</u>	<u>1175</u>
		2302	68942	83106

Approved by the Ecumenical Church Council at its meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020



Reverend Paul Withington  
Incumbent



John J C Freeman  
Hon treasurer