

**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 2021**

**Incumbent**

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

**Minister**

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

**Secretary**

Jules Sanders, 2 Valley Road, Weaverham, NORTHWICH, CW8 3PP

**Treasurer**

John J C 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 2021**

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, NORTHWICH, CW8 3NN.

ECC members who have served in the year are: -

<i>Incumbent:</i>	Revd. Paul Withington	Chairman
<i>Curate</i>	Revd. Phil Bishop	
<i>Methodist Minister:</i>	Revd. Chris Pritchard	
<i>Wardens:</i>	Vicky Rushton Colin Weeks	
 <i>Representatives on the Deanery Synod:</i>	John Freeman David Whitfield Gillian Edwards Peter Wilkinson	Treasurer  from APCM ex officio
 <i>Methodist Stewards:</i>	David Whitfield Mike Hornby	
 <i>Representatives from lay church roles:</i>	Gilly Latham Linda Jones Jules Sanders Mike Sanders	Secretary
 <i>Elected members:</i>		
Carol Johnson – (elected 2020)	Yvonne Williams- (elected 2018 to APCM)	
Chris Hornby – (elected 2019)	Louise Parry (elected 2018 to APCM)	
Gillian Edwards (elected 2020)	Mike Hornby – (elected 2018)	
Jonathan Gore (elected 2021 from APCM)	Robert Owens – (elected 2019)	
William Travis (elected 2021 from APCM)	Sue Winnington – (elected 2020)	
Marion Wilson (elected 2021 from APCM)		

**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.

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*

The current electoral roll has 138 members. We have a duality of Anglican and Methodist members; members can be either or both. Attendance varied during the year starting as normal then falling to zero during some lockdown periods and about 74 when the Church was able to open for services, rising to 90 by the end of the year.

### *Review of the year*

The year started off with a national lock-down after we had held just one service. While we were unable to meet in the church building, our worship continued with 35-40 attending the Sunday Zoom Service through the lockdown at the start of the year, and that the "At Home" service was delivered weekly to around 150 people by hand or email.

We returned in stages from the end of March with full restrictions in place. Using every other row and two metre spacing we returned always using face masks. Services continued to be available on zoom for some time. Funerals had continued with restricted numbers and full covid clean afterwards. There were 3 baptism preparation courses and 5 children were baptised.

Family activities continued on zoom and by Good Friday we started limited activities outside. By Harvest we were able to have a picnic following the service and by Christmas Eve the Simply Nativity was well attended. The Ecumenical Church Council met 9 times during the year, three times on zoom during the lock-down. The Annual Church meeting was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> May.

During the shut-down the church continued to be active. The church was open for individual prayer on Wednesday mornings.

Food distribution continued with numbers of people helped steadily rising.

Though we were unable to celebrate Easter in church a trail of reflective activities was created outside called Explore Easter. The trail was enjoyed by some of the many people who regularly walk through the churchyard. Sticky Fingers was able to reopen in May with restrictions which by September were lifted completely. The average attendance is now 12-15 little ones each week with mums, grannies, aunties, and a couple of dads.

In June the Architects Quinquennial Inspection was carried out which confirms that the church building does not have any serious defects but need some maintenance work.

We were asked to help at the Community Centre Summer Holiday Club for which we provided a range of activities. The leaders of the holiday club were once again very grateful for our support and we pray it was helpful for building St. Mary's relationship with the community and sowing seeds of faith.

Curate Phil was ordained at Chester cathedral on the 19<sup>th</sup> June. Also, in June the 65<sup>th</sup> and last issue of the Weekly Newsletter was published that had been a continuous source of information and comfort to over 140 people during this period of covid.

In July we held a service to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the War Memorial after it had been cleaned by volunteers.

Caroline Bishop was licensed to the parish as a Lay Pioneer in a service at Chester Cathedral.

The Lighthouse is slowly beginning to be used by the community after the lock downs forced its closure.

During October the church formed an eco-team to look at all aspect of the church and Lighthouse to try and meet the targets of being a registered eco church. The Church of England's General Synod has set targets for all parts of the church to work to become carbon 'net zero' by 2030.

There was a welcome start of a new venture in November with the opening of the Lighthouse Café which is aimed at the community and has been successful from the start.

The Remembrance service was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> November.

A range of Christmas services was held but with restrictions still in place attendance was lower than expected.

As a church we look forward in the new year to new beginnings led by God, as we come out of the last year that has once again been dominated by Covid.

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS'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 2021 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church of England Accounting Regulations 2006 (the Regulations) and Section 3 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 accordance 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 requirement 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 – January 2022

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The continuing Covid pandemic is still reducing activities in Church and at the Lighthouse with the result that there was an excess of expenditure over income of £4159 partly offset investment income of £250. Giving qualifying for Gift Aid made a welcome increase. Trouble with the heating system in Church led to greater expenditure than planned otherwise most items came close to budget. The overspend was somewhat ameliorated by the heating engineer not charging for his labour costs.

Looking ahead there remains a need to increase people attending and using the Lighthouse. We are again anticipating an overspend in the coming year as a number of essential items are expected to increase in price in the coming year.

Energy usage for the year was as follows, 2020 figures in brackets. Gas, church 81 136 kWh (74 697), Lighthouse 14 315 kWh (10 863 kWh) and electricity, church 3631 kWh (3203 kWh), Lighthouse 3703 kWh (4070 kWh). Covid continues to reduce consumption. The Council has agreed to carry out an energy audit and has formed a group to plan for the Church of England's target of being carbon neutral by 2030.

## **RESERVES POLICY**

Reserves policy remains to hold at least £25 000 to cover three months of normal church activities and £10 000 against any urgent repairs. They are currently above this as some money is held against the Lighthouse Annexe project completion and a possible VAT liability of £29 677.

## **ACCOUNTING POLICY**

The accounts 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 including as far as possible most Church activities being reported on a gross basis. Movable church furnishings are held on trust for the Council by the Churchwardens and would require faculty approval before removal. Accounts of the Men's Society, Hope Café, Men's and Ladies breakfasts are small and make no 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 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	2020
		£	£	£	£
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
Voluntary income	A	94148		94148	<i>100921</i>
Church activities	B	8732		8732	<i>7443</i>
Fund raising					
Income from investments	C	<u>47</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>286</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b><u>102927</u></b>	<b><u>33</u></b>	<b><u>102960</u></b>	<b><u>108650</u></b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>					
Church activities	D	105006		105006	<i>101085</i>
Fund raising					
Salaries		<u>2080</u>		<u>2080</u>	<u>2342</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b><u>107086</u></b>		<b><u>107086</u></b>	<b><u>103427</u></b>
NET INCOMING RES.		-4159	33	-4126	5223
Gains on investments			<u>217</u>	<u>217</u>	<u>76</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		<b><u>-4159</u></b>	<b><u>250</u></b>	<b><u>-3909</u></b>	<b><u>5299</u></b>
Transfer between acc.		-11	11		
BALANCES AT 1 JANUARY		<u>756257</u>	<u>2424</u>	<u>758681</u>	<u>753382</u>
BALANCES AT 31 DEC		<b><u>752087</u></b>	<b><u>2685</u></b>	<b><u>754772</u></b>	<b><u>758681</u></b>

### BALANCE SHEET 31 DECEMBER 2021

<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible asset – Lighthouse		684440		684440	<i>684440</i>
Investment assets			1731	1731	<i>1514</i>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Short term deposits	E	52022	954	52976	<i>52905</i>
Cash at banks	E	<u>15625</u>		<u>15625</u>	<u>19822</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b><u>752087</u></b>	<b><u>2685</u></b>	<b><u>754772</u></b>	<b><u>758681</u></b>

The notes A to F form part of the accounts

#### A Voluntary income

Planned giving					
Gift aid		63295		63295	<i>58786</i>
Tax recovered		14363		14363	<i>16780</i>
Other		6365		6365	<i>6580</i>
Collections		1771		1771	<i>1140</i>
Donations – general		2054		2054	<i>1908</i>
- Grant from Diocese					<i>2000</i>
- Covid lunches/food					<i>2586</i>
- curate		4300		4300	<i>11141</i>
Legacy		<u>2000</u>		<u>2000</u>	
		94148		94148	<i>100921</i>

#### B Church activities

Lighthouse		2267		2267	<i>2407</i>
Food sales		785		785	
Fees		<u>5680</u>		<u>5680</u>	<u>5036</u>
		8732		8732	<i>7443</i>

<b>C</b> Income from investments	£	£	£	£
Deposit account	27		27	220
Wayleave	20		20	20
War Memorial	<u>      </u>	<u>33</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>46</u>
	47	33	80	286

**D** Church activities

<b>Giving</b>				
Overseas missions	1000		1000	2000
Overseas development	3000		3000	2000
Home missions	2025		2025	2025
<b>Ministry</b>				
Parish share	61653		61653	61184
Circuit fee	4340		4340	3171
Other ministry costs	5663		5663	5713
Curate	4850		4850	2486
Church heat, light and water	3702		3702	3142
Church running and maint.	11001		11001	8390
Training	470		470	621
Lighthouse	4618		4618	5813
Food	14		14	1291
Administration	<u>2670</u>		<u>2670</u>	<u>3249</u>
	105006		105006	101085

During the year the ECC 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 members of the ECC, all supported by the necessary invoices.

**E** Cash balances at 31 December

Current account	6439		6439	10103
Deposit account	52022		52022	51995
Lighthouse	9186		9186	9719
War Memorial deposit		954	954	910
War Memorial 74 CBF shares	<u>      </u>	<u>1731</u>	<u>1731</u>	<u>1514</u>
	<b>67647</b>	<b>2685</b>	<b>70332</b>	<b>74241</b>

Approved by the Ecumenical Church Council at its meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Reverend Paul Withington  
Incumbent

John J C Freeman  
Hon treasurer