ST MARYS
NANTWICH

Notice

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners, for the purpose of electing Churchwardens, to be followed immediately by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, will be held in the Parish Church on Wednesday 22 April 2026

THE PARISH OF ST MARY NANTWICH
ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2025
3. Election of Churchwardens

THE PARISH OF ST MARY NANTWICH
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2025
3. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives
4. Election of PCC Representatives
5. Church Electoral Roll Report
6. Rector's Report
7. Treasurer's Report Including:
   Financial Statement and audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025
8. Churchwardens' Report
9. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church
10. PCC Secretary's Report
11. Deanery Synod Report
12. Safeguarding Report
13. Trustees' Annual Report
14. Appointment of Independent Examiner
15. Result of elections (if required)
16. Questions from Parishioners
17. Closing Prayer

ST MARYS
NANTWICH

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting of St Mary held on 7 May 2025 at 7.30 pm in the Church

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS
Chairman – Rev Dr Mark Hart

1/25 **OPENING PRAYER**
The meeting opened with prayer.

2/25 **MINUTES**
The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on 24 April 2024 had been approved by the PCC and were noted. These minutes had been made available on the church website.

3/25 **ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS**
Nominations had been received for Phil Boxhall and Paul O'Brien to act as Churchwardens, and their appointment was confirmed for 2025/26. They were both thanked for their work.

Chairman ..... Date 15th July 2025

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

4/25 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Apologies were received from Mike & Esther Harries, Paul & Gail Ramsey, Phil & Caryl Boxhall, David & Lynne Marsh, Janet Thompson.

5/25 **MINUTES**
The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 24 April 2024 had been approved by the PCC and were noted.

6/25 **ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS**
There were 5 vacancies for PCC Representatives – four for a 3-year term of office, and one for a year. Nominations had been received for Judith Pearson, Jane Knight, Debby Hallam, and (standing for one year) Geoffrey Pearson. Elections were therefore unnecessary, and the nominations were duly ACCEPTED. This left one vacancy for three years.
There were no Deanery Synod elections required this year.

7/25 **ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER'S REPORT**
Since the APCM in April 2024 when the electoral roll stood at 395 a total renewal had been instigated and the total now stood at 438. This reflected 19 known deaths (including that of Cliff Davies notified today), a further 96 names from the 2024 roll not (yet) registered but also 158 new registrations.

8/25 **TREASURER'S REPORT**
The Treasurer reported that the consolidated accounts for St Mary's had been made available in the Annual Report as published and available in hardcopy and on the church website.
Steve then spoke to the budget for 2024 and compared it with the actual expenditure and income as shown on the attached document. He outlined how the budget turned from a deficit to a near £4,000 surplus. As expenditure was £5,000 less than expected and the

DRAFT

anticipated income was exceeded by an increase in wedding fees, fund raising and church hire income.
The 2025 Budget has been set by the PCC anticipated "fairly flat" variations with a roughly break-even figure but highlighted the longer-term issue of the loss of rental income from our Hallam Drive property alongside the costs when a curate was appointed. This would potentially cost the PCC £14-£15,000 in the future years.
A question raised by Nick Hutt regarding item 13b of the Consolidated Accounts was answered by Bryan Coghlan.

9/25 **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR & INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**
The appointment of John Sheridan as auditor of the General Fund was ACCEPTED.
The appointment of Sarah Phipps as the Independent Examiner of the Consolidated Accounts was also APPROVED.

10/25 **CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT**
A written report had been presented in the Annual Report, with an additional report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church. The churchwardens were thanked for their dedication to their duties.

11/25 **PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT**
A written report presented in the Annual Report was qualified with the correction of the date of the election date for Bryan Coghlan to Diocesan Synod being until 2027.

12/25 **DEANERY SYNOD REPORT**
A summary of the activities of the Deanery Synod since the last APCM was presented in the Annual Report. The various representatives were thanked.

13/25 **SAFEGUARDING REPORT**
Reference was made to the Annual Report entry and Rector Mark highlighted the importance of this work done by Belinda Coghaln particularly with the ever-changing requirements that were necessarily incorporated. The PCC's thanks were expressed to Belinda.

14/25 **RECTOR'S REPORT**
The Rector indicated 3 headings for his report: Gratitude, Courage and Confidence.

- Gratitude: For the turnaround of the finances, church events such as concerts and other events including thousands of visitors during the Christmas Tree Festival.
  Also, gratitude for the individuals who have come to faith and new people who have come to St Marys, some of whom can be referenced in the 158 additions to the electoral roll.
  Thankful for the Preservation Trustees and the work on phase 1 of the North walls of the church reaching a conclusion.
  Grateful for the dedicated team including the staff, churchwardens and clergy.
- Courage: Noting that we need and have courage when the challenges arise, particularly
  - finances and the coming need for a stewardship appeal,
  - people resources and the various roles that need to be filled,
  - visitors centre and the work yet to be done.
- Confidence: In God, in the gospel
  We have the challenge of responding to the needs of individuals who contact us about baptism, confirmation and attending church.

We need to develop both new and the existing entry points to the church and to faith. We should have an expectation that people will find the gospel attractive. We just need to demonstrate our faith in Jesus Christ and his good news.

DRAFT

ST MARYS
NANTWICH

15/25 **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

- After receiving some enquiries from visitors, Chris Harris asked that some indication of the need for funding and the plans for phase 2 of the North Wall restoration be made available in church. Rector Mark said he would pass the suggestion on the Preservation Trustees.
- Jackie Ford expressed thanks to Mark for all his hard work and reminded the members present that we need to take care of our Rector and encouraged all to follow his example of reaching out to the town to show the love of God.

16/25 **CLOSING PRAYER**

The Rector thanked everyone for attending, and the meeting closed by sharing in the Grace.

Chairman ..... Date 15th July 2025

DRAFT

ST MARYS
NANTWICH

Church Electoral Roll Report

The Electoral Roll is the list of names and addresses of a church's membership, aged 16+. Every person listed on the roll is eligible to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

The roll is renewed every six years. 2025 was a complete renewal of the roll.

454 names on the Electoral Roll as at the 2026 APCM.

439 names on the Electoral Roll as at the 2025 APCM.

34 names added since the APCM on 7th May 2025.

1 person has recently moved away.

1 person counted twice (*2 forms filled in differently for same person - hyphenated name*).

17 names removed on the departed listed below.

Rest in Peace. The following were members of the Electoral Roll at the 2025 APCM.

Davies	Clifford Leon	Mr
Edge	Diana Rathbone	Miss
Eyres	Dennis	Mr
Hodgkison	Keith	Mr
Worsley	Marian	Mrs
Johnson	Ann Rosemary	Mrs
Myott	Mary	Mrs
Ford	Walter George	Mr
Ross	Phyllis Joyce	Ms
Billing	Keith Arnold	Mr
Relton	Dorothy Mary	Mrs
Smith	Ian Barrett	Mr
Metcalfe	Anthony Alan	Mr
Corbett	John	Mr
Stalker	Hilda Ann Patricia	Mrs
Johnson	Rita Jane	Mrs
Kitchin	Dilys Ruth	Mrs

Gail Johnson, Electoral Roll Officer, 7th April 2026

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

NANTWICH

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

FOR 2025

Produced for the Annual Church Meeting

22nd APRIL 2026

By

Steve Lockett, PCC Treasurer

Auditor

Mr John Sheridan

PCC OF ST.MARY NANTWICH
INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.25

		2025		2024
Stewardship	98,017.81		103,021.07	
Income Tax Refund	25,742.79	123,760.60	24,969.75	127,990.82
Loose Plate		14,523.68		15,327.01
CAF Donation Site		2,321.60		3,454.02
Card Donations in Church		9,885.40		7,729.00
Fees PCC		17,145.00		24,828.00
Verger/Orgast Fees		9,742.00		14,270.00
Church Box		6,862.39		6,302.00
Magazine Receipts		1,467.40		2,212.00
Other Collections		10,105.69		3,135.83
Fundraising Events		20,328.85		19,713.52
Gifts/Donations		5,292.69		5,339.44
Dividends/Interest		414.54		425.84
Sundries		1,587.64		1,274.25
Church Hire		6,323.64		5,705.00
Hallam Drive Rental		10,957.81		10,176.60
		240,718.93		247,883.33
Excess of Expenditure over Income		3,955.50		
		244,674.43		247,883.33

PCC OF ST.MARY NANTWICH
EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.25

	2025	2024
Mission PCC	6,000.00	6,000.00
Parish Share	77,604.72	75,344.40
Clergy Expenses	3,240.00	3,520.00
Salaries	63,742.03	62,532.14
Rates	4,660.51	5,444.70
Gas/Electricity	12,595.93	15,602.28
Insurance	12,348.24	11,973.54
Telephone	1,017.58	1,271.68
General Maintenance	7,751.02	7,658.93
Rental Shortfall Reserve	3,000.00	3,000.00
Parish Office	2,630.62	2,633.18
Magazine Production	1,992.72	2,004.98
Parish Hall Trustees	10,800.00	10,800.00
Curate's House	6,984.96	7,996.57
Other Collections	10,105.69	3,135.83
Choir & Music Expenses	658.04	1,311.32
Childrens Work	1,577.13	1,147.60
Bread Wine & Candles	2,603.33	2,650.98
Verger'Organist Fees	9,742.00	14,270.00
Copier	2,577.52	2,554.47
Churches Together in Nantwich	400.00	400.00
Servers Expenses	0.00	0.00
Sundries	2,148.46	2,114.86
Bank Charges	493.93	527.04
Training	0.00	0.00
	244,674.43	243,894.50
Surplus of Income over Expenditure		3,988.83
	244,674.43	247,883.33

PCC OF ST.MARY NANTWICH
BALANCE SHEET @ 31.12.25

		2025		2024
GENERAL FUND				
Bank Current Account		40,645.78		43,192.06
Bank Deposit Account		252.96		3,598.40
DEBTORS				
Church Hire	1,621.00		750.00	
Gas Contributions	4,456.63		5,583.68	
Card Machine	1,253.40			
Tom Seales Concert			1,427.88	
Christmas Tree Festival	6,127.97		5,993.36	
Lion's Brass Concert	424.01			
VAT Refund	646.83			
		14,529.84		13,754.92
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Quinta Weekend			889.18	
Gas & Electric	1,624.88		2,897.00	
Advance Rent Hallams Drive Cfwd				
Salary Increases				
Mission Support	6,000.00		5,000.00	
		-7,624.88		-8,786.18
		47,803.70		51,759.20
REPRESENTED BY				
Opening Surplus		51,759.20		47,770.37
Add/(Deduct) surplus or (deficit) for year		-3,955.50		3,988.83
		47,803.70		51,759.20
OTHER FUNDS HELD				
Bourne Fund		4,402.54		4,369.98
Curates House Fund		18,235.24		16,218.47
Place of Welcome		2,594.83		1,569.56
Youth Project				440.00

Examined 16/2/2026
and reported on by K.J. Sheridan F.C.C.A.

PCC OF ST MARY NANTWICH
BUDGET 2025 COMPARISON TO ACTUALS

EXPENDITURE	BUDGET 2025	ACTUAL 2025	VARIANCE
PCC Mission	6000	6000	**0**
Parish Share	77605	77605	0
Clergy Expenses	3490	3240	**250**
Salaries	63000	63742	-742
Magazine Deficit		526	-526
Training	250		**250**
Rates	4500	4660	-160
Insurance	12300	12348	-48
Telephone	1250	1017	**233**
General Maintenance	9500	7751	**1749**
Rental Shortfall Reserve	3000	3000	0
Gas/Electricity	14000	12596	**1404**
Parish Office	2000	2631	-631
Curate's House	7000	6985	**15**
Choir/Music	1250	658	**592**
Childrens Work	1500	1577	-77
Churches Together in Nantwich	400	400	0
Parish Hall	10800	10800	0
Copier	3000	2578	**422**
Sundries	4500	4751	-251
Servers			**0**
Bank Charges	600	494	**106**
	225945	223359	**2586**

INCOME	BUDGET 2025	ACTUAL 2025	VARIANCE
Stewardship	130000	123761	-6239
Loose Plate	15500	14524	-976
Fees	20000	17145	-2855
Church Box	6500	6862	**362**
CAF Donation Site	3500	2321	-1179
Card Donations in Church	8000	9885	**1885**
Gifts	6000	5293	-707
Fund Raising	20000	20329	**329**
Dividends	375	415	**40**
Sundries	1500	1587	**87**
Magazine Surplus	250		-250
Church Hire	5750	6324	**574**
Hallam Drive Rental	9000	10958	**1958**
	226375	219404	-6971

2025 Budget Surplus	430
Expense underspend	2586
Income increase	-6971
2025 Deficit	-3955

PCC OF ST MARY NANTWICH
BUDGET 2026

EXPENDITURE	BUDGET 2025	ACTUAL 2025	BUDGET 2026
PCC Mission	6000	6000	6000
Parish Share	77605	77605	79933
Clergy Expenses	3490	3240	3240
Salaries	63000	63742	65000
Magazine Deficit		526	
Training	250		250
Rates	4500	4660	4800
Insurance	12300	12348	12976
Telephone	1250	1017	1250
General Maintenance	9500	7751	8500
Rental Shortfall Reserve	3000	3000	3000
Gas/Electricity	14000	12596	12000
Parish Office	2000	2631	2750
Curate's House	7000	6985	7500
Choir/Music	1250	658	1250
Childrens Work	1500	1577	1500
Churches Together in Nantwich	400	400	
Parish Hall	10800	10800	10800
Copier	3000	2578	3000
Sundries	4500	4751	4500
Servers			200
Bank Charges	600	494	500
	225945	223359	228949

INCOME	BUDGET 2025	ACTUAL 2025	BUDGET 2026
Stewardship	130000	123761	127000
Loose Plate	15500	14524	15000
Fees	20000	17145	16100
Church Box	6500	6862	7000
CAF Donation Site	3500	2321	2500
Card Donations in Church	8000	9885	14000
Gifts	6000	5293	5500
Fund Raising	20000	20329	20000
Dividends	375	415	400
Sundries	1500	1587	1500
Magazine Surplus	250		
Church Hire	5750	6324	6500
Rent Hallam Drive	9000	10958	12000
Shortfall from Funds		3955	1449
Surplus to Funds	430		
	225945	223359	228949

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Nantwich, Cheshire.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

of the

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

For the year ended 31st December 2025

Charity number 1130903

Incumbent:

The Rector is Rev. Dr. Mark Hart

Independent Examiner

Mrs Sarah K. Phipps.
9,Dysart Buildings,
Nantwich,
Cheshire. CW5 5DW.

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Nantwich, Cheshire.

Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31st December 2025

INDEX

	Page
Independent Examiner's Report	2.
Statement of Financial Activities	3.
Balance Sheet	4.
Notes to the Financial Statements	5 to 10.

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	The Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Nantwich Cheshire		
On accounts for the year ended	31st December 2025	**Charity no (if any)**	1130903
Set out on pages	03 to 10		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2025

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the CIMA

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:	S Phipps.	**Date:**	20/04/2026
Name:	Sarah K. Phipps		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	Chartered Institute of Management Accountants		
Address:	9, Dysart Buildings, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 5DW		

Section B	Disclosure
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).
Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	

The Parochial Church Council of St. Mary, Nantwich, Cheshire.

Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31st December 2025

Incoming Resources

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	*Total 2024*
		£	£	£	£
Voluntary Income	2a	162,646	152,989	315,636	*237,311*
Funds Generation	2b	21,796	1,843	23,640	*28,751*
Investments	2c	466	4,855	5,321	*9,291*
Church Activities	2d	34,351	970	35,321	*47,940*
Special Collections	2e	-	-	-	-
Other Income	2f	18,869	50	18,919	*17,193*
Total Incoming Resources		**238,128**	**160,707**	**398,835**	***340,486***
Resources Expended					
Grants	3a	6,400	3,000	9,400	*9,952*
Church Activities	3b	129,698	168,175	297,873	*315,636*
Administration	3c	99,739	1,094	100,833	*104,208*
Total Resources Expended		**235,837**	**172,269**	**408,106**	***429,796***
Net Incoming (Outgoing) Resources		**2,291**	**(11,562)**	**(9,271)**	***(89,310)***
Transfers between Funds	11	**(5,423)**	**5,423**	**-**	**-**
Net Movement of Funds		**(3,132)**	**(6,139)**	**(9,271)**	***(89,310)***
Balance brought forward at 1st January 2025		**57,734**	**284,200**	**341,934**	***431,244***
Balance carried forward at 31st December 2025		**54,602**	**278,061**	**332,663**	***341,934***

The Parochial Church Council of St. Mary, Nantwich, Cheshire.

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed Assets			
Fixed Assets	1b	207,000	207,000
Investment Assets	4	-	-
Current Assets			
Stock	5	1,521	2,272
Stone for New Shop Floor	6	2,520	2,520
Debtors and Prepayments	7	14,530	13,755
Bank Accounts	8	206,224	218,883
Cash in Hand		172	186
Total Assets		**431,966**	**444,616**
Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year			
Creditors and Accruals	9	7,795	9,352
Liabilities: Amounts falling due after one year			
Mortgage on the Curate's House	10	91,508	93,330
Total Liabilities		**99,303**	**102,682**
Total Net Assets		**332,663**	**341,934**
Funds			
Restricted.	11	278,061	284,200
Unrestricted	12	54,602	57,734
Total Funds		**332,663**	**341,934**

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 17th March 2026
and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Rev. Dr. Mark Hart. Rector of Nantwich

.....
Mr. Steve Lockett PCC Treasurer

The Parochial Church Council of St. Mary, Nantwich, Cheshire.

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st December 2025

1.Accounting Policies

1a. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and Charities Statement of Recommended Practice(SORP 2005). As in previous years the PCC accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis. This means that the cost of goods and services is accounted for in the year they were supplied even if payment was not made until the following year.

1b. We are required to produce a balance sheet which includes the value of fixed assets, any assets that are considered to have a limited useful life will be depreciated. It is not considered necessary to depreciate any fixed assets this year. Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts under the Charities Act 2011. The purchase of nearly all other assets have, in the past effectively been written off in the year of purchase. The exception is the Curates House which is valued at cost.

2. Incoming Resources

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	*Total 2024 £*
2a	**Voluntary Income**				
	Stewardship	98,018		98,018	*103,021*
	Gift Aid	25,743		25,743	*24,970*
	Loose Plate	14,524		14,524	*15,327*
	Church Box (Cash & Card)	16,748	8,783	25,531	*21,501*
	Grants - Nantwich Town Council		1,000	1,000	*1,000*
	Nantwich Parish Church Preservation Appeal Trust		92,504	92,504	*54,499*
	Garfield Weston Foundation		40,000	40,000	-
	Bequests		7,952	7,952	*7,000*
	Gifts and Donations	7,614	2,750	10,364	*9,993*
	TOTAL	**162,646**	**152,989**	**315,636**	***237,311***
2b	**Funds Generation**				
	Church Magazine	1,467	-	1,467	*2,212*
	Visitors Centre Income before interest		1,843	1,843	*6,825*
	Fairs and Fundraising Events	20,329	-	20,329	*19,714*
	TOTAL	**21,796**	**1,843**	**23,640**	***28,751***
2c	**Investments**				
	Dividends and Interest	466	4,855	5,321	*9,291*
	TOTAL	**466**	**4,855**	**5,321**	***9,291***
2d	**Church Activities**				
	PCC Fees	17,145		17,145	*24,828*
	Verger & Organist Fees	9,742		9,742	*14,270*
	Place of Welcome	1,025		1,025	*840*
	Mums &Tots		690	690	*1,150*
	Flowers - Contributions and Donations	-	280	280	*690*
	Lunchtime Concerts	6,439		6,439	*6,162*
	TOTAL	**34,351**	**970**	**35,321**	***47,940***
2e	**Special Collections**				
	Mission	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL	-	-	-	-
2f	**Other Income**				
	Church Hire	6,324		6,324	*5,705*
	Curates House Rental Income	10,958		10,958	*10,177*
	Sundries	1,588	50	1,638	*1,311*
	TOTAL	**18,869**	**50**	**18,919**	**17,193**
	Total Incoming Resources	**238,128**	**160,707**	**398,835**	**340,486**

The Parochial Church Council of St. Mary, Nantwich, Cheshire.

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st December 2025

3.Resources Expended

			Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	*Total 2024*
			£	£	£	£
3a	**Grants to....**					
	Mission: from PCC		6,000		6,000	*6,000*
	Churches together in Nantwich		400		400	*400*
	Nantwich Parish Church Preservation Appeal Trust		-	3,000	3,000	*3,552*
	TOTAL		**6,400**	**3,000**	**9,400**	***9,952***
3b	**Church Activities**					
	Parish Share		77,605		77,605	*75,344*
	Clergy Expenses		3,240		3,240	*3,520*
	Council Tax		4,661		4,661	*5,445*
	Gas/Electricity		12,596		12,596	*15,602*
	Insurance		11,898		11,898	*11,564*
	Telephone		1,018		1,018	*1,272*
	General Maintenance		7,751		7,751	*7,659*
	Flowers & Associated Costs			114	114	*499*
	Visitor Centre Expenditure	on trading		2,099	2,099	*3,089*
		on development		-	-	-
	Restoration Work on Church	193,921			-	
	Less: Listed Place of Worship Grants	(32,077)		161,844	161,844	*178,372*
	Development Work in Church		-	3,397	3,397	*1,729*
	Choir and Music Expenses		658	-	658	*1,311*
	Children's Work		1,577	440	2,017	*1,148*
	Mums &Tots		-	280	280	*1,060*
	Lunchtime Concert Expenses		6,091		6,091	*5,372*
	Bread, Wine and Candles		2,603		2,603	*2,651*
	Servers Expenses		-		-	-
	Training		-	-	-	-
	TOTAL		**129,698**	**168,175**	**297,873**	***315,636***
3c	**Administration**					
	Lay Employees		63,742		63,742	*62,532*
	Fees Organist & Verger		9,742		9,742	*14,270*
	Printing/Postage/Stationery		2,631		2,631	*2,633*
	Church Office Rent		6,970		6,970	*6,970*
	Contribution to Church House running costs		3,830		3,830	*3,830*
	Curates House - Mortgage Interest		5,162		5,162	*5,261*
	- Insurance		450		450	*410*
	- Repairs		-	1,094	1,094	*1,012*
	Bank Charges		494		494	*527*
	Copier		2,578		2,578	*2,554*
	Magazine Printing and Editing		1,993		1,993	*2,005*
	Sundries		2,148	-	2,148	*2,204*
	TOTAL		**99,739**	**1,094**	**100,833**	**104,208**
	Total Resources Expended		***235,837***	***172,269***	***408,106***	***429,796***

The Parochial Church Council of St. Mary, Nantwich, Cheshire.

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st December 2025

4. Investments

2025	2024
£	£
0	0

There are a small number of ancient investments in Government Stock and CBF accounts that are not included in these accounts. They have a cost of approximately £3,000. The PCC plans to sell these investments at an appropriate time in the coming years.

5. Stock.

2025	2024
£	£
1,521	2,272

The stock is all relating to the Visitor's Centre. It is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. The stock represents less than 2 years normal cost of sales.

6. Stock of Stone.

2025	2024
£	£
2,520	2,520

In preparation for development of a Visitor Centre inside the Church the opportunity was taken to purchase some matching stone when it was available.

7. Debtors and Prepayments

(All General Fund)

	2025	2024
	£	£
Unpaid Church Hire	1,621	750
Card Machine	1,253	-
Tom Seals Concert	-	1,428
Gas Contributions	4,457	5,584
Christmas Tree Festival	6,128	5,993
Lions' Brass Concert	424	-
Listed Places of Worship Grant	647	-
TOTAL	14,530	13,755

8.Bank Accounts

	Current Accounts	Deposit Accounts	TOTAL 2025	TOTAL 2024
	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds				
Bourne Fund		4,403	4,403	4,370
Church Flower Arrangers Fund		5,532	5,532	5,180
Mums & Tots Fund		3,546	3,546	5,952
Curate's House Fund		18,235	18,235	16,218
Restoration and Development Fund	10,879	64,288	75,167	85,926
Visitor's Centre Fund (shop)	6,787	34,911	41,698	38,045
Education Fund		9,776	9,776	9,421
Youth Project - Palin	-	-	-	440
TOTAL	17,666	140,691	158,357	165,552
Unrestricted Funds				
General Fund	40,646	253	40,899	46,790
Place of Welcome	2,595		2,595	1,570
Lunchtime Concert Fund	159	4,215	4,374	4,971
TOTAL	43,400	4,468	47,868	53,331
Total Bank Accounts	61,065	145,159	206,224	218,883

Deposit Accounts include those held at the NatWest Bank , YBS and COIF
The Current Accounts are held at the NatWest Bank.

The Parochial Church Council of St. Mary, Nantwich, Cheshire.

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st December 2025

9. Creditors and Accruals

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	*Total 2024*
	£	£	£	£
Performing Rights Society - Lunchtime Concerts	-		-	*10*
Performing Rights Society - Candlelight Concerts	-		-	*341*
Chorister Fees for December	-		-	*50*
Cheetham's School	170		170	*165*
Quinta Weekend			-	*889*
Gas and Electric	1,625		1,625	*2,897*
Mission Support 2024	6,000		6,000	*5,000*
TOTAL	**7,795**	**-**	**7,795**	***9,352***

10.Mortgage on Curate's House

The Curates House at 22, Beatty Road was sold in July 2018 for £229,000 resulting in £80,921 accruing to the PCC.
We purchased a new Curates House at 12, Hallams Drive in July 2019. The purchase price was £207,000
The purchase was achieved by taking a mortgage of £130,000 from Methodist Chapel Aid Ltd (MCA) ,
supported by a contribution of £77,000 from the PCC / Curates House Fund

11.Restricted Funds

	b/f 1st January 2025	Income	Expenditure	Transfer from / (to) Other Funds	c/f 31st December 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Bourne Fund	4,370	33	-	-	4,403
Church Flower Arrangers Fund	5,366	452	114	-	5,704
Mums &Tots Fund	5,952	874	3,280	-	3,546
Curate's House Fund	129,890	111	1,094	4,823	133,730
Restoration & Development Fund	85,925	153,882	165,241	600	75,166
Visitor's Centre Fund (Church Shop)	42,837	5,001	2,099	-	45,739
Education Fund	9,421	355	-	-	9,776
Youth Project - Palin	440	-	440	-	-
Total Restricted Funds	**284,200**	**160,707**	**172,269**	**5,423**	**278,061**

12.Unrestricted Funds

	b/f 1st January 2025	Income	Expenditure	Transfer from/(to) Other Funds	c/f 31st December 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	51,759	230,613	229,746	(4,823)	47,804
Place of Welcome Fund	1,570	1,025	-	-	2,595
Lunchtime Concert Fund	4,405	6,490	6,091	(600)	4,204
Total Unrestricted Funds	**57,734**	**238,128**	**235,837**	**(5,423)**	**54,602**

Transfers between funds are as follows:-

£600 from the **Lunchtime Concert Fund** to the embryo Organ Fund held in the **R&D Fund.**

£1,823 being capital repaid on the MCA Mortgage from the **General Fund** to the **Curates House Fund.**

£3,000 from the **General Fund** to the **Curates House Fund** in preparation for the next Curate when there may be no rental income from the Curate's House, for up to 30 months

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st December 2025

13. Notes on Funds

Restricted

13(a). The Bourne Fund.

A local family established this fund to provide flowers for the Church where appropriate.

13(b). The Curate's House Fund.

This fund was established to provide for the maintenance and decoration of the house. At the beginning of 2019 it held the proceeds of sale of the Curates House at 22 Beatty Road. These funds were used as a deposit on a new Curates House, 12, Hallams Drive, in July 2019.

This fund can be analysed as follows: -	2025		2024	
Deposit on Purchase	£77,000		£77,000	
Capital repayments brought forward	36,671		34,947	
Capital repayments in the year	1,823	38,494	1,724	36,671
Funds on deposit		18,235		16,218
TOTAL		**£133,730**		**£129,890**

13(c). The Restoration and Development Fund (R&D Fund)

The PCC have determined the R&D Fund should maintain a minimum balance of £40,000 to cover emergencies.
During 2025 £193,921 *(£210,462 – 2024)* was spent on Phase 1 of the restoration. £40,000 was received from the Garfield Weston Foundation and £92,504 (£54,499 – 2024) from the NPCPAT (see note 13L) The remainder of the funds were provided from the fund's resources including donations during the year.
Held within the fund is the balance of the Moira Blakemore Legacy of £10,748. This will eventually be used for development purposes, funding further IT / technical upgrades and replacement Muniment Boards dedicated to her memory.

13(d). The Visitor's Centre Fund.

This activity was originally started to generate funds for the R&D Fund. This is done by operating the Church Shop and providing refreshments for visitors. This fund will now be used to part finance the creation of a Visitor Centre including a small shop in the Church hopefully in 2027 or 2028, funds permitting.

13(e). The Education Fund

This fund originated from the sale, by the Diocese, of the Church of England School in the town. The Diocese allocated a small part of the sale price to the PCC, the capital of which is held to generate income to be used for educational purposes.

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st December 2025

13(f). The Lyon Restoration Fund
The £45,933 held in this fund was used for Phase 1 of the restoration project in 2024. Consequently, the fund is now closed.

13(g). The Church Flower Arrangers Fund.
This fund receives donations towards and pays for flowers to decorate the Church.

13(h). Mums & Tots
Mums, Dads, and carers with their pre-school age children meet once a week in the Parish Hall for fun activities, tea, coffee, and a chat.
The Church adopted this activity and its associated fund in 2021

Unrestricted

13(i). The Summer Lunchtime Concert Fund
This activity organises Lunchtime concerts during the Summer on a Thursday. They are mostly well attended and raise finance, for the music activity and other needs of the Church as determined by the PCC.

13(j). Place of Welcome Fund
The provision of a welcome, soup and a sandwich on a Friday Lunchtime and is well attended. Any surplus funds generated by donation are passed to the General Fund for use by the Church.

Endowments

The Church has no endowment funds.

Funds not under the control of the PCC

13(k). The Church House, Nantwich. Reg No 1177087
This is a charity charged with the care of the building known both as Church House, Nantwich and as the Parish Hall. The trustees manage the building and associated assets for the benefit of St Mary's Church, Nantwich, and the wider community. The Charity had excepted status until 2018 at which time it registered with the Charity Commission.

13(l). The Nantwich Parish Church Preservation Appeal Trust. Reg No: 507911
The object of this charity is the raising and administering of funds for the preservation, restoration, and repair of the fabric of St Mary's Parish Church Nantwich Cheshire. They are currently raising funds for Phase 2 of the restoration of the external North Wall and East End elevations of the Church; Phase 1 being completed in September 2025.

13(m). The Nantwich Churchwardens' Merged Charities Reg No. 216367
This charity was established to provide relief to residents of the Parish of Nantwich who are in need, hardship, or distress.

Report to APCM on 22nd April 2026.

Churchwardens Report

It's the time of year when as a church we reflect on the last year. We have much to be thankful to God for.

There are 5 main services every Sunday and they have different congregations. As a churchwarden attending every service is a challenge too far. As those who regularly attend the 8.00am Communion Service I start my Sunday mornings by fare-welling them at the door; it's been a real joy to get to know some of them better this year. The 9.30 and 10.45 services remain the main Sunday services and due their format attract different people to the congregations. I greatly enjoy both services and benefit from them.

Every Sunday there are visitors to St. Mary's and I see part of my role being to welcome them and ensure they feel at home. May I ask you to do that too? Sidespeople too are at the "front of house" and I'm truly appreciative of their work before and after services. I must also thank Mike Harries for his faithful services in the north aisle assisting people to communion and for the Chris, Steve and Beth who stand in for me when I'm away. We are now in need of more sidespeople due to a number no longer being available so please have a word with me or mention it on your response to the Growing in Grace booklet.
Church isn't just about Sundays and I am often there during the week. It's something very special when churches are open during the day to receive visitors and it's been my privilege to get to know some of the stewards better this year. They do a fantastic job welcoming visitors and telling them about the church past and present.
In Galatians 5 v 10 we read – "Therefore, as we have opportunity let us do good to all people, especially those who belong to the family of believers."

Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

Alongside the regular servicing of mechanical and electrical systems by contractors it has been of great assistance this year to have a group of skilled people to call upon to carry out practical tasks. My thanks to: Ernie Charlton, Alan Joslyn, Nick Kennedy, Nick Leftley, Paul Oliver, Geoffrey and Judith Pearson, Alan Thompson for their help at various times and in various place. The completion of the latest phase of external restoration brought with it the need to thoroughly clean the low and high levels internally. Many willingly gave their time and energy to this task. Also thanks to Stefan Zientek and David Allman who do so much unseen work in the tower and on the roof of the church.

Inside the church much is done by a group of dedicated cleaners some of whom would now appreciate being able to pass on this responsibility to a younger generation.
Lastly thanks to Paul O'Brien my fellow warden to whom I defer on most things M & E. To him thanks for keeping things going and in so doing saving us considerable costs of employing contractors, a good example of this is the heating to the south porch.
Many others could be named and thanks to everyone who cares for St. Marys.

Phil Boxhall

PCC Secretary's Report

This report covers the period between the Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCM) May 2025 and April 2026. At the end of the year the number of Parochial Church Council members (who are all therefore trustees) stands at 22.

There were 8 full Council meetings during the year, including the short meeting immediately following the APCM. Some business was also done by e-mail between meetings where necessary.

The Rector together with the two churchwardens, treasurer and two members of the PCC formed the Standing Committee which usually met monthly to plan the agenda and to progress PCC matters as required.

The PCC has a Parish Safeguarding Officer (Belinda Coghlan) overseeing safeguarding for activities with both children and vulnerable adults. The PCC is grateful to Belinda for her hard work and ongoing commitment in helping to make sure that St. Mary's complies with the continually changing requirements, as well as conducting the required review of Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults policies. The various risk assessments for special activities, as well as those for general church activities, are routinely reviewed by the PCC.

Regular reports on the church finances are supplied to the PCC by the Treasurers of the General and the Restoration & Development Funds supporting the challenge of maintaining a balance of income against expenditure. The PCC is grateful to all in the ministry team and volunteers who work hard to make sure that the many services and variety of activities at St. Mary's continue to operate and develop in our service to the local community.

Beth Roberts (PCC Secretary)

The PCC May 2025-April 2026

Ex-Officio Members

Rev Dr Mark Hart*	Incumbent & Chairman
Rev Dot Woods	Assistant Priest
Mary Harris	Pastoral Worker
Philip Boxhall *	Churchwarden
Paul O'Brien *	Churchwarden

Elected Member of General Synod until 2026
Jan Allotey

Elected Member of Diocesan Synod until 2026
Bryan Coghlan*

Elected Members of Deanery Synod until APCM 2026
Gill Appleton
Ernie Charlton
Steve Lockett *
Pat Stalker (until March 2026)

Elected to serve until APCM 2026
Geoffrey Pearson
Beth Roberts *
Robert Sivocha
Janet Thompson

Co-opted to serve until APCM 2026
Belinda Coghlan
Evelyn Davies-Jones (until October 2025)

Elected to serve until APCM 2027
Anna Burton
Emma Kennedy
Helen Shorrock
Jan Virr

Elected to serve until APCM 2028
Debby Hallam
Jane Knight
Judith Pearson

* Standing Committee Members

Nantwich Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod is part of the way the Church of England gives people at various levels a chance to discuss key issues and organise the church's ministry and mission. It sits between the parishes with their PCCs and the full Diocese, with its Diocesan Synod. The Synod meets three times a year, visiting various parts of the Deanery, and its business is organised by a small Standing Committee, which includes both clergy and lay members. Meetings include:

- visiting speakers, sometimes from the Diocese, sometimes from other organisations
- reports of Diocesan and General Synods
- sharing new developments and good practice
- financial matters including Parish Share.
- Safeguarding issues and developments.

On **5th June 2025** we met at **St James the Great, Audlem** We received an interesting and inspiring talk from Jim Ellis, a retired lawyer, and now the Diocesan Waterways Chaplain. Jim explained what they do.

Their values are encapsulated in **Micah 6.v8**. ***To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.***

They partner with local churches but minister outside the church. "Minister to everyone we meet."

Among other things they advocate, visit, talk, listen, mediate, and signpost to foodbanks, coal, authorities, prayer.

They do not go on boats. They give support with a wide range of issues and problems such as mental health, finance (e.g. access to benefits), isolation, alcoholism, access to healthcare. (21% of boaters have disabilities) and various long term issues.

We were supposed to meet at **St Peters Leighton-Cum-Minshall Vernon** on **19th November 2025**, but due to the short notice sickness of the speaker and the inclement weather the Synod was cancelled.

We gathered at **St Marks Shavington** on the **9th February 2026.** The speaker who was ill for the cancelled November meeting, Nadine Lewis, Community Engagement Manager of Chance Changing Lives gave us a talk on her charity's activities.

Based in Crewe, they offer practical help with dignity, compassion, and care. Their services include access to low-cost food through their Community Pantry, free hot meals at their **Saturday Kitchen**, and seasonal support such as Christmas food and gift packages for families. Whether someone is struggling to make ends meet, needs a warm meal, or just a friendly face, they will find support and understanding at Chance Changing Lives.

In the coming months, the Deanery Synods in the Diocese will elect to the **General Synod** seven PCC members from across the Diocese.

Our next Deanery Synod will be on **4th June 2026** at **St Matthews, Haslington.**

Bryan Coghlan.
Lay Chair, Nantwich Deanery Synod.

Safeguarding

SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

National Safeguarding Standards - St. Mary's commits to good practice by following the Church of England's five safeguarding standards, these being under the broad headings of: **1) Culture Leadership and Capacity, 2) Prevention, 3) Recognising, Assessing and Managing Risk, 4) Victims and Survivors, 5) Learning, Supervision and Support.**

Through the year the PCC have discussed each standard in depth, planning action for improvement. The standards are displayed on the noticeboard in church, with one of the five different standards being displayed each month.

Safeguarding today at St. Mary's – St. Mary's safeguarding leads (myself and the Rector) and the PCC take the responsibility of those in our care very seriously, working hard to encourage all who attend St. Mary's to share that responsibility, creating a culture of all being responsible for safeguarding others. We perceive St. Mary's safeguarding culture to be improving each year, as we strive to ensure good practice in every area of safeguarding, always being careful to assess risk.
The PCC has complied with the duty to have "due regard" to the House of Bishops' guidance in relation to safeguarding, adopting their policies and good practice guidance and regularly revisiting them as required. New national safeguarding polices are due to be issued by the House of Bishops within the next few months. These will replace 'Promoting a Safer Church' and the 'Parish Safeguarding Handbook' which were withdrawn in June 2025.

Safe Recruitment - Many will be familiar with 'safe recruitment', a process for those who volunteer to work with children, vulnerable adults, or have significant public facing responsibility (e.g. stewards) and frequently come into contact with the vulnerable. The process ensures that these volunteers are checked, trained and have a good understanding of safeguarding before they start to volunteer. There are 101 safely recruited volunteers within St. Mary's, of which 60 have Disclosure and Barring Service checks. 11 volunteers have taken up new roles this year.

Safeguarding Training - The C of E Learning and Development Policy sets out strict requirements for training of different levels and types to be undertaken by many volunteers either online or face to face. There are 126 people at St. Mary's who have completed the required core training level. This improves safeguarding culture and helps St. Mary's to become as safe a church as possible. There is an additional requirement for some volunteers to complete Awareness of Domestic Abuse safeguarding training. During the past year, 64 people have done this. The Rector and I complete Safer Recruitment and People Management training. A face to face training, facilitated by the diocese, was held in January with 17 volunteers attending.

Parish Safeguarding Dashboard and Hub - As Parish Safeguarding Officer I manage these online recording systems The Dashboard is up to date, and the Safeguarding Hub is always a work in progress! The Diocese can access these systems to monitor our compliance with safeguarding standards, policies, recruitment and training.

Speak Out Stay Safe - This is a safeguarding campaign, launched by the Diocese of Chester in June 2025, to create a safer environment in churches by encouraging people to report concerns. The aim is to encourage everyone to take responsibility and be proactive to keep each other safe. 'Speak Out Stay Safe' is a very simple message, it is by people speaking out, that we will be able to do our best to make St. Mary's Church a safe space for everyone. We have displayed posters, given new pocket cards to all volunteers and made people aware of this initiative.



Concerns, Response and Reporting - The PCC approve and adopt a 'Reporting of Safeguarding Concerns' procedure annually, which all volunteers are aware of, and which can be found on the website. The Rector and I respond to perceived/alleged safeguarding issues and incidents, reports of those who are the subject of concern and those who pose a risk to others. These are acted upon as a priority and reported to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team (DST) as required. Communication with the DST, is essential in order to obtain the necessary advice and support to enable us to take action to keep those in St. Mary's as safe as possible. Safeguarding issues and situations do arise at St. Mary's. Please be vigilant and report any concerns regarding the safety of children and vulnerable adults to me or the Rector. **All church members are responsible for safeguarding.** Please take time to read the information displayed in church and the Parish Hall or visit the safeguarding pages of our website.

Belinda Coghlan – Parish Safeguarding Officer **April 2026**

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Nantwich
Registered Charity Number 1130903
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31 December 2025

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

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. The PCC seeks to enable parishioners to live out their faith as part of our growing parish community and is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our 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

Alongside Rev Dr Mark Hart (Rector), Rev Dorothy Woods serves as Assistant Priest We also have a Youth and Children's Worker, Susie Phillips, and during her maternity leave have employed Graham Christopher. We continue to be well supported by a dedicated team of lay leaders, retired ministers, and office staff, who assist in maintaining the ongoing ministry of St Mary's.

Property

A house in Stapeley, Nantwich, owned by St Mary's, either accommodates a curate or is let. St Mary's and All Saints churchyards continues to be maintained by Cheshire East and are closed to new burial plots.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

A total renewal the electoral roll membership took place prior to April 2025 resulting in the roll standing at 438. A net increase of 43 new registrations since April 2024

A range of services is offered on a Sunday, during the week and over the course of the year. These activities gather our community together for different forms of worship and provide opportunities to invite others to join us.

The usual timetable for public worship on Sunday is:-

8am	Holy Communion
9:30am	All Age Worship
10:45am	Holy Communion
2.30pm	Holy Baptism (1st & 3rd Sundays)
3pm	Afternoon Prayer or Holy Communion (Richmond Village)
3pm	Seniors' Lounge (2nd Sunday) This finished in December 2025
3.30pm	Holy Baptism (1st & 3rd Sundays)
6pm	Evensong
7.15pm	Encounter (1st & 3rd Sundays)

The Sunday 9.30am and 10.45am services are normally live-streamed and available online. Particular thanks are due to the ministry team and technical staff who work so hard to ensure that services are made widely accessible.

The average weekly attendance (October count) was 406 adults and 35 children. A total of 2208 people attended services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The occasional offices ministry continues to be a significant part of our outreach, with regular baptisms and weddings. During the year, there were a total of 47 Baptisms including 10 adults; 21 Confirmed; 13 Weddings; 42 Funerals in church; 22 Funerals (crematorium or cemetery only).

The worship of the church is supported by many volunteers, including the choir, bell ringers, worship band, altar servers, lesson readers, intercessors, sidespersons, tea/coffee servers, and a team for the crib services.

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. The Baptism Team provides support for families both before and after a Baptism has taken place.

Our Pastoral Visiting Team has been busy leading services in 9 local residential homes.

We have a small number of Home Groups for adults as well as groups for young people across all age ranges. These groups aim to encourage members to grow in fellowship and their Christian faith.

Volunteers

All these activities, and more, are maintained by a wide range of volunteers to whom we are grateful for their valuable contributions as they live out their faith through practical action. There are also the retired clergy, a Reader, a Pastoral Worker, a safeguarding officer and those who have served on the PCC or other committees and groups.

Alison Phillips, our Director of Music, leads our well-respected choir which supports many of our regular and special services and leads our young choir "Sing @ St Mary's", and directs our chamber choir, Concordia, and has started a Community Choir in 2025. In addition, there is a worship band and singers who support the 9:30 all age service.

The church building is open for visitors Monday to Saturday from 9:30am to 4:00pm with a rota of stewards in attendance. This provides a place for quiet prayer and contemplation.

The Church Shop is open daily and sells books, cards, church guides and souvenirs. Volunteers enable us to carry out this valuable outreach work.

Ecumenical Relationships and Outreach

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

Through CTiN, 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 Foodbank which continues to assist a significant number of struggling local individuals and families throughout the year.

Our parish magazine along with the weekly news sheet are circulated by email as well as being available in printed form. Both publications are also available on the website www.stmarysnantwich.org.uk. The St Mary's Facebook page is regularly updated with useful information. Streamed/recorded church services and worship song recordings are presented on the Nantwich St Marys You Tube channel. Our weekly email bulletin continues to prove very useful, sent to about 600 subscribers.

The Visits Team Ministry

We are pleased to welcome large numbers of visitors, tourists, and organised groups to the church as well as school parties both local and from further afield. We are a member of the Major Churches Network which also attracts group visits.

Events

The church is a much-appreciated venue for many additional events including a variety of concerts including those for Concordia, Nantwich Choral Society, Nantwich Singers, the Jazz Festival and Nantwich Words & Music Festival as well as free lunchtime concerts through the summer. In 2025 we continued to hold Candlelight Concerts, and the church was used for Soundbaths and other occasional concerts. We again collaborated with St Luke's Hospice holding a Christmas Tree Festival for a third time, with increased success. Spring, Summer, Autumn and Christmas Fairs were held, raising significant funds. Monthly Saturday St Mary's Breakfasts with speakers continued. All this is supported by teams of volunteers.

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. There are children's groups meeting during the 9.30am service on Sunday mornings. Friday Nite Live (FNL) is a lively, friendly group for young people in Year 7 and upwards that continues to meet weekly. Little Fish is held in church on Thursdays for pre-school children and parents/carers, and Mums & Tots is held in the Parish Hall on Tuesdays. We also host many of the local primary schools for special events before Easter and Christmas. A children's singing group meets on Tuesday evenings. All this work is supported by a team of volunteers.

Mission Support

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. St Mary's Mission Support Group with the approval of the PCC channelled £6000 to different charities - local, national and international. We continued in our commitment to support two Kenyan students in their schooling and made additional donations to other charities: Church Missionary Society (CMS), A Rocha UK, the Boaz Trust, Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy, and The Railway Children.

Safeguarding Review

We take our safeguarding responsibilities very seriously and encourage a positive safeguarding culture, empathising that the safety and well being of those who attend and visit St. Mary's is the responsibility of all within the church. We work to the Church of England National Safeguarding Standards.

The PCC has adopted Church of England National Safeguarding Policies, including *Safer Environments and Activities*, which is given to all volunteers to ensure knowledge of good practice. St. Mary's Parish Policy is reviewed and signed annually, together with the procedure for Reporting Safeguarding Concerns. We follow the Church of England *Safer Recruitment Policy* and the *Learning and Development Policy* to ensure volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults are suitable and trained.

St. Mary's has a Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) who co-ordinates all aspects of safeguarding and who reports to each PCC meeting. The Rector and the PSO work closely with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team to manage safeguarding issues.

Financial Review

The finances of the Church continue to be strained due in part to the ongoing Restoration of the North and East elevations. The Church spent £193,921 on the restoration in the year, which completed phase 1. Further fundraising and grant applications are in progress to enable Phase 2 to be started.

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £238,128. Restricted income of £160,707 was also received and is detailed in the Financial Statements.

Planned Giving, largely through standing orders, decreased by £5,003 (5%) and loose plate at £14,524 was similar to 2024, as was contactless giving. Fairs and Fundraising events generated £20,329 and are an increasingly important income stream for the Church.

£235,837 was spent to provide the Christian ministry from St Mary's Church, including the contribution to the Diocesan of "parish share" which increased by £2,261 (3%) in the year and provides the stipend and housing for the clergy. The restricted income of £160,707, was principally a grant of £40,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation and £92,504 provided by the Nantwich Parish Church Preservation Appeal Trust towards the restoration. Restricted

expenditure at £172,269 was principally for the restoration work on the North and East Elevations (£161,844).net of LPW grants

The net result for the year was an excess of income over expenditure of £2,291 (unrestricted) and an excess of expenditure over income of £11,562 (restricted), making a £9,271 total deficit. After adding the balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward as at 31st December 2025 were £54,602 unrestricted (including General Fund) and £278,061 restricted.

Reserves policy
In 2025 it continued to be PCC policy to maintain a balance in unrestricted funds (if possible) of an amount equal to three months unrestricted expenditure. This amounts to approximately £60,000. The balance of £54,602 held on unrestricted funds is about £5,000 short of achieving this target.
The balance of £278,061 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 was 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.

At the end of the year, the number of elected lay members of the PCC was 11 and one co-opted. There were also 4 elected Deanery Synod representatives, and one elected representative from each of the General and Diocesan Synods. These, together with the ex-officio members, the Incumbent (Rev Dr Mark Hart), the Associate Priest (Revd Dorothy Woods), Pastoral Worker (Mrs Mary Harris) the 2 Churchwardens, made a total membership of 23 at the end of 2025.

There were 8 full Council meetings during the year, including the short meeting immediately following the APCM and also some business conducted by email. The incumbent together with the two churchwardens and three members of the PCC formed the Standing Committee which met between PCC meetings.

The PCC monitored the work of various groups, receiving reports from the Mission Support Group, Youth & Children Steering Group, Eco Church Group, Outreach Group and a Social Committee, Deanery Synod and Churches Together in Nantwich. PCC received regular reports on the finances of the church and decided how the funds should be spent.

A team of volunteers look after the finances of the church.

The churchwardens with many volunteers, along with the Nantwich Parish Church Preservation Appeal Trust, look after the building. The verger, and a housekeeping team keeps the church clean and tidy; and the flower team look after the decoration. The tapestry

group maintains the extensive tapestry work in the church. The EcoChurch group looks at ways to reduce our environmental impact.

A team of stewards keep the building open and welcoming to visitors daily.

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 2022 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent:	The Reverend Dr Mark Hart
Associate Priest	The Reverend Dorothy Woods
Pastoral Worker:	Mary Harris
Churchwardens:	Phil Boxhall
	Paul O'Brien

Jan Allotey (General Synod representative)
Gill Appleton (Deanery Synod representative)
Anna Burton
Ernie Charlton (Deanery Synod representative)
Belinda Coghlan (Safeguarding Officer) (Co-opted)
Bryan Coghlan (Diocesan Synod representative, PCC Vice Chair)
Evelyn Davies-Jones (Co-opted, resigned October 2025)
Debby Hallam
Emma Kennedy
Jane Knight
Steve Lockett (Deanery Synod representative and Treasurer)
Geoffrey Pearson
Judith Pearson
Beth Roberts (Secretary)
Helen Shorrock
Rob Sivocha
Pat Stalker (Deanery Synod representative)
Janet Thompson
Jan Virr

Approved by the PCC in March 2026 and signed on their behalf by Rev Dr Mark Hart (PCC Chairman)

.....  .....