

# The Parish of St. Mary Newton with Flowery Field



## 2015 Annual Report

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### **St Mary's Mission Statement**

St Mary's is here to serve God in worship and prayer and to serve all of the people of Newton and Flowery Field. We live to learn more of God and to speak His name through our actions and example.

# Formal Church Leadership

Vicar	The Rev'd. Annie Woodcock
Assistant Curate	The Rev'd. Chris Viney
Churchwarden	Ian Marshall
Readers	Linda Marshall, Lynn Keeley and Sara Burgess
PCC Treasurers	Angela Chorlton & David Mayall
PCC Secretary	David Mayall
Deanery Synod Reps	Ian Marshall & Linda Marshall
Elected PCC Members	Barbara Gibson, Annmarie Lewis John Leigh, Margaret Lomas Sheila Shelmerdine, Sam Lyons Pauline Lowe, Angela Chorlton Barry Carey, David Mayall Dawn Alston



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# 1. Introduction & Welcome: Annie Woodcock

Welcome to our 2015 annual report.

Serving as Vicar of St Mary's remains a blessing and we have had wonderful times of joy and celebration in 2015.

Leading is not always an easy task, but a privilege never the less. It is after all in trials and difficult times we grow in God. It is after all in trials, not particularly in the blessings that we become stronger. Love is after all an action, a decision and through good times and bad I continue to love St Mary's church.

Although God has called me to lead this church I continue to depend on a supportive team of people who have a vision for taking the message of Jesus Christ out into our community.

Leadership means making disciples of people, so that the people go out and again make disciples of more people. It is a ripple effect, the leader should identify and create leaders and I hope that my calling has enabled this.

Church is no longer an exclusive club, or somewhere for people to attend once a week and then forget for the rest of the week about the calling of a disciple. Being a Christian is an ever transforming, sometimes extremely difficult journey. We are thrown together, a group of people who have to overcome our differences and work together to bring God's Kingdom to this place.

The Archbishop of Canterbury writes "The best decision that anyone can ever make, at any time, in any place, is to follow Jesus Christ. To follow Jesus Christ means to learn more about Him, by reading the word, praying and being in fellowship with other Christians. In this we find antagonism, conflict, pain, hurt and disappointment. We are all born into a sinful world and no matter how hard we try we will all have our own difficulties, own agendas, own interpretations.

The beauty of church is that as a fellowship of believers we can work through these with love. Then in turn we share our love for Christ with the community.

To do this we have to learn to speak and show people the love of God which surpasses all understanding. The Archbishop has made Evangelism a priority because it is the only response there is to what God has done for us through Jesus Christ. Evangelism means showing others through our words, actions attitudes and interactions. Witness is about what we do with what we have seen, which is the love in Jesus Christ. Church is not just about fellowship with believers it is about fellowship with Him with others around us.

Change is difficult but we have to strive to be a relevant, accessible and Missional church, we need to reach out to all generations but particularly to the younger generation. We need to encourage children and young families, people with significant needs and those who do not yet know Christ. As Rev. Viney often reminds us the most important person is the one who has not yet walked through the door.

It is so important that we continue in fellowship, to work through difficulties and continue to love one another. We may not like one another sometimes or our behaviours or actions, but love is much deeper than that. The love that God shows us is one of forgiveness, of not keeping a record of wrongs and a love that means making a decision to allow God to change our hearts.

I do believe we are on this path together and my prayer is that we will work everything out then get on with the most important calling of all.

Thank you.

## 2. Ministry Matters

### a. The Vicar: The Rev'd. Annie Woodcock

We continued in 2015 to think about what church means, how do we represent church in our community and how do we all grow as Christians.

Ministry with the provision of pastoral care and the usual offices are still very much part of the ministry and service of St Mary's church. However, church looks very different these days and the expectations of those in leadership have changed dramatically. These changes happen as society and culture changes and we need to embrace and identify the needs of our community as best we can.

This year sadly several members of our church family died. We give thanks for those faithful people who died in 2015. These include Bill Goddard, Bob Bradshaw, Edith Snape and Joan Wilson, sadly missed.

We have had six people formally notify St Mary's that they have left. A formal notification is usually a letter or email. Two people have joined the fellowship at Holy Trinity Stalybridge with our blessing, another family member also left at that time. Three family members have left for personal reasons.

These are the only formal notifications we have received. I am aware that some people are attending other churches at the moment. Until they notify me or have been absent for six months they will remain on the electoral role. I am also aware that two people have moved away in 2015 and are living too far away to attend.

There is always ebb and flow in church life but we are delighted to welcome new people to our family. We have been blessed in 2015 to welcome approximately 17 new people joining us in regular church worship.

Financially we remain in a difficult situation. The plate and pledged offerings were substantially lower in 2015. This is due to various reasons. Sadly, some of our faithful members died, some have left and we are of course faced with a difficult economic period. We still fall short of paying full parish share.

We are trying to share and teach about the blessing of giving and tithing but sometimes this takes time. God does not want our money; he certainly doesn't need it. What God does ask however is that we are faithful and obedient in our giving. This is something we all need to be prayerful about. If we do not maintain our Parish share, then we remain in a vulnerable position for future Incumbencies.

We continue to work with all the local agencies, housing, police and other social organizations. I have also been spending some time at Forest Bank Prison in a Pastoral and priestly capacity. It is important for Chris and I and indeed for all of us, to forge relationships with people outside our own church community. We need to network and explore new ideas and strategies for youth work, Evangelism and church growth to name but a few. The Message trust has launched a new Youth initiative in 2015 called 'Higher' and we are now part of this venture. We have partnered with the Message by offering to follow up and support young people in the community.

We have had the privilege in 2015 to listen to speakers from St Johns Dukinfield, Open doors and Jews for Jesus. My vision is to invite as many people as we can in the future to share their vision for the church and for the kingdom, communicating with other organizations and networking is vital for individual and corporate growth.

Early in 2015 Rev Chris Viney led us through a very successful Alpha course, which resulted in the formation of four home groups. Approximately 25+ attended the Alpha course and then went on to join a home group. Home groups are a super way of getting to know one another and learning in an informal relaxed way about Jesus Christ. They are I believe vital to church growth. Home groups are still open to anyone who would like to join. We advertise them regularly and welcome all newcomers. Indeed, it would be great if we could start more new home groups in 2016 making church even more accessible to the community.

The All Age services are now once a month and they are a great time of worshipping and praising God together and always well attended.

Café Church a new initiative has also been a great success with between 30/50 people attending each service. We have enlisted help from Pete Atkins from St Barnabus and other people but we have to say huge thanks here to Ian Marshall for leading Café Church.

We have decided to have a little break from Messy church so huge thanks to Linda but we will be looking at another activity for young people in 2016.

In 2015 we were privileged to have Bishop Libby Lane lead us in our confirmation service. She was wonderful and friendly and she also commented on how she thoroughly enjoyed her time at St Mary's church. This was the first confirmation in our Deanery by Bishop Libby and was covered by the press.

This year we also celebrated with Sara Burgess at her licensing; we now have three lay readers to support the leadership. All three are a highly skilled and trained and it is a delight to work with them.

I continue to act as Governor for both local primary schools, Oakfield and Bradley Green, and I also visit Thomas Ashton School in Flowery Field. Assemblies in school are always a joy and all three schools have been to St Mary's to visit. They also hold their school assemblies in church several times a year.

The restoration of the church roof began in 2015 and we are delighted with the outcome. More about this in the chancel roof report.

Social events have been fantastic and we have raised substantial amounts toward restoration and we have also managed to give 10% to outside charities and organizations.

We are still working through how best to deliver worship at St Mary's and these discussions will continue, however we do need to come to a decision soon re purchasing equipment as we have approximately £2000 allotted towards the new PAV system including £500 from Deanery funding which has been ring fenced for us.

I continue to maintain my own learning and have been attending a leadership course called Headway at Chester Diocese.

It remains for me to say a huge thank you to all who give tirelessly to church and more importantly to God. I really could not and would not want to lead without the support of our great team, Rev. Chris Viney, Linda, Lynne, Sara and Ian have been amazing in leading worship. Everyone who has any responsibility or who helps keep this church functioning so well, from cleaning the brasses to brewing copious cups of tea, mowing the lawns, counting, visiting, admin, organizing events, cleaning or keeping me in check. With love of course. And everyone else in all that you do, you are all amazing.

## **b Assistant Curate: The Rev'd. Chris Viney**

My first full year in the parish as Curate has seen the achievement of one of the targets that have been set for me: -

The introduction of small groups to nurture and disciple has been a rewarding experience for me and, I would hope, for those who have chosen to take advantage of this means of building a personal relationship with our risen Lord. I pray that more people will engage with our small groups and that from within our existing groups, leaders of new groups might be discerned, trained and sent out. If we are to build a growing, mature, biblically literate and prayerful church, starting 'small' is the ideal model.

My next target is to encourage, empower and release those who are missionally minded to engage with a number of mission projects. Our 20-20 Vision Day has produced a significant number of mission ideas that are based upon the Anglican Communion's 'Five Marks of Mission'. As we work to translate vision into action through further meetings and 'away days', I pray that those who are excited at the prospect of becoming agents for Jesus' work will experience the power of the Holy Spirit in and through them as they carry out our Lord's work. And as I refer to those who do the Lord's work, my thanks to those from St Mary who joined the work of the St Alban's Project for the Homeless during 2015.

As I look forward to future ministry, I am at present uncertain as to where this might lead. All I can say at present is that the churches of our Deanery are for the first time in some years fully staffed, two appointments having recently been made. So, as my vision and calling has always been to serve in and through our Deanery, it may well be the case that I will be asked to remain at St Mary beyond my three-year term to continue to help build a growing church with Jesus at the centre, serving the spiritual and other needs of the more than 13,000 people in the parish.

Thank you to all who encouraged and supported me during 2015. I look forward to continuing to work with you and ask you to pray for me and my ministries.

### **c. The Parish Readers: Linda Marshall, Lynn Keeley and Sara Burgess**

#### **Linda Marshall**

Recounting the last 12 months, I am amazed at the events that I have been involved with.

It was such a privilege to organise and lead the Service of the Word on Remembrance Day and join in the Civic services in both Hyde and at the Falklands Memorial in Gee Cross.

I continue to visit our friends at the Sycamores, who are always interested to hear what we are doing here at St Mary's. The residents are always appreciative when the children visit and entertain with some songs.

As Chaplain, I have also been busy with the Veterans of the Royal Signals Association. We visited the National Arboretum where we held services at both the Signals and Palestine memorials.

We were invited to the Tower of London and witnessed the ancient Ceremony of the Keys.

Evensong also takes place once a month during the light nights. Each service follows a different style of worship, yet is still a calm and peaceful end to a day of worship. This next year I hope to introduce a service of healing and wholeness.

Please pray for the Ministry Team as we go forward into another year in God's service.

### **Lynn Keeley**

This last year has been a busy one.

Unfortunately visiting the sick has played a large part of this and I have also been heavily involved in Funeral Services.

On a brighter note I have been more involved with leading a Bible Study Group each week which is great fun but gives us all a chance to learn more about God.

### **Sara Burgess**

I am now well into my first year as a Reader. I was licenced back in October and that was a wonderful weekend that I will treasure for many years to come.

My role as a Reader is going well and I am enjoying it more than I ever imagined. This year has been difficult due to the demands of a full time job making it difficult to do as much as I would like to do as a Reader but this should become easier. During the next year I hope to have more time to spend with the lovely people from the parish and take on some new challenges.

I would like to thank all of you for your continued support, I could not have a more supportive church in which to be a Reader.

## **3. Church Officers**

### **a. The Churchwarden: Ian Marshall**

This past year we have had to replace the roof above Organ and the North side of the Chancel. Although some of the costs have been met through grants and our own fund raising we are still short of the final figure. Despite the upheaval and coping with the scaffolding we have still been able to maintain services throughout the renovations.

The heating system, which is over 25years old, has been condemned by Gas Service Engineers so we will be replacing this before winter sets in.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all who help to keep the Church looking both clean and tidy, the team of cleaners, and those who work in the Church Yard, all work hard in keeping St. Mary's a welcoming Church to enter.



My special thanks have to go to Margate Lomas, without her help I could not have managed.

### **Restoration of the Chancel Roof: Barry Carey**

Our Chancel built in 1877 has unfortunately been suffering from water ingress over many years with the serious risk of major damage to our organ.

But thanks to a generous grant of £64,800.00 from the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund coupled with money donated and raised by our congregation, we have now completed the restoration project comprising, the replacement of damaged stonework, parapets, roof timbers and including the re-slating of the whole of the north facing roofs and replacing the rainwater goods. The Total cost excluding VAT was £98,000.00.

The work has been completed to an excellent standard and our Chancel is now restored to its former glory.

### **b. The PCC Treasurers: Angela Chorlton & Dave Mayall**

During 2015 we have seen both good and bad news in terms of our finances, which still remain a cause for concern. We need to prayerfully consider how we can work together to improve our financial position.

In the year we have spent some of the expendable endowment money we received following the sale of land surrounding St Stephen's Church during 2014. Upon receipt of the money we felt it should not be used to cover 'normal' bills but be used to further our mission or to invest it providing a source of future income. We have replaced the roof on the Parish Hall, this was considered necessary to protect the building and the vital income we receive from it. We also purchased solar panels to provide electricity for both the Church building and the Parish Hall, not only will this reduce our electricity costs but it will provide us with an income which will be used to 'repay' the initial cost and then provide income for our general funds in future years. There is also the added benefit of reducing our carbon footprint allowing us to take better care of our environment. The cost of the panels was £14,300 however as an asset these are shown on the balance sheet.

The amount shown in the restricted column largely relates to the money raised for the restoration fund including a grant from the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund. Having successfully secured grant funding we began work to repair the Chancel Roof this year, the work continued into 2016 and was concluded in March. We continue to raise funds for the shortfall of the project and are hopeful this will be covered by the time final payments are needed in 2017. We were fortunate to have received two other restricted donations, one of £1,500 to be used to fund new AV equipment (work is ongoing to determine the best system for our needs and will hopefully be complete by June 2016) and £500 to be used for gardening equipment (purchased in March 2016).

Although the restricted column is showing a surplus, this is all spoken for with the projects noted above.

The social committee have continued their amazing work over the last year and have raised £1,322, which has been added to the restoration fund. A donation of 10% of the funds raised has been sent to Open Doors, the charity of their choice. We thank them for their hard work to put on such fun events that have been thoroughly enjoyed by all that have attended.

Whilst we are very thankful of the good things noted above, our unrestricted or general funds, continue to be a real source of concern for the future of our Church. We have shown a surplus of £2,093 (we received more than we spent) this appears to be an improvement on 2014 but gives a misleading view of our finances.

Our main expense and the reason for our deficit over the last few years is our Parish Share demand (the amount we have to pay to Chester Diocese). During this year we were fortunate that the Diocese agreed to waive some of our unpaid Share from earlier years, amounting to £21,703 and relates to 2010. The effect of this is that 2015 Parish Share shown is less than it should be, without this adjustment we would have had a deficit of £19,610. Whilst this has improved our financial position for the current year it is not something that will be repeated, without serious impact for the future of our Church. We need to continue to strive to increase our income and find a way to pay our Share in full each year and clear the amount we already owe, which at the end of 2015 stands at £43,100.

Pledged and plate giving has decreased for a variety of reasons, whilst we have seen some new standing orders set up in 2016 we still need to work hard to replace the income we lost during 2015 and continue to find new ways to increase our level of giving.

Gift Aid remains a significant contributor to our finances, it appears that there has been a reduction in our gift aid but last year was higher due to a new government initiative allowing us to claim extra, some of which related to earlier years. It is however crucial that we continue to claim every penny we can, so if you pay income tax on your salary or pension or capital gains tax, and you haven't already signed a gift aid form (or if you aren't sure whether you have) now is a good time to sign a new form.

The Parish Hall has continued to support the Church, despite losing a number of regular tenants. The hall continues to be well used at weekends for party bookings and other one off hires. We are very grateful for the hard work Bob, Jack and Barbara have put in to running and maintaining the Hall.

We have continued to keep our expenditure under tight control, with regular reviews of all expenditure to ensure best value for money.

We continue to feel hopeful that we can address the deficit over the coming years with prayerful consideration of ways to increase our giving and continued monitoring of expenditure.

### **c. The PCC Secretary: Dave Mayall**

It has again been a busy year for the PCC. Meetings have been held quarterly and there has been a good attendance at each meeting.

The PCC has, despite imposing time limits on itself, continued to struggle to fit all its business into an hour and a half, and has recently agreed that "routine" business (particularly reports) is circulated with the agenda, rather than occupying too much time in the meeting.

In addition, from January 2016, the PCC will be meeting every two months rather than every three months, which should ensure that the business is more manageable.

The standing committee has met on a number of occasions to consider urgent business between PCC meetings, and in particular to keep our financial situation under constant review.

### **d. The Deanery Synod Reps: Linda & Ian Marshall**

We had one meeting of Synod in 2015.

It was the ASM in June at St. Barnabus, Hattersley. Worship was led by Rev. Lesley Atkins and the presentation was given by the Rural Dean following her epic five hundred mile walk with purpose on the 'Camino Way' (The way of St. James) ending in Santiago di Compostella.

Fran Marsden completed his six-year period as Lay Chair and was therefore obliged to stand down. We are very grateful for his time, patience and wisdom during his term of office.

The main issue raised in the business section of the meeting concerned the many areas we are not covering as a Deanery. We need a new Lay Chair, we are short of Lay and Clergy members at Diocesan Synod and a representative on the Tameside Standing Advisory Committee for RE is long overdue.

The Diocesan Synod Representatives can be anyone on the parish electoral roll. Further information can be had by contacting the Rural Dean or the Deanery Secretary.

### **e. The Electoral Roll Officer: Lynn Keeley**

We have had another year when sadly a number of our congregation have died.

On a brighter note there has also been a good increase in new people who have been added to the list.

Last year our Electoral Roll Number stood at 129.

Over the last 12 months 25 people removed from our Electoral Roll and 3 new people were added.

Therefore, the Electoral Roll at this present time stands at 106

A number of forms arrived too late to be added and will be entered when the roll reopens.

## 4. Parish Life

### **a. Social Events: Annmarie Lewis**

We had another really enjoyable year raising funds of £1322.74. We have again agreed to give 10% of money raised to Charities and can confirm that this year we have donated 10% of all funds raised throughout the year to Open Doors Charity Fund who were presented with a cheque for £132.27. The remaining funds raised of £1190.47 were donated to St Mary with Flowery Field Church Roof Restoration Fund.

We had our first function on the 17th February, with a Pancake Supper and quiz night with the Brownies and Guides waiting on everyone. A very enjoyable evening and our thanks go to Dave Mayall again for being an excellent quizmaster. We raised £130.82.

Our next function was on the 25<sup>th</sup> April when we held a "Dance Through the Decades Night". We enjoyed dancing to music from the 60's 70's and 80's, which was great fun. We raised £302.75.

During the summer we held a social Greek Night at the Vicarage, enjoying Greek food out in the garden. Fantastic night was had by all. We raised £58.73.

12<sup>th</sup> September was the Patronal Festival celebration at Kath and Barry's. As usual it was a fantastic day with the children having lots of fun in the swimming pool and joining all the games and enjoying the fantastic Tombola stall. The food was great as usual with Barry cooking on the Barbecue. We are so very lucky been able to use such a great venue. Thanks to Kath and Barry for allowing us to use their property.

21st November we held a Winter Bizarre with the sale of arts and crafts hand made by many of the church congregation and the vicar, also sold bric-a-brac and

refreshments. We raised a staggering £830.44. Thank you to everyone who donated materials and handmade so many beautiful arts and crafts and gifts for sale.

We finished off the year with a family and friends get together. We had a great night with back ground music good food and good company. A raffle was held and raised £45.00.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us and attended the events this year. We look forward to our events coming up in 2016.

## **b Parish Hall: Angela Chorlton**

In 2015 Bob Alston resigned as hall administrator, it has taken a while to find a new administrator but we're pleased that a new administrator has now been appointed.

The income from regular users has decreased over the past year by £2,700, due to the loss of Fab Fun, EJ Dance Group and Weight Watchers. However, we have some new users helping to reduce the loss and we are slowly adding more users. It is still being used by a wide variety of organisations.

The expenditure has reduced by £1,600, for a number of reasons but largely due to repairs undertaken in 2014 that were not repeated during 2015.

The hall continues to be self-sufficient and has generated a surplus of £2,205 this year despite the reduction in income.

The parish hall roof has been a concern for a number of years as it has been leaking, deteriorating further over time. With a need to protect the building which provides us with a much needed source of income, it was decided to use the endowment money held by the Church to replace the roof. This was done in September 2015 at a cost of £14,574.

All health and safety risk assessments, tests and certificates have been carried out in line with current legislation.

We are grateful to Bob for his hard work as administrator and to Jack and Barbara Gibson for their continued efforts to keep the hall in a good state of repair.

## **c. The Tuesday Friendship Club: Pat Leigh**

January 2015 was a bad start for our club as we lost Gail Kerr and in April we lost Jessie Morley followed by Betty Ogden in June. These members real enjoyed the club and we all miss them very much. Margaret Percival also left the Club to move house down south to be near her family and we all wish her well she was a great help in the kitchen.

We now have 33 members and are hoping to have more enjoyable times at the Club meetings.

During 2015 we had days out at Compo's Chip Shop, Cosmo Bingo, the Glass Factory and we all enjoyed meals out at Oaklands Lodge and Rycroft Hall. The year ended with a Great Christmas Party in the Parish Hall.

We had some help with funding receiving £1000 from Brother and £100 from Tameside MBC.

As the club grows we need to organise a kitchen rota and committee involvement to help with some of the responsibility.

We really have missed Laraine Ramsden who could not always attend club meetings but always came early to get the hall ready with tables and chairs and the kitchen organised. We look forward to seeing Laraine when she is well enough.

Barbara and I would like to express our thanks for all the help we have been given and look forward to a happy 2016.

#### **d. Pastoral and Care Team (PACT): Christine Barr**

A report on caring for members of St Mary's church and local community.

There are those who have been unwell and recovered, and some who remain ill at times and we try to keep in touch with their progress. Some have been in hospital for surgery and gone through a period of convalescence.

Visits are made to those at home who are sick, lonely and housebound especially the elderly. Also to those in Care Homes or hospital or anyone who needs help with doctors or hospital appointments.

Communion is offered once a month in the home to anyone who needs it.

#### **e. The Choir and Children's' Choir: Sara Burgess**

The group known as 'singalong with Sara' has developed over the years from a children's singing group with young children into a group of young people mostly around 10 years +. We have now been joined by John Leigh, who helps to lead the group. We are now singing more 'grown up' songs and therefore would welcome new members, not necessarily children. The aim is to have a 'singing/worship group', singing worship songs. We meet on a Tuesday at 5:30 for 1 hour. It would be lovely to have new members of any age who would like to learn some of the more modern songs that we can sing in Church. If you would like to give it a go, please speak to myself or John and we will give you some more information.

The adult choir continues to meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30. I am sure you will agree that they make a big difference to the singing in Church on a Sunday morning but again it would be good to have more members, so if you want to join us just come and speak to me.

#### **f. Church Cleaners: Christine Barr**

Once again we report on Church Cleaning in the last year.

The team of 5-6 cleaners have tried to get together every 6 weeks in order to clean the Church, there is usually about 5 or 6 of us but anyone is welcome to join us.

During the past few months there was a problem whilst the builders were repairing the roof and scaffolding was erected and in place.

A big thank you for the regular team who turn up and an enormous thank you to the twelve or so people who came for a massive clean-up when the builders left, they did a tremendous job to get the church looking beautiful for the following day.

#### **g. Gardening Team: Simon Lewis**

The gardening team have been very busy throughout the year. They have created several flower beds, and have put together benches and tables and fitted them in the garden area near the church hall. The area is looking much better and is being maintained on a regular basis.

The vegetable garden has been fantastic and has been used by the Brownies, two local residents and church people to grow their own vegetables, many of which were sold to the church community. Hopefully this will be a great success again this year.

Richard and Simon worked hard cutting back all the overgrown grass around the graves in the main graveyard.

Sara and Richard have established a small seating and bedding plant area in the top graveyard, which looks stunning.

There are big plans for 2016, including establishing a gardening committee, replacement of old and broken equipment, clearing of the garden storage shed, and plenty of family gardening days. So much to look forward to in 2016.

#### **h. Café Church : Ian Marshall**

We started our Café Style Church in September. We meet once a month on a Sunday evening 5:00pm till 6:00pm in the Parish Hall. Turn out has been excellent.

I would like to thank all those who help set up and clear away and those who help in the kitchen and also Peter Atkins from St. Barnabas Hattersley who comes and plays his guitar for us.

Café Church is welcoming friendly and relaxed worship service, with modern worship songs and videos. Tea, coffee and cake are served free of charge, but a plate is put out for donations to cover costs.

We encourage our young people to take an active part in the worship by playing their instruments or entertaining us with their singing.

If you have not been, please join us next time and see what you are missing. It is a good place to bring a friend who would not normally come to church.

## **5. Youth and Children's Work**

### **a JAM (for Reception to Year 6): Anmarie Lewis**

This past year JAM leaders have continued to use the Roots planning which is also used by SMYLE and during the main service in church. The children interact very well and seem to have a good understanding of the stories from the bible, they enjoy doing the planned arts and crafts, and dramas. They enjoy showing off their arts and crafts and acting out the dramas in the church following the JAM sessions.

The JAM leaders are now feeling much more confident in standing at the front of church with the children following the JAM sessions to report on the activities the children have been doing and what they have learnt.

This year also seen us try a different approach to the Nativity, undertaking a Nativity Drama with a twist. Due to the work on the Church Roof, we held the Nativity in the Church Hall with all the children from JAM and SMYLE, also John for taking part not forgetting the two dogs Alfie and Charlie. Thank you to everyone who took part, all the JAM and SMYLE leaders for all your support, and to Rev Annie Woodcock for sourcing all the costumes and props.

Quite a few of our children have moved up to Mini-SMYLE in September which left JAM with a very small group. However, we feel very positive that there will be a few children coming to us in 2016 as they start their school year.

Unfortunately, this year Dawn Alston stood down as JAM coordinator after many years managing and coordinating the JAM Leaders and sessions. All the JAM Leaders wish to thank Dawn for all her hard work keeping us all in line over the years and encouraging us to become JAM Leaders.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say a great big thank you to all the leaders for their hard work and dedication during 2015.

### **b. SMYLE (for Years 6 to 11): John Leigh**

The youth group for children in Year 6 and above is called SMYLE (**S**t **M**ary's **Y**oung, **L**ively and **E**nergetic), and meets every Sunday evening during term time between 6.30 and 8.00pm, and every fortnight all year round during Morning Service.



Last spring, SMYLE were getting in extra practice at rounders, and challenged the rest of the church to a game on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July, American Independence Day. Maybe we should have played baseball as quite a few players from both teams reported injuries, and both young and old were seen limping into Morning Service the next day.

Two weeks after the rounders match SMYLE had recovered enough to go on an end of term walk across the fields of Matley and everyone was welcome to join us on the walk and at the Rising Moon afterwards. While the more energetic went on the swing and the slide, the others and the leaders finished off with a drink or two, getting us into the spirit for the summer break.

Once again the autumn season started with more new members joining us from JAM, and soon all the children had settled in very well. Two events this term stand out. The first was SMYLE's 10-year anniversary weekend which included a disco and games night on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November and a worship service led by SMYLE in the parish hall on the Sunday. During this service stories from the past 10 years were shared, and some secrets kept, on SMYLE's lively and energetic first 10 years.

The second important event of the autumn term was the start of Café Church in September, when I optimistically asked if anyone could play a musical instrument. We now have a group of young, lively and very talented young people and SMYLE are very much part of Café Church. Come along and see for yourselves!

Our annual ten pin bowling trip to Hollywood Bowl in Ashton was again well supported, with thirteen members taking up three lanes. The Christmas Party ended our winter session with lots of games and bursting of balloons, making it a loud start to Christmas.

Lots of games have been played between January the writing of this report in March, and SMYLE have continued to support Café Church, with new worship songs and dance routines being practised for a special Easter offering.

A very important part of our group involves a spiritual side where we talk about God, prayer and the way we act because we are Christians. All SMYLE members have been given copies of the booklet *Word4U2Day*, which includes daily readings and helps them with their Bible studies.

Sam Lyons has organised a youth trip to see modern worship bands at the Apollo in Manchester, and this underlines St Mary's commitment to all our children and young people.

Many thanks to all our leaders – Karen, Amy and Sam – and to everyone else who has supported us throughout the year.

**c. Messy Church: Linda Marshall**

We have been following the seasons this year and our activities have reflected them.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have helped with the craft tables, catering and services in church.

Ideas for themes and activities are appreciated.

**d. Safeguarding & Child Protection: Annmarie Lewis**

During the year Dawn Alston decided to step down as Safeguarding Officer and resigned from the post.

Earlier this year I, Annmarie Lewis agreed to take on the role of Safeguarding Officer with support from Sue Mills who agreed to take on the role as Deputy Safeguarding Officer. However, we are still learning the role and are due to attend Training on 23 April 2016. We are looking to establish plans to ensure all volunteers working with children attend refresher safeguarding training and first aid training in the next few months.

May we take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Dawn Alston for all her hard work as Safeguarding Officer for many years.



<b>APPENDIX A</b>								
<b>ST MARYS' PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL</b>								
<b>FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2015</b>								
<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT</b>								
	Restricted	Expend.	Unrestricted	Total	Restricted	Expend.	Unrestricted	Total
	2015	2015	2015	2015	2014	2014	2014	2014
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>								
Pledged givings and open plate	-	-	21,968	21,968	-	-	23,823	23,823
Fees	-	-	4,726	4,726	-	-	4,767	4,767
Fees payable to Chester	-	-	5,220	5,220	-	-	4,298	4,298
Restoration fund	35,067	-	-	35,067	15,225	-	-	15,225
Charitable givings	-	-	452	452	-	-	339	339
Sundries	2,904	-	15,142	18,047	2,320	-	22,819	25,138
Land sale	-	-	-	-	-	115,728	-	115,728
Income - Inv held by Chester	-	-	177	177	-	-	348	348
	37,971	-	47,686	85,657	17,545	115,728	56,393	189,666
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>								
Restoration	31,484	-	14,574	46,058	762	-	720	1,482
Church maintenance	11	-	11,584	11,595	423	-	12,365	12,788
Church expenses	241	-	3,367	3,608	217	-	3,404	3,621
Vicarage maintenance	-	-	1,616	1,616	-	-	2,138	2,138
Working expenses	427	-	791	1,218	1,062	-	880	1,942
Ministry support fund	-	-	20,990	20,990	-	-	41,382	41,382
Charitable givings	127	-	1,786	1,913	-	-	1,955	1,955
Fees paid to Chester	-	-	5,220	5,220	-	-	4,298	4,298
SMYLE, JAM & Messy Church	-	-	238	238	24	-	120	144
Depreciation	-	238	-	238	-	-	-	-
	32,290	238	60,167	92,695	2,489	-	67,262	69,751
Funds transfer	-	(14,574)	14,574	-	-	-	-	-
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>5,681</b>	<b>(14,812)</b>	<b>2,093</b>	<b>(7,038)</b>	<b>15,056</b>	<b>115,728</b>	<b>(10,869)</b>	<b>119,915</b>
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>								
	Restricted	Expend.	Unrestricted	Total	Restricted	Expend.	Unrestricted	Total
	2015	2015	2015	2015	2014	2014	2014	2014
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>								
Property improvements less deprec	-	14,062	-	14,062	-	-	-	-
Fixed asset investments	-	-	17,314	17,314	-	-	17,137	17,137
	-	14,062	17,314	31,376	-	-	17,137	17,137
<b>Debtors</b>								
Income due to be received	-	-	-	-	742	-	18,529	19,271
<b>Bank and cash</b>	<b>20,737</b>	<b>86,854</b>	<b>17,700</b>	<b>125,292</b>	<b>15,035</b>	<b>115,728</b>	<b>9,679</b>	<b>140,442</b>
<b>Creditors</b>								
Chester Diocese: Parish share due	-	-	(43,100)	(43,100)	-	-	(55,510)	(55,510)
Income received in advance	-	-	-	-	(721)	-	(532)	(1,253)
Expenditure due	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2,039)	(2,039)
	20,737	100,916	(8,085)	113,567	15,056	115,728	(12,736)	118,048
<b>Retained surplus/deficit</b>								
Balance b/f	15,056	115,728	(12,736)	118,049	-	-	(1,867)	(1,867)
Balance transfer re parish hall	-	-	2,557	2,557	-	-	-	-
Surplus/deficit for the year	5,681	(14,812)	2,093	(7,038)	15,056	115,728	(10,869)	119,915
	20,737	100,916	(8,085)	113,567	15,056	115,728	(12,736)	118,048

<b>ST MARYS' PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL</b>					
<b>FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2015</b>					
<b>ANALYSIS OF INCOME:</b>			<b>ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE:</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>		<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>INCOME</b>			<u>Restoration</u>		
Pledged givings	18,749	20,231	Professional fees	8,684	720
Open plate	3,219	3,592	Repairs	-	762
	21,968	23,823	Chancel roof building works	22,800	-
			Parish hall roof	14,574	-
Fees	4,726	4,767		46,058	1,482
Fees payable to Chester	5,220	4,298	<u>Church maintenance</u>		
			Gas	965	1,528
<u>Tower restoration</u>			Electricity	370	471
Grant income	32,400	250	Water	93	146
Donations	2,667	14,975	Insurance	2,417	2,044
	35,067	15,225	Organ maintenance	250	293
<u>Charitable givings</u>			Parish hall expenses	5,043	6,685
Jews for Jesus	37	-	Repairs	2,457	743
Open Doors UK	74	-	Miscellaneous	-	878
Christingle & Childrens Society	341	309		11,595	12,788
Matthew Burgess Memorial Fund	-	30	<u>Church expenses</u>		
	452	339	Organist fees	455	435
<u>Sundries</u>			Altar requisites	741	1,320
Bank interest	162	10	Flowers	105	242
Samaritans Purse	10	75	Miscellaneous	294	128
Gift aid recovered	5,967	10,230	Parish stationery	2,013	1,496
Parish Hall income	7,249	9,982		3,608	3,621
Candles	196	365	<u>Vicarage maintenance</u>		
Newsletter box	296	-	Water	573	474
In memoria	385	85	Rates	1,043	1,664
Donations	2,059	979		1,616	2,138
Grants	438	1,509			
Social fund	127	574	Clergy expenses	1,218	1,942
Legacy	283	217			
Special fund	-	87	Chester Diocese: Parish share	20,990	41,382
Organist fees	440	565			
Verger's fees	415	440	<u>Charitable givings</u>		
Sexton fees	20	20	Barnabus Fund	400	300
	18,047	25,138	Aru & Boga	-	329
			Childrens Society	341	309
Land sale	-	115,728	British Red Cross	400	-
			Samaritans Purse	10	75
Income - Inv held by Chester	177	348	Salvation army	-	300
			Emmaus	-	29
	85,657	189,666	Matthew Burgess Memorial Fun	-	30
			Open Doors UK (inc social donat	601	-
			Jews for Jesus	112	-
			Poppy Appeal	49	67
			Royal British Legion	-	258
			SSAFA	-	258
				1,913	1,955
			Fees remitted to Chester	5,220	4,298
			JAM & Messy Church	238	144
			Depreciation	238	-
				92,695	69,751

## Appendix B

<b>FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2015</b>				
<b>PARISH HALL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS</b>				
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>INCOME</b>				
Regular hire income	4,994		7,725	
Other hire income	1,988		1,996	
Interest received	2		3	
Other income	265		258	
		7,249		9,982
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Cleaning	1,604		852	
Utilities	1,956		2,414	
Repairs & maintenance	862		2,527	
Insurance	564		557	
Sundry expenses	57		334	
		5,043		6,685
<b>Surplus</b>		<b>2,205</b>		<b>3,297</b>