

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2018
For
St Mary's Astbury PCC

Hammond McNulty LLP
Bank House
Market Square
Congleton
Cheshire
CW12 1ET

St Mary's Astbury PCC

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For the Year Ended 31st December 2018

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St Mary's Astbury PCC

Report of the Trustees **For the Year Ended 31st December 2018**

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2018. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)(effective 1 January 2015).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and Constitution of the PCC

The object of the PCC is to further the work of the Church of England in the Parish of St Mary's Astbury. Elections to the PCC are held annually: all members on the church electoral roll are entitled to vote and stand for election. There is also a power to co-opt members to the PCC.

The PCC is responsible for:

- The financial management of St Mary's Church
- The care and maintenance of the church building.

In order to discharge these responsibilities under the above Measure the PCC may:

- Acquire, manage and administer property for ecclesiastical purposes
- Formulate and approve an annual budget so as to achieve its objectives
- Levy and collect a voluntary church rate
- Make representations to the Bishop of Chester concerning the welfare of the parish.

The PCC operates for the public benefit in the Parish of St Mary's Astbury. The PCC has complied with its duty to have due regard for the guidance on public benefit.

St Mary's Astbury PCC
Report of the Trustees
For the Year Ended 31st December 2018

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Review of the year

This year has proved to be one of consolidation and optimism. Although I remain the sole warden I am by no means solitary. The Rector's idea of creating a team of assistant wardens has proved very successful and has been both effective and enjoyable. My thanks to them for their enthusiastic support.

The fabric of our historic, grade one listed church has occupied our minds - constantly during the past year. The stone cross on the east end of the roof, together with its attached lightning conductor was repaired. The asbestos present in the vestry, housing the organ humidifier, was sealed. Fire extinguishers were checked/replaced as were electrical appliances and the heating boilers were serviced. The mechanism of the font cover was inspected as required by our insurance provider. A full structural appraisal of the retaining churchyard wall bordering Peel Lane was carried out. A rigorous monitoring of the cost of heating, water, electricity and waste disposal was conducted.

Estimates for minor works following the Quinquennial inspection are expected to be around £20,000 but work cannot commence until spring of 2019.

Two generous gifts enabled us to have replacement gates to the churchyard on the A34 and new pew cushions throughout the Lady Chapel. Mr Philip Cartlidge left a legacy to be used for church flowers. Our grateful thanks are recorded.

A huge fund-raising effort has resulted in enough funds to carry out a major restoration on the organ, Dr Sally Drage will effect this in 2019.

The Archdeacon, the Venerable Ian Bishop, carried out an Inspection of church records and property and found everything in order.

We find ourselves becoming a local rarity as a church which still regularly holds three services each Sunday, 8.00am Holy Communion, 11.00am Morning Prayer, Parish Communion or Family Service and 6.30pm Evening Prayer, Choral Evensong or Compline. A weekly communion service followed by a light lunch is also held on each Wednesday in the Village Hall and prayer gatherings in the homes of members are held on Thursday evenings every fortnight. Storytime for children is held monthly, a cosy, tented, cushioned affair, followed by hot chocolate.

Our Ordinand, Steph Morris, assisted by church members, runs a Toddler Group each week which caters for pre-schoolers and their carers.

Any fifth Sunday in a month sees a joint service with Smallwood Church, with the venue and type of service being varied. One such service took the form of a Blessing of the Animals.

Somerford Chapel hold a monthly evensong from April to October.

Other services held included the Archdeacon's Visitation, a Confirmation led by Bishop Peter Forster, and a diocesan school leavers' gathering.

We held numerous weddings, baptisms and funerals which are numbered elsewhere.

We are saddened to record the death of our PCC member and representative for Somerford Chapel, Mr Ian Pennington. His practical help and sense of humour will be greatly missed.

Other activities have been our usual hosting of local schools for their Christmas concerts; the village Live Nativity, a recording of two Songs of Praise for BBC Radio Stoke; a concert for piano and trombone, a Sunday Lunch, a Pancake Night and an evening of supper all in the village Hall. An exhibition of 'Brides & Blooms', wedding dresses and bouquets loaned by local ladies formed a display in church covering 130 years.

St Mary's Astbury PCC

The church has also been open for visitors over bank holiday weekends, with tea and cake provided by the Ladies Fellowship and many guests have been welcomed and given tours of the building, including folk from Japan, the Philippines, the USA and various parts of Europe.

Our outreach activities have continued with the weekly support of the local food bank, a monthly gift of £50 to the St George Foundation, to be increased in 2019, a big breakfast for Christian Aid and a box collection for the Children's Society

The church family is supported by the many varieties of help offered. The Ladies' Fellowship organize church cleaning and contribute to the cost of flowers, the choir offer their voices for evening worship and special occasions and our bellringers perform regularly, albeit with 'borrowed' ringers from other churches. Readers and flowers are arranged and many tasks are performed unseen to continue the smooth running of our ancient and well loved church. Our sincere thanks are recorded for all these gifts of time and energy. Long may they continue.

Congregations are increasing, thanks to the tireless efforts of our Rector and the increased activity in the attending membership continues to strengthen the fellowship among us. Having survived a long period of gloom engendered by our many woes, I feel we have emerged into a brighter and more hopeful period. Having stable and sustainable systems in place gives us a feeling of confidence that allows us to consider what the church is really here to do and not just how the building remains viable. We had hoped last year, that 'God willing, all would be well.' It appears that he is willing.

Brenda Cook
Churchwarden

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves Policy

The PCC's reserves policy is to keep a minimum of £10,000 in hand should unforeseen events occur. This is also the level deemed sufficient to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow.

Increased Income

2018 income was significantly increased due to fundraising for repairs to the organ which will not commence until the spring of 2019. This level of income is not expected to be matched in the following year.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes an unincorporated charity. St Mary's Church Astbury has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent for the time being in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is a corporate body, its composition and procedure regulated by the Church Representation Rules as contained in Schedule 3 of the Synodical Government Measure 1969. The function and powers of the PCC are contained in the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure (1956).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity No.

1178664

Principal Address

Astbury
Congleton
Cheshire
CW12 4RQ

St Mary's Astbury PCC
Report of the Trustees
For the Year Ended 31st December 2018

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Trustees

Rector of Astbury	Rev Dr J. C. Cuttell	Chairman
Churchwarden	Mrs B. C. Cook	
Parochial Church Council	Dr S. C. Drage	Vice Chairman
	Mr A. Bailey	Secretary #
	Mr W. Ball	Secretary **, Assistant Secretary #
	Mrs D. Barnett	Treasurer
	Mrs C. Goodwin	
	Mrs D. Graham	
	Mr F. Griffiths	
	Mrs C. F. Holford	
	Mr J. Hulse	
	Dr J. E. Moore	
	Mrs J. Nadin	
	Mr I. Pennington *	
	Mr P. Powell,	
	Mrs P. Price #,	
	Mr P. Stanway	
	Mrs J. Taylor	
	Mrs P. Worswick	

* until 4th October

from 12th March

** until 12th March

The Rector and Churchwarden are ex officio members of the PCC; as are Mr Bailey, Mr Ball and Mrs Goodwin as elected members of Congleton Deanery Synod. The other members of the PCC are elected, apart from Mrs Worswick, who is co-opted.

Independent Examiner

Hammond McNulty LLP
Bank House
Market Square
Congleton
Cheshire
CW12 1ET

Bankers

Royal Bank of Scotland
54 High Street, Congleton, CW12 1BB (branch closed 17th January 2019)
National Westminster Bank
46 High Street, Congleton, CW12 1BE
CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4QJ

Approved by order of the board of Trustees on 25th March 2019 and signed on its behalf by:



Rev Dr J. C. Cuttell - Chairman

St Mary's Astbury PCC
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
St Mary's Astbury PCC

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of St Mary's Astbury PCC

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the St Mary's Astbury PCC (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2018.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention with the examination giving cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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 confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Colin Higginson
FCCA
Hammond McNulty LLP
Bank House
Market Square
Congleton
Cheshire
CW12 1ET

Date 22nd March 2019

St Mary's Astbury PCC

**Statement of Financial Activities
For the Year Ended 31st December 2018**

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	31/12/18 Total funds £	31/12/17 Total funds £
	Notes				
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations & legacies		42,451	22,450	64,901	27,080
Charitable activities					
Burial & Wedding fees		27,236	-	27,236	24,450
Collections at services		5,663	102	5,765	7,053
Parish Magazine		-	945	945	827
Planned giving		55,666	7,738	63,404	36,468
Other trading activities	2	2,762	-	2,762	4,561
Investment income	3	610	-	610	549
Total		134,388	31,235	165,623	100,988
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		1,551	58	1,609	162
Charitable activities					
Church running expenses		35,257	12,017	47,274	45,274
Diocesan Parish Share		51,493	-	51,493	50,237
Junior Church running expenses		-	50	50	-
Mission Giving & donations		1,196	-	1,196	1,280
Parish Magazine		-	805	805	806
Other		660	-	660	660
Total		90,157	12,930	103,087	98,419
NET INCOME		44,231	18,305	62,536	2,569
Transfers between funds	8	(83)	83	-	-
Net movement in funds		44,148	18,388	62,536	2,569
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		16,160	9,301	25,461	22,892
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		60,308	27,689	87,997	25,461

The notes form part of these financial statements

St Mary's Astbury PCC

Balance Sheet
At 31st December 2018

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	31/12/18 Total funds £	31/12/17 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	6	3,613	-	3,613	2,607
Cash at bank		84,118	28,571	112,689	52,269
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		87,731	28,571	116,302	54,876
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	7	(27,423)	(882)	(28,305)	(29,415)
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		60,308	27,689	87,997	25,461
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		60,308	27,689	87,997	25,461
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET ASSETS		60,308	27,689	87,997	25,461
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
FUNDS					
	8				
Unrestricted funds				60,308	16,160
Restricted funds				27,689	9,301
				<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS				87,997	25,461
				<hr/>	<hr/>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 25th March 2019 and were signed on its behalf by:



Rev Dr J. C. Cuttall - Chairman

The notes form part of these financial statements

St Mary's Astbury PCC

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31st December 2018

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements.

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure. It is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable activities at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	31/12/18	31/12/17
	Total	Total
	funds	funds
	£	£
Fundraising events	2,570	4,441
Other income	192	120
	<hr/> 2,762 <hr/>	<hr/> 4,561 <hr/>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31/12/18	31/12/17
	£	£
Dividends & interest	610	549
	<hr/>	<hr/>

St Mary's Astbury PCC

Notes to the Financial Statements – continued
For the Year Ended 31st December 2018

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st December 2018 nor for the year ended 31st December 2017.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31st December 2018 nor for the year ended 31st December 2017.

5. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31/12/17 Total funds £
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations & legacies	25,470	1,610	27,080
Charitable activities			
Burial & Wedding fees	24,450	-	24,450
Collections at services	6,809	244	7,053
Parish Magazine		827	827
Planned giving	35,198	1,270	36,468
Other trading activities	2,906	1,655	4,561
Investment income	549	-	549
Total	95,382	5,606	100,988
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	162	-	162
Charitable activities			
Church running expenses	44,556	718	45,274
Diocesan Parish Share	50,237	-	50,237
Mission Giving & donations	1,280	1,280	1,280
Parish Magazine		806	806
Other	660	-	660
Total	96,895	1,524	98,419
NET INCOME	(1,513)	4,082	2,569
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	17,673	5,219	22,892
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	16,160	9,301	25,461

St Mary's Astbury PCC

Notes to the Financial Statements – continued
For the Year Ended 31st December 2018

6. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31/12/18	31/12/17
	£	£
Trade debtors	-	1,429
Other debtors	3,613	1,178
	<hr/> 3,613	<hr/> 2,607

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31/12/18	31/12/17
	£	£
Other creditors	28,305	29,415

Other creditors - 2018 includes £882.00 held on behalf of Toddler Group and (£83.20) owed from a gift aid claim from the bell repair fund.

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/1/18	Net movement	Transfer	at 31/12/18
	£	in funds	between funds	£
		£	£	
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	14,185	43,791	(83)	57,893
Friends of Astbury	1,975	440	-	2,415
	<hr/> 16,160	<hr/> 44,231	<hr/> (83)	<hr/> 60,308
Restricted funds				
Organ	6,292	18,137	-	24,429
Parish news	635	141	-	776
Junior Church	100	(50)	-	50
Rector & Churchwardens	2,010	-	-	2,010
Church fabric	264	160	-	424
Bell repairs	-	(83)	83	-
	<hr/> 9,301	<hr/> 18,305	<hr/> 83	<hr/> 27,689
TOTAL FUNDS	<hr/> 25,461	<hr/> 62,536	<hr/> -	<hr/> 87,997

St Mary's Astbury PCC

Notes to the Financial Statements – continued
For the Year Ended 31st December 2018

8. MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS - continued

Net movements in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	133,948	(90,157)	43,791
Friends of Astbury	440	-	440
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	134,388	(90,157)	44,231
 Restricted funds			
Organ	25,473	(7,336)	18,137
Parish news	946	(805)	141
Junior Church	-	(50)	(50)
Church fabric	160	-	160
Bell repairs	4,656	(4,739)	(83)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	31,235	(12,930)	18,305
 TOTAL FUNDS	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	165,623	(103,087)	62,536

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/1/17 £	Net movement in funds £	at 31/12/17 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	16,138	(1,953)	14,185
Friends of Astbury	1,535	440	1,975
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	17,673	(1,513)	16,160
 Restricted funds			
Organ	2,330	3,962	6,292
Parish news	615	20	635
Junior Church	-	100	100
Rector & Churchwardens	2,010	-	2,010
Church fabric	264	-	264
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	5,219	4,082	9,301
 TOTAL FUNDS	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	22,892	2,569	25,461

St Mary's Astbury PCC

Notes to the Financial Statements – continued
For the Year Ended 31st December 2018

8. MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movements in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	94,942	(96,895)	(1,953)
Friends of Astbury	440	-	440
	<hr/> 95,382	<hr/> (96,895)	<hr/> (1,513)
Restricted funds			
Organ	4,430	(468)	3,962
Parish news	826	(806)	20
Junior Church	100	-	100)
Upkeep of Churchyard	250	(250)	-
	<hr/> 5,606	<hr/> (1,524)	<hr/> 4,082
TOTAL FUNDS	<hr/> 100,988	<hr/> (98,419)	<hr/> 2,569

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1/1/17 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	at 31/12/18 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	16,138	41,838	(83)	57,893
Friends of Astbury	1,535	880	-	2,415
Restricted funds				
Organ	2,330	22,099	-	24,429
Parish news	615	161	-	776
Junior Church	-	50	-	50
Rector & Churchwardens	2,010	-	-	2,010
Church fabric	264	160	-	424
Bell repairs	-	(83)	83	-
	<hr/> 5,219	<hr/> 22,387	<hr/> 83	<hr/> 27,689
TOTAL FUNDS	<hr/> 22,892	<hr/> 65,105	<hr/> -	<hr/> 87,997

St Mary's Astbury PCC

Notes to the Financial Statements – continued
For the Year Ended 31st December 2018

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS – continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	228,890	(187,052)	41,838
Friends of Astbury	880	-	880
	<u>229,770</u>	<u>(187,052)</u>	<u>42,718</u>
Restricted funds			
Organ	29,903	(7,804)	22,099
Parish news	1,772	(1,611)	161
Junior Church	100	(50)	50
Church fabric	160	-	160
Bell repairs	4,656	(4,739)	(83)
Upkeep of Churchyard	250	(250)	-
	<u>36,841</u>	<u>(14,454)</u>	<u>22,387</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>266,611</u>	<u>(201,506)</u>	<u>65,105</u>

9. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party disclosures for the year ended 31st December 2018.

St Mary's Astbury PCC

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
For the Year Ended 31st December 2018

	31/12/18 £	31/12/17 £
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	37,393	18,254
Gift Aid	11,254	8,698
Grants	16,254	128
	<hr/> 64,901	<hr/> 27,080
Other trading activities		
Fundraising events	2,570	4,441
Other income	192	120
	<hr/> 2,762	<hr/> 4,561
Investment Income		
Dividends & interest	610	549
Charitable activities		
Planned giving & collections	69,169	43,521
Burial & wedding fees	27,236	24,450
Parish magazine	945	827
	<hr/> 97,350	<hr/> 68,798
Total incoming resources	<hr/> 165,623	<hr/> 100,988
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Fundraising expenses	1,609	162
Charitable activities		
Sundries	80	47
Diocesan Parish Share	51,493	50,237
Church running expenses	47,244	45,381
Parish magazine	805	806
Missionary & charitable giving	1,196	1,126
	<hr/> 100,818	<hr/> 97,597
Support costs		
Governance costs		
Accountancy & legal fees	660	660
Total resources expended	<hr/> 103,087	<hr/> 98,419
Net income	62,536	2,569

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

St Mary's Astbury PCC
Report of the Trustees
For the Year Ended 31st December 2018

RECTOR OF ASTBURY

Rev Dr J. C. Cuttall, Corner Cottage, Pools Lane,
Smallwood. 01477 500536

CHURCHWARDEN

Mrs B. Cook, St Mary's Cottage, School Lane
01260 290194

SERVICES	8.00 am, every Sunday	Holy Communion	BCP
	9.00 am, 1st Sunday	Morning Prayer	BCP
	11.00 am, 1st Sunday	Holy Communion	CW
	11.00 am, 2nd Sunday	Family Service	CW
	11.00 am, 3rd Sunday	Morning Prayer & Communion	CW
	11.00 am, 4th Sunday	Morning Prayer	CW
	11.00 am, 1st, 3rd & 4th Sundays	Junior Church	
	6.00 pm, 3rd Sunday (not January)	Story Time	
	6.30 pm, 2nd Sunday	Sung Eucharist	BCP
	6.30 pm, 1st & 4th Sundays	Evensong	BCP
	7.00 pm, 3rd Sunday	Compline	

Fifth Sunday - Joint Service with Smallwood as announced

Services of Holy Baptism & Holy Matrimony and Funerals by arrangement with the Rector

ASTBURY ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL, School Lane, CW12 4RG.

Head Teacher Mrs P. Worswick

Chairman of Governors Mrs K. Moore

CHURCH KEYS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE RECTOR and CHURCHWARDEN

WEBSITES

www.astburychurch.co.uk

www.achurchnearyou.com/astbury-st-mary

During the year 2018 the following served as members of the PCC:

The Incumbent: Rev Dr Jeffrey C. Cuttall, the chairman.

The churchwarden: Mrs B. Cook. Dr S. Drage was vice-chairman.

The representatives on the Deanery Synod were Mr W. Ball, Mrs C. Goodwin and Mr A. Bailey.

The elected members before and after the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2018 on 12th March were

Mrs D. Barnett, Dr S. Drage, Mrs D. Graham, Mr F. Griffiths, Mrs C. Holford, Mr J. Hulse, Dr J. Moore, Mrs J. Nadin, Mr I. Pennington, Mr P. Powell, Mr P. Stanway and Mrs J. Taylor. Mrs P. Price was elected to the PCC on 12th March.

The following will serve for one year until the Annual Meeting in 2019:

Mrs D. Barnett, Mrs D. Graham, Mr F. Griffiths, and Mr P. Powell.

The following will serve for two years until the Annual Meeting in 2020:

Mrs C. Holford, Mr J. Hulse, Dr J. Moore, Mrs J. Nadin [and Mr I. Pennington.]

The following will serve for three years until the Annual Meeting in 2021:

Dr S. Drage, Mrs P. Price, Mr P. Stanway and Mrs J. Taylor.

Mrs P. Worswick, Head Teacher, continued as a co-opted member of the PCC.

Mr I. Pennington was also the representative for All Saints' Chapel of Ease, Somerford.

The Treasurer was Mrs D. Barnett..

The Secretary was Mr W. Ball until 12th March and Mr A. Bailey thereafter.

The Electoral Roll Officer was Mr P. Powell.

The current Sidespeople are Mr A. Bailey, Mr W. Ball, Mrs B. Cook, Mr G. Dale, Mrs C. Goodwin,

Mr T. Gresty, Mr F. Griffiths, Mrs J. Nadin, Mr P. Powell, Mr N. Price and Mr P. Snape.

St Mary's Astbury PCC

Committees of the PCC: The Rector is ex officio Chairman of all Committees of the PCC.

Standing Committee: the Rector, Mr Bailey (from 12th March), Mr Ball, Mrs Barnett, Mrs Cook and Dr Drage. This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. [No such direction has been given by the Council.]

Astbury & Smallwood Parish News: the Rector, Mr Ball, Mr Hulse and Mrs Cook. This committee operates a bank account to collect and disburse money to pay for the monthly publication of *Astbury & Smallwood Parish News*.

The PCC are especially grateful for all the continued support, wise counsel and hard work of the Patron of the Living, Sir Richard Baker Wilbraham, together with Revv Dr David Page and Steve Clapham, past and present Rural Deans of Congleton, the Ven Ian Bishop, Archdeacon of Macclesfield, the Rt Rev Libby Lane, now Bishop of Derby and the Rt Rev Dr Peter Forster, Lord Bishop of Chester. Many thanks go to Carole Goodwin for mustering teams of dusters and brass cleaners from the ranks of the Ladies' Fellowship and beyond; to Sally Drage, the morning singers and the choir; to Peter Stanway and the bellringers; and to Kath Moore and Cheshire Probation Service for keeping the A34 and old churchyards respectively - all 4 acres! - immaculate. They are greatly appreciated although largely unseen.

We are sorry to record the death of Mr Ian Pennington, who had served the people of this church and especially All Saints' Chapel of Ease, Somerford, for many years as a member of the PCC. He will be sadly missed.

Church attendance and electoral roll

The old electoral roll made in 2013 contained 238 names at the time of the 2018 annual parochial church meeting (this year, 134). The usual Sunday attendance, counted during May 2018 was 79 adults and 10 children (May 2017, 70 and 10 respectively; May 2016, 80 and 5; May 2015, 70 and 9; May 2014, 88 and 16; May 2013, 95 and 16; 2012, 114 and 19; 2011, 116 and 13; 2010, 90 and 20; 2009, 84 and 15). At Easter about 210 people (2018, 220; 2017, 220; 2016, 180; 2015, 115; 2014, 130; 2013, 150; 2012, 150; 2011, 220; 2010, 270; 2009, 170) came to Church, and at Christmas over 500 (2017, 500; 2016, 500; 2015, 380; 2014, 350; 2013, 390; 2012, 400; 2011, 400; 2010, 360; 2009, 320).

Proceedings of the Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod comprises all the clergy, together with lay representatives, from all the parishes in Congleton Deanery. The Rev Dr David Page was succeeded as Rural Dean by Rev Steve Clapham, and Mr William Ball continues as Lay Chairman of the Synod. We met three times in 2018, on 8th March at Christ Church, Alsager; on 11th June at All Saints', Church Lawton; and on 9th October at St Mary, Sandbach. At each meeting there are reports on the latest meetings of Diocesan Synod and the several committees on which the Deanery is represented, and members also report on recent news and initiatives in each parish.

At the March meeting we heard with regret that Bishop Peter would be retiring in June 2019. Rev Heather Buckley would shortly be inducted at Goostrey, but Rev Jayne Shepherd would be leaving St Mary Magdalene Alsager at Easter.

The June meeting welcomed all the new members of Synod elected at the various Annual Meetings and included a detailed report on the Diocesan Synod meeting held recently. Emily Allen gave a very interesting talk on her role as the Diocesan Church Buildings Development Officer. Various schemes of pastoral reorganization are on the horizon, especially at Sandbach Heath & Wheelock and in the Congleton Team. A Prayer Walk in the Deanery led by Bishop Libby and Archdeacon Ian had been a great success. Heather Kemball had been accepted for Ordination Training.

The October meeting was taken up largely by a discussion of Bishop Peter's paper on *Supporting and developing Missional Communities*. This led to a most detailed reply containing our thoughts and responses compiled by the Secretary, Mrs Shirley Jones, to whom our thanks go. The original paper and a copy of the reply are available from Mr Ball.

Astbury hosted the Archdeacon's Visitation on 21st May and were complimented for our efficient organization of the event.. The next Visitation is at St Mary's Church Acton at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 14th May.

The Rural Dean and Lay Chairman attended the three meetings of the Macclesfield Archidiaconal Mission & Pastoral Committee and reported on Deanery developments.

William Ball

**Junior Church and Youth Provision -
Astbury Toddlers**

Astbury Toddler Group has enjoyed another good year. Numbers were down on last year during the first half of the autumn term with an average of 12, and some weeks we didn't have enough children attending to cover the rent. This was not an issue as we have a healthy reserve and our finances are in a good state. We are able to be self-funding at the moment and the mums seem happy with our current entry fee. The Village Hall committee did increase the rent from £23 per session to £30 per session, but the increase was absorbed by the mid-week communion service and paid by the church.

We attract a good mix of mums, dads and grandparents. John, Joan, and Jean have done another year of sterling work in the kitchen, providing tea and coffee for the adults and a lovely selection of toast and brioches for the children along with juice. We struggled for a few weeks when Joan was recovering from her accident and Jean was away and this highlighted the need for a reserve of volunteers who could be called on to help out if required. Last year I did ask the PCC to consider what involvement the church has with the Toddlers and what interactions Toddlers has with the church. I always invite Toddlers to Story Time, and one family has started to attend: however, it would be nice to increase the presence of the church at Toddlers, maybe on the week of Mothering Sunday we could have a service in church for the group?

The group has been working on raising its profile this last year. We use social media more to promote the group and the flyers have been distributed around the town, and especially on the new estates being built around CHS. Jean and Paul have been instrumental in promoting the group, with Jean acting as post person and Paul using his contacts at the *Chronicle*. Numbers have been increasing, with the last few weeks seeing us numbering over 20 children.

The PCC should be aware that from the start of July I will no longer be working at Astbury, (although I will finish the term at Toddler Group), and Jacqui who helps me set up every week will also be leaving as her son will be starting school in September. I will raise this with those who attend Toddler Group but if no one is able to come early to help set up then I am not sure Toddler Group can continue in September. Also someone will need to take over the administration of the group and the shopping. If Toddler Group stops running then I think it would be a real lost opportunity for outreach and mission, and also from a purely practical point the church will have to decide what happens to all the toddler equipment which is currently stored in the side room and under the stage at the Village Hall, along with the kitchen equipment we store in there.

The group would like to thank the May Day committee for their kind donation of £100 which will be used to buy new equipment, if the group continues.

Lastly: I would like to thank John Hulse, Joan Taylor and Jean Nadin without whose help and support, and supply of coffee, I and the group could not function.

Steph Morris

Junior Church

Babies and toddlers aged 0-2½ years can use the 'Tiddler Church' space provided in the Lady Chapel during the 11.00 am service, but must be supervised by their own parent/carers. This space is set up by volunteers before the service each Sunday. It has a wide variety of toys and books and changing facilities are also available. Parents and carers can use this area throughout the service while still being part of church, as you can still hear the service.

Junior Church provision continues to run three times a month during the 11.00 am service (school term-times only), with a family service once a month when the children stay in church with their families/carers. For Junior Church the children leave the service for a short time of around 20 minutes to introduce children's worship time, prayer time, music, drama and craft, and to take part in fun activities to explore different Biblical themes. We have used several online resources such as Creative Flame, Scripture Union and Ministry-to-Children. Our ongoing, exciting sewing project is to make a new Junior Church banner.

We meet in the 'children's area' in the vestry (shared with the choir). The area is still not ideal due to noise and toileting issues, but the children feel that they have a space that is theirs.

Junior church numbers have increased slightly with around 9 children (ages 3-13) regularly attending.

Highlights of Junior Church 2018-2019 have included helping at the Astbury Christian Aid Week Breakfast and consolidating links with Astbury Mere Care Home, where we enjoyed a 'Silver Sunday' visit.

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The children always enjoy charitable giving and we hope to continue their work in this area throughout 2019. In summary, the Junior Church team have worked together to continue to build firm foundations for our children's faith and developing lasting friendships amongst children and parents, and other members of the church. We would like to thank the PCC for their contributions – the children and team are very grateful, thank you!

The Junior Church Team

Child Protection

The existing policy is unchanged from last year and is printed on page 23 as Appendix I to this Annual Report.

Brenda Cook

Astbury School - Christian distinctiveness

Our school has had a really challenging year since the last report. But, in the face of adversity, we have remained strong and determined to fight for the best improvements to our school for our children, families and staff. Following the OFSTED inspection in January 2017, and the 'inadequate' grade, this led to an academy order in September 2017 from the Regional Schools' Commissioner. The Governors of our school were delighted that a decision was made for us to join the Chester Diocese Academy Trust <http://www.cdat.co.uk/>, this being their preferred multi-academy trust. During 2018, the school has worked with staff from CDAT on school improvement and staff training. A small Cheshire East hub of schools has developed and children from our newly formed ethos council have worked with children from Wybunbury, Elworth C. of E. and Brereton schools. However, by the end of 2018, we had still not converted to an academy. The anticipated date of conversion is 1st February 2019. The school has continued to be distinctively Christian in the values and ethos that are evident throughout all areas of school life. The ethos council has great ideas to improve this and during Autumn 2018 they completed a distinctiveness audit. They also promoted work on manners, leading worship and giving out certificates.

Worship

Visitors from Astbury church have been in regularly to lead and join in worship, including the Rector Jeff, Sally Drage and Steph Morris. Beth Cosgrove, from New Life Church and Andy Calvert from the Pentecostal church have also led worship each term.

Our worship focus this year has been on:

Spring term 2018: going for goals, including the secrets of success 'Work Hard'. Y5 and Y6 attended an Ash Wednesday service in church, and during Lent we used the new Archie Bishop resources. We also bought each child in the school a 'Lent activity book', which they used during class prayers.

Summer term 2018: We learnt about the fruit of the Spirit and how to grow them in our lives. The secrets of success were 'Be Imaginative'. All children attended an end of year service in church, and Y6 children attended the Diocese leavers' service and were asked to the front to lead one of the songs.

Autumn term 2018: Children discussed the fruit of the Spirit and which were the most important! For our school, the top four were: self-control, peace, love and kindness. Worship was focussed on learning about each of these, and these words are now around the cross in the entrance area. The secrets of success were 'Try New Things'. We purchased Advent books for the children to use during class prayers and also used the new Advent reflection resources from the Church of England.

Children attended a welcome service in church for new starters, as well as Harvest, Remembrance Sunday and Christingle.

Church links

This year we have continued to build links with the church as Rector Jeff has prepared children to help out in the family services each month. Classes from school have been invited to bring their families to church. Members of the congregation have come into school to listen to children read, provide support with clubs, and some are also governors.

Members of the congregation paid for the Y6 leavers' Bibles.

Links with New Life Church have also continued, and they have been in each week to lead an 'Open The Book' session for YR – Y2. Beth Cosgrove has taught Bible Explorer – Old Testament and New Testament – to the Y5 and Y6 children, culminating in an assembly for parents and each child receiving a Bible Explorer book and certificate.

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RE teaching

This year, we have continued to use the new approved Diocese scheme of work for schools, which builds Christian concepts year by year. We are beginning to see some thoughtful responses to the teaching in RE and children are starting to make good progress. They all have RE books and RE is taught in each class each week.

Children

We currently have 66 pupils on roll and the capacity of the school is 133. Pupil numbers is an issue for the school as the budget is affected by the number of children in school, which impacts staffing.

Please follow us on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/astburyschool/>

P. Worswick
Head teacher

The Diocesan Schools' Leavers' End of Year Service was held on Thursday 5th July (two others were at Chester Cathedral) with the Rector. We welcomed the staff, pupils, parents and friends of Astbury School on Sunday 16th December for the Nativity production and on Thursday 20th for their Christingle Service, and those of the Quinta Primary School on Thursday 13th December for their Carol Service. Congleton High School's Carol Service was held on Friday 21st December, with more than 1,200 participants.

Astbury & Smallwood Parish News is available on both the Church's website (www.astburychurch.org.uk) and the Church of England website A Church Near You (www.achurchnearyou.com/astbury-st-mary) each month, together with practical details of Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Visits, Church and Family History, &c.

All Saints' Chapel of Ease at Somerford is included on the Church of England website A Church Near You (www.achurchnearyou.com/somerford-all-saints).

William Ball

Ladies' Fellowship

January began with our winter Luncheon. Sadly on 2nd March, the day of the blizzards, our chairman of many years, Dorothy Holliday, died. Carole Goodwin became the new chairman and Jan Hardie-Woolridge the new secretary. We welcomed two new committee members, Anita Thompson and Pamela Price.

At our meetings we have heard about old fashioned toffees, stamp collecting, American history, British wool and cheese making. We clean the church when physical limitations allow and took part in the World Day of Prayer Service in June. We have donated the the proceeds of our pancake evening and May Day plant stall towards the restoration of the church organ. A successful coffee evening in October enabled us to continue the giving towards the church flowers.

The busy year concluded with our self-catered Christmas supper, which began with Communion in the village hall and ended noisily with bingo!

Carole Goodwin

All Saints' Chapel of Ease, Somerford

The Chapel opened on Easter Day with a service of Holy Communion, and continued for the rest of the year with Evensong on the first Sunday of each month to September. The Harvest Thanksgiving Service on the last Sunday in September was well attended and the produce was taken to St. Luke's Hospice, Winsford which is always gratefully received. The December Lessons and Carols was held on 16th December; it was lovely to see the Chapel full and as always after this service we had mulled wine and mince pies.

The Chapel is now closed until Easter 2019.

We would like to thank David Young and Simon King for the grass cutting, and the ladies who keep the Chapel in good order and provide tea and biscuits after each service.

Margaret Pennington

Astbury Village Hall

The Village Hall had a successful year during 2018 both financially and with lettings.

It had been agreed in 2017 by The Trustees and Management Committee that there should be a slight increase in the fees, but that a preferential rate would be given to groups with a close association with the Church, School and Village. These groups would be required to apply to become part of the approved organisations. The Steward will

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inform the relevant charities of the reduction in charges on any new invoices. There is now a revised booking form which enables users to make payments using the BACS facility.

Maintenance work to the gutters, gullies, drains has been carried out throughout the year as well as boarding up the old electrics box. Improvements to the fabric and facilities as proposed previously have now all been completed together with blinds for the Velux windows, durable carpet in the entrance hall and new signs. A further big improvement was the resurfacing of the floor in the main room.

The electrics, which needed considerable work in order to comply with the requirements of the Insurers, have also been completed and certified.

The outside area between the boundary of the car park and the Egerton Arms has been cleared and fenced, leading to more space for access and parking.

For the future, eight round tables are to be purchased as it is felt that these would be more beneficial for social functions such as weddings and luncheons etc.

The bar area is also in need of improvement, especially with the provision of shutters for security purposes.

Quotations for the work are being sought and the regular licensee has very generously offered to contribute to half the cost.

Following attendance on a course by John Hulse and Sally Brightwell on the use of a defibrillator, it was decided to request one from the British Heart Foundation for use in and around the Village Hall. A quote of £600 which includes fitting had been given.

A request for an induction loop to be fitted in the Hall also met with approval.

Sadly, Mrs Lisa Barber who had been a member of the Committee with responsibility for fund raising has had to resign owing to work commitments but all agreed that her efforts had been wonderful and a letter and gift in grateful recognition had been sent.

With regard to The Close, there has been a change in the letting agents from Reeds Rains to Timothy Brown Estate Agents. There remained a deposit of one month's rent to be reclaimed from Reeds Rains. The tenants of The Close are aware and in agreement with the new arrangement which will take effect from January 2019. One of the bedroom windows in the property is due to be replaced immediately in the interests of safety and eight other windows will require attention in the future. There will be an increase in the rent from 1st February 2019 and the tenants have indicated that they would be willing to enter into a long term contract and the Agents are being contacted about this.

A considerable amount of work has been carried out on the Village Hall during the last year which has led to great improvements in the appearance and facilities. Grateful thanks must go to Mrs Sally Brightwell, who as Steward, has worked so hard in organizing and overseeing all of this together with a successful year in lettings.

Jean Nadin

On behalf of the PCC



Rev Dr Jeff Cuttall,

Rector of Astbury & Chairman of Astbury Parochial Church Council.

25th March 2019

Appendix 1

Children and Young People at St Mary's Church, Astbury.

This statement was agreed at the PCC meeting held on 2nd June 2014

- ☒ The parish will adopt these guidelines as good practice.
- ☒ They will be read out to at least one PCC meeting each year, where progress in implementing them will be monitored.
- ☒ As members of this church, we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all, especially children and young people.
- ☒ It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, sexual, emotional and spiritual abuse of children and young people and to report any abuse discovered or suspected.
- ☒ We recognise that our work with children and young people is the responsibility of the whole church.
- ☒ Our church is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who work with children and young people and to providing supervision.
- ☒ Our church is committed to following the guidelines and procedures published by the Diocese.
- ☒ Each worker with children and young people must know the guidelines and undertake to follow them.
- ☒ Each shall be given a copy of the Parish's agreed procedures and Good Practice guidelines.
- ☒ As part of our commitment to children and young people, the PCC has appointed Mrs Brenda Cook to be the Child Protection Coordinator.
- ☒ Children and young people are an important part of our Church today.
- ☒ They have much to give as well as to receive.
- ☒ We will listen to them.
- ☒ As we nurture them in worship, learning, and in community life, we will respect the wishes and feelings of children and young people.