

Making Disciples



Annual Report 2025

Introduction: Vicar's Report

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (Colossians 3)

Once again, we have much to celebrate with fruitful and exciting ministry at St Mary's. We continue to work hard to fulfil our calling to 'Make Disciples' by reaching out to those who have never had the opportunity to explore faith and by growing a community of faith in which people are encouraged to deepen their faith, to explore the bible, to ask questions and to develop the deep spiritual disciplines of prayer, worship and living faithfully as described in Colossians.

Reaching out to others

We have continued to work hard to reach out to others. Much of the opportunities for mission and outreach come through offering excellent pastoral ministry. The 32 baptisms, 9 weddings and 42 funerals have allowed us to stand alongside people at significant moments of their lives and to speak of God.

In addition, the special ministry to groups such as: Bubble Church, Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade, Youth Group, The Children's Summer Club, School Worship, and School Worship Club as well as Men's Meet, Women's Meet and Vintage have given the opportunity to share the Good News. We have seen our new people come to faith and have been delighted to welcome a significant number of adults into the church through baptism (by full immersion).

Ministering to one another

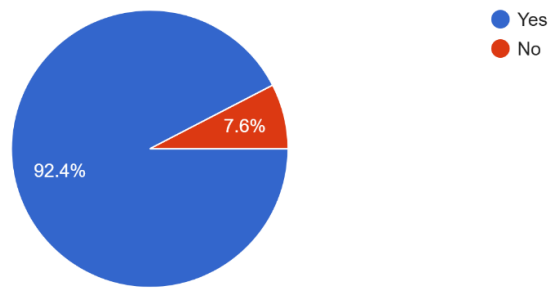
Small groups have been central to our fellowship; helping people form friendships, learn together and pray for each other (and their value is noted below in the survey results). They are a source of great encouragement, and we are delighted that they have continued to grow in depth of teaching as well as in number. In addition, they have provided space for people to connect socially with members of other congregations. I am extremely grateful to all the leaders for their loyalty and commitment to this important work.

We were delighted to see Carolyn develop her new ministry with us and the development of the 'Vintage' team working with the more mature members of our community has been extremely impressive. The pastoral care she has offered has been second-to-none and her enthusiasm and determination are gifts from God.

It was good to hear that many really value small groups.

We recognise that all members of the church are called to serve and use their gifts in the mission of the gospel and so we have created opportunities for people to grow as leaders and offer ministry in the church. Alex and Casandra have both undertaken the Foundations in Ministry course. Alex is now heading up our 'Faith in Everyday Life' project and Casandra is developing a fruitful pastoral ministry. The ministry team meets each month and considers where God is calling us and how we can best develop our worship and mission. I am extremely grateful to: Carolyn, Erik, Gill, Jo, John, Michael and Steve for their partnership in the gospel and to Keith, Ian, Simon and Sun for leading / preaching over the course of this year (although Sun is stepping back from this ministry at this time).

Do you feel encouraged to use your gifts at St Mary's?



We are actively supporting those who wish to serve and use their gifts, and I am very grateful for all who support others to grow and develop strong teams (including our musicians – the fabulous Berry Lewis and incredible Kathryn Arrowsmith-Cooper; as well as the amazing Helena Wilson in Bubble Church). I am deeply grateful to the tech team who look after sound and visuals and who are training others to do the same.

We will continue to explore how we grow leadership at St Mary's over the coming year.

Many parts working together

None of the ministry of St Mary's could be offered without an incredible team of wardens: Keith Gilson (who has courageously taken on the building projects with skill and enthusiasm) Jill Edmond (who has overseen welcome and church culture), Ian Jackson (who has nurtured leaders and emphasised learning and growing in faith) and Ruth Stebbings (who brings practical solutions and has had a special ministry supporting the 8am and Thursday congregations) in addition to all the 'day to day stuff' that wardens do to keep the show on the road.

In addition, we have our lovely Gill Gregory in the office looking after communications, Susan looking after stewardship and hall bookings, and Jane keeping the church and hall presentable.

The PCC, ably enabled by our wonderful PCC secretary, Janet Osgerby, have taken their responsibility to good governance incredibly seriously and Gill Gregory has loyally overseen safeguarding.

I could not end this report without mentioning our treasurer par excellence who (with support from Sally Blake, John Watt and Chris Munday) has offered her wisdom, sharp intellect, passion to get things done and warmth to the team. She is incredible. We know she will continue to play her part on the development board but will deeply miss her as treasurer. Having said that, we couldn't have a better replacement as Richard Mattock has walked alongside her for the past year.

I am incredibly proud of our church community and thank you for your support, love

and prayers....

Of course, there have been moments of sadness when we have seen those who God loaned to us return to the fullness of his presence in heaven:

- Tony with his extraordinary faith and passion to share the gospel and his love and support for young people.
- Eira Logan with her kindness and faithfulness and ability to get alongside people
- Eileen Hick and her utter generosity and trust in Jesus
- Margaret Law a true prayer warrior and loyal member of the church
- Penny Ward with her beautiful Welsh singing voice and kindness
- Jacqui Clarke with her incredible hospitality, bravery and humour

We miss each of them. But may we honour their memory and build upon their legacy as we continue to Make Disciples in 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Becky Lumley'. The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name 'Becky' and last name 'Lumley' clearly legible.

Becky Lumley (Vicar, St Mary's Beverley)

Worship

Introduction: Becky Lumley

As ever it is an honour to lead worship at St Mary's and my thanks must be offered to all those who with skill and diligence, prepare and lead worship. My thanks go to: Erik Wilson, Gill Gregory, Jo Boulter, John Edmond, Keith Gilson, Michael Yates, Simon Pike and Steve Parkin. We also give thanks for our amazing musicians – Berry, Michael and the choir, and Kathryn and the band.

Despite the challenges we face as a church in today's society, the numbers of those attending worship and belonging to St Mary's continues to grow.



Celebration services are extremely important because they allow us to share the Good News with people who would not otherwise hear. Christmas services and Easter Day services are extremely busy and have been growing over recent years.

<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	Services
459	419	Easter Day Service
2827	4815	Carol/ nativity services in Advent
1950	2382	Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

8.00am Communion: Rachel Woolner

8am Sunday morning is a quiet intimate service, with time for reflection and pray, usually held in St Catherine's Chapel. It takes around 30 Minutes as we don't have music or singing. We each have a turn to read the Bible, gospel or say prayers, which gives a great family feel. We are a friendly group of around 20 and each week after the service we stay to enjoy a cup of tea, and eat breakfast together, toast, homemade marmalade or jam and sometimes some homemade bread

9.30am Communion– Jill Edmond

Our 9.30am service is still well supported with the congregation, choir and ministers usually numbering somewhere between 60 and 90. We have had the pleasure of various members of our ministry team leading and preaching this year. It has been very interesting to experience the different preaching styles throughout the year. Thank you all for your faithful service and leadership in sharing God's word with us each week. The choir, lead by Berry, have excelled themselves again this year leading congregational singing and providing wonderful anthems and moments of quiet musical calm. Thank you for your contribution to the richness of our worship. Lynn and Rosemary thank you for the way you quietly and efficiently ensure we have people to read the lessons and lead prayers each week. Our team of 'communion cup washers' has grown this year - we are very grateful to you all for taking on this task with such enthusiasm. To those who organise refreshments between the 9.30 and 11.15 services thank you so much, it is a wonderful way to share fellowship between the two congregations.

Intercessions Rota: Sunday 9.30: Lynn Pratt

A big thank you to the people who faithfully read the prayers at the 9.30 Sunday service. As with each year, a few have dropped off and a couple of new people have joined. It would be really helpful to have some additional volunteers, so please do have a word if you would like to help with this important ministry. The prayers are normally emailed to you the week before, and you can amend them or just read them as they are.

Reader Rota: Sunday 9.30– Rosemary Williams

During the year we maintained a list of approximately 40 people who read regularly at

these services. This included 3 new volunteers. This means that everyone has the opportunity to read every 4 to 5 months. A suitable date is agreed in advance. A copy of the reading is then provided as well as being available on the day on the lectern. New readers are very welcome

Bubble Church: Helena Wilson

Bubble Church has continued to go from strength to strength this year. We have a really supportive core team of Alex, Louisa, Richard, Anne and Helen. We are also regularly joined by Anna, Amy and Emily who are wonderful young CLCGB senior members, plus Ben, Alex and Iris.

Attendance of Bubble Church services continues to be high, with a number of regular attending families (8-10 families) who come most months or every month. Baptism families are also encouraged to attend to collect their baptism certificates and candles and we hope that these will continue to attend in future months. Attendance in August was lower due to being in the summer holiday break and was also lower in December because it coincided with a forecasted storm. However, most months in the past year have had double figures of families attending many of whom are regular attendance

Date	Adults	Children	Families	New attendees	Baptism families
12/05/2024	10	12	10	9	
09/06/2024	18	22	14	7	
14/07/2024	15	16	12	7	
11/08/2024	8	8	7	3	
08/09/2024	13	12	9	8	
13/10/2024	14	13	10	6	
10/11/2024	17	19	12	9	
08/12/2024	6	7	5	n/a	
12/01/2025	12	11	9	2	
09/02/2025	16	17	11	13	
16/03/2025	13	14	10	3	1
13/04/2025	14	14	10	10	1
11/05/2025	19	19	13	10	2

Bubble Church action songs also continue to be popular at both Allsorts Playgroup and CLCGB.

11.15 Service: Alex Kirby

Another year of dynamic 11.15 worship. Congregation is growing with a consistent 80-90 adults and 20 children. Ably assisted by the great children's work with variety of preachers it really is appealing with brilliant music.

We are very grateful to those who have taken on the responsibility of setting up the AV technology and the instruments and looking after children's ministry.

11.15 Rota for readers and intercessions: Lynn Pratt

Many thanks to all the people who read and do prayers at the 11.15 service, especially those who take part in the worship band, Bubble Church, and organise refreshments on the same day. This year, several people have dropped off and it would be helpful to have some additional volunteers, so please do have a word if you would like to join in these important ministries. You would probably be asked once in 5 weeks. The readings and prayers are normally emailed to you the week before.

6.30 Service: Jane Northmore

The 6.30 evening services are all choral and a showcase for our wonderful choir. They are very traditional with Choral Communion on the first Sunday and Choral Evensong on the second, third and fourth Sundays, all from the Book of Common Prayer with traditional hymns (from A&M). Sung Compline takes place on the fifth Sundays - always a beautifully calm and peaceful way to end the day. There is a regular core congregation of about 20 who enjoy strong fellowship and are always pleased to welcome occasional and visiting worshippers who are often tempted to come in just because the church is open at that time or because they are staying at the Beverley Arms. Special thanks go to those who read and do siding duties on a very regular basis, and a special mention for Marie and Kathy who are so reliable when it comes to washing up after Communion.



The Praise Service: Becky Lumley

Held on the second Sunday of each month in the hall, the Praise Service brings an opportunity for an extended time of worship and a greater opportunity for going deeper in our teaching.

Each service contains a sermon bookended with praise songs and prayer. The main theme over the year have been 'Listen to Her': hearing the stories of the (often overlooked) women in the Bible with teaching by Becky Lumley, David Arrowsmith – Cooper, Ian Jackson and Keith Gilson.

Kathryn and David Arrowsmith – Cooper have brought their incredible music skills to lead the band for us each service, with a wide selection of contemporary worship songs. Anne and Chris McGowan – French have led the hospitality team with lovely coffee, teas and the finest selection of biscuits. Numbers have remained consistent at 30 – 35 throughout the year and we feel that with more publicity and greater awareness of this service – numbers could really grow.

Thursday Service: Allan Ball

The Thursday morning service is a traditional Said Service led by a rich variety of our Priests, Readers and of course, Vicar Becky. Numbers remain at 10 – 20 regular attendees, occasionally supplemented by visitors who only came for a look around the church but stayed to join in. It is attended by a combination of those for whom this is their only service plus others who routinely attend other services too. We are an amiable group who look forward to worshipping together, followed by informal discussions, reflections, or random chatting in the hall for coffee.

Celtic Services: John Edmond & Steve Parkin

From earliest times, Christians gathered at regular hours during each day and night to respond to God's word with praise on behalf of all creation and with intercession for the salvation of the world. Our Celtic Evening Prayer Service and Celtic Communion Service are written in the style and spiritual purview of the Celtic tradition. This is a tradition steeped in imagination, symbolism and of God's glory in all of creation. All Services are candle lit, reflective, quiet and simple to follow – all set in the beautiful and historic environments presented by St Mary's Church and St Catherine's Church, Leconfield. The Celtic Ministry Team comprises John Edmond (LLM), Steve Parkin (LLM), Sarah Gaydon (ALM), Rev Michael Yates and Rev Erik Wilson, ably assisted by respective Church Wardens: Jill Edmond (St Mary's) and Margaret Roberts (St Catherine's).

The Services are held at St Mary's at 7pm every 2nd Saturday (Celtic Evening Prayer) and 4th Saturday (Celtic Communion, occasionally with Healing) each month. The Services at St Catherine's are held at 7pm on the last Thursday at of the month, alternating each month between Celtic Evening Prayer and Celtic Communion. The liturgies are based around the Northumbria Community's Celtic Daily Prayer and Ioana Daily Prayer interspersed with a sprinkle of Wildgoose.

At St Mary's our services take place in St Michael's Chapel but on the odd occasion we have used the Parish Hall and have found the services just as good. We attract a regular and stable congregation averaging around 16-18; and as noted our numbers continue to incrementally grow as new people wish to experience the Celtic tradition. We try and involve members of the congregation in the services leading the reflection, scripture readings or prayers, as we feel this is part of the Celtic spirit. Our

feedback is that people do enjoy the contemplative aspect of Celtic Tradition as we portray through our liturgy i.e. worship interspersed with stilling, meditation, silence, reflection and beautiful choral music which underpin our services. We thank God, moving through the Holy Spirit, for guiding us through our faith to develop our Celtic communities who are now becoming established and continuing, through God's grace, to grow and live out the Gospel in these communities.

We are very pleased to announce that on Saturday 13th September Rev. Roy Searle, who founded the Northumbria Community and one of the writers and contributors of the Northumbria Community's very popular Daily office, Celtic Daily Prayer, has agreed to spend a day with us talking about what we can learn from Celtic Christianity today. We hope we can make this an event for all of the Celtic communities within the Diocese and beyond.

The last year has continued to grow the Celtic Community at both Churches. We are very much looking forward to our continuing patterns of Worship during 2025 and would encourage anyone, of whatever age, who is curious about the Celtic tradition and/or would like to experience the peace and reflection of our services to come along...you will be made most welcome...along with your dog...as God is for all creation.

"All shall be well, and all shall be well, And the manner of all things shall be well. May the peace of the earth be with you. May the light of the stars guide you, and the love of God enfold you and all whom you love, now and always"
Julian of Norwich Amen

Evening Prayer on Facebook: Alice Lee

Thank you to everyone who is a part of the Evening prayer group on Facebook - it is a real testimony of your faith to be able to share the coming together - your time with God, record yourself and to then share it to the world of Facebook.

What a blessing these prayers really are even today for our congregation and for many who live further away but tune in each evening to have someone to pray with - this fills me with such joy knowing the prayers bring strength, love, and healing to many.

We are always looking to have more people join in reading the prayers so if this is something you feel is calling you to be a part of, please do be in touch with me.

An average of 9,600 people view our Facebook group per month (119,500 per year) and each evening prayer video viewed by approximately 300 times, showing how important this ministry is.

Baptisms, Wedding and Funerals: Becky Lumley

Occasional offices remain an essential part of our mission and ministry. The national long-term trend is away from weddings and church funerals, but we are working hard to maintain our community connections and see these as an important part of our mission. We are constantly seeking ways to help people connect with regular worship after coming to us after these services and in particular this year we have connected baptism families with Bubble Church which seems to be bearing fruit.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Baptisms	48	36	21	36	38	11	22	43	28	32
Marriages	18	26	16	24	38	4	19	25	18	9
Funerals	36	29	46	51	49	42	25	29	34	42

- Baptisms: all baptisms & thanksgivings.
- Marriages: marriages and services of prayer & dedication after civil marriages.
- Funerals: those held in church & at crematoria/cemeteries.



Music



Choir & Organ: Berenice Lewis

I'm very happy to report that our musical work within St. Mary's continues to strengthen and grow. Our newer recruits – Charlotte Dixon (alto), Alex Grainger (tenor) Alice Lee (soprano) and Chris Walden (bass) are settling in very well indeed and getting to know our repertoire and normal practices. Charlotte Drew (soprano) will be moving on soon, as she and her partner are relocating; we've loved having her in the choir this year, and will miss her! All our singers demonstrate tremendous commitment to worship at 9.30am and 6.30pm, plus many extra services and events (for instance weddings, funerals, special services for Holy Week and Christmas). We love to sing together, and our little community is a very happy and supportive one. I'd like to express continuing appreciation to Derek Fisher, who devotes a lot of time and energy to organising our music copies and supporting me in numerous ways. Derek is presently taking time off due to health problems, but we know he's itching to get back to the choir and we're hoping to see him very soon.

Michael Ellerington is our regular organist for evening services (and choir rehearsals), and his contribution is very important and much appreciated. I truly appreciate his musicianship and commitment. We have also been fortunate in having Fiona Latham, Colin Wright and Ronald Hawkes cover a few services this year, and I thank them for lending their time and skills. Bronwen Prosser and David Bowden have conducted on occasion, for which I thank them both.

The new Viscount digital organ (installed in 2023) is proving itself a wonderful resource, for our regular church services and also for special performances (New Paths festival and Beverley Chamber Choir, among others). The instrument's sound is excellent, and it's very reassuring to know that the Viscount team are efficient when

responding to any issues – much helped by the relationships forged and maintained by Michael.

I look forward to another year of music and friendship.

9.30am Music Group: Berenice Lewis

The Music Group continues to fulfil its role in worship: hymns and songs before and during the 9.30am service once a month (normally the fourth Sunday). We meet for a short rehearsal in church on the Wednesday prior. Our small group of friends is very committed to worship, and we love making music together. This year we've welcomed Peter Pocock into the group, and it's great to have Pam and Roger Lewis singing with us again. Carolyn Kirk regularly adds to our songs with her lovely viola playing, which is sincerely appreciated. I want to offer special thanks to Rosemary Williams, who organises our music sheets and is always so efficient and supportive. Anyone interested in joining the group is very welcome to contact me direct (email berrylewis2019@gmail.com).

11:15 Band: Kathryn Arrowsmith: Cooper

The 11.15 music group consists of a core group of musicians who generously give their time and talents to lead our sung worship each week. We have also enjoyed playing with the other musicians in the church family in our joint services this year. In addition to the morning service, we also lead worship at the monthly evening Praise Service which provides an opportunity for more extended worship. This year we enjoyed being joined by Hannah on trumpet and Carolyn on violin for some services. As we continue to develop, next year we will be exploring staging blocks to raise the band, so they are visible to more of the congregation to enable leading worship. As always, thanks go to the technicians on the sound desk and projection to ensure services run smoothly. We are not a closed group, so if you are interested in singing or playing with us, or supporting technically, please speak to us after a service.

Bell Tower Report: John Atkinson

2024 has been a busy year at St Mary's. In addition to our service ringing obligations, we have experienced an increase in visiting bands for both ringing tours, quarter peals and our traditional four peal attempts. A number of these requests were to ring mid-week, and agreed by our Vicar, with surprisingly little in the way of complaint from the public!

The continued dedication of the local band has resulted in ringing for most Church services. We have been delighted to welcome back to ringing Angela Sykes who together with Ion Forbes (at University in Durham) and Sarah Shores' developing skills has enabled us to ring the twelve for Sunday service on a number of occasions. Our practice evenings continue to attract ringers from other towers, and they have gained valuable experience, particularly by ringing on ten and twelve bells. The

popularity of our Wednesday evening practices can present quite a challenge for our ringing master Chris Munday! We also value the support of Robert Jordan and Mat Sreeves who bring additional experience to our practices.

The year saw a reduction in ringing for weddings with only 5 requiring bells to be rung. As has been the case in previous years, the ringing for these occasions could not have taken place had it not been for the support we received from our ringing friends from other towers. Your support is always valued and appreciated.



Children and Youth



Bright Sparks: Anne Crossley

What a delight it is to be a part of the Team that leads this group of pre-school children on a Sunday morning. It is a small but very enthusiastic group of children – often with their Mums or Dads - that now meet in the Church Office. After our signature 'Welcome Everybody, how are you?' song, it's straight into

looking in the Bright Sparks Box to see what 'props' are in there – to see if we can work out what the story will be about by looking at the items from the box. This is followed by the Bible story and some relevant activities. As with Livewires, we use some ideas from 'Roots on the Web' – but will often add our own ideas to make sure the session is relevant to this age group.

I'm always very aware of what a responsibility it is – and a privilege – to be teaching this age group about Jesus and our faith. They are like sponges – soaking up most of what is said, so I make sure I have my facts straight – and choose my words very carefully. It was a magical moment to watch these children's faces as we turned water into wine (with the help of some blackcurrant juice and an opaque jug!) They are so easily amazed at this age! – and a super group to spend a Sunday morning with.

Livewires: Anne Crossley

Looking back over my previous reports for the AGM over the last few years, I am struck by how times change! – and the changes that have happened for our children on a Sunday morning. From lockdown and Zoom meetings to children being socially distanced at tables, to the advent of three new groups on a Sunday morning and a new influx of regulars. It has been a privilege to watch children grow in years, but also in their faith as they have moved from Livewires to Power Surge – and to watch the next group emerge.

I must have had some kind of insight as we renamed this primary age group 'Livewires' two or three years ago. This year, this group could not be more aptly named! They certainly live up to their title and they have challenged our volunteers in more ways than one! 'Keeping us on our toes' is the phrase that comes to mind – and we have made some positive changes to accommodate the needs of this group. One of those changes is an increase in volunteers and support from our Church Wardens – and it's great to welcome new people to the Team. Thank you all for your support.

We continue to follow the planning from 'Roots on the web' but will sometimes add our own ideas if the published material doesn't suit this group.

However challenging this group may be at the moment, it is such a gift and so rewarding to listen to them relay their morning to the congregation once they have returned to church – and to hear the theme of our morning and the Bible story explained in great detail. Something is definitely going in!

What a privilege it is to play a part in teaching this group about Jesus. It makes me wonder what God has in store for these children. Please remember both the children and our volunteer staff in your prayers.

Allsorts Toddler Group: Anne Crossley

The Allsorts Toddler Group continues to meet on Friday mornings during school term time in the Church Hall from 9.30am - 11.00am - run by a close and dedicated team

of 8 volunteers who love what we do on a Friday morning (one of whom is a mum whose child has now started school, but she didn't want to leave us. That speaks volumes!).

The number of adults and toddlers varies from week to week with a mixture of regulars and newcomers, but the welcoming, friendly and relaxed nature of the group never changes.

Over a cuppa and a snack, we have time to chat with those who attend and a chance to form new relationships, and we sometimes find the opportunity to offer prayer for them or for any family problems that they share with us. Our sessions always finish with a circle time of singing, a story, or a bit of both.

We continue to pray for more of the mums and toddlers to make the leap from Allsorts on a Friday to Bubble Church on the second Sunday of each month – so until they do, we now end our singing/story session each week with one of the Bubble Church worship songs. And if we forget it – one of the mums or grandmas will request it. It's a firm favourite! To watch a group of mums dancing, shaking bells and singing 'Everybody praise the Lord' is the highlight of my week!

Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade: Melanie Bruton

We have over 90 children and young people between the ages of 4 and 18 who meet weekly at our George Street Head Quarters. We do lots of activities games, friendship and faith. We hold camps throughout the year, we have recently visited Raywell Scout park for weekend Camps in March and April as well as going on a day trip on the Saturday we took part in games on the site which promoted team working, communication and having fun. We also hold sleepovers at CLCGB and day trips.

We have 4 age group sections Martins, Y.Team, JTC and Seniors, which meet each week, taking part in activities including sports, craft, team working, cooking and Christian fellowship (with Bible stories and prayers from Becky).

Our Senior section have recently raised money for two charities holding an Afternoon tea at CLCGB.

We also have two bands which meets each week the Junior and Senior Band, teaching the children a skill of a musical instrument from all ages and abilities. They have a Proms night, and Christmas concert. The band also Lead in the remembrance parade and in the Christmas Eve Christingle service.

2024: Band went to Edinburgh on tour

2024: Company received Beverley Town Council Award for services to the community.

November 2024: Band led the annual Remembrance Day parade in Beverley.

2025: Band took part in the St George's Day parade, York

We have over 40 adult members and leaders over the age of 18 that help the Brigade function, all member and leaders over the age of 18 have completed a DBS, safeguarding training and other relevant training to support the children and young people.



Friday Night Youth Group: Becky Lumley

Over the last year we have really developed the Friday Night Youth Group which has approximately 20 members. We play sports, do crafts, watch films and chat. We always have a small time of learning from the Bible and the young people lead the prayers. The group is led by Amelia and Becky and we could do with extra help. This supports our outreach to young people and offers us an opportunity to walk alongside them and encourage them in their discipleship as well as making friends and enjoying the activities.

School Holiday Meals and Activities: Becky

During the summer holidays in 2024 we (worked) received funding from East Riding of Yorkshire Council to provide a safe place and a cooked meal to children living in poverty in our town. This is an important part of social action and outreach.

Over 15 sessions (each of 4 hours) we welcomed up to 40 children per day. During the sessions we played games with the children, taught them baking and cooking skills, took them on trips and most importantly provided full cooked meals for the children. On order to make this happen we recruited 22 volunteers.

We are also grateful to Tina Cerutii and Coles Kitchen who helped with magnificent

food and of course Mel Bruton and our lovely Church Lads Church Girls for the use of the George Street facilities.

St Mary's School: Becky Lumley

We have continued to support our school in governance, maintaining the Christian ethos of the school and in leading worship. I lead worship in school every Wednesday with special services in church for festivals (Christmas, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance etc.). I continue to serve on the finance and resources committee as well as being vice chair and the governor with responsibility for safeguarding. We said a big thank you to Corrie Sykes-Cook and Kate Jenks who are foundation governors, representing the church and Christian values of the school and bring with them a great deal of wisdom and hands on experience.



Discipleship Groups and Prayer Ministry

Monday Afternoon Home Group: Allan Ball

We are a varied group of ages, backgrounds and life experiences. As with most groups meeting in each other's homes, our numbers are restricted by the space available. Since my last report we have studied 2 Timothy, Philemon, Haggai, Colossians, Jude, Pilgrim Course – The Eucharist, 1&2 Peter, The miracles of Jesus, Advent course, Pilgrim Course – The Beatitudes, and by the time you read this we will have completed our study of Bishop Tom Wright's Lent and Easter for Everyone. We truly are a GIFT to each other as we Grow In Faith Together.

Tuesday Afternoon Home Group: Gill Gregory

This is a small group that meets on Tuesday afternoons at 3pm in the Church Hall or on Wednesdays if there has been a vintage lunch that week. Our areas of study this year have been the Parables, Philippians, Mark and more recently the Stephen Croft Lent course. There is prayer debate and laughter as we share ideas and mutual support. Thank you especially to David Warren who initiated the idea of a mid-week daytime group.

Thursday Night Home Group: Janet Osgerby

Our home group, brilliantly run by Steve and Anne Crossley, continued in 2024 to provide a vibrant and challenging series of studies for all its members. Our studies included Lifeshapes, Psalms, 1 John. Attendance was consistently high, with members valuing their growth in faith and excellent fellowship.

Beyond our studies we celebrated our fellowship with social activities and regular meets, from day trips to Scarborough, an evening at an open-air cinema (it was very cold) to coffee and chats in Beverley. We all feel blessed to be part of this amazing homegroup, which is in turn a small part of the wonderful St Mary's.

Thursday Night Home Group: Ian Jackson

It has been an encouraging year for our Homegroup; the attendance has been consistent and stable, with our numbers usually between 14 and 20 and we have grown in fellowship with and knowledge of each other. Our programme has been diverse, incorporating Biblical books such as a series on Jonah, participation in joint church series such as the Lent course and the Advent materials on "Miracle on 34th Street" and study of other courses including one on the ways God calls us. We have also explored a range of other questions, such as our discussion about the assisted dying legislation and debate and we enjoyed various social gatherings as well. We have profited profoundly from the growing willingness of our members to share leadership of sessions and to bring their own insights and gifts to the direction of the group.

We generally meet on Thursday evenings in the church hall and welcome new

members. Being part of a Homegroup is an excellent way to find ways to grow in faith and fellowship.

Thursday Afternoon Homegroup: Erik Wilson

It is full house with ten of us in the Dominicans home group. This year we have followed the church's programme as much as possible and are about to embark on the Eucharist course. We have also enjoyed some group socials, including a movie night to watch, 'Conclave', preceded by fish and chips.

St Mary's Prayer Circle: Anne Mansfield

We are a group of eighteen who pray regularly for those who have requested prayer for themselves, family members, or friends. We keep a confidential list and members do not always know the reason why someone is on the list, or indeed their full name. New members are always welcome, if you are interested in joining contact either myself, Lorainne Goodare or Margaret Hairsine.

Sadly, we lost three dedicated members in 2024: Margaret Law, Eileen Hicks and Eira Logan and they are sadly missed. But gained two new members.

We use Whatsapp to keep in touch with each other, and updated, and to add new prayer requests, and this is working successfully.

In addition, we meet face to face four times a year, on the 2nd Tuesday of every third month, March, June, September and December, to support each other and those we pray for.

There are three coordinators and they review the list three times a year to ensure it is current and correct.

We have seen some amazing results in the way God has answered our prayers, not always in the way we expect. Sometimes it is sad, but more often uplifting and encouraging. We regularly get messages from those we pray for to show their gratitude as they see our prayers have made a difference in their lives. In fact, some have turned to faith as a result of the support and fellowship.

Saturday Morning Prayer Group

The prayer group has been meeting for over twenty five years, for fellowship and prayers. The prayer group is still active and meets every Saturday morning from 10.30 am, until midday at the latest.

'We are a small group, who meet on a Saturday morning in Beverley, for one hour of prayer. We miss our two long term members and supporters, who passed away last year: Margaret Law and Penny Ward. Now we are four and would offer a warm welcome to anyone who feels led by the Lord to join us and see God answering prayer.' If you wish to join the Saturday Morning Prayer Group please do contact the church office for contact details.

Pastoral Care and Mission

Vintage Years Ministry Report: Carolyn Kirk



The main part of my ministry has been visiting and “keeping up” with our older brothers and sisters. This includes a lot of weekly visitation, phoning, conversation in homes, church services and other events. The main activities which support my role in accompanying older people, are listed below:

Vintage Years (monthly) Lunches	Thanks to our trained chef, Casandra Newbold, 11 delicious lunches have been served. We skipped busy December. We have a marvellous team of more than a dozen faithful helpers with skills in floristry, dish washing, table laying, being a sommelier, hosting ,waitressing, competition judging, punch making, napkin folding etc.
Home Pilgrimages (winter)	We have visited and prayed in the homes of Trishia Higgins and Florence Rosser and 3 homes in Pasture Terrace.
Garden Pilgrimages (spring and summer)	We marvelled at the topiary, pots, croci, roses, tulips and peach blossom in the gardens of Denise Bennet, David and Judith Bowden, Rosie Ryan and Joy Youngson, Peter Lowe, Pam Hopkins, Kath Coombe and Margot.
Library (available at our lunches)	With the help of Forbes Logan who labelled the books and Caroline Morcom who displays them beautifully at our lunches, our library of informative and interesting books is appreciated by increasing numbers of guests.
Rusty Fingers, Ears and Voices (uniting former musicians)	We have fished out old piano duets, done a little singing and gone to concerts together.
Visits and Phone Calls (to care home residents and those needing some encouragement)	We aim to visit care home residents weekly and we try to accompany those in extra need of some TLC, which includes helping some without transport to get to church. Our Spiritual Carers Course is multiplying the number of people keen to undertake this ministry.
Cards	Thanks to kind donations and a workshop (Ann Price and Ann Jepson) we can take or send these to older people as appropriate

Workshops	Marmalade, Crème Caramel, Flap Jacks, Lemon Curd, Card Making, Make do and Mend skills were all passed on this year, thanks to Ann Price, Carolyn Kirk, John and Jill Edmond, Ann Jepson, Jennifer Smith and Andy Laird.
Spiritual Carers Course (8 sessions March-April 2025)	11 people from St Mary's completed this special training on the spiritual care of our church's "wise ones". We are grateful for the support of the PCC in running this course. Congratulations to: Angela Faulkner, Carolyn Kirk, Casandra Newbold, Gill Hulme, Helen Drewery, John Faulkner, June Yates, Lesley Wood and Samuel Kirk.
Special Envoys	We have a group of special older people who pray for our church, even though they cannot get out much. They are: Dr. Jean Constable, Joy Youngson, Joan Purkiss, Margaret Chapman Sheila King and William Jervois. They receive the church newsletter and a special scroll.

We are very grateful to God for the support of the church, the faithful volunteers who help with lunches, the 11 people who completed the Spiritual Carers Course, our praying Special Envoys who receive the church newsletter so they can be praying with us in their homes, and for everyone who has come along to our Vintage events, helped, encouraged, advised us and eaten our food this year. We want older people to feel cherished at St Mary's. Please pray this may be so.

Residential Care Homes: John Edmond

As part of Churches Together Beverly, St Mary's Church (John Edmond) along with Beverly Baptist Church (Christine Larson) and Beverley Minster (Louise McPhee) provide Christian Ministry to three Care Homes within Beverly: ChapterHouse (Keldgate, Beverly) – first Tuesday in the month, Claremont (Wingfield Way, Victoria Rd, Beverly) – 2nd Wednesday, and Parklands (Hull Road Beverly) – 4th Wednesday. We are also very ably assisted in these Services by helpers from other Churches who all contribute by talking with the residents and helping them through the Service.

This is such fulfilling and humbling ministry, and we are warmly welcomed into each Care Home by its staff and those who may be present visiting the residents. It is so moving that the residents have now go to know us and look forward to us attending

In planning for services we follow the key Christian festival's themes, with hymns, readings from Scripture, a short homily and prayers. These are carefully chosen as those elements we believe the residents may recall. They certainly remember the hymns and sing their hearts out! We conclude each Service with Holy Communion. We also are available to conduct, as required, Holy Communion with individuals in their room or to just sit with them and listen and talk to them. This is greatly appreciated by staff and relatives alike.

This is God's love in action within our community, grounded in his Word. A true blessing from heaven

Church Welcomers Report: Jill Edmond

St Mary's is open to visitors Monday to Saturday from 11am until 4pm in the summer months, closing an hour earlier in the winter. This is only possible because we have a fantastic team of volunteers. Some are members of our congregation and some local, and not so local, people who love the church and the town and want to help promote its history and significance.

Visitors don't always remember the facts you have given them, but they do remember how you made them feel. If you look through the visitor's book at the South entrance you will see many lovely comments about what the team do, the knowledge they have passed on, the warm welcome and kindness they impart, their helpfulness. They are a team we should all be proud of, I know I am.

Rosemary and Carole thank you for your dedication to organising rotas for the team. Without you no one would know where they were meant to be. It is not always easy to get all the slots filled especially once we have longer summer opening and our team start to take their summer holidays!

Some of our team were lucky enough to have been shown around the Priest Rooms by David Warren and are now able to help facilitate the opening of the rooms alongside church tours. We have been working closely with John Atkinson, bell tower lead, to include bell tower tours when we have church tours. Thank you to those who are helping with this.

Some of the highlights in the last year have been Heritage open days, helping with our Christmas production of The Lion, The Unicorn and Me and the National qualifying round of the 12-bell striking competition this spring. I also must thank the HEY volunteers who always turn out to help support when there are big events on.

We hold monthly coffee mornings or afternoon teas as a thank you to the team. They are a good opportunity to get together in fellowship to learn from and to support each other and eat cake. They are well supported and much fun.

This all sounds amazing, and it is, but it could be even better if we could get a few more volunteers in our team. Do you have an hour or so to spare each week or even once a month? Do you love our church building but would like to know more about its history? Do you like meeting new people? If you might be interested please contact the office to be put in touch with me.

Women's Fellowship: Lavinia Raynor

We meet every last Monday of each month, 2.00pm – 3.00pm in St Mary's Church Hall. Each month differs; from seasonal celebrations, social outings, talks/workshops and learning new skills. Women's Fellowship is about friendships, laughter and supportive community of women at St Mary's Church. Refreshments are provided. We look forward to seeing you all.

Men's Meet: Steve Parkin

We continue to meet regularly at Hollywood Bowl for bowling. We have built up a regular community who enjoy the activity and fellowship.

Women's Meet: Alice Lee

We are into our second year of Women's meet and seeing our vision of setting up this group come to life, I personally feel that this is truly a calling - bringing us all together to form new friendships and feel part of a supportive group. We plan to continue our monthly meetings with activities like walking tours around our beautiful town and visits to local cafes, sometimes venturing further depending on where our adventure takes us.

I have truly enjoyed being a part of this group over the past year. Thank you to all the women whose enthusiasm and participation have made our group special and more. I am excited to see where our third year will take us on our adventures. Let's continue to make wonderful memories together.

Thursday Coffee and Craft: Susan Walker and Ann Anderson

The Thursday Coffee Mornings offer a regular weekly opportunity for fellowship, refreshment and a warm welcome for church members and visitors alike. Similarly, the Craft group facilitated by Margaret Roberts is popular and well attended with various crafts often displayed in church for special occasions. Joan Husband provides a range of second hand books and jigsaws to purchase in aid of the Children's Society.

Buildings

The Church: Keith Gilson

The PCC continues to maintain our magnificent historic building responsibly and at the same time render it fit for purpose in line with its use. There are several specific items of note to report. So that recipients of the buildings report have a thorough grasp of what is happening some of these items are “work in progress”.

Energy efficiency.

Energy efficiency audits have been undertaken during the year, and a significant piece of work has been undertaken by PCC member Martin Frankland in respect of heat loss. In truth most efficiency measures are financially and technically beyond PCC to resolve presently. However, one of the main causes of heat loss is draughts entering the building and a concerted effort is to be made prior to the Autumn / Winter season to obviate draughts. There has been success in renegotiating tariffs for both gas and electricity, with all supplies now contracted through Green Energy Suppliers at lower rates than previous. The change to LED light fittings in 2023 continues to effect savings with just 6 led lights requiring replacement since then, previously it was 40 – 60 per season.

New boiler

Following catastrophic failure of the old boiler a Faculty was sought and approved for the installation of 2 new boilers, 2 x 150Kwh replacing the single 340 Kwh one. The new boilers are of a condensing design, higher efficiency resulting in lower running costs. This item does however link back to the last, insofar as heat loss from the building is presently excessive due to draughts. Concerns regarding temperature were voiced and noted when the new boilers were fired up; draught exclusion will greatly assist. However, it is not dissimilar to our domestic situations – heating is expensive especially in an old building like St. Mary’s.

West Doors

Work continued throughout the year and up to press. The PCC is grateful for the patience of all users. The glass enclosure is complete however not without some issues. Gaps around the doors are excessive and the contractor is going to replace them, quite a major cost and a solid endorsement of the choice of contractor. The re-use of the large landing slab remains a good solution, but years of use has worn a dip into the surface. A rise and fall brush seal will be fitted at the bottom. Slight adjustments are also required but this is not abnormal. Overall, in the context of the age of the building such slight difficulties pale into significance by the additional benefit gained from an enclosed vestibule. Not only is the glass entrance functional it also presents a welcome to visitors as the main wooden doors can remain open and a clear vision obtained through the glass. The cupboard units and permanent handrails will be fitted towards the end of May.

The Church Hall: Gill Gregory

The Parish Hall diary bookings are going well and the diary through 2024 has been busy. We had diverse regular weekly and monthly groups including various exercise and singing groups, choirs, dancing classes, children's classes, yoga, wine, and guitar groups. It is also often booked for birthday parties and other one-off events. The Hall is also used for church activities, including services, meetings, coffee mornings, various church courses such as Alpha, Ephesians, the Lent course, Christmas activities, Allsorts Toddlers group and other children's activities.

Throughout 2024 we have had an average of 15 external hirers per week covering an average of 25 hourly sessions. This roughly meant that the hall was booked for 1,200 hours / sessions through the year by external groups.

Gill Gregory manages the bookings and Susan Walker does the monthly invoicing on Tuesday mornings. Sally Blake acts as Treasurer and Anne Mansfield continued to oversee the Parish Hall bank account.

The hall had a few repairs in 2024 including to the toilets and new low energy lighting installed. The sound desk sound system has been improved.

All safety checks and insurance are up to date.



Safeguarding

Safeguarding: Gill Gregory

It is everyone's responsibility to think about safeguarding children and adults who are vulnerable. This is not optional as it involves caring for one another and most particularly the children or vulnerable people that we all have contact within the church family.

The Parish Safeguarding Policy has been revised and approved by the PCC this year. It closely follows the policy followed by York Diocese and is also available on request from me, on the church website and is on display in the parish hall and church.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor is Rob Marshall with Sara Dickinson to assist. Andy Broom (Archdeacon) is also on the team. The Diocese provides a safeguarding section on their website which is very helpful and informative. Training is offered with the leadership of Jenny Price. I am continuing as Safeguarding Officer for St Mary's working closely with Becky as our Vicar. If anyone has an interest in Safeguarding and would like to help in particular areas such as children's work or working with older people please do speak with me.

As part of the Parish and Diocesan Safeguarding policy, all those individuals who are involved in an activity that requires contact with Children or Vulnerable Adults need to complete a Disclosure and Barring Service declaration (DBS). When taking up a role with children or vulnerable adults or in leadership within the church a DBS is required. DBS checks are required for all those doing children's work, pastoral work, the PCC, worship leaders, and various others. There is a straightforward online system for completing DBS. The diocese has now required that we renew DBS's every 3 years unless the person has a continuously updating DBS. Please let me know if you are taking on a new role in the church, which may require a DBS or if it is some time since you completed one. People's data is subject to strict Data Protection law. Thank you to everyone who has had a check this year.

Training:

There are a variety of Safeguarding training courses that are required to be completed depending on the role that church members take up. I can advise you regarding the required training for your role.

This year Jenny Price is coming to St Mary's to deliver face to face training in Basic and Foundation Safeguarding. This is applicable to most people in the church and if you are interested in attending on 31st May please speak to me.

If you have any concerns regarding Safeguarding or would like further information, please speak to Becky or me.

Wider Church Relationships

Churches Together in Beverley: Becky Lumley

Churches Together in Beverley has continued to support the churches in their ministries and is the vehicle for working together as Christians. Hope in Action, the ministry to the residential care homes and Beverley Schools Christian Trust have been supported and encouraged by CTB. CTB has provided opportunities for us to worship together at Christmas and Easter as well as the week of Christian Unity. It has promoted understanding and dialogue.

Deanery: Gill Gregory

As part of The Archbishops plan for Living Christ's Story there has been developed a Deanery Implementation Plan which was completed in 2022

The areas covered include:

- Becoming more like Christ:
- Children Youth and families:
- Restructuring parishes and seeking opportunities to create new worshipping communities.
- Redeployment of Stipendiary Resources to enhance opportunity for growth.
- Creating structures of mutual accountability across the Deanery to improve potential local plans for growth.

The deanery has a programme of events to foster closer working, relationships and worship together. This includes the monthly Encounter informal worship service which is rotating around the Deanery churches. St Marys has hosted this and there are regular reminders of it in the St Mary's Newsletter.

The deanery has a Facebook page called Church of England, Beverley where events in different churches are listed and the Encounter service are advertised. This is available for all to join.

St Mary's has also been supporting the Leconfield, Lockington, Lund and Scarborough Parish as they work together with the wider deanery. Thank you to John and Steve for developing Celtic worship at Leconfield.

This year Richard Parkinson has resigned after a number of years as Area Dean. The Bishop of Hull has appointed Tim Kelly (Rector of The Benefice of Walkington, Bishop Burton, Rowley and Skidby) additionally as Area Dean of Beverley for a period of 5 years with effect from Wednesday, 14 May 2025.

Finance

Stewardship: Susan Walker

The table below shows the Planned Donations received in the year, with the previous year comparisons shown below these figures in red.

					Year to 31.12.24	
					Year to 31.12.23	
	Gift Aid		Non Gift Aid		Totals	
	£	No.	£	No.	£	No.
Weekly Envelopes - general fund	£3,075	11	£137	1	£3,212	12
	£3,917	9	£241	3	£4,158	12
Standing Orders - general fund	£33,869	58	£4,760	12	£38,629	70
	£32,297	49	£4,930	14	£37,227	63
Standing Orders – via Parish Giving Scheme	£20,091	30	£1,310	4	£21,401	34
	£18,149	28	£1,250	4	£19,399	32
Standing Orders - organ fund	£0	0	0	0	£0	0
	£450	1	0	0	£450	1
Standing Orders - restoration fund	£300	1	0	0	£300	1
	£815	3	0	0	£815	3
Standing Orders – youth worker	£0	0	£180	1	£180	1
	£0	0	£180	1	£180	1
Column Totals	£57,335	100	£6,387	18	£63,722	118
	£55,628	90	£6,601	22	£62,229	112

HMRC Gift Aid	£14,334
Reclaim at 25%	£13,907

The table below shows the Unplanned Gift Aid Envelope Donations received in the year, with the previous year comparisons shown below these figures in red

Unplanned Gift Aid Donations	£19,327
	£17,615
HMRC Gift Aid	£4,832
Reclaim at 25%	£4,404

The above does not include Cash non gift aid donations or those from the Just Giving website or those from the Electronic Devices in Church.

Financial Review: Anne Mansfield

I am pleased to report our Accounts are healthy, another good year.

Total receipts for the general running of the church were £411,949

which included:

- Legacies £152,820
- Rent on the property in Lairgate £10,625.
- Planned giving, donations and gift aid £175,491

Total expenditure for the unrestricted fund was £245,917

which included:

- The new boiler £24,000
(the balance of £28,000 has been paid in 2025.)
- The new organ £44,186
(£38,929 was paid in 2023).
- The Parish Freewill Offering to the Diocese £73,500

The General Fund Balance as at 31st December 2024 increased by £180,111 to £955,129 due to the legacies. These legacies were transferred to our investment portfolio to earn interest.

Total Income throughout all the PCC Funds was £572,934 and expenditure was £397,84 a surplus of £175,086.

The Restoration Fund also received a legacy of £20,000.

Two major projects were started:

1. The Garden Project and we received funding from ERYC plus two smaller grants. Further work to complete this will take place in September 2025.
2. The ELtH (Enhancing Life through Heritage) was started which involves working with the local college.

The balance of all PCC Funds at 31st December 2024 stood at £3,044,573 an increase of £254,852 on the previous year.

You can see we are in good shape financially and this gives the PCC the opportunity to invest in the future. The Garden project will continue in 2025 and work has commenced on a bid for grants for the Tower/Organ loft project and we will also be match funding from our investments.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM						
Donations and legacies	2	321,454	114,981	-	436,435	654,842
Charitable activities	5					
Church Activities		10,029	-	-	10,029	11,562
Other trading activities	3	45,526	18,724	-	64,250	53,726
Investment income	4	34,940	27,280	-	62,220	53,023
Total		411,949	160,985	-	572,934	773,153
EXPENDITURE ON						
Raising funds	6	26,731	1,991	-	28,722	18,198
Charitable activities	7					
Church Activities		219,186	149,940	-	369,126	286,918
Total		245,917	151,931	-	397,848	305,116
Net gains on investments		14,078	26,839	38,849	79,766	180,268
NET INCOME		180,110	35,893	38,849	254,852	648,305
Transfers between funds	15	-	82,663	(82,663)	-	-
Net movement in funds		180,110	118,556	(43,814)	254,852	648,305
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		775,017	1,435,555	579,149	2,789,721	2,141,416
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		955,127	1,554,111	535,335	3,044,573	2,789,721

BALANCE SHEET
31 December 2024

		Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
	Notes					
FIXED ASSETS						
Investments	11	830,963	1,354,544	535,335	2,720,842	2,391,598
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stocks	12	1,484	-	-	1,484	1,148
Debtors	13	9,935	17,629	-	27,564	35,058
Cash at bank		132,788	187,969	-	320,757	395,981
		<u>144,207</u>	<u>205,598</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>349,805</u>	<u>432,187</u>
CREDITORS						
Amounts falling due within one year	14	(20,043)	(6,031)	-	(26,074)	(34,064)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>124,164</u>	<u>199,567</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>323,731</u>	<u>398,123</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>955,127</u>	<u>1,554,111</u>	<u>535,335</u>	<u>3,044,573</u>	<u>2,789,721</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>955,127</u>	<u>1,554,111</u>	<u>535,335</u>	<u>3,044,573</u>	<u>2,789,721</u>
FUNDS	15					
Unrestricted funds					955,127	775,017
Restricted funds					1,554,111	1,435,555
Endowment funds					535,335	579,149
TOTAL FUNDS					<u>3,044,573</u>	<u>2,789,721</u>

Governance

Trustees

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2024 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent: Wardens:

The Revd Rebecca Alison Lumley (Chairman)

Readers:

Stephen Parkin, John Edmond, Gill Gregory and Jo Boulter

Wardens

Ruth Stebbens, Ian Jackson, Jill Edmond, and Keith Gilson

Deanery Synod Members: Joanne Boulter and Gill Gregory

Elected Members :

Alex Kirby

Alice Lee

Graham White

Richard Mattock

Simon Pike

Martin Frankland

Anne Crossley

Allan Ball

James Haggart

Ashley Brooks

Carolyn Kirk

Beverley Lawrence

Jane Jackson

Treasurer: Anne Mansfield

Secretary: Janet Osgerby

Independent Examiner

Patrick Scargill

Sowerby

Chartered Accountants

Beckside Court

Annie Reed Road

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East Yorkshire

HU17 0LF

Address for Correspondence

St Mary's Vicarage

15 Molescroft Road

Beverley

East Yorkshire

HU17 7DX,

Closing Summary: Church Warden's Report

During 2024, Allan Ball retired from his duties as warden. His quiet, wise and gentle competence was a huge blessing to St Mary's and all the wardens were grateful for the chance to work with him. Elected to the role of warden in his place was Ruth Stebbens, whose diligent and industrious involvement has brought a distinctive and equally valued contribution to our membership. Jill Edmonds, Keith Gilson and Ian Jackson remained the other wardens. Anne Mansfield continued to provide sterling service as treasurer; over many years she has provided a faithful and insightful stewardship of our finances. However, during 2024 Richard Mattock began to work alongside her in preparation to take over the role. Anne is ably supported in her work by Sallie Blake and Chris Munday. Our finances benefitted from legacies and the historic settlements on our church but, in a social context of cost-of-living increases and manifold other insecurities, our ambition is, in truth, limited by a nearly static regular income from giving. By the end of 2024 the PCC minutes were being summarised and circulated to the church to enable people to be informed of all such matters.

St Mary's remained a challenging and exciting place to seek God and fellowship in faith throughout 2024. So much of what is going on and could be recorded in this part of the report is covered elsewhere, so we will simply highlight a few matters.

Our remarkable and demanding building continued to be developed. Consultations took place and preliminary works began on a project to improve the garden area between the church and hall. Similarly, plans were developed and initial works completed for a new set of steps and enclosed glass entrance at the West door. Ultimately, both developments will significantly enhance the outside aspect of the church and improve its openness and accessibility to the community of Beverley; we are grateful for the expertise and energy of Keith Gilson in pushing these projects through, as he also works sedulously to develop numerous other projects, in the short and long term, for the benefit of our church. There were minor crises in 2024 in heating and in the intermittent flooding of parts of the church and premises, with the crypt and boiler room causing issues and leaks occurring in the transepts and church hall. The boiler failed and was replaced. The central tower underwent several works, with replacement lighting and heating and a fire alarm system being installed. Works were also undertaken to remove some pews and replace flooring at the East End of the South Aisle to facilitate the arrival of the new organ.

The Quinquennial report, which can be made available, was undertaken in May 2024 and published in December 2024, revealing the customary long list of maintenance and remedial works required. We briefly were able to employ a part-time caretaker whose role in undertaking a schedule of maintenance jobs appeared promising, but the individual moved on and the role is currently in abeyance. The use of church premises, including the hall, for a wide range of events and activities both raises funds

and increases our profile in the local community. It does however, put strain on the physical resources we have to enable the work and ministry of the church. Therefore we have rented a small office at a very competitive rate on North Bar Within, which can also be accessed from Ladygate and which has enabled small group work and development work to flourish.

The contribution of our musicians to the worship and life of St Mary's is immense; we give thanks for such a talented choirmaster and the choir members, organists, and worship group. It was therefore pleasing to see the new electronic organ installed. The screen, fitted in the previous year, has been fully and creatively integrated into the worship and other life of our church. Our thanks to the team who so assiduously care for our audio and visual equipment and its use. Other volunteers would be most welcome.

Our core mission is to "make disciples". It was felt important therefore in 2024 to establish a focus on the welcome we offer to those new to St Mary's and on valuing all the members of our congregation as they continue their journeys of faith. We consequently sought more volunteers to take on the important role of welcomers (Sidespeople) on Sundays and were able to meet together for training and discussion of this important type of ministry. There had not been a systematic approach to this activity at the 11:15 service but that has been remedied now.

We also conducted a survey of the church, inviting everyone who has some involvement to give us feedback on a wide range of matters. The survey results were discussed fully by wardens and PCC and a number of changes were instituted on the basis of the responses (the summary of the survey and the actions undertaken is still available - speak to a warden if interested). One main focus of this survey was the quality of welcome expressed at St Mary's; overall it was a very encouraging and worthwhile exercise.

The range of ministries and groups running within the church, from vintage to youth, homegroups to study groups (such as Alpha and the Bible course) is profoundly encouraging and significant, but all of these are detailed elsewhere in the Annual report. At the risk of repetition though, it is appropriate to record some thoughts about aspects of our worship and outreach throughout the year.

The regular pattern of vintage meals and activities run throughout 2024 has added a new dimension to our work and outreach. Carolyn and her team have done a fantastic job. This work is creating community, based around St Mary's, and it is greatly valued. Alongside this, our commitment to reaching young people is a priority and the team of committed folk working in our schools' work, youth groups, Sunday groups, Bubble Church and over the Summer programme continued to do amazing work. The church remained open for much of the year, staffed by determined and hard-working

volunteers. Their contribution brings in significant income and bears considerable dividend in numerous ways, not least being the connection between such visits and interest in being a more regular member of St Mary's.

It feels a strength of our church that we can operate with flexibility and openness; the problems that beset the Festival of Beverley this year could have been ignored as not being our essential business. But the opening of our building, at some inconvenience, to host displaced traders on the Sunday was recognised by them as reflecting a real generosity and spirit of welcome.

The Christmas services in 2024 maintained the vision of growth and outreach that we have almost come to expect. The overall attendance was remarkable, the music was at times transcendent, the various groups of people working so hard at preparation, refreshment, leading and supporting were inspiring; most exceptionally, the energy and creativity shown by Becky was phenomenal. Allied to this, the Christmas performances based upon the Lion, the Unicorn and Me and coordinated wonderfully by Jill maintained a remarkable tradition of excellence by St Mary's. Inevitably, the worry will always be, how can we match this next year? Our Easter 2024 services were also well attended and remarkable for their variety and sense of reflective spirituality.

Finally, there is one more thing to say. We are blessed with a minister whose enthusiasm, commitment, and energy are a wonderful encouragement to us all and whose gifts are the equal of these qualities, supported as she is by Tom and Simon. So much of what is working well at St Mary's reflects God's grace in sending us Becky, and it is with heartfelt appreciation that we acknowledge all she does for our community and the ways she helps make St Mary's an exciting and challenging place to be.

Ian Jackson (on behalf of Keith Gilson, Jill Edmond and Ruth Stebbings)

Our Good Friends: Promoted to Glory in 2024



Much loved and much missed faithful followers of Christ:
Tony Wood, Eira Logan, Eileen Hick, Margaret Law, Penny Ward & Jacqui Clarke