**January – December 2018 Annual Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of St Mary the Virgin Lymm**

**Approved at Parochial Church Council Meeting 4 March 2019 & Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting 14 April 2019**

**Aim and Purposes**

St Mary the Virgin Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent Rector Reverend Beverley Jameson in promoting the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral evangelistic social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church of St Mary the Virgin, Church Street Lymm and the Church Hall off Crouchley Lane Lymm. The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and become part of our parish community.

The vision and mission of the parish were reviewed and a strategy including projects were agreed by the PCC 5 November 2018 as follows

**Mission Statement**

St. Mary’s is a worshipping community which seeks to nurture people in faith and serve the needs of the wider community through practical engagement.

**Aims**

1. To share the good news of Jesus Christ to people of all ages and backgrounds
2. To nurture and grow disciples in Jesus Christ
3. To be a Christian presence at the heart of the community in Lymm
4. To provide a resource for the community

**Objectives**

1. Attract and retain families and young people to grow the church and be a more broadly based church family *(supporting Aim 1)*
2. Diversify worship to have some informal services whilst retaining more formal worship *(supporting Aim 1)*
3. Provide an open, welcoming experience especially to those new to St Mary’s *(supporting Aim 1)*
4. Provide regular discipleship and bible study opportunities to explore faith *(supporting Aim 2)*
5. Provide Co-ordinated Pastoral Care within church family and within the wider community *(supporting Aim 2&3)*
6. Sustain links to schools and increase links to schools and young people *(supporting Aim 3)*
7. Sustain and develop projects and events networking within the church and the wider community *(supporting Aim 3 & 4)*
8. Maximise the use of the church building and the Church Hall *(supporting Aim 4)*

**Achievements and Performance**

In support of Objective e) St Mary’s launched a new Pastoral Care Policy and a New Pastoral Care Team in November 2018 providing a range of care, especially to bereaved families. In support of St Mary’s Objectives a) and b) 2018 saw the introduction of regular informal family services and these will continue on a monthly basis.

The PCC offers a range of services during the week and over the course of a year including a midweek Thursday morning service 8.00am, 10.00am and 6.30pm Sunday services. All are welcome to attend our regular services.

In 2018 there were 175 parishioners on the electoral roll. 2019 sees the compilation of a new electoral roll. The average weekly attendance in 2018 was 50 adults, 6 children but these numbers increased at the new informal family services, festivals, Christmas and Easter services.

The church is at the heart of the community and provides civic services including Rushbearing Service, Lymm High Founders Day Service and Remembrance Sunday Service. The church launched a very popular community poppy project asking members of the public and organisations to provide poppies to commemorate 100 years since the WW1 armistice. Working with Lymm Heritage Centre, St Mary’s was involved in a World War One project with all schools in Lymm. Rector Reverend Beverley Jameson is Chaplain to the Royal British Legion, Lymm and District.

The Christmas Tree Festival was a huge success. Children from Cherry Tree; Ravenbank, Statham and Oughtrington primary schools came to St Mary’s for Experience Easter. The Rector is a governor of Lymm High School a governor of Cherry Tree Primary School and a member of the Lymm Neighbourhood Plan Core Group. From September 2018 she was Chair of Churches Together Lymm and District. The Rector is active in wider community projects and in the various festivals. St Mary’s also hosts community events and concerts. The PCC are excited by their stronger links with the community and continue to build on these successful initiatives. Again this year, we participated in the Historic Churches Preservation Trust ‘Annual Ride and Stride’ and we had an excellent turnout and sponsorship.

St Mary’s serves the community with a range of occasional offices in 2018 including Baptisms (11), Weddings (5) and funerals (21, of which 14 were held in church).

**Church Building and Church Hall**

**Church Building**

A number of fabric issues have arisen during 2018-19, which are detailed below. Our Quinquennial report was completed in July 2019 and found the church to be generally in good repair. There were however a number of matters that required our immediate attention:

* Stabilization of pinnacle to south-west corner of the tower
* Repairs and repointing to the lead roofing on the tower
* Full gutter and downspout clearance and repairs to broken and missing slates
* Repointing of copings at high level, on apex of the east wall and above chancel arch, with checks to all abutments and cover flashings.
* Replacement of rainwater pipe elbows at meeting of nave and aisle roofs, with consideration of change of detail.

 The overall cost of these items was estimated as £12,000. A package of work was completed during the winter of 2018 -2019 which included maintenance of church rainwater goods and high level repointing works to tower parapet and pinnacles. The finials on two of the pinnacles were found on further inspection in November to be insecure and were taken down. The work was completed on the remaining pinnacles. The temporary repairs to loose ceiling panels on the south side of the nave, carried out in January 2018 are holding, and subject to continued monitoring, we should not need to complete this repair in the near future. The PCC will investigate grant applications and fund raising over the next 2 -3 years.

**Church Hall**

The Church Hall is a World War 2 temporary building that is now 75 – 80 years old. The walls consist of a wooden frame, a single brick base with internal plaster boards and external wooden cladding. The Hall is currently heavily booked, mainly by Ambitions Dance, but also by other users. It continues to draw in a very useful income and provide a valuable community resource. We are very grateful for the work which Mark Linnell and Kath Hough put in to dealing with the endless smaller problems raised by the users. Repairs are likely to be needed to the front half of the roof, the electrical installations and the heating system in the next 12 to 18 months. The PCC will investigate grant applications and fund raising over the next 2 -3 years.

**Deanery Synod**

Great Budworth Deanery Synod has met three times this year, in April, September and November at St. Mary’s, Lymm; St. Wilfrid’s, Grappenhall and St. Mary’s, Great Budworth. Topics covered have been Transforming lives together; the Bishop’s paper on Mission: and the work of the Bible Society. There was Deanery participation at the annual Creamfields Festival. There have been reports from Diocesan Synod. Deanery Evensong at Arley has taken place again as has the Ride and Stride event. Our present parish representatives are: The Rector, Ian Bundey, Bill Garratt and Jill Wasey. From our Parish, Keith Hine also attends as the Representative of Retired Clergy. Visitors are always welcome at Deanery Synod meetings.

**Ecumenical Relationships**

Churches Together is growing in strength with many activities now shared and a real feeling of togetherness. Father Elder chaired the meetings until October 2018 when the Reverend Beverley Jameson took over. Many thanks to Father Elder for the work he has done over the past couple of years.

January of 2018 saw the Week of Christian Unity start with the breakfast held in St Winefride’s RC Church. It was well attended and a great success. Each church held Lent Courses but all the courses were open to members from other churches. The sunrise service was held at Lymm Dam on Easter Sunday. It was very well attended by congregations from all the churches. Reverend Beverly Jameson led the service and the music was provided by The Baptist Church. It was a wonderful occasion with a real sense of community. In May there was the usual collection for Christian Aid with each church providing collectors. December saw Father Michael Burgess and Reverend Beverley Jameson helping to lead the carols at the annual council Carol Service at Lymm Cross. It has been a very busy year and we look forward to further combined events and a closer working together.

**Structure Government and Management**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church representation Rules. At St Mary’s the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (Rector), church wardens, readers and those elected by members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general importance to the parish deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The Parochial Church Council meets regularly, usually six meetings throughout the year, plus any Standing Committee meetings if needed to make decisions on urgent matters. The Standing Committee met in October 2018 to discuss repairs needed to the organ.

**Volunteers**

We would like to thank all those who give their time in 2018 for the parish especially the wardens Jacky Caroll and Jill Wasey, Lay Readers Ian Bundey, Bill Garrett, Derek Buckthorpe, Pastoral Worker, Carole Riley, PCC Secretary and GDPR lead & Data Controller Carol Roberts, Organist Roy Sutton, The Choir, Praise and Play (Jill Wasey and Chris Clark) Chris Scott, Safeguarding Officer, Mothers Union, Church Women’s Fellowship, Church Watch Team, Liz France and the team of bell ringers, Kath Hough and Mark Linnell for the Church Hall and all those who work tirelessly for the church.

Special thanks to the new Pastoral Care Team volunteers Susan Brook, Derek Buckthorpe (Team Co-ordinator), Pauline Buckthorpe, Ian Bundey, Stafford Gage, Joycelyn Gage, Bill Garrett, Joan Garrett, Carole Riley, Chris Scott, Reverend Beverley Jameson (Rector) and Reverend Keith Hine (Retired).

We thank all those who are stepping down this year and who have contributed so much to the church: Jacky Carroll as warden, Sue Walton as wedding and funeral verger, Harry Walton for sound provision for weddings and funerals, Sunday School leaders Vanessa Lees and Sue Eckersall. Last but not least St Mary’s has a huge debt of gratitude to Treasurer David Critchley who has worked so hard and so tirelessly for 23 years as Treasurer. We wish him well in retirement, although he will still help out as part of the new Finance Team. It is a tribute to the amount of work David did alone that we have three people taking over his role – David Young (Treasurer), Mike Scott and Ann Morris. Many thanks to the new team of vergers and sound operators who have ensured wedding and bereaved families have continued support and care at our church and to the Sunday School Team

**Administrative Information**

St Mary the Virgin Lymm is situated on Church Road, Lymm, WA13 0QS. It is part of the Diocese of Chester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Rectory, 46 Rectory Lane, Lymm WA13 0AL. St Mary’s Church Hall is situated off Crouchley Lane Lymm WA13 0AS. The PCC is the body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and is registered with the charity commission. The Charity Registration number is 1179339

St Mary’s Safeguarding Officer – Chris Scott
St Mary’s Lymm takes its duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously. We have adopted the national Church of England’s robust procedures and guidelines. The Diocesan Vulnerability and Safeguarding Officer is Pauline Butterfield who can be contacted regarding all safeguarding issues. St Mary’s Policy on the Safeguarding of Children and Adults in the Church was adopted by St. Mary’s, Lymm at a PCC meeting held on Monday 5th March 2018 and was reviewed and approved at PCC Meeting 4 March 2019. This Policy will be reviewed and approved each year to monitor the progress which has been made.

GDPR Officer & Data Controller- Carol Roberts
The PCC of St Mary’s Lymm complies with its obligations under the “GDPR” by keeping personal data up to date; by storing and destroying it securely; by not collecting or retaining excessive amounts of data; by protecting personal data from loss, misuse, unauthorised access and disclosure and by ensuring that appropriate technical measures are in place to protect personal data.

Health and Safety Officer – Alan Richardson

Incumbent - Reverend Beverley Jameson

Wardens - Jacky Caroll, Jill Wasey

Readers –Derek Buckthorpe, Bill Garrett, Ian Bundey

Pastoral Worker - Carole Riley

**Deanery Synod Elected Members**Ian Bundey, Bill Garrett, Jill Wasey

**PCC Elected Members at Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting 2018**

Vicky Bettridge
Kim Buckley
David Critchley (Treasurer)
Joycelyn Gage
Sue Eckersall
Vanessa Lees
Tim Morris
Carol Roberts (PCC Secretary)

Christine Tindall
Lesley Whitefield
David Young

**Financial Review (Report)**

The full accounts are enclosed with this Annual Report. The following need to be emphasised

1. The Church’s accounts show a small surplus for the year of £2,660. This figure is only achieved after transferring £5,000 from the Hindley Evans A/C to cover repairs to the stonework.
2. Exceptional receipts include £3,898 from the coffee fund and £2,000 from the Christmas Tree festivals for 2015 and 2016. The coffee fund was money “squirreled away” over a considerable number of years and was originally to be used to enhance and improve the kitchen at the back of the church.
3. Expenditure in the year actually fell by almost £1,000, mainly due to the fact that last year we paid £2,950.00 to paint the church hall interior. There was an increase in the amount paid to Chester Diocese. We actually paid an eye watering sum of £70,500 for 2018. Sadly further increases are inevitable.
4. The costs of maintaining the church will also increase for 2019. As well as the amount payable to Chester there will be increases in gas, electricity and bank charges.
5. Unfortunately, during the past 12 months or so, 3 sacrificial donors to the church have either substantially reduced their giving or no longer donate to the church. The effect of this can be seen in the giving for the following years.

Christian Responsibility Scheme Income

2015 - £69.400

2016 - £71,800

2017 - £69,700

2018 - £66,600

1. To help compensate for all of the above a Fundraising Group has now been established. Early indications are very positive.

The accounts show that the Church is keeping its head above water, but only just. We have some £17,700 available in the Church accounts - much less than the £50,000 hoped for by the Diocese. Clearly much work remains to be done.

David Critchley

Treasurer

**Reserves Policy**

The parish does not currently have a Reserves Policy

****