

**ST MARY MAGDALENE, ASHTON-ON-MERSEY**  
**with Sale West Community Church**

## **TREASURER'S REPORT 2023**

This report summarises the income and expenditure of running our two churches and the church centre.

Please see our Annual Report 2023 to read about all the exciting things that our giving achieves and our full statutory accounts. Go to [stmarysaom.org/financialreports](http://stmarysaom.org/financialreports) or request a printed copy from the church office.

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

The General Fund is our main fund, used for St Mary's Church, the Church Centre and Sale West Community Church. The General Fund had a surplus for the year of £1,556 (deficit of £11,271 in 2022). This is positive compared to the budgeted deficit of £26,900 which the PCC set in order to continue investing in ministry. The difference comes primarily from one off donations.

We challenged the church to grow our planning giving by 10% in 2023, and we achieved 7.4%. We also set a challenge of 20 new regular donors, and 16 new regular donors started supporting us. These continue the growth that started in 2022, following a number of years of declining giving. We need our giving to grow in these times of inflation to continue and grow all that we do. Thank you to all 236 people who gave to God's work here in Sale in 2023, and especially to those who started supporting our work or who increased their giving during the year.

As well as all our regular activities in 2023, your giving and volunteering:

- Enabled us to continuing growing our work with toddlers, children and youth, in line with national church priorities.
- Enabled significant growth in our congregation at Sale West.
- Enabled us to donate £28,889 (10% of giving received) to missions in the UK and overseas, an increase of £1,600 over the previous year.
- Is enabling our church planting initiative, seeking to revitalise the congregation at Sale West and starting new All Nations and Sale Central congregations.

God's provision comes entirely through the generosity of His people here at St Mary's and Sale, and the vicar and PCC thank you for your continuing stewardship of all God gives you.

### **LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024**

For 2024 the PCC has agreed a General Fund budget deficit of £58,000, based on budgeted income of £383,000 and expenditure of £441,000. This is a big challenge, but the PCC believe we should be led by our vision for God's work. We are seeking to grow our children's work, youth work, and the church planting at a continuing time of inflationary pressure on our costs. Our hope and prayer is that church members will get behind the vision and respond with the finance to meet the opportunities, as our predecessors did 150 years ago when they founded St Mary's Church.

We believe that God provides for the work he wants us to do, and he does that through everyone who considers St Mary's and Sale West Community Church to be their church. Please could we therefore ask that you prayerfully consider:

- If you do not yet give financially to God's work through St Marys will you join our Stewardship Scheme? See [stmarysaom.org/givingexplained](http://stmarysaom.org/givingexplained) or pick up a pack "Giving To Our Work" in church.
- If you already give, is there scope to increase your giving? Most of us will have received an increase in our income in 2023 and 2024 but the majority of givers have not reflected this in their giving.
- Is God nudging you to give a one off donation? Or to leave a gift to St Mary's in your will?

## GENERAL FUND

### Income

- Most of the donations we receive come through regular standing orders and stewardship envelopes. We saw an increase of £21,793 in 2023 (£302,036 in 2023 vs £280,243 in 2022), an increase of 7.8%. This was more than the inflation rate of 4.0% which is the first time for a number of years.
- Cash donations were down slightly and are still significantly reduced from before COVID. This may be a sign of a general move away from cash.
- We received one-off donations of £15,059, much greater than in 2022.
- Church centre lettings increased again and are now close to the level they were in 2019 prior to the pandemic.
- Our total income was £378,115, which was £42,010 more than the previous year.

### Expenditure

- Our electricity prices went up by a factor of 2.4 from July 2023, and our fixed rate gas contract is due for renewal in July 2024.
- Our total expenditure was £356,559, which was £29,183 more than the previous year.

## MAINTENANCE & DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Maintenance and Development Fund is used for maintenance of our buildings and new development projects. Since we know these will be required but don't know when, we aim to transfer £20,000 into this fund from the General Fund each year.

- In 2023 we transferred £20,000 from the General Fund into the Maintenance and Development Fund as planned.
- We replaced the sofas in the foyer, painted the hall and south porch, and made repairs to the church tower and roof.
- The insurance claim was for a lightning strike on the evening of 12th June 2023 which damaged a computer in the office, networking routers and audiovisual equipment in church. The claim was paid in full apart from the £250 excess.
- The surplus for the Maintenance and Development Fund for the year was £13,273 (£19,717 deficit in 2022). This left a balance of £117,794 as at 31 December 2023.
- It is our policy to maintain approximately 3 months of regular expenditure in our Maintenance and Development Fund. At the end of 2023 we had 4.0 months (3.8 months at the end of 2022). The PCC consider this sufficient to continue to move forward with confidence.

## GENERAL FUND

	<u>2023 £</u>	<u>2022 £</u>
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>		
Planned giving	234,659	218,547
Reclaimed Income Tax on Gift Aid	52,587	48,161
Giving received gross of Income Tax	14,790	13,535
Cash collections	8,398	8,649
Fund raising Income	3,411	757
Donations received	15,059	812
Donations from Bookstall & Lunch Fellowship activities	0	0
Grants received	0	986
Administration services charges	400	400
Service fees	2,608	2,716
Church centre lettings	46,204	41,542
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b><u>378,115</u></b>	<b><u>336,105</u></b>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>		
Parish Share	136,338	132,367
Missionary & charitable giving	32,212	28,005
Grant to Sale West Community Urban Trust	7,000	7,000
Parish training & mission	3,856	3,170
Junior Church/Youth	2,865	2,542
Equip interns	812	873
Youth pastor - salary costs & expenses	14,066	10,290
Children's pastor - salary costs & expenses	27,855	23,454
Clergy housing and working expenses	10,792	9,842
Church & services expenses & utilities	22,649	19,864
General administration	8,338	6,866
Secretarial/Administration salaries	53,339	49,571
Employer pension costs	1,912	1,625
Church centre - routine running costs + salaries	34,526	31,907
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b><u>356,559</u></b>	<b><u>327,376</u></b>
Regular Transfer to Maint & Devt Fund	<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
<b>Net Income (Transfer to/From Maint &amp; Devt Fund)</b>	<b><u>1,556</u></b>	<b><u>-11,271</u></b>

## MAINTENANCE & DEVELOPMENT FUND

	<u>2023 £</u>	<u>2022 £</u>
Balance at start of year	104,521	123,968
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>		
Ascot Avenue house rent received	7,200	7,200
Interest received	3,907	971
Legacies		
Insurance claim	10,830	
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b><u>21,937</u></b>	<b><u>8,171</u></b>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>		
St Mary's - audio visual equipment and lighting	2,049	726
- south porch painting	1,450	
- boiler and heater repairs	2,870	
- Energy Audit	414	
- new piano		4,371
- car park and drain repair		19,264
Church roof - gutter cleaning, tiles fixing & replace	2,532	
Church tower – remove vegetation	1,500	
Tree work	456	2,592
Lightening strike - replacements and repairs	11,080	
- upgraded equipment	485	
Church Centre - new sofas & tub chairs for foyer	1,650	
- hall painting	2,850	
- roof flashing repair		3,538
- gas repair		1,139
- kitchen floor repair		260
Ascot Avenue - maintenance	2,830	3,433
Rydal Avenue - maintenance	250	967
Miscellaneous		57
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b><u>30,416</u></b>	<b><u>36,347</u></b>
Regular Transfer in from General Fund	20,000	20,000
Transfer of General Fund year end balance	196	-11,271
<b>Balance at end of year</b>	<b><u>117,794</u></b>	<b><u>104,251</u></b>

My thanks to Insook Snudden for her excellent work maintaining our accounts throughout the year.

Brian Macfaden  
PCC Treasurer  
13 April 2024