

TREASURER'S REPORT 2025

This report summarises the income and expenditure of running St Mary's Church, the church centre, and our three church plants: Sale West Community Church, All Nations and Faith Around the Table

Please see our Annual Report 2025 to read about all the exciting things that our giving achieves and our full statutory accounts, which include Butterflies Pre-School Group (which closed during 2025) and the cafe, flower fund and restricted funds. Go to www.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 and the Church Centre. The General Fund had a deficit for the year of £14,322 (deficit of £25,056 in 2024). This is of concern, but is better than the budgeted deficit of £63,000 which the PCC set in order to increase our children and youth work and invest in church planting. The difference in the deficit comes primarily from increased regular giving.

Regular giving increased by 17.2% (13.4% after accounting for inflation). During the year 14 people started new regular donations and 49 donors increased their giving. The total number of donors was 231 (236 in 2024).

Thank you to all who gave to God's work here in Sale in 2025. You can see all the exciting things God is doing among us in our Annual Report. You also enabled us to increase our support to missions in the UK and overseas to £32,148 (£31,044 in 2024), which is 10% of the giving we received

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

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

For 2026 the PCC has again agreed a significant General Fund budget deficit of £29,000. This is less than half of the 2024 budget deficit of £63,000 thanks to the generous response from all the church last year. The PCC continue to be led by our vision for reaching out to children and young people and people outside the church. We are confident that as we continue to respond to this vision we can close this deficit this year.

Children and Youth – we continue to employ four staff, and as Julie said in the Annual Report page 18, "We are starting to see the real fruit of having a bigger staff team". Thank you for enabling this to happen.

OUR NEED

We need an additional £29,000 of income to break even in 2026.

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 again therefore ask you to prayerfully consider:

- If you **do not yet give financially** to God's work through St Mary's will you join our Stewardship Scheme? See www.stmarysaom.org/givingexplained or pick up a pack "Giving To Our Work".
- If you **already give**, is there scope to increase your giving? More than half of our donors did not increase their giving last year so inflation eats into its value.

- 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. We saw an increase in regular giving and tax reclaimed under Gift Aid of £54,129 in 2025 (£367,100 in 2025 vs £312,971 in 2024), an increase of 17.2%. This is an amazing response. Thank you.
- We received one-off donations totalling £5,689 (£17,001 in 2024).
- Church centre lettings decreased by £1,381, impacted by the closure of Butterflies Pre-School Group in August.
- Our total income was £440,868, which was £43,996 more than the previous year.

Expenditure

- Chester Diocese thanks our church for paying our Parish Share promptly each year. This pays for salaries and related costs of our three clergy, upkeep and maintenance of the Vicarage, and Diocesan training and support.
- Church planting expenditure of £953 is for overall coordination with Myriad.
- Children and youth worker salaries and expenses increased by £19,219 (£81,681 in 2025 vs £62,462 in 2024 and £41,921 in 2023).
- Our total expenditure was £435,190, which was £33,262 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 transfer £20,000 into this fund from the General Fund each year.

- The stonework repairs to the church tower were completed in 2025. We were able to reclaim the VAT on this work.
- We migrated the church database to a new package, ChurchSuite.
- The above two items were funded by a grant of £21,290 from the Glebelands Trust.
- The legacy we received from Norah Campbell in 2024 is being used to support Carol Dodgson's salary at Sale West Community Church over 3 years. Norah asked for it to be used for Sale West.
- We continue to move to LED lighting.
- The surplus for the Maintenance and Development Fund for the year was £3,947 (£21,175 surplus in 2024). This surplus was much higher than anticipated because the General Fund deficit was lower.
- This left a balance of £142,917 as at 31 December 2025. This is our reserve.
- It is our policy to maintain a reserve of approximately 3 months of regular expenditure in our Maintenance and Development Fund. At the end of 2025 we had 2.9 months (2.8 months at the end of 2024). The PCC consider this sufficient to continue to move forward with confidence.

GENERAL FUND

	<u>2025 £</u>	<u>2024 £</u>
<u>Receipts</u>		
Regular giving under Gift Aid	236,707	244,659
Income tax recovered on Gift Aid	64,249	54,932
Regular giving not Gift Aid	66,144	13,380
Cash collections	5,459	7,312
Fundraising income	5,877	4,381
Donations	5,689	17,001
Grants	0	500
Children & Youth income	3,174	0
Administration service charges	300	400
Service fees	2,199	1,856
Church centre lettings	51,070	52,451
Total Receipts	<u>440,868</u>	<u>396,872</u>
<u>Payments</u>		
Administration	10,043	9,493
Administration salaries	61,840	57,876
Children & Youth expenses	6,643	2,101
Children & Youth workers	81,681	62,462
Church & services costs	13,841	13,562
Church planting	953	1,397
Church utilities	10,480	10,175
Clergy housing and expenses	11,254	11,694
Employer pension costs	3,052	2,487
Mission giving	37,721	35,486
Parish mission	1,650	3,016
Parish share	144,949	143,154
Secular charities – Sale West Community Urban Trust	8,616	9,300
Staff training	3,253	3,073
Equip interns	0	91
Church centre - routine running costs + salaries	39,214	36,560
Total Payments	<u>435,190</u>	<u>401,928</u>
Regular transfer to Maint & Devt Fund	20,000	20,000
Net Income (transfer to/from Maint & Devt Fund)	<u>-14,322</u>	<u>-25,056</u>

MAINTENANCE & DEVELOPMENT FUND

	<u>2025 £</u>	<u>2024 £</u>
Balance at start of year	138,970	117,794
<u>Receipts</u>		
Ascot Avenue house rent received	9,600	7,600
Interest received	4,643	3,864
Legacies	0	25,530
VAT refund for 2024 work	4,257	1,150
Sale of 2 cameras	0	594
Grant from Glebelands Trust for * items below	21,290	61,000
Total Receipts	<u>39,790</u>	<u>99,738</u>
<u>Payments</u>		
St Mary's – * South transept door external stonework		7,979
- * Church tower masonry repair (no VAT)	24,378	40,545
- Audio visual equipment and lighting	534	2,909
Church Centre - Cafe TV and sound	1,099	
- Mulberry room TV	456	
- Kitchen water boiler replacement	1,224	
- Hall toilets upgrade	336	
- LED lighting replacement	592	1,892
- TV in Oak room		850
- Cedar room refurbishment		150
- Hall floor refurbishment		4,320
- Mulberry room soundproofing		496
- * Play area surface & fencing		12,676
Ascot Avenue - maintenance	0	0
Rydal Avenue - maintenance	1,994	3,850
N.Campbell legacy grant to Sale West for salary	5,300	
* Church database migration	1,169	
Total Payments	<u>37,082</u>	<u>75,667</u>
Regular transfer in from General Fund	20,000	20,000
Transfer of General Fund year-end balance	-14,322	-25,056
Other transfers	-4,439	2,160
Balance at end of year	<u>142,917</u>	<u>138,970</u>

Church Planting Fund – New Worshipping Communities

We received a grant of £60,000 for church planting in 2024. This is not part of our General Fund as the funding is restricted. This is how it is being used:

	2024 2 nd half £	2025 £
All Nations	87	328
Faith Around the Table – meets in the centre of Sale	1,025	2,917
Sale West Community Church	1,595	3,114
Sale West Community Church - New Wine		761
Sale West Community Church – Quinta retreat		3,066
Total Expenditure	£2,707	£10,186
Balance at end of year	£57,293	£47,107

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

This is my last Treasurer’s report. It has been a privilege to oversee our finances on behalf of the PCC for the last 7 years and thank you to everyone who uses their God-given money to enable God’s work here in Sale and around the world. We follow the biblical model of giving and the world is blessed as we do so.

Sarah Kostuik-Smith took over the role of PCC Treasurer from the start of this year and I know we are in capable hands. I wish her well.

May God bless you.

Brian Macfaden
PCC Treasurer (Retired)
16 April 2026