

**Anglican Diocese of Chester – Middlewich Deanery
Mid Cheshire Circuit of the Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District of the Methodist
Church**

Church of St Mary the Virgin, Weaverham



**Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Ecumenical Church Council
for the year ended 31 December 2017**

Incumbent

Reverend Andrew Brown, The Vicarage, Church Street, Weaverham, NORTHWICH, CW8
3NJ

Associate Vicar

Reverend Jenny Brown also of The Vicarage

Minister

Reverend Chris Pritchard, 36 Earls Way, Kingsmead, NORTHWICH, CW9 8GQ

Secretary

S V (Vicky) Rushton, 37 Longmeadow, Weaverham, NORTHWICH, CW8 3JH

Treasurer

John J C Freeman, Stable Court, 20a Leigh Way, Weaverham, NORTHWICH, CW8 3PR

Banks

Santander, Bridle Road, BOOTLE, L30 4GB
CCLA Investment Management Ltd., Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, LONDON,
EC4V 4ET

Honorary Independent Examiner

Kevin D Pickering, 5 Withens Close, Weaverham, NORTHWICH, CW8 3JJ

Registered Charity Number: 1135093

**ST. MARY'S CHURCH, WEAVERHAM – ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
ECUMENICAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER 2017**

St. Mary's Church is situated in Church Street, Weaverham. It is a local ecumenical partnership between the parish church of the Church of England in the parish of St Mary the Virgin in the Middlewich Deanery and Chester Diocese and the Methodist Church within the Mid Cheshire Circuit of the Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District. The partnership looks for support, encouragement, advice and overview to the sponsoring body Churches Together in Cheshire. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, Church Street, Weaverham CW8 3NJ.

ECC members who have served in the year are:-

<i>Incumbent:</i>	Revd. Andrew Brown	Chairman
<i>Associate Vicar:</i>	Revd. Jenny Brown	
<i>Methodist Minister:</i>	Revd. Chris Pritchard	
<i>Wardens:</i>	Louise Parry Ted Smith	

<i>Representatives on the Deanery Synod:</i>	John Freeman Peter Wilkinson David Whitfield	Treasurer
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<i>Methodist Representative:</i>	Dot Foster David Whitfield	
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<i>Representatives from lay church roles:</i>	Linda Jones Jules Sanders Mike Sanders	
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<i>Elected members:</i>	
Mike Hornby – (elected 2015)	Colin Weeks – (elected 2016)
Jackie McCall – (elected 2015)	Gillian Edwards – (elected 2017)
Ruth Kunzi – (elected 2015)	Carol Johnson – (elected 2017)
Jean Bracegirdle – (elected 2016)	Sue Winnington – (Co-opted 2017)
Chris Hornby – (elected 2016)	Cath Henshall – (elected 2017)
Robert Owens – (elected 2016)	Vicky Rushton – (elected 2017 and Secretary)

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of ECC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the ECC.

Objectives and activities

St Mary's ECC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd. Andrew Brown and Methodist Minister the Revd. Chris Pritchard in promoting the whole mission of the Church: pastoral; evangelistic; social and ecumenical in the ecclesiastical parish. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the buildings associated with the church.

In the last year St Mary's Church have completed a Local Ecumenical Partnership Questionnaire for Churches Together in Cheshire. The results were summarised as follows:

- **Our strengths** - our welcome; children and family work; the variety of services and fellowship.
- **Our weaknesses** - our connection with the elderly, evangelism and communication.
- **The future** - outreach and evangelism with younger adults, whilst continuing to be nourished ourselves with good, relevant bible teaching.

The vision statement for St Mary's Ecumenical Church, Weaverham is as follows:
St Mary's Church Weaverham, sharing the light and hope of Jesus with our community.

Achievements and performance

Church attendance

The fourth revision of the 2013 Electoral roll reported at the 2016 annual meeting 142 members, a decrease of 3.4%. The roll consists of 42 men and 100 women, 83.1% live within the parish and 16.9% outside. We have a duality of Anglican and Methodist members, members can be either or both. The Numbers are 138 Anglican and 18 Methodist (of whom 14 are joint members). Average weekly attendance for 2017 was 119. We have been happy to welcome several new couples to our Church over the last year.

Review of the year

The full ECC met nine times during the year, with good attendance. It is now a requirement for all ECC Trustees to complete a DBS Check. The Fabric and Standing Committees met between meetings, minutes of all of these meetings are available on request.

The structure of the ECC meetings continue to incorporate a reading and reflection from the Bible together with a time of open prayer. This is followed by agenda items for 'People and Mission' as well as 'Business and Reports' and is driven by our desire to serve Christ within our local community, whilst maintaining the organisation, structures and fabric needed to support the mission.

St Mary's is fully integrated as a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) between the Anglican and Methodist churches in Weaverham. We worship at the Anglican Church building with our services varied between Anglican and Methodist styles and leadership.

The church continues to support a wide range of groups and events that are aimed at meeting the social, spiritual and practical needs of our members. The majority of these are utilising our newly refurbished Lighthouse. They are as follows:

Home Groups	There are currently five active Groups that meet in members' homes, mainly in the evening, for fellowship, Bible study and prayer. About 40 people, in total, attend and the groups vary in their composition and needs.
Sticky Fingers	Our baby, toddler and carer group meets every Monday morning in the Lighthouse during term time. We have a range of toys, craft activities, refreshments for carers and snacks for the children. We finish with a story, song and a prayer. We currently meet an average of 20 families every week. We have a small team from the church who run the group, and they are able to invite, and see several families at CHAOS and the All Age Services.
Lunch Club	Once a fortnight we provide a varied carvery luncheon, including a delicious pudding in the Lighthouse. It is organised by a brilliant team of volunteers and is an outreach for the elderly. It is proving highly successful and growing.

Café Hope	Meets in the Lighthouse on Tuesday mornings in term time for light refreshments. We average 32 customers and have 5 regular helpers. A Christian Bookshop also visits. It is a part of St Mary's community outreach, everyone is welcome and we hope that those who come as customers go away as friends.
King's Coffee House	Run by two of our members who are experienced in special needs areas. King's meets on a regular basis and is open to any young adult with learning disabilities. Carers come with our visitors and the evenings are fun and rewarding for all concerned.
Thursday Club	Run by members of the Mothers Union, this is an afternoon for anyone to come and join in at the Lighthouse. It's quite informal with the opportunity for tea and cake and chat or to play a selection of board games, ie. dominoes and Scrabble.
Mothers Union	Is an active branch, which values the friendship and support of fellow members (41 in total). At monthly meetings, speakers cover a range of interesting subjects, often on local and international concerns. The fundraising events give opportunity for outreach within the community whilst raising funds for MU charities.
Men's Breakfast & Curry Nights	These two events are held bi-monthly. Breakfast is a 'full English' with a Christian speaker and Curry Nights are held in the local curry house.
Men's Society	A group of approximately 20 church men meet monthly; usually there is a speaker, and light refreshments are available. Together with bowls tournaments, there are visits to places of local interest.
Knitting & Nattering	Meet on a monthly basis at one of our members homes. The world is put to rights and any knotty knitting problems can be sorted out. It's mainly our older members that take advantage of this opportunity to get together, but it is open to all.
Crafty Christians	Our card and craft making group, meet regularly throughout the year and is open to anyone who wants to come along. Most projects have a Christian theme, often verses from the Bible, and always a strong Christian message.
Bell Ringers	The Church has a team of accomplished Bell Ringers who ring for Sunday Services and special events. Practice night is on Tuesdays.
Choir	The Choir rehearse every Thursday evening and sing at Evensong, the Christmas Carol Service and other Special services in the year. In December they went out carol singing around the village and regularly go out for meals, and trips out.
YPF [Young Peoples Fellowship]	A small group meet on a weekly basis in term-time to look at the bible, discuss topics and issues raised and to pray.

Following a generous donation from the Methodist Church, grant making trusts and other organisations the Lighthouse has been extended with an Annexe this year, which is just being completed by church members. It is another valuable resource for the church to continue its outreach into the village.

The main church building remains in very good condition and maintenance has been ongoing. The last Quinquennial inspection was in October 2017 and all work needing immediate attention was completed. With the exception of the overhaul of the vestry door, no other works are outstanding and the inspection concluded that there were no defects to question the future of the building.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS'S REPORT TO THE ECUMENICAL CHURCH
COUNCIL OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN, WEAVERHAM**

This report on the accounts of the ECC for the year ended 31 December 2017 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church of England Accounting Regulations 2006 (the Regulations) and Section 3 of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act). As members of the ECC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirements of the Regulations and Section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church of England Guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the ECC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given on the accounts.

In accordance with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the Act, to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirement of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or to which, in my opinion attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Kevin D Pickering – Hon Independent Examiner – February 2018

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Putting fund raising activities for the Lighthouse Annexe of £121 802 to one side normal activities of the Church for the year show an excess of expenditure over receipts of £17 861. The income tax refund due during the year of around £14 000 remains to be claimed. This means that the true excess of expenditure over receipts is around £3861 and is unsustainable in the long run. The Church needs to be in a position where it generates a surplus to provide funds for new activities.

Fund raising for the Lighthouse Annexe has included £95 027 from the proceeds of the sale of the Methodist Chapel and other Methodist sources, £10 000 from the Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation, £2500 from the Beatrice Lang Trust and £2503 from the local Co-op augmented by donations from members of the congregation.

Looking ahead to 2018 the Parish Share increases by £1421 to £58 236 and the Circuit fee, currently £5422, is likely to increase during the year. The main activity for the year will be completion of Lighthouse Annexe project.

With the increased emphasis on energy usage the consumption of gas and electricity during 2017 was as follows, 2016 figures in brackets. Gas; church 72 652 kWh (111 271 kWh), vicarage 25 449 kWh (26 735 kWh), Lighthouse 16310 kWh (16 451 kWh): electricity; church 7820 kWh (7001 kWh) and Lighthouse 6339 kWh (5698 kWh). Most were similar with the exception of gas usage in the church that benefitted from the warmer summer.

RESERVES POLICY

Reserves policy remains to hold at least £25 000 to cover three months of normal church activities and £10 000 against any urgent repairs. They are currently above this as some money is held against the Lighthouse Annexe project completion and a possible VAT liability of £29 677.

ACCOUNTING POLICY

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Church of England Accounting Regulations taking into account the SORP 2005 revisions on a receipts and payments basis including as far as possible most Church activities being reported on a gross basis. Movable church furnishings are held on trust for the Council by the Churchwardens and would require faculty approval before removal. Accounts of the Men's Society, Hope Café, Men's and Ladies breakfasts are small and make no call on Council funds. As reported last year and above accounts for activities with young people have been brought into line on a gross basis. The Mothers Union accounts are not included as they respond to their headquarters for accounting purposes.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	2016 £
RECEIPTS					
Voluntary income	A	192756		192756	131392
Church activities	B	13965		13965	12981
Fund raising		722		722	15
Income from investments	C	<u>414</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>455</u>	<u>368</u>
TOTAL		207857	41	207898	144756
PAYMENTS					
Church activities	D	101430		101430	92341
Fund raising		7		7	
Salaries		<u>2520</u>		<u>2520</u>	<u>2520</u>
TOTAL		103957		103957	94861
NET INCOMING RES.		103900	41	103941	49895
Gains on investments			<u>106</u>	<u>106</u>	<u>123</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		103900	147	104047	50018
BALANCES AT 1 JANUARY		<u>638590</u>	<u>1849</u>	<u>640439</u>	<u>590421</u>
BALANCES AT 31 DEC		742490	1996	744486	640439

BALANCE SHEET 31 DECEMBER 2017

FIXED ASSETS

Tangible asset – Lighthouse E		665390		665390	540494
Investment assets			1224	1224	1118

CURRENT ASSETS

Short term deposits	F	46032	772	46804	91369
Cash at banks	F	<u>31068</u>		<u>31068</u>	<u>7458</u>
TOTAL		742490	1996	744486	640439

The notes A to F form part of the accounts

A Voluntary income

Planned giving					
Gift aid		57940		57940	56450
Tax recovered					15811
Other		7460		7460	8375
Collections		2873		2873	2804
Donations – general		2681		2681	1154
- Lighthouse		121802		121802	16929
Legacies					<u>29869</u>
		<u>192756</u>		<u>192756</u>	<u>131392</u>

B Church activities

Lighthouse		4780		4780	4414
Grant					407
Fees		<u>9185</u>		<u>9185</u>	<u>8160</u>
		13965		13965	12981

C Income from investments

Deposit account		394		394	312
Wayleave		20		20	20

War Memorial	—	<u>41</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>36</u>
	414	41	455	368
D Church activities				
Giving				
Overseas missions	2000		2000	2000
Overseas development	2000		2000	2000
Home missions	2025		2025	2525
Ministry				
Parish share	56815		56815	55430
Circuit fee	5342		5342	5096
Other ministry costs	4594		4594	4261
Church running and maint.	14582		14582	12051
Training	2841		2841	532
Lighthouse	8048		8048	5811
Administration	<u>3183</u>		<u>3183</u>	<u>2635</u>
	101430		101430	92341

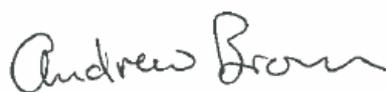
During the year the ECC employed an organist and verger. The organist deals with his own tax and payments to the verger were too small to attract social security payments. Together they equate to less than one full time employee. Reimbursement of out of pocket expenses were made to some members of the ECC, all supported by the necessary invoices.

E Money from Church funds of £124 896 have been spent on the Lighthouse project, capitalised and added to its value lifting it from £540 494 to £ 665 390.

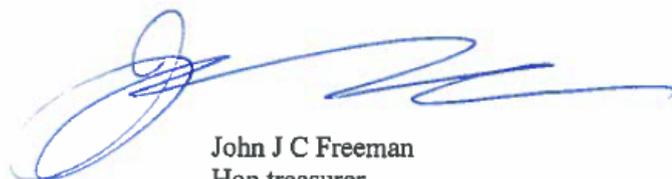
F Cash balances at 31 December

Current account	26298		26298	4773
Deposit account	46032		46032	90638
Lighthouse	4770		4770	2685
War Memorial deposit		772	772	731
War Memorial 74 CBF shares	<u> </u>	<u>1224</u>	<u>1224</u>	<u>1118</u>
	77100	1996	79096	99945

Approved by the Ecumenical Church Council at its meeting held on 26 February 2018



Reverend Andrew Brown
Incumbent



John J C Freeman
Hon treasurer