Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary's, Eastham

I report to the trustees, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Mary's, Eastham, on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025, as set out on pages 2 to 4.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

I Dodd

12/3/26

Ian Dodd, ACMA
11 Rosecroft
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Wirral
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The Parochial Church Council of St Mary's, Eastham

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Receipts						
Regular Giving	5a	88257.05	–	–	88257.05	87731.02
Other Voluntary Receipts	5b	12860.38	112408.72	–	125269.10	36881.65
Activities for generating funds:	5c	8550.95	5345.43	–	13896.38	18433.58
Receipts from Church Activities	5d	11579.55	–	–	11579.55	16445.23
Interest		165.76	916.45	–	1082.21	1260.80
Other Receipts	5e	802.32	–	–	802.32	4369.31
Total Receipts		122216.01	118670.60	–	240886.61	165121.59
Payments						
Mission Giving and Donations		235.00	–	–	235.00	725.00
Parish Share		77604.72	–	–	77604.72	75419.40
Church Activities	4, 5f	77903.90	35470.20	–	113374.10	90346.13
Total Payments		155743.62	35470.20	–	191213.82	166490.53
Excess of Receipts over Payments		(33527.61)	83200.40	–	49672.79	(1368.94)
Transfers between funds	3	24988.83	(24988.83)		–	0
		(8538.78)	58211.57	–	49672.79	(1368.94)
Bank current and deposit accounts 1 Jan		8758.32	72287.52	–	81045.84	82414.78
Adjustment to 1 Jan balances	6	2534.00	–	–	–	
Bank current and deposit accounts 31 Dec		2753.54	130499.09	–	133252.63	81045.84

Ian Dodd 12/3/26

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Cash Funds						
General Current Account		2753.54	–	–	2753.54	657.40
Building Account		–	497.17	–	497.17	4627.65
Business Reserve Account		–	130001.92	–	130001.92	77129.73
		2753.54	130499.09	–	133252.63	82414.78
Other Monetary Assets						
Income tax recoverable (estimate)		11400.00	–	–	11400.00	11500.00
VAT recoverable		–	–	–	–	–
		11400.00	–	–	11400.00	11500.00
Assets retained for Church use	2	169950.00	–	–	169950.00	169950.00
Liabilities						
Assigned fees, arrears from previous year		–	–	–	–	–
		–	–	–	–	–

Notes

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts & Payments basis.

2. A fixed asset retained for church use is the freehold house at 107 Eastham Rake, last valued in 2012 at £169950.

3. The movements in designated and restricted funds during the year were:

	Bal. B/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transfer	Bal. C/fwd
Restricted					
Restricted funds	–	–	–	–	–
Designated					
Church fabric fund	72287.52	118670.60	35470.20	24988.83	130499.09
Church floor repair fund	–	–	–	–	–
	72287.52	118670.60	35470.20	24988.83	130499.09

4. Projects undertaken during the year, and financed from Designated funds, include:

	Cost £
St Mary's AV system	11519.88
St Mary's spire maintenance	2532.00
Church Centre improvements & repairs	7884.18
Church Lodge repairs	12538.00
	34474.06

6. A cheque for £2534, being a payment of Assigned Fees, was issued to Chester DBF in late December 2024. This unpresented cheque was subsequently rejected by the bank, and payment of this liability was later made directly to Chester DBF by an anonymous donor. The balance of Unrestricted Funds has been corrected accordingly.

Ian Dodd 12/3/26

5. Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Receipts					
a) Regular Giving					
Planned Giving (Standing Orders)	58083.68	–	–	58083.68	59861.67
Planned Giving (Envelopes)	6901.69	–	–	6901.69	6444.60
Collections (Offertory Plate)	4842.22	–	–	4842.22	5048.93
Income tax recovered (Gift Aid)	18429.46	–	–	18429.46	16375.82
	88257.05	–	–	88257.05	87731.02
b) Other Voluntary Receipts					
Baptisms	532.48	–	–	532.48	1015.67
Donations	12327.90	6000.00	–	18327.90	19916.06
Legacies	–	106408.72	–	106408.72	15949.92
	12860.38	112408.72	–	125269.10	36881.65
c) Activities for generating funds:					
Parish Events	–	–		–	1232.00
Rent - Church Lodge	–	5345.43	–	5345.43	6254.28
Lettings - St Peter's	1835.00	–	–	1835.00	1940.00
Lettings - Church Centre	6715.95	–	–	6715.95	9007.30
	8550.95	5345.43	–	13896.38	18433.58
d) Receipts from Church Activities					
Fees - weddings	3306.00	–	–	3306.00	5492.00
Fees - funerals	5714.00	–	–	5714.00	8357.00
Parish magazine	2559.55	–	–	2559.55	2596.23
	11579.55	–	–	11579.55	16445.23
Interest	165.76	916.45	–	1082.21	1260.80
e) Other Receipts					
Miscellaneous	802.32	–	–	802.32	4369.31
Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme	–	–	–	–	–
	802.32	–	–	802.32	4369.31
Total Receipts	122216.01	118670.60	–	240886.61	165121.59
Payments					
Mission Giving and Donations	235.00	–	–	235.00	725.00
Parish Share	77604.72	–	–	77604.72	75419.40
f) Church Activities					
Church Running Expenses					
Utilities	6363.42	–	–	6363.42	13598.45
Young People's Activities	471.93	–	–	471.93	168.22
Other (incl. insurance)	14059.72	–	–	14059.72	11209.55
Church Maintenance & Projects					
General	4865.01	2532.00	–	7397.01	15594.82
AV System	–	11519.88	–	11519.88	–
Clergy Expenses	4865.70	–	–	4865.70	5778.63
Cost of Services	9727.43	–	–	9727.43	7537.40
Church Centre	12420.73	7884.18	–	20304.91	11647.42
St Peter's	6359.34	996.14	–	7355.48	6654.54
Vicarage	4769.21	–	–	4769.21	4466.54
Church Lodge	867.23	12538.00	–	13405.23	835.10
Parish Events	–	–	–	–	797.00
Parish magazine	2261.41	–	–	2261.41	2089.34
Management & Admin	5723.77	–	–	5723.77	4536.12
Assigned Fees					
Arrears from previous year	–	–	–	–	1545.00
Current Year	4921.00	–	–	4921.00	3838.00
Other	228.00	–	–	228.00	50.00
	77903.90	35470.20	–	113374.10	90346.13
Total Payments	155743.62	35470.20	–	191213.82	166490.53

Ian Dodd 12/3/26

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2025-2026

Dear All,

As I look back over the last year, I feel blessed and held before God by you all.

In a parish this size, everything evolves and changes constantly.

Our three Kingdom principles have rooted us more deeply.

1) our community is an extension of our congregation, bridge building has turned into straight roads now…easy access for all!
2) that Jesus came to reveal to us God's Kingdom principles of justice, love and peace and that, the Kingdom of God here in Eastham, should reflect that and
3) our parish should move toward to being a safe place of inclusivity and healing, of love and joy and acceptance of all of God's people.

As the seasons changed, we begin yet again, to put down our roots more deeply.

We have so many people now, newly worshipping with us for many reasons. We now have welcome ministers, welcome packs and love in abundance.

Every new person or family who moves into our churches brings with them their own chemistry, gift, burdens and hopes and adds to the sheer energy of parish life which is so evident in Eastham and beyond!

Our family work has gone from strength to strength with our eight family workers and our baptism ministry, which is so closely intertwined, is being cared for sensitively and tenderly by Suzanne and Andrea. This, of course, is linked in with J4U. Our family work has now one of the deepest roots of our ministry in this church.

Financially, we almost broke even this last year which was a blessed relief and with the very generous legacy from Gerry Warr.

Our challenges, though, financially will continue this year as we have had big repairs done to both the Church Centre and to Church Lodge. We are hoping that we can put plans down to do something wonderfully creative this next year.

I am sure God will bless us yet again, so please do keep on praying.

St Peter's is strong and vibrant and steady, they are an intrinsic part of our church life in the Brookhurst community. Thank you, in particular, to Mike and Dot.

The Church Centre is a community blessing for so many people. Staunchly cared for by Jean Cullen, maintained as well by John Finan and others, so much goes on there for the community, and there is a faithful worshipping community as well, led by Nikki, thank you.

Safeguarding is now a thread running through everything we do as a parish to keep people safe and is a separate distinct item later on in this report. My thanks to our strong and insightful Safeguarding Officer, Nikki Matthews!

A wonderful addition to our work within the schools which has taken on another dimension

Since last summer, Brookhurst Primary School, after many arid years, has reached out and asked me as Vicar, to begin to take assembles but with a distinctive Christian message based on the Church's year. So, Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Ash Wednesday, Easter and beyond, saw either myself or Julie Boyes or both of us going in. We have had a deeply enjoyable time with this excellent School.

Heygarth, our joyful community school, has always maintained strong close links with us and these have continued to grow and I just find is so inspiring to be part of their community as often as I can. The paths from Heygarth to St Mary's and then back again are well trodden and loved.

South Wirral High School have also asked me to have students over from there to St Mary's to discuss God, faith and how that faith can be worked out today. I have booked this in for a few weeks' time.

Nikki has also given a report about Millfields C of E Primary School and the faith ministry of Nikki and Diane. Thank you.

In the parish church…well!

We are in the process now of enhancing our AV system. Russ has already started the cabling to save us some money and we have purchased all that we need as well. That should be finished in a few weeks. We have blocked out the church from 8th-13th of June for the work to be completed.

The outside walls to the churchyard itself and the Lychgate are almost finished and the workmanship has been superb. Thank you Andy and Floyd et al for all you have done.

Our choral music tradition, held together by Malcolm and Gail, is superb and they cheerfully adapt to all that people (and me!) require of them, as there are still challenges.

Our wonderful Graveyard Team showcase our grounds perfectly, which are much admired, so many thanks to you all once again.

The parish church on a Sunday, live streamed and brought up to date by Ian, our superb tech guy, is growing and inclusive and a joy to lead.

I hope too we will effectively become one of the few truly Inclusive Churches in this area. An Inclusive Church statement is included at the end of the Letter.

Christmas Eve, Mothering Sunday and Harvest, Good Friday Family Service and Easter Sunday - jam packed with love and fun, music, laughter and seeds of faith, over and over again.

Russ Boyes has now taken over both as Treasurer and Churchwarden, both posts he has held before. I for one am deeply grateful for all he brings (with Julie) and all that he is.

Our Wardens, PCC Secretary Sue who truly does so much, and Treasurer are invaluable to us as a parish, as are all the many, many volunteers that hold this parish together.

Thank you for your care and love and encouragement of me personally. It remains a gift beyond measure…

We will always remain connected by the love of God, whatever happens!

And so, on we journey with God in the new times ahead of us, slowly, deeply and with our hands firmly placed in God's.

One step and a time, looking up and praising!

Much love and blessings,

Bethxx

Vicar Beth

Our Mission Statement

Our three churches in the parish of Eastham are welcoming Anglican churches with diverse congregations from our local community and beyond. We are a thriving, growing, laughing. loving and inclusive church with equal opportunities for all. All we seek to do, is built on the foundations of Scripture.

We are committed to working as an intrinsic part of the wider community and to work with other partner agencies within our community and with Wirral Borough Council.

We aim to flood the parish and surrounding community with Jesus' Kingdom principles of Justice, Love and Peace.

Churchwardens' Report 2025-26

Again, the Parish's thanks are due to all those who keep the Parish's three buildings in working order. Special thanks to Mr Wynne for his work as Parish Manager, the volunteer cleaners at the Parish Church, Mr and Mrs Taylor for their care for St Peter's and its grounds, and Mrs Cullen, Mr Finan and Mrs Holian for looking after the Church Centre and its grounds. Particular thanks to the team who look after the graveyard at St Mary's.

St Peter's

There have been no problems with the building at St Peter's this year. Thanks to two generous donations, 31 new chairs have been purchased.

Church Centre,

More work has been carried out on the Church Centre roof. The new windows have been installed in the back hall. The windows of the Chapel have been repainted by Mr Finan and some work has been carried out on the main door. New carpet has been fitted in the main corridor, tiling has been replaced in the chair stall.

St Mary's

Minor repairs have been carried out on the St Mary's roof. One of the window coverings on the spire had come loose and has been refixed in place. The condition of the spire's pointing etc needs to be looked at. The AV system will be updated during the coming year.

107 Eastham Rake

There have still been ongoing problems with the damp/mould in 107. A complete replacement bathroom with some replacement flooring was fitted in April. The garage roof has been replaced. The tenant's rent has been increased to that recommended by the managing agents.

Russ and Sue

St Mary's Parochial Church Council Secretary's Report 2026

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in order to promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. It also has the responsibility of maintaining the buildings of the Parish: St Mary's Church, St Peter's Chapel, the Church Centre and Church Lodge.

The following are members of the PCC:
Incumbent: Reverend Beth Glover
Readers: Mr A Bradley-Gibbons, Mrs D Green
Wardens/Deputy Warden: Mr R Boyes (Treasurer), Mrs S Abraham (PCC Secretary), Mrs J Cullen, Mr M Taylor, Mrs I Jones (Treasurer)
Deanery Synod: Ms K James-Hunt, Mrs S Abraham
Parish Manager: Mr G Wynne
Pastoral Workers: Ms S Llewellyn, Mrs N Matthews
Elected Members: Mrs J Boyes, Mrs C Webster, Mrs M Holian, Mrs J Lane, Mrs D Casewell, Mrs V Bonnard, Mrs G Cook, Mrs P Turner, Mrs B Eastland, Mrs B Lamb. Mrs M Stonley, Mrs A Webster, Mrs J Roberts, Mrs E Large, Mrs L Williams
Co-opted Members: Mrs B Chambers (Disability Officer), Mr P Mayles (Foundation Governor, Millfields)

Review of the Year: The Parochial Church Council has met on four occasions during 2025-26. In January the main item for discussion was the presentation of the accounts. In July, the Church Centre carpet in the main corridor was discussed and the floor in the chair store. The funding was in place to replace the carpet. In September the proposals for the new AV system were passed. **Safeguarding**: Safeguarding is an agenda item at every PCC meeting. Mrs Matthews stressed the need for everyone to keep up to date with their training. She continued to contact those who needed to update their DBS certificates

Rev B. Glover – PCO: At the January meeting, the PCC discussed the situation with regard to PCO for Rev. Glover. It was agreed that the PCC Secretary would write to Bishop Mark.

Sue Abraham

Finance Report 2025

This year we have seem some significant changes in our accounts, with the finance team having to move monies from designated funds to unrestricted funds to keep the general account afloat.

Planned giving and standing orders have decreased compared to 2024 and the trend has been steadily decreasing for some years having been given an analysis from our auditor. As with everyone's finances there is more strain on them as the cost of living goes up and the church isn't any different.

We have been fortunate to receive donations through legacies amounting to £106408, this is where we have been able to stay above the "rising tide". We try to use the legacies and random donations for projects and extraordinary items that arise during the year. This year has seen the parish spend a significant amount of money to bring 107 Eastham Rake (curate residence) up to current rental standards together with necessary repairs to the roof and damp problems in the bathroom. At year end we had spent in excess of £12,000 on repairs.

Church Centre improvements and repairs have seen us spend £7884
St Mary's is in the process of upgrading the AV system and has spent £11500 for this project.

St Mary` s church spire has also had repair work carried out at £2500.
We remain committed in keeping all our places of worship in good order and fit for purpose.

My thanks go to everyone who helps with the efficient handling of finances from taking money to the bank, compiling the reports for scrutiny at the auditors. Without you we would be in a much worse place in keeping everything running smoothly.

Russ Boyes

SAFEGUARDING REPORT FOR 2025

Throughout 2025 we have continued to make as many people, within our church, aware of the importance of Safeguarding. Many more of our congregation and those involved in any areas of responsibility have managed to meet the requirements of the Church of England in completing the safeguarding training in Basic, Foundation and in Domestic Abuse awareness. My thanks particularly to the choir and bellringers for encouraging members to complete the training.
Our commitment to Safeguarding within this parish and across the Church of England, is displayed on our noticeboards in our three centres of worship. The core statements:

The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the Church.

Our Commitments

- **Promoting a safer environment and culture**
- **Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults**
- **Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation**
- **Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse or other affected persons**
- **Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns/allegations of abuse and other affected persons**
- **Responding to those that may pose a present risk.**

Many on PCC and those who work in our church community have now completed the appropriate training, but we still have a way to go in keeping updated and encouraging others to participate in this important area. It is a requirement that training is renewed every 3 years, and the training resources are regularly updated to make it more relevant.

I have accessed ongoing training and network meetings throughout the year in order to keep updated on changes and developments. The online Dashboard enables us to measure our progress in keeping abreast with changes. We still have a lot of work to do in keeping this updated to ensure that all our activities are safely recruited and provided with volunteers who are trained appropriately. The focus for all churches in the diocese for the next year is Safer Recruitment and there will be more on this throughout the year.

We held a Safeguarding service in November which gave another opportunity to highlight the importance of being a safe church for which we are all responsible.

We must remember that training and DBS checks are only a small part of our safeguarding, but we must all be alert to all that goes on around us, in order to keep all those in our community safe, and in so doing, we can ensure that we, too, are safe. Please ensure that you all know what to do should any safeguarding issues arise that needs to be dealt with. The main message is to pass it on to the PSO and don't try to deal with it yourself.

With many thanks for all you are doing to ensure we are a safe and welcoming community here in Eastham.

Nikki Matthews (PSO)