

Liverpool Parish Church
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
11 May 2025

REPORT PACK

Agenda	p2
Minutes of APCM 2024	pp3-7
Annual Report and Accounts 2024 (note that the Report & Accounts follow their own page numbering)	pp8-23
Churchwardens Report	p24
Deanery Synod Report	p25
Lauda Project	p25
Fabric Report	p26
Safeguarding Report	p27
Sunday School Report	p28
World Action Report	p28

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

11 May 2025

AGENDA

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

1. Minutes of last Meeting of Parishioners on Sunday 28 April 2024
2. Matters arising from the minutes
3. Election of Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Minutes of last APCM on Sunday 28 April 2024
2. Matters arising from the minutes
3. To receive:
 - a) Annual Report on the PCC and activities of the parish generally
 - b) Accounts and Statements of Funds and Property for the year ending 31st December 2024
 - c) To note that the recently reconstituted Electoral Roll includes the names of 127 parishioners
 - d) Further Reports in the Reports' Pack
4. Elections:
 - a) Election of Parochial Church Councillors
 - b) Election of Deanery Synod representatives
5. Appointments:
 - a) Sidespersons
 - b) Independent Examiner
6. Any other business (as notified in advance)

The Area Dean will deliver an annual report during the sermon at the Parish Eucharist

OUR LADY & ST NICHOLAS, LIVERPOOL ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

MINUTES of the APCM held on Sunday 28th April 2024 during the course of the 10am Parish Eucharist

PRESENT: 108 Adults and 12 children.

APOLOGIES were received from Guy Barker, Peter Woods, Martin and Daphne Amlot

The Rector opened the meeting and stated the report pack had been previously circulated electronically and also as a hard copy.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS

- 1 Minutes of the last APCM:** The minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 30th April 2023 were received by the members present and contents agreed for the Rector to sign.
- 2 Matters Arising from the Minutes:** There were no matters arising not otherwise covered by the Agenda.
- 3 Election of Church Wardens:** The Rector reported there were two nominations for the posts of Churchwarden, Sarah Wrightson and Clare Ledingham being duly elected.

Signed _____ **Dated** _____
Chairman

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

- 1 Minutes of the last APCM:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 30th April 2023 had been made available in electronic and hard copy. They were agreed by the members present and would be signed by the Rector.
- 2 Matters Arising from the Minutes:** There were no matters arising not otherwise covered by the Agenda.
- 3 Matters to be received:**

Items 3(a) to 3(d) had been made available in electronic and hard copy consolidated into a Report Pack (Appendix A attached to these minutes). The Rector invited those present to raise any issues on the contents of any of these reports. In the absence of any issues the Report Pack was accepted unanimously.

Fr Crispin provided the following verbal report:

Some people find it difficult to say goodbye. Elton John has had at least three ‘farewell tours’ in his lifetime: his most recent one, “Farewell Yellow Brick Road” began in 2018 and finished in 2023. I am not planning to take that long, but it does feel like it sometimes. I don’t want anyone telling me that ‘your song’ is repetitive! However, since I announced in March that I would be stepping down in June an awful lot has happened, and I am also busy planning events for the rest of the year at St Nick’s, after I have gone.

In this farewell tour, one of the themes is noting just how many people and organizations have a relationship with this Church. As we hold our Annual Parochial Church Meeting today, it seems a good moment to recognize that, and perhaps also celebrate it as a feature of St Nick’s. Of course all churches should have links with the community around them – although you would be surprised at the number which don’t – but here we prioritize our relationships outside the building. We know that these relationships enable us to have more impact in signposting the presence of Christ in the city than if we confine our preaching to the pulpit inside our doors. So, although my farewell tour began with a bit of a media storm, it has really been about people all over the City contacting me or running into me and telling me their experiences of being at St Nick’s during the last decade. Some have been at civic or military events, and some have been partners in the charity sector; some have been people who have come into church on their own, looking for something they were missing, and some have been people who have had family occasions here. A lot of our City’s politicians have spoken to me, recognizing the work we do here which connects all of our communities, and some people have also expressed to me that St Nick’s is, for them, a ‘safe’ place, where they feel unincumbered by the baggage which surrounds many churches and institutions.

Our Gospel reading today is, unusually, a passage on which I have not yet preached in my ten years at St Nick’s. It is, of course, one of Jesus’ ‘I AM’ sayings: “I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” It is not terribly profound to say that this reading is about interconnectedness, but there is something in this line about faith and identity being visible in our relationships.

As the church prepares for what I hope will be a short vacancy, I hope that we are in a position to flourish without a Rector. It absolutely should not be the case that the church slows down or even stops when there is no incumbent, but rather that it continues to develop, and the next Rector of Liverpool will jump on board at the point you are then, and not now. At various times in the last ten years the Parochial Church Council has worked on its vision and strategy, and I encourage you to read the document which you can download from the website, because it captures our corporate understanding of who we are and what we do. The values identified by the PCC and focused on Jesus Christ are: inclusive welcoming; serving; ethical compassion; and joyful hope. And that joyful hope is important: although it started as words scribbled on a post-it note on a piece of flip-chart paper (or something like that, anyway), the description which the PCC gave to it is this: “The joyous hope we proclaim should be active, creative, and dynamic, focused on allowing God’s people to flourish in their lives.” This joyous hope is not something which we are looking for just within the church congregation, but it is part of what we are offering to the City around us.

As the Parochial Church Council agrees the wording of the Parish Profile, which is part of the suite of documents which will be used to lure someone here to be Rector of Liverpool, they must put together a document which truly reflects who we are as a church. When I left my last parish, I encouraged them only to use photographs in the Parish Profile which were less than a year old. There is no point trying to sell ourselves by what we were two years ago or five years ago, but rather what we will be in the future. ‘Joyous hope’ is about now and also the future, and the relationships which we have in our Parish are about now and the future. Ultimately, any faith in Jesus Christ has to be about now and the future, and never the past.

In the coming interregnum, I encourage everyone to be supportive of those who have taken on extra duties or responsibilities. Clergy are not indispensable, but they do occasionally do some useful jobs around the place, and other people will have to add more to already busy lives. I encourage you to keep pushing the Church forward, so that the Church which a new Rector joins is not the same as the Church which I leave in June. But most of all I encourage you to keep coming, keep attending, keep giving (in every way), and keep flourishing together in joyful hope.

Now, I emphasize that attendance is important because it is very easy to think that you are not important, perhaps that people do not notice whether or not you are there. This is not the case, and the reason for this is picked up not just in our Gospel reading, but also in our second reading today. We heard this: “God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.” Whilst we use the analogy of the vine to reach out our branches even further, the interconnectedness in the First Letter of John is also about God abiding in us, as we abide in him. That is to say, our community of faith is strengthened by each of us – not as a numerical addition, but as individuals. The character, the faithfulness, and the strength of our community abides in each of us and is strengthened by each of us.

This Annual Meeting is unusual because we know that the Church is heading towards new and exciting times, but my report – given in this sermon – is in fact the same as every year, because I want to celebrate who we are and what we have achieved together in the last year. Jesus said, “I am the vine, you are the branches,” and it is these words which describe our ministry here at St Nick’s. Anyone who has ever owned a vine knows that they just keep growing, and that is my charge to you for the future.

4 Election:

- a) **Election of Parochial Church Councillors:** Nominations had been received for Pauline Addy, Nicholas Ledingham, Andrew Derringer, Elaine Price, Rebecca Selman, Peter Summerfield, Rupert Litherland, Ali Harwood, Sian Loftus, Cassel Mathews and Laura Hutcheon. There being no nominations from the floor, it was agreed unanimously that all the above were elected to the Council for the period ending 27th April 2025.
- b) **Election of a Deanery Synod representative:** Emily Ridgway, Victoria Ekpo, Kelly Montana-Williams and Stephen Derringer were elected. The Rector thanked all PCC members and Deanery Synod representatives for the work carried out during the past year.

5 Appointments

- a) **Sidespersons:** The “panel” of sidespersons were thanked for their work and it was agreed unanimously that those on the present list would continue in the role. The Rector invited others to put themselves forward to become a sidesperson.
- b) **Independent Examiner:** Susan Buckley, SBA Accounting Limited, was reappointed, proposed by Fr Crispin and Seconded by Jim Wrightson and all agreed.

6 Any Other Business

There being no further business the Rector declared the Annual Parochial Church Meeting closed and the Eucharist concluded with God’s Blessing from Fr Steven Shakespeare.

Signed _____

The Revd Canon Dr Crispin Pailing, Rector of Liverpool

Date _____

Electoral Roll Report 2024
Number on roll = 138

DIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL

Liverpool Parish Church
(Our Lady and St Nicholas)

Annual Report

of the Parochial Church Council

Year ending 31st December 2024

Administrative information

Our Lady & St Nicholas, Old Churchyard, Chapel Street, Liverpool. L2 8TZ
Official correspondence to the Parish Administrator, Church Office at the above address.

PCC Members

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Rector:	The Revd Canon Dr Crispin Pailing (Chair) (until June 2024)
Assistant Priest:	The Revd Michelle Montrose
Assistant Priest:	The Revd Canon Bill Addy
Assistant Priest:	The Revd Jennifer Brady
Assistant Priest:	The Revd Dr Steven Shakespeare (from May 2024)
Wardens:	Mrs Sarah Wrightson Dr Clare Ledingham
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Ms Victoria Ekpo Mrs Emily Ridgway Ms Kelly Montana-Williams Mr Stephen Derringer (from April 2024)
Secretary:	Mrs Pauline Addy
Treasurer:	Dr James Wrightson <i>in attendance</i>
Other Elected Members:	Dr Rebecca Selman Mrs Pauline Addy Mr Nick Ledingham Mr Martyn Cull (until April 2024) Dr Sarah-Jane Cull (until April 2024) Mrs Elaine Price Mr Peter Summerfield (Lay Vice-Chair) Mr Rupert Litherland Mr Alastair Harwood Mr Andrew Derringer Mrs Sian Loftus (from April 2024) Mrs Cassel Mathews (from April 2024) Ms Laura Hutcheon (from April 2024)
In Attendance:	Mr Derby Guerrier (Parish Assistant) (until August 2024) Mr Stephen Derringer (Buildings Manager) (until April 2024)

Parish Advisors

Bankers: Barclays Bank PLC, Liverpool City Business Centre, 48b-50 Lord Street, Liverpool L2 1TD

Investment Managers: Oliver Hall, Rathbones Investment Management, Port of Liverpool Building, Pier Head, Liverpool L3 1NW

Architect: Mike Darwell, John Coward Architects, 3 Unsworth's Yard, Ford Road, Cartmel, Grange over Sands, Cumbria LA11 6PG

Independent Examiner: Susan Buckley, SBA Accounting Limited, Gladstone House, 2 Church Road, Liverpool L15 9EG

Day to day management control of the Church is exercised by the Rector and Churchwardens, contactable via the Church Office on 0151 236 5287

Structure, Management and Governance

Our Lady & St Nicholas PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure 1956. The PCC has been a Registered Charity since 2009: No. 1132856.

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. All Church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and are welcome to stand for election to the PCC. The APCM in 2016 resolved that members should be elected to the PCC for annual terms.

Other related trusts:

Liverpool Blitz Memorial Fund – registered charity 1081035. There are four trustees, including the incumbent. (N.B. This trust is currently being wound up, all resources having been exhausted.)

OLSN Educational Fund - registered charity 1068147. All members of the PCC are trustees and applications are managed by the World Action Group.

Sub-committees

The Standing Committee - the only committee required by law. It meets at least once in the interval between scheduled PCC meetings to implement PCC resolutions, to transact other business on behalf of the PCC and to set future agendas. Membership comprises the Rector, Churchwardens, Treasurer and PCC Secretary.

The Investment Committee - meets bi-annually to advise the Treasurer and Council on Parish investments. Membership comprises the Investment Advisor, the Rector, at least one other member of PCC and/or the congregation (currently Nick Ledingham, John Mason, and Kelly Montana-Williams), and Mr Andrew Lovelady (Accountant).

World Action Group – coordinates charitable giving through the Church and other activities such as Food Bank collections.

The Safeguarding Committee – conducts an annual review of our Safeguarding policies. The committee supports the incumbent and the Safeguarding coordinators in their work.

Financial Position at Year End

The headline surplus for 2024 is very large due mainly to the receipt of 2 legacies, one exceptionally generous. Significant expenditure was required this year to repair the roof of the Lodge at Walton Park Cemetery, to upgrade the CCTV security system and to install solar panels on the church roof. Grant funding was obtained to offset some solar panels' expenditure and the costs will be spread over future accounting years. We expect our future energy consumption costs to reduce as a result. Our investments continued to benefit from market gains and rose modestly this year. Our cash reserves far exceed our policy targets and PCC will be asked to consider further unrestricted investments to generate additional future income

Objectives and Activities

The PCC (Powers) measure 1956 states the PCC “is to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical”

Safeguarding

The PCC considers safeguarding at every meeting and reviews and re-adopts the Safeguarding Policy (for children and vulnerable adults) in September of each year. Members of the PCC are subject to a check from the Disclosure and Barring Service and a policy of Safer Recruiting is followed for all Church appointments (paid and voluntary). The PCC has complied with the duty to have “due regard” to the House of Bishops’ guidance in relation to safeguarding and all PCC members have undertaken safeguarding training.

Reserves Policy

The PCC aspires to maintain reserves of a sum equivalent to approximately 3 months normal income and a cash flow reserve of £10,000. This amounts to a total of approximately £70,000. The cash flow reserve is currently in place and we hope to establish a larger unrestricted reserve over the course of the next few years to fund clergy housing.

Investment Policy

The main investments are managed by Rathbones Investment Management Limited and overseen by the Investment Committee. The current *Investment Policy Statement* was adopted by the Parochial Church Council on 31st March 2016 and is reviewed annually by the Investment Committee.

Our objectives for 2024 were:

Mission & worship

- Our outreach work with Lauda and Change Liverpool needs greater articulation in and ownership by the PCC and congregation.
- We need to address how we connect with new members of the congregation and draw them into the Church community.

Enhancement and development of Church buildings

- We have applied for planning permission for solar panels and will install them on the lower south roof as soon as planning permission and a faculty have been granted. As well as improving our carbon footprint, this will also reduce electricity bills.
- Some remedial work is needed at points around the building. In particular, repointing the clerestory stonework on the south side, and also work is required on all the external doors.
- The Quinquennial Inspection is due in autumn 2024.

Finance, Giving and Fundraising

- Whilst our giving has kept pace with inflation, other costs have risen. We need to ensure that our income is matching our required expenditure.
- We have had many new people join the congregation in 2023: we need to ensure that this year’s stewardship campaign reaches these new people effectively.

We responded to these objectives in the following ways:

- Although progress has been made against many objectives, priorities were rearranged after the announcement of the Rector’s departure. Many responsibilities had to be reassigned to cover the interregnum as well as initiating the formal recruitment process (compiling a Parish Profile, appointing Parish representatives, advertising the vacancy etc.)

Mission & worship

- We have maintained the momentum of congregational life/outreach during interregnum and attendance has remained strong throughout
- Lauda: Guy Barker has acted as liaison with the Project Worker and Sponsor; management processes have been improved; an unsuccessful funding bid was submitted but as the project is now based outside our Deanery, PCC considered whether now is the time to transfer responsibility to St Lukes in the City.
- Sunday School numbers have grown and leadership responsibilities are now shared with a number of parents
- Sunday attendances remain strong (against trends); diversity and inclusion are important features of our congregation

Enhancement and development of Church buildings

- Solar panels were successfully installed and commissioned; we are already seeing a reduction in electricity costs from our supplier in addition to the 'green energy' benefits of the project
- Many building repairs/improvements have been completed, including refinishing doors, stonework repairs, Docker's Cross repair.
- We invested in additional CCTV cameras for enhanced security monitoring
- Quinquennial inspection deferred into 2025 by Diocese – we expect that there will be a major repointing requirement

Finance, Giving and Fundraising

- Although some planned giving has been lost through the deaths of parishioners, there have also been new donors this year. Gift Aid continues to represent a very important income source.
- A new stewardship campaign was overtaken by the Rector's departure – our focus shifted to maintaining the support of the congregation during interregnum
- Two legacies were received this year, one extremely generous, which will allow for the investment of further funds to generate additional income.
- Investment management is now undertaken by Rathbones after their merger with Investec.
- Walton Park Cemetery Lodge had to be re-roofed this year; however, our intention is to sell the property in 2025 which will more than recover the repair costs.

Plans for the future

In 2025 we have planned the following in addition to existing activities and projects:

- Following a re-advertisement of the Rector's vacancy, it is hoped to appoint a new Rector to be in post as early as possible in 2025. At that point, the new Rector will begin to shape priorities for the future. Before his/her appointment, our plans include the following:

Mission & worship

- PCC to engage with the Fit for Mission process as it is evaluated in this Deanery and to consider its possible future impacts on the Parish
- To complete the transition of the Lauda Project to its new home at St Lukes
- Community building with wedding couples and their families
- Further development of Sunday School provision
- Confirmation preparation

Enhancement and development of Church buildings

- Quinquennial Inspection to be carried out and necessary improvements identified
- Essential repointing of the church tower.
- Resolution of Walton Park Cemetery Lodge tenancy/sale
- Further enhancements of CCTV, sound system and office IT provision

Finance, Giving and Fundraising

- Seek new Rector's leadership of a renewed Stewardship campaign
- Evaluate the need for additional clergy housing
- Invest surplus funds to generate further unrestricted income

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Liverpool Blitz Memorial Trust (Charity 1081035)

The Trust completed its distribution of available funding during 2023 and its activities during 2024 were limited to preliminary steps towards winding up the Trust. During 2025 application will be made to the Charity Commission to deregister the Trust as a charity.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Peter Summerfield, PCC Lay Vice-Chair

Date 27 March 2025

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Our Lady and St Nicholas, Liverpool on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024, as set out on pages 8 to 16.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:
 - accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
 - the accounts do not accord with accounting records
- 2) I 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

Date: t.b.c.

Susan Buckley FCA

SBA Accounting Limited
Gladstone House
2 Church Road
Liverpool
L15 9EG

Parochial Church Council of Our Lady and St Nicholas

Statement of financial activities
For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 Unrestricted Funds	2024 Restricted Funds	2024 Endowment Funds	2024 Total	2023 Unrestricted Funds	2023 Restricted Funds	2023 Endowment Funds	2023 Total
Incoming Resources									
Voluntary Income	2(a)	274,669	-	-	274,669	144,377	55,315	-	199,692
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	17,006	-	-	17,006	23,689	-	-	23,689
Investments	2(c)	29,328	-	-	29,328	28,713	-	-	28,713
Church Activities	2(d)	6,508	-	-	6,508	5,198	-	-	5,198
Other	2(e)	3,343	-	-	3,343	-	-	-	-
Sub Total		330,854	-	-	330,854	201,977	55,315	-	257,292
Resources Expended									
Church activities	3(a)	168,859	960	-	169,818	172,181	3,785	-	175,966
Costs of generating voluntary income	3(b)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising trading costs	3(c)	610	-	-	610	356	-	-	356
Other costs	3(d)	25,878	-	-	25,878	24,460	5,315	-	29,775
Sub Total		195,347	960	-	196,307	196,997	9,100	-	206,097
Net Incoming Resources Before Other Recognised Gains & Losses									
Net Incoming Resources		135,507	(960)	-	134,547	4,980	46,215	-	51,195
Gains on investment assets									
On disposal	5(b)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Additions	5(b)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
On revaluation	5(b)	14,014	5,046	27,660	46,720	1,011	1,431	22,998	25,440
Gross transfer between funds		(376)	-	376	-	(1,875)	-	1,875	-
Net Movement in Funds									
Movement		149,145	4,086	28,036	181,267	4,116	47,646	24,873	76,635
Balances at 1/1		215,031	74,170	566,659	855,860	210,915	26,524	541,786	779,225
Balances at 31/12		364,176	78,256	594,695	1,037,127	215,031	74,170	566,659	855,860

Parochial Church Council of Our Lady and St Nicholas
Balance Sheet
For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible	5(a)	62,537	31,618
Investment	5(b)	713,751	667,032
Sub Total		776,288	698,650
Current Assets			
Stock		-	-
Debtors	6	13,926	13,060
Cash at bank and in hand		247,722	156,999
Sub Total		261,648	170,059
Liabilities			
Creditors - amounts falling due < 1 year	7	809	12,849
Net Current Assets/ (Liabilities)			
Total assets less current liabilities		260,839	157,210
TOTAL NET ASSETS		1,037,127	855,860
Unrestricted*	8	364,176	215,031
Restricted		78,256	74,170
Endowment		594,695	566,659
TOTAL PARISH FUNDS		1,037,127	855,860

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 27th March 2025.

Mr Peter Summerfield
Lay Chair of the Parochial Church Council

Dr Jim Wrightson
Treasurer

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form part of these accounts

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024

1 Basis of Preparation

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, and with the Charities Act 2011.

2. Income

Recognition of income: These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- The charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- It is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and
- The monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Offsetting: There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

Grants and Donations: Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met (5.10-5.12 FRS 102 SORP).
In the case of performance related grants, income must only be recognised to the extent that the charity has provided the specified goods or services as entitlement to the grant only occurs when the performance related conditions are met (5.16 FRS 102 SORP)

Legacies: Legacies are included in the SoFA when receipt is probable, that is, when there has been grant of probate, the executors have established that there are sufficient assets in the estate and any conditions attached to the legacy are either within the control of the charity or have been met.

Tax reclaims: Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Support costs: The charity has incurred expenditure on support costs.

Volunteer help: The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Interest, dividends etc. Income from interest, royalties and dividends is included in the accounts when receipt is probable and the amount receivable can be measured reliably.

Investment gains/losses This includes any realised or unrealised gains or losses on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

3. Expenditure and liabilities

Liability recognition: Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Creditors: The charity has creditors which are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts.

Financial instruments: The charity accounts for basic financial instruments on initial recognition as per paragraph 10.7 FRS 102 SORP. Subsequent measurement is as per paragraphs 11.17 to 11.19, FRS 102 SORP.

4. Assets

Investments: Fixed asset investments in quoted shares, traded bonds and similar investments are valued initially at cost and subsequently at fair value (their market value) at the year end. The same treatment is applied to unlisted investments unless fair value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment.

Investments held for resale or pending their sale and cash and cash equivalents with a maturity date of less than 1 year are treated as current asset investments.

Debtors: Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

Funds: *Endowment funds* are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from the investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending on the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific purpose or object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are general funds, which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Fixed Assets: Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.96 (2) (a) of the Charities Act 1993.

Moveable church furnishings held by the Rector and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are accounted for as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the Church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1 January 2000 have been capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their currently anticipated useful economic life (initially over 15 years) on a straight-line basis.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over 4 years. All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £500 or on the repair of moveable church furnishings acquired before 1 January 2000 is written off.

2. INCOMING RESOURCES								
	2024 Unrestricted Funds (£)	2024 Restricted Funds (£)	2024 Endowment Funds (£)	2024 Total £	2023 Unrestricted Funds (£)	2023 Restricted Funds (£)	2023 Endowment Funds (£)	2023 Total £
2(a) Voluntary Income								
Planned Giving	33,979	-	-	33,979	39,502	-	-	39,502
Tax recoverable	13,364	-	-	13,364	12,072	-	-	12,072
Other Gift Aid Donations	2,593	-	-	2,593	1,582	-	-	1,582
Collections	6,571	-	-	6,571	8,103	-	-	8,103
Grants	31,699	-	-	31,699	44,830	55,315	-	100,145
Donations, appeals	26,689	-	-	26,689	28,431	-	-	28,431
Legacies	159,774	-	-	159,774	9,857	-	-	9,857
Total	274,669	-	-	274,669	144,377	55,315	-	199,692
2(b) Activities for generating funds								
Fundraising non-Church purposes	15,898	-	-	15,898	21,652	-	-	21,652
Fundraising – Misc	20	-	-	20	290	-	-	290
Catering	1,088	-	-	1,088	1,747	-	-	1,747
Total	17,006	-	-	17,006	23,689	-	-	23,689
2(c) Income from investments								
Dividends, interest & tax recoverable	4,107	-	-	4,107	15,533	-	-	15,533
Rent	25,221	-	-	25,221	13,180	-	-	13,180
Total	29,328	-	-	29,328	28,713	-	-	28,713
2(d) Income from Church Activities								
Parochial Fees retained by PCC	5,208	-	-	5,208	4,670	-	-	4,670
Sundry Income	1,300	-	-	1,300	528	-	-	528
Total	6,508	-	-	6,508	5,198	-	-	5,198
2(e) Other incoming resources								
Insurance claims/sale of fixed assets	3,343	-	-	3,343	0	-	-	0
Total	3,343	-	-	3,343	0	-	-	0
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	330,854	-	-	330,854	201,977	55,315	-	257,292

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	2024 Unrestricted Funds (£)	2024 Restricted Funds (£)	2024 Endowment Funds (£)	2024 Total £	2023 Unrestricted Funds (£)	2023 Restricted Funds (£)	2023 Endowment Funds (£)	2023 Total £
3(a) Church activities								
Mission & charitable giving								
Overseas	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	0
Relief & development agencies	500	-	-	500	1,170	-	-	1,170
Home missions	1,529	-	-	1,529	183	-	-	183
Secular charities	1,980	-	-	1,980	2,365	-	-	2,365
Ministry								
Diocesan parish share	31,109	-	-	31,109	31,107	-	-	31,107
Clergy expenses	526	-	-	526	2,053	-	-	2,053
Parsonage	2,327	-	-	2,327	3,392	-	-	3,392
Assistant staff	7,303	-	-	7,303	11,698	-	-	11,698
Church running & maintenance								
Church running expenses	42,439	-	-	42,439	44,656	-	-	44,656
Church maintenance	13,396	-	-	13,396	17,923	-	-	17,923
Upkeep of services	16,150	-	-	16,150	14,198	-	-	14,198
Depreciation	8,563	-	-	8,563	7,770	-	-	7,770
Walton Park Cemetery	27,031	-	-	27,031	450	3,785	-	4,235
Parish centre								
Running costs	6,053	-	-	6,053	5,459	-	-	5,459
Other property upkeep	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	0
Major repairs / works	9,953	960	-	10,913	29,757	-	-	29,757
Total	168,859	960	-	169,819	172,181	3,785	-	175,966
3(b) Generation of voluntary income								
Stewardship costs					-	-	-	-
3(c) Fundraising costs trading								
Fundraising costs	610	-	-	610	356	-	-	356
Investment management					-	-	-	-
Total	610	-	-	610	356	-	-	356
3(d) Other resources expended								
Other	3,813	-	-	3,813	3,198	5,315	-	8,513
Support	22,065	-	-	22,065	21,262	-	-	21,262
Total	25,878	-	-	25,878	24,460	5,315	-	29,775
TOTAL EXPENDED	195,347	960	-	196,307	196,997	9,100	-	206,097

4. Staff Costs (Wages & Salaries)

Office Support, Cleaning, Security and Organist	£29,030
Tax & National insurance	3,193
Pensions	343

Total **£32,566**

The head count of employees during the year was 5 (all part-time) for office support, cleaning, security, LAUDA project officer and organist.

All employees have had the opportunity to take annual leave to which they are entitled, so there is no financial provision needed for outstanding leave.

PCC members' expenses

During the year £2,739 was reimbursed to 7 PCC members for expenses they incurred on behalf of the Church

PCC members' donations

Trustees contributed a total of £9,798 to the charity during 2024.

5(a) FIXED ASSETS

Tangible (Unrestricted)		Freehold land & building £	Church equipment £	Total £
Actual / Deemed cost	As at 1/1	-	81,030	81,030
	Disposal	-	-	-
	Additions at cost	-	39,481	39,481
	As at 31/12	-	120,511	120,511
Depreciation	As at 1/1	-	49,412	49,412
	Withdrawn on disposals	-	-	-
	Charge for year	-	8,562	8,562
	As at 31/12	-	57,974	57,974
Net Book Value	As at 31/12	-	62,537	62,537

5(b) Investments

		2024 £	2023 £
GLADSTONE FUND	Historical cost	183,817	175,275
	Market value	208,096	197,324
HAMPSON AND SUNDRY BEQUESTS	Historical cost	264,310	252,414
	Market value	296,675	282,664
INVESTEC Income Account	Historical cost	56,051	42,037
	Market value	56,051	42,037
OLSN EDUCATIONAL FUND	Historical cost	19,902	19,902
	Market value	34,407	33,637
	Accrued Interest	9,018	7,667
MUSIC ENDOWMENT FUND (Investec)	Historical cost	54,862	54,806
	Market value	55,517	53,410
BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC MEMORIAL (Investec)	Historical cost	50,573	50,000
	Market value	53,987	50,292
TOTALS	Historical cost	629,515	594,434
	Market value + Accrued Interest	713,751	667,031

The market value as at 31stDecember represents investments for:

	£
Unrestricted funds	56,051
Restricted funds	63,005
Endowment funds	594,695

The Gladstone Fund was established following the sale of 62 Rodney Street, Liverpool, the birthplace of W.E.Gladstone. The capital cannot be spent but up to 4/5 of the fund can be borrowed interest free towards the costs of a new Rectory for the Parish Church. The income from the fund is available to the PCC without restriction and is currently accumulating in an Investec cash account.

The Hampson and Sundry Bequests is the joint title for the fund which contains the legacy given under the will of John Henry Hampson as well as an earlier bequest (the James Cross Fund), to which has been added the formerly separate Sundry Endowments Fund. With the redesignation of the small unrestricted sums as endowment funds, the two funds were merged during 2020 and are now reported as a single entity.

The Our Lady & St Nicholas Educational Fund was established in 1998 with the proceeds of the sale of the former church school in Vauxhall. The income from this fund is to be used to assist the education of both the young people associated with the Church and/or live in the parish.

The Music Endowment Fund was formally established early in 2020, following a generous donation late in 2019 which was initially described as restricted. It is intended to support the provision of music in worship in the Parish Church of Our Lady and St Nicholas. Funds donated are invested as endowment but the income from this fund is available to the church as unrestricted to apply to musical purposes.

6. DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Tax recoverable	10,537	10,059
Other debtors	3,390	3,001
Total	13,927	13,060

7. LIABILITIES (Amounts falling due in one year)

	2024	2023
	£	£
Creditors	809	12,849
Total	809	12,849

8. FUNDS

	Balance at 1/1	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Fund Transfers	Investment gains/ (losses)	Balance at 31/12
Unrestricted fund movements						
Investec Dividends	42,037	14,014	-	-	-	56,051
Accumulated Funds	172,994	330,854	195,347	(376)	-	308,125
Total	215,031	344,868	195,347	(376)	-	364,176
Restricted fund movements						
Battle of the Atlantic Fund	50,292	-	-	-	3,695	53,987
OLSN Educational Fund	7,667	-	-	-	1,351	9,018
Humby Trust (Gardens & Walton Park)	16,215	-	960	-	-	15,255
Total	74,170	-	960	-	5,046	78,256

9. OTHER FEES

The following amounts have also been received and subsequently paid out but which are not included in the accounts for the year:

	£
Fees for weddings, funerals and special services (Verger, Organist, Choir, Bellringers, Soloists, Livestream)	9,735

Special Collections:	£
Stroke Association (Funeral collection)	58
Liverpool Seafarers' Centre (MN Day)	290
Macmillan Cancer Support	290
LCVS (Lord Mayor's Service)	375
DEC (Middle East)	270
Roadpeace (special service)	162
KIND (HSBC Carols)	133
Community Foundation (Police Carols)	450
Fire Service Charity (MFRS Carols)	150

Churchwardens' Report APCM 2025

This reporting year started with our sad farewell to Fr Crispin after 10 years as Rector of Liverpool. This was marked at our Sunday Eucharist on 23 June, attended by some 250 people, representing not only our regular congregation, but also many of Fr Crispin's areas of involvement during his time as Rector. We were blessed with beautiful weather and were able to continue our goodbyes in the garden after the service over a buffet lunch.

Despite being in interregnum this has, as usual, been yet another busy and eventful year for Liverpool Parish Church fulfilling its multiple roles:

- a spiritual home for the parish and both the regular and occasional worshipping communities, including those attending for weddings, baptisms, funerals, memorial services and carol services
- the civic church for the City of Liverpool, hosting the usual selection of services including Merchant Navy Day, Commonwealth Day, Armed Forces Day, the Lord Mayor's Civic service, services to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the RNLI and HMS Liverpool receiving the Freedom of the City, a service of remembrance to commemorate the 3rd anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine and a service for Liverpool Open Table
- a central venue for cultural events, including art exhibitions, concerts, poetry readings, book launches
- and we are, most importantly, a place of welcome for all.

All of these activities require a large team of volunteers behind the scenes giving their time and energy to ensure that everything runs smoothly, and we are extremely grateful to all those helping in whatever way – this year we would particularly like to thank the clergy for keeping things going during the interregnum, especially as they all have their own day jobs and help us out on a voluntary basis in their spare time! We are also hugely grateful to our parish administrator, building manager, PCC/other committee members, Deanery synod reps, sidespeople for our many services, readers, intercessors, organist, singers, altar serving and sacristy teams, flower arrangers, Sunday School co-ordinators and teachers, those who open and lock-up church daily, various rota co-ordinators and those helping with refreshments, gardening and church cleaning. We could not continue to fulfil our role at the spiritual heart of the City of Liverpool without the commitment of so many of our members. For those of you who are new to Liverpool Parish Church and feel that you also have something to offer then please do speak to us and we can find you a valuable role, we are always in need of more help!

We are now very much looking forward to welcoming our new Rector, Fr Philip Anderson, who will be licensed and installed on Saturday 19 July at 5pm. We are very excited to see what his ministry will bring to the parish and city and we assure him of our ongoing prayers as he prepares to come and join us here.

Clare Ledingham and Sarah Wrightson, Churchwardens

May 2025

Deanery Synod

Liverpool North and Walton Deanery has met consistently through the year with the main focus being discussions on Fit for Mission and what that means for our parishes. We are currently at the stage of engagement with Fit for Mission and all members of Synod and PCCs have been invited to be part of the consultation process.

One of the challenges we have faced as a Deanery this year has been the number of vacancies within our parishes. There still continues to be long periods of interregnum for some parishes and support has had to be provided by the Area Dean and other clergy members.

Financially, the Deanery is in a strong position. All parishes continue to pay their parish share in full with the Deanery Mission and Growth Fund available to all who wish to apply for missional grants.

The Area Dean is supported by a Leadership Team consisting of an Assistant Area Dean, a clergy and lay representative as well as two Lay Chairs.

Emily Ridgway
April 2025

Lauda

During most of the last 12 months The Lauda Project has been a collaboration between Liverpool Parish Church and St Luke's in the City to connect Roma families living in Wavertree and Toxteth with their local church, the wider community and public services. In its early years the project benefited from significant input by the (then) Pastoral Assistant at OLSN, and his successors have continued to support the worship, reading group, community market and sports activities aimed at integrating the families with the local community.

The Project Leader (Leah Daly) is a fluent Romanian speaker and was employed by Liverpool Parish Church and managed by the Team Vicar at St Luke's in the City (Rev.Laura Ferguson). To date, funding has been provided by the Deanery Mission & Growth Fund and The Joshua Centre, and a bid to the Church of England Racial Justice Fund was submitted with the valuable help the Racial Justice Officer at Liverpool Diocese, from which there is firm support for the success of this project. A member of Liverpool Parish Church was part of the Steering Group working on enhancing governance within the project from mid-2024 until early 2025, taking over this role when Rev Tabitha Rao left the clergy team for her current incumbency.

Despite collaboration with the Gypsy/Roma/Traveller Friendly Churches Network, whose Chair we actively engaged with, CofE Racial Justice refused our application for funding. The Steering Group member from OLSN challenged the grounds upon which the application was refused and sought reasons – none were forthcoming. It is disappointing to record for this APCM that this body (as distinct from our Diocesan Racial Justice Officer, who has been most supportive) was obstructive and uncommunicative throughout the application process.

More positively, the St Luke's team are working on alternative sources of funding and have recently been able to access additional monies. With Lauda secure through to the end of the 2024/25 school year, our PCC agreed to transfer governance responsibility to the PCC at St Luke's. This transfer has now completed and we no longer have a direct input into the programme.

Fabric Report to APCM

During the last year, the following work was completed on the Church building;

1. Roof repairs above the Chancel to stop water ingress.
2. Repairs to lightening conductor and slates following storm in January
3. Renewal and improvement to the baffles in the bell chamber.
4. New lighting in the bell chamber.
5. Repairs to the cast iron railings near to Ma Boyle's
6. The replacement of the locks in the parish centre with a suited system to replace worn locks.
7. Solar Panel work on the south aisle roof completed.
8. Fire Brigade major inspection.
9. Repairs to stonework and plaster on cupola above Gladstone stairs
.....and many other minor chores!

All required maintenance work and inspections have been carried out during the year to include mechanical inspections of the lift and heating plant. Gas safety inspections have been carried out both in Church and Walton Park Lodge, together with inspections of the fire alarm system.

To highlight some of the above, the new Solar Panels are generating a considerable amount of electricity and in a good month of sunshine, they are producing around £500 worth of electricity. We will be looking at a new energy contract in the Autumn which will capitalise on the solar generation. Merseyside Fire Brigade inspected the premises during the year, and I am pleased to say that with some minor attention to detail, the visit was successful.

We were fortunate that the cast iron railings were able to be paid for on insurance, as they were damaged by persons unknown – this has saved us several thousand pounds, as was the work to the roof and lightning conductor.

The lock system in the parish centre was archaic and very worn out. Several of us walked round like jailers and we now have an efficient suited system and much reduced holes in pockets. The wardens and I have carried out visits to the Rectory and have flagged up some serious and less serious problems with the building. It is hoped that the Diocese will carry out necessary repairs before our new Rector moves in.

In conclusion, I would like to pay my deepest thanks to the wardens and Peter Woods who have contributed to and made it possible to do the necessary work involved in looking after our wonderful Church building.

Stephen Derringer
Building Manager
April 2025

Safeguarding Report

The PCC has complied with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance and has displayed safeguarding information on the noticeboard in the Narthex.

Safeguarding Matters, the Diocesan bulletin, helps to inform our practice within the Parish and any changes we may be required to make and we are grateful to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team for their support with safeguarding advice.

Our Safeguarding policy was reviewed, updated and accepted by the PCC in September 2024 and will undergo its annual review in September 2025. A hard copy is available in the Parish Office and also online, with any other safeguarding documents. We have risk assessments in place with regard to children and continue to review our practice with regard to the safety of our children/young people, particularly in the light of the Southport tragedy.

Safeguarding continues to be an item on the agenda at every PCC.

In line with the Diocesan policy of Safer Recruitment all post holders who require a DBS have one. As part of this process, and, depending on the role our volunteers undertake, different levels of Diocesan Safeguarding Training have been completed and we are extremely grateful for the willingness with which everyone approaches this. A significant number of the congregation have now completed some form of safeguarding training, whether it be leadership, basic, foundation or awareness of domestic abuse.

In the absence of an incumbent Sarah Wrightson has taken over the Lead Recruiter role, with regard to DBS.

Our Safeguarding Officers continue to be:

Rev Michelle Montrose (Vulnerable Adults)
Sarah Wrightson (Children)

Sarah Wrightson
April 2025

Sunday School

Children's ministry in Our Lady and St Nicholas has continued to thrive over the past year. We have developed our offering to younger children and their families so that there is space within the main church to allow carers to still be part of the congregation during Sunday services. This has been really well received and gives the youngest members of our congregation a safe area to learn and develop with age appropriate resources.

For our primary school aged children, we offer a weekly Sunday School (within term time) where they come together and reflect on the same messages being delivered in the main service. Children are given the opportunity to engage in different activities with a wide range of resources available to them. They are supported by a leader and other adults from within our congregation as well as their own care givers. This past year has seen us develop our offering further and a real investment in resources has made a significant difference to our ministry in this area.

The older children, generally 10+, have taken significant steps in supporting the Sacristan and the serving team. A number of our young people are involved on a weekly basis and developing their own faith journeys whilst learning valued skills and responsibility. When they aren't serving, there is usually a cohort of young people supporting the Churchwardens in various ways. Children are often involved in collections as well as helping sides-people out with service sheets.

If we continue to support and encourage young people and their families in being valued members of our community, we should see this area of our church life thrive and grow in the years to come.

Emily Ridgway
April 2025

World Action Group Reprt

The World Action Group comprises Guy Barker, Michelle Montrose, Becky Selman and Sarah Wrightson.

Eco Church:

Thanks to the efforts of Stephen Derringer, the Building Manager, and our former Rector, Crispin Pailing, solar panels have now been installed on the church roof and are reaping both financial and environmental dividends.

We are still hoping to achieve Eco Church silver status, though progress has been slightly slower this year. A lifestyle audit of the congregation in early 2024, in conjunction with Faiths4Change, an environmental charity based in the NorthWest, identified some key priorities for the congregation, including: creating sustainable areas in the church gardens, highlighting more clearly on the website our eco work and running more eco-focused events at church. We have made a start on addressing these: we now have a small section on the website devoted to Eco Church, with a list of resources - <https://livpc.co.uk/outreach/> A small gardening group has also been formed; in the autumn they dug over some sections of the garden and planted some plants kindly donated by members of the congregation. We hope to do more work on the garden over the next few months and are always pleased to welcome new volunteers to the group. We are also developing an easy-to-read document to help some members of the congregation to come to church by public transport, identifying routes and times in the hope that our travelling footprint can be more sustainable.

Charities:

In 2024/5 we have supported Asylum Link Merseyside, YMCA Dutch Farm, The DEC Middle East Appeal and Community by Nature – a Liverpool-based charity whose aim is to improve the health, wellbeing, resilience and life chances of people experiencing social and economic deprivation. As we have done in previous years, at least one of these charities will be invited to attend the Sunday Eucharist and present to us afterwards as part of a fund and awareness-raising lunch.