

# **ST GILES' PARISH CHURCH WREXHAM**



## **VESTRY REPORTS**

**To be presented on  
Sunday 1st June, 2025**

**Seeking to be a Visible and Active Christian  
witness in the heart of Wrexham**

## **CONTENTS**

<b>Vicar's Report</b>	<b>Rev. P Goodband</b>
<b>Vicar's Warden</b>	<b>Brian Stickels</b>
<b>Treasurer/Fabric Report</b>	<b>Roger Graham-Palmer</b>
<b>Health and Safety</b>	<b>Brian Stickels</b>
<b>Parish Office</b>	<b>Cathy Brown</b>
<b>Bellringers</b>	<b>Christine Sollars</b>
<b>Tourism</b>	<b>Paul Whitham</b>
<b>Mothers' Union</b>	<b>Joanna Spalding</b>
<b>TCC</b>	<b>Melissa Griffiths</b>
<b>Babes in the Pew</b>	<b>Stella Whitham</b>
<b>Warm Spaces</b>	<b>Karen Davies</b>
<b>Grounds Team</b>	<b>Brian Stickels</b>
<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>Stella Whitham</b>
<b>Flower Team</b>	<b>Amanda Berry</b>
<b>100 Club</b>	<b>Maureen Davies</b>

# **Vicars Report**

## **September 2024-2025**

I arrived in September to take on the role of Associate Priest with responsibility for music, mission and tourism. This was put on hold immediately as I was the only priest here. So, I took the reins. I soon realised what a busy church St Giles' was and just how much goes on.

There is a settled pattern of worship on Sundays and Thursdays. At Christmas the services increase to accommodate a crib service and midnight mass. In addition to this there are many carol services held by local schools. This was a wonderful opportunity to get to know people and organisations.

During the Victorian Christmas Market that is held in High Street and St Giles' I went out as a chaplain on each of the days. This enabled me to engage with many people that I would not normally meet. It is hoped that a chaplaincy will be set up in association with other churches in Wrexham, to provide a Christian presence at large events.

St Giles' is a popular venue for concerts, which is understandable due to the size and beauty of the building as well as the wonderful acoustic. This is a very good way of getting people through the doors for entertainment purposes. We were very fortunate to be asked by Hope Street to host The Send. This was an event that filled the church with mainly young people hungry for the message of Jesus.

Each and every day there are many visitors who come to pray or just visit the church. The RWF chapel now has an area where people can quietly pray and there are prayer cards for them to take away. These are proving to be very popular and helpful for people.

During Holy Week there was some form of reflective worship every day that did not have a service. This would have been better attended if we had not had the difficulty of getting people with disabilities through the traffic calming measures. Those who did attend gained a great deal from these. Therefore, there are to be regular reflective sessions in the future.

Good Friday saw a musical way to reflect on the final hour. The Peregrine Quartet performed the Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross by Handel. The congregation found this to be moving and thought provoking. The musicians said that they felt something very special in the church and would like to return.

Easter was busy and joyous, and Easter Day saw large congregations at all of the services with an egg hunt after the 9:30am Family Eucharist.

There have been a number of changes made in St Giles' leading up to becoming a Mission Hub. Change is never easy but it is necessary for the church to move forward and increase its mission and become a centre of musical excellence.

I am extremely grateful to everybody in St Giles' for the amazing work that they do in keeping this very busy church up and running and for all the support that they have given me since I arrived in September.

With the Reverend James Tout on board St Giles' is moving forward towards an exciting future.

**The Reverend Petra Goodband BTh, LLM, FISM**  
**Associate Priest**

# Vicar's Warden

This has been a year of great challenges. An eventful year in the history of St Giles, to say the least. In August 2024 we said our farewells to our well-loved and respected Vicar, the Rev. Canon Dr Jason Bray, after 8 years of faithful and dedicated service here; and also, to Laura, Tom and Ben, who played an active part in the life of St Giles'. Jason and his family are much missed, and we continue to hold them in our prayers with thanks and affection.

Soon after Jason's leaving, we also lost our curate the Rev. Marcus Pipe, who was appointed Priest-in-Charge of the Maelor Mission Area, and our ordinand Glyn Wise. Marcus and Glyn were popular and respected members of our clergy team and were a big loss. It was an anxious time, and we were feeling a bit abandoned and rudderless.

Enter stage left the Rev. Petra Goodband. Petra and her husband John not only had to cope with the challenges of setting up home in a new community and making new friends but Petra, appointed as our Associate Priest to the Mission Hub Church, found herself, in effect, the Vicar of Wrexham! I have heard Petra described as 'temporarily holding the fort', but we went from a clergy team of three to one. Petra wasn't 'holding the fort' she was 'the fort'! Since September she has done the 'heavy lifting' in terms of clergy responsibilities. Since our last Vestry Meeting, I calculate from the Register the following:-

- the Eucharist has been celebrated 165 times at our regular service and there have been:
- 28 baptisms
- 20 funerals
- 51 all-age services
- 26 services at Christmas and Easter, as well as several Civic Services and Military commemorations
- 3 weddings
- 8 Welsh language services.

The Church has been full to capacity on at least three occasions – D Day and VE Day commemorations and the Mission Area Confirmation Service earlier this month when 26 young people and adults were confirmed in the faith and over 300 people attended the service.

In addition to the formal and public aspects of the Vicar's role, there is the preparatory work for services, the management and administration of St Giles' itself, supporting the work of the Mission Area and the Diocese and, most important of all, the pastoral role - leading by example, giving spiritual guidance and offering comfort and support to all those in need, as and when they present themselves.

Also, shortly before Christmas, Petra lost the support of a key St Giles' asset, our Church Administrator Ann Owen. For the last 12 years, Ann has carried out this role efficiently, with wit and intelligence and unrivalled knowledge of the structures and roles of our Church, Mission Area and Diocese. In sad and understandable circumstances Ann had to step back to look after her husband Glynne during his final illness. Nevertheless, Ann's inestimable knowledge and capabilities were a real loss to Petra, the Management Team and St Giles as a whole.

Throughout this period of uncertainty Petra has responded with cheerfulness, good humour, warmth and vigour. On behalf of all our congregations, I would like to thank Petra for all she has done and for the way she has embraced the role and responsibilities unexpectedly placed upon her shoulders.

I would also like to place on record our thanks for the support we have had over the past few months from the retired clergy in the Mission Area, especially Rev. James Harrington, Rev. Kate Tiltman and Rev. Heather Shotton.

Following the appointment and licensing of the Rev. James Tout on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025 as the new Vicar of Wrexham, we now find ourselves in a much stronger position. As an ex-curate of St Giles, we all know James very well and his name was on the lips of many people when the position of Vicar became vacant. With James and Petra now in the roles to which they were appointed we can look forward to the future with enthusiasm, hope and confidence.

The over-arching responsibility of the Warden Team is to ensure the smooth running of the Church. In reality though, there is an army of volunteers at St Giles' who give their time, experience and skills so generously. It is worth noting these areas of activity as, in total, they

make St Giles the vibrant, welcoming City Centre Church that it is. So, a big thank you to everyone who contributes in the following areas (in no particular order) :-

- Hospitality
- Welcomers
- Cleaning
- Fund Raising
- Warm Café
- Tourism
- Flowers
- Bell Ringers
- Concerts and Events
- Administration
- 100 Club
- Management and Finance
- Babes in the Pew
- Grounds and Maintenance
- Readers and Intercessors

Everyone's contributions, great or small, are equally valued.

Once again, we have had a wonderful series of concerts this year from New Sinfonia, Focus Wales and local choirs and performers. As a Hub Church with a particular brief to develop a musical tradition in St Giles, not only in our acts of worship but also as a performance venue, our cycle of annual events is likely to grow. Please support concerts and artistic performances held in the Church if you can.

The building and renovation work on the Chancel will be drawing to a close at the end of this month. The builders on site have been efficient, polite and hardworking. They have always done their best to keep disruption to a minimum and to plan their work around services and funerals. We will miss them in many ways, but it will be good to see the scaffolding down and the grounds returned to normal. Roger has done a fantastic job (quietly and uncomplainingly) bringing the finances for this project together, liaising with the Ruling Body, with CADW, our architect and builders. All this has been complex, bureaucratic and time-consuming. Huge thanks to Roger.

This will be my last Vestry Report. After 5 years as a Warden and

Vicar's Warden I have decided that the time is right to move on. It has been my privilege and my joy to serve St Giles', and I will especially miss all those I have been working closely with - past and present members of the Management Team and my fellow Wardens, Trish, Diane and Karen, who have been a pleasure to work with. I will continue to worship at St Giles' and play an active part in the work of the Church. I intend to keep my Health and Safety role, remain on the Grounds Team and serve as a Mission Area Warden.

A new chapter in the life of St Giles' is opening up, with a strong Clergy Team, the development of St Giles as a Hub Church and quite possibly a Minster at some stage in the future. As a Church community we have every reason to look forward with confidence and hope.

**Brian Stickels**

## **Treasurer and Fabric Report**

It is with some relief that I am now able to give you accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 now that the gremlins have been ironed out of the "My Fund Accounting System". These accounts are self explanatory. However, they are somewhat distorted from the usual by the building restoration activities that have been going on during the year. The report headed "Sofa Separate Designated" translates as "Statement Of Financial Activities....." and is in the form required by the Charity Commission.

The building work has gone well. As I write, all the St Giles' Trust funds which were held in the C in W Common Investment Fund in Cardiff have now been spent. I am now relying on grant aid from CADW, the refund of VAT from DCMS and our own funds at St Giles' to pay the rest of the building costs.

There has been some extra work to the contract, to which the Management Committee agreed to fund with the help of CADW who are matching the expenditure on the extra work. Total eligible costs for the amended contract are £337,930.59. There have been



additional costs to this which are not grant aided including increased insurance costs and the preparatory work for the scheme before CADW made their offer and some additional building costs which CADW declined to grant aid. The St Giles' reserves will be impacted by these costs.

VAT on the whole scheme is about £70,000. I hope to get all this back. The Listed Places of Worship Scheme has been curtailed in 2024/5 with a limit of £25k per building and £23 million cap for the UK as a whole.

I would like to thank Wardens, who count and bank all the cash that we receive. This is a major task and their help is invaluable. Also, I would like to thank the Fundraising Committee for their amazing efforts during the year and the exceptional result.

**Roger Graham-Palmer**

## **Health and Safety**

No significant health and safety issues have been raised since the last Vestry Meeting. Three incidents have been recorded in the Accident Book where immediate assistance was given but no further action was required.

Trips and falls continue to be the main health and safety concern in and around the church. Inside, we need to be careful of the steps in the Chancel and Sanctuary; people often trip here and at least one major accident has occurred in the past. We have a number of loose quarry tiles which the Grounds Team will secure. Can I ask any volunteers who are not fully fit, i.e. with back or joint problems, mobility issues, breathlessness etc., not to use ladders, steps or chairs to stand on. Always ask for help.

The front pews in the north aisle were not fixed to the floor. One was damaged and considered a risk; it was condemned and removed. The other pew has been placed along the adjacent wall for extra support.

Outside, the paths are uneven and slippery when wet. We have not found a cost effective and successful way of cleaning perimeter paths for the winter, and we should consider closing the path around the Church when it is particularly bad. The yellow lines on the steps leading down to the bottom car park need re-instating, and we need to ensure that the lighting down to the bottom car park is fully functioning.

We are compliant with our annual fire prevention checks. The fire extinguishers were checked, and some were upgraded in February 2025. P.A.T. Testing of all portable electrical equipment was done in March 2025. The lightening conductor was inspected and passed on 13/03/25.

The fire alarm system is overdue for its six-monthly service. We have postponed the servicing pending a decision on whether or not to upgrade our system. We know we have problems with sensors in the north aisle, Vestry lobby and office stairs. We have been advised by Delta Fire that our system, which is over 20 years old, is no longer fit for purpose: faults will occur more frequently and become more costly to repair. They have given us a quotation of £8k + VAT to replace all fire points and sensors and replace the control panel but not replacing the existing wiring which is of good quality and condition. Once all the payments for repairs to the Chancel are complete (including receipts from CADW), a decision will be made about the best way forward in the light of budgetary pressures.

**Brian Stickels**

## **Parish Office**

I only took this role on 6 weeks ago and in that time have realized how St Giles is a very busy and active church and this is reflected in the Parish Office.

Management meetings have been attended and minuted.

The new City Centre traffic management and bollards required a lot of discussion, including meetings with officers from WCBC. Petra

has met with them again, and a revised list of car number plates is being submitted. When documentation is agreed, I'll be taking on the role of supplying future number plates for functions, equipment access, and wedding cars etc.

For the first time for a few years there has been a wonderful Confirmation service, where 26 people (adults and children), were confirmed by the Bishop on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

We are very busy with Baptisms.

Petra has worked very hard to 'Keep the show on the road'.

We are very happy to welcome back James Tout as Priest in Charge, feeling we can go from strength to strength.

The office telephone rings through to my mobile if not answered in 25 seconds, and I've dealt with quite a few calls while out of office. I also have remote access to emails. Whilst I prefer to be a physical presence, this does take some pressure off the clergy.

I am also able to input data to the Diocese office, via an App, recording church attendances.

Congregation and visitor numbers are rising. People are discovering the comfort of a spiritual approach to life, which we continue to focus on and prioritise.

**Cathy Brown**

## **Bell Ringers Report**

We have a solid band of 15 Ringers and have had two new ringers and three children learning to ring in the past twelve months.

We joined in the national "Ringing Out for Peace" on the 6<sup>th</sup> June to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D Day Landings.

In July a Peal and in August a Quarter Peal, were rung as a farewell to Jason and his wife Laura and sons Thomas and Benedict on their move for Jason to take up the position of Dean of Llandaff

Cathedral. We were especially sorry when they left, as both Laura and Benedict were part of our Bell Ringing Team!

We once again organised the Tower Tours taking place between April and September as well as during the Victorian Christmas Market, in addition to other pre-arranged visits and this year we raised almost £1,600 for the church.

Our Practice Night is on Thursday at 7.30pm and we welcome anybody who is interested in learning to ring our beautiful bells, which in 2026 will be three hundred years old.

## **Christine Sollars**

### **Tourism/Visitors Report**

It is first worth recording that St Giles is still known locally and called “the Parish Church”. In 2024, a pub nearby was renamed “the Parish”; yes, there have been examples of mix ups!

In 2024, there has been no letup in the Visitor/ Tourism “momentum” featured in previous Annual Reports. Wrexham is now a “Global Brand”, not only the USA/ North America. After an interview by Petra with a freelance journalist in the Autumn, confirmation – in case it was needed - was provided by the resulting article featured in, amongst others, Town and Country Today (Canada), the Beijing Times and South China Morning Post (China), stuff.co.nz (New Zealand); football-addict.com etc.. The sheer variety of visitors continues unabated: eg the curious, the drunk, the lonely, the intimidating, the sad, the “soccer” fan etc; coming from: overseas, curious Brits coming to see what the fuss is about, locals etc..

Offering a “Welcome to People of All Faiths And Of None”, daily visitor numbers can vary enormously too; usually somewhere

between 1,700 (Victorian Christmas Market: Friday) and 25 (New Years Eve!). As St Giles is, unusually for Wales, a church with an “inner city ministry”, we can confidently predict “we never know who will come through the door”. Similarly, we are unable to predict when they might like to come in; whether queuing up before 10am on Saturday Home matchdays or during the lighter evenings when evening meetings, Concerts etc are being held in church inevitably mean Visitors as well.

As part of their role, Visitor numbers are recorded by the Welcomers in the church Daily Numbers Book. Including attendances at all christenings, weddings and funerals; special services; public events and activities; all recitals and concerts; school visits and carol services; the Victorian Christmas Market etc., visitor numbers in 2024 totalled 42,736.

This compares with 32,242 for 2023, an increase of 10,494, around about a third. Re-reading earlier Annual Reports, from my Visitor/ Tourism training and knowledge it is obvious to me that this step change at St Giles reflects the growing fruition of a variety of local initiatives in recent years, participation in which Jason encouraged and supported. It is salutary to reflect that, even if not on a strictly “like for like” basis, it seems likely that the visitor figure for St Giles in 2024 is greater than the figure for two of the six Cathedrals in the whole of Wales!

Moreover, since the beginning of 2014, then excluding 2020 and 2021 due to the Pandemic St Giles has now welcomed in nine years, cumulatively, 264,781 people!

Like it or not, with Wrexham a “Go To” Global Destination, St Giles is regarded as one of three city centre “Must See Attractions”, placing St Giles alongside the Turf/ Stok Cae Ras and the Wrexham Lager Brewery. Now supporting this interest are an unexpectedly large number of guided or walking city centre Tours etc including St Giles in their Itineraries. They are usually based on a theme: historical, football related, food and drink etc also Wrexham City Ghost Tours.

In one case, the church provides a church Guided Tour; there is a need to formalise a rota to be able to continue to offer this. In a minority of cases, there is a good working relationship with the Tour Operators. However, for the majority of Tour Operators, as well as consistency between them, much more needs to be done.

In 2024, the monthly pre-booked Tower Tours/ Climbs continued to be popular. However, it appears that there is an insatiable demand for Tower Tours/ Climbs as it is one of the most frequently asked questions to the Welcomers. Limits on capacity and ability restrict us.

Once more I would offer my genuine personal thanks and gratitude to the team of Welcomers who come regularly, whatever the weather and conditions, to enable the church to be “Open, Warm and Lit” and provide a Welcome for **all** who enter. One of very many messages of appreciation, taken from the Visitors Book in July, reads as follows: “Lovely welcoming church. Enjoyed our look around and learning the history of the church”. One family group: South Shields, Tyne and Wear also Phoenix, Arizona, USA.

I am also grateful for the Welcomers support at a “Refresher Day” held in the Autumn. A number of issues were quite rightly raised and I am sorry that some of them have not been progressed as hoped for. They included: Bibles for visitors to use, identification (lanyards), Welsh language phrases (ahead of the National Eisteddfod in early August), augmenting Welcomers with post 16 Tourism course students from Coleg Cambria etc. I am also grateful for the support and Visitor/ Tourism ideas that Catherine and Alan have given me; it has all been very much appreciated.

In the context of the upcoming Bid for City of Culture 2029 as well as Visitors/ Tourism, it is appropriate to mention here major Anniversaries, Commemorations etc including eg

- DDay80 in 2024 also then VE80 and VJ80 in 2025
- the Flower Festival in 2025

- the Bells Tercentenary in 2026.

Finally, I suggest that the recognition and place of St Giles in the city centre is now at a whole new level for all those who live, work, study, shop as well as visit the city centre. There is a huge momentum and expectation about the church; it is living out the St Giles Mission Prayer and making St Giles “Visible and Active” indeed.

**Paul Whitham**

## **Mother’s Union**

During the year we have had and done the following:

Val Shield talked to us about her love of making quilts and showed us examples.

Had our usual Easter Lenten Service

We had a talk by Rev Alan Pierce-Jones, the Prison Chaplin for Wales

Jason gave a talk in May before he left

A tea party with quiz in Gresford. Sadly, it rained so we were forced indoors.

A Talk by Rev Kate Tiltman

Rev Lynette came to talk to us in September

Judge Roger Dutton visited us in October

A fundraising coffee Morning in November.

Finally, Christmas Lunch at the Ramada with all Ladies in the congregation.

Our fundraisers bought 6 Christmas gift for the Angel Tree Project and 46 pairs of socks for the prisoners for Christmas.

We also gave Rev Kate £100 for equipment for Amani. Which is twinned with St Asaph.

Our programme for 2025 is being planned as we go through the year and meeting Topics will be announced as and when they have been booked.

**Joanna Spalding**

## **TCC Report**

TCC 's AGM is planned for 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025 and at the next Church Committee meeting after that I will be able to share the annual report.

It has been a busy year for the charity.

The annual planning event in February 2025 was well attended by a variety of member groups and we reviewed the highlights of the previous year and looked forward to special celebrations planned for November 2025.

Some of the highlights included.

- Hosting a Cost-of-Living Summit in collaboration with the Financial Justice Working Group. This discussed the impact of the cost-of-living crisis and explored local solutions with key power holders. The findings of the Summit were intended to contribute to the Wrexham Poverty Action Group collaboration.
- A brilliant success in the campaign to improve access to Flintshire's coastal paths for wheelchair users and pushchairs.
- Participating at Wrexham Wellfest
- Race, Privilege and Justice Workshop
- Collaborating with specific mental health campaigns such as Advance Brighter Futures and the Baton of Hope Campaign



which focuses on male suicide (event planned in October 2025).

- A good deal of networking/collaboration has also taken place with Wrexham Foodbank, CAB, Communities for Work Plus and Unpaid Carers.

As mentioned in my last report, we are excited to be planning the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations for TCC. This will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> November. There will be a fresher's type fair at Ty Pawb showcasing the work of TCC's members' groups, allies, funders and other local voluntary organisations. Then in the evening, there will be a formal meal and awards event at the War Memorial Hall. Since we are a member group of TCC (and have been for some time) it would be lovely to see some members of St. Giles at the event. I'll give you more details nearer the time.

Finally, TCC is always on the lookout for new Trustees. Please could you grab me for a chat if this is something you are interested in. It really isn't onerous, and I can let you know what sort of time commitment is involved if anyone wants to know more.

## **Melissa Griffiths**

### **Babes in the Pew**

At the end of the July 2024 school year, Anni completed her time of running Babes in the Pew and Stella offered to take over till someone else volunteers. The numbers are not brilliant as happens with children growing but no doubt they will increase again soon. It is a safe space for children as well as grown-ups.

It is wonderful to see how strangers become friends in Babes in the Pew.

## **Stella Whitham**

## **Warm Spaces Café Report**

The Warm Spaces Café continues to run Tuesdays from 1pm until 3pm and it is promoted via posters within the community. It is a social gathering that provides a warm welcome, a hot beverage and snacks. Diane and I continue to facilitate the meetings, and all are very welcome to join the café. There are a number of regular attendees; some stay for the two hours, whilst others come and go between those times. Occasionally, visitors, to St Giles, join in and Petra regularly comes along, which the group greatly appreciates. Members of the group interact well, share stories and experiences and support each other. Feedback from those who attend is very positive and appreciative.

The group continues to be well supported by Asda, through Mary Williams, Community Champion. With the café addressing the local warm spaces scheme, Asda is able to provide the hot beverages and light snacks. The group applied for a grant, to the Asda Foundation Scheme and was successful. £400 was awarded and will be used to purchase further resources. These will include toasted sandwich and soup makers, so that hot snacks can be provided, along with activity items, such as board games, craft material and puzzles to facilitate social interaction and leisure time.

Diane and I are keen for the Warm Spaces Café to continue, and we would like to thank Mary, for her continued support and all who come along to make the café a success.

If you or anyone you know, has some free time on Tuesdays, anytime between 1pm and 3pm, please join us. You will be made very welcome.

**Karen Davies** (on behalf of Diane Forward and myself)

# **Grounds Team Report**

The Team has been very busy throughout the year with all the usual seasonal tasks. Our aim is to keep our grounds tidy, free of litter and formally kept where appropriate, but also to encourage biodiversity in areas of the churchyard that are less accessible or underused. In these areas, we complete our final grass cut in March and then do not cut again until mid-August / early September. However, we maintain two mown paths through to the wild area on the north side of the Church, and this year we will mow about four metres in from the perimeter railings along Temple Row and Yorke Street. The reason for this is that from the public footpaths the grounds can look unloved as opposed to managed.

We also check the roof at periodic intervals to ensure that all gullies, hoppers and drains are clear and carry away all rainwater efficiently. Failure to do this can cause water to back up and find a way through the lead flashing and potentially leak into the Church.

We have been busy inside the Church completing any DIY tasks that arise. We have fixed the faulty lights in the Vestry lobby and kitchen. The toilets have been repaired on two occasions and unblocked; toilet seats and sanitary bins have been replaced. We have also cured the problem of the backdraught from the septic tank coming into the Church and ensured that rodents can no longer enter the Church via the boiler house. We also help with installations under the tower, setting up and clearing away chairs for special concerts etc. and removing clutter. The crypt has been cleared and, when the builders vacate it, it is intended to redecorate it and use it for much needed storage.

As a Team, we very much welcome any ideas and suggestions people have, and we are here to help with any practical tasks that need doing.

**Brian Stickels**

**-on behalf of G & M Team: Billy Lyons, Rou Peglar, Roger Graham-Palmer, Clive Hindley, John Cowie, Pat McGowan & Gill Hindley.**

# **FUNDRAISING**

Thank you to everyone who supported us during 2024. The extra volunteers to cover events were greatly appreciated. We as always held our coffee mornings during the year, mainly for socializing, seeing people meet and catch up is great but this gives us a good start for our fundraising year.

The annual Victorian Christmas Market moved to 4 days at the end of November but we only did 3, leaving Sunday for worship. Once again, the array of concerts and events were very successful, and the number of schools increased by one at Christmas time this was amazing. As we all know the cost of our own living is increasing year on year as are the churches' costs, so as a team we are thrilled that all the hard work during the year helps to keep our wonderful church open. Each year seems to start slowly (not surprising after December) but we were still able to support by making approximately £31,000 during the year 2024. Once again, a MASSIVE THANK YOU to all.

The Craft Group has not met as often but it is amazing what seems to appear from nowhere. A seed is planted and all of sudden it appears. Again the Poppies were out on display for Remembrance, the Angels for Christmas.

**Stella Whitham**

## **FLOWERS TEAM**

As a team we enjoy the privilege of adorning our beautiful church with floral arrangements and are grateful to our 'extended team members' who assist at festival times. The arrangements that appear for special occasions, eg: D Day memorial, are quite breathtaking too.

The joy of arranging flowers for weddings throughout the year requires a lot of planning and preparation, but in doing so generates some income for the church, as do the many flowers that we are fortunate to have donated during the summer and early autumn season, these also enable us to enhance the church with colourful arrangements. We thank everyone for their donations and kind comments.

**Maureen, Amanda, Ruth W and Ruth J**

## **St Giles 100 Club**

This long-standing fundraising initiative continues to be well maintained with currently 141 members; this fluctuates from time to time through sad loss or gain. We also have members who either cannot get to church now or family who maintain their loved one's numbers, these are either posted to me or I collect subscriptions or deliver any potential winning money

### **The annual summary for 2024 is as follows:**

Total income = £1,716 inclusive of member loss, gain, or gratuities.

Total outgoing = £780 inclusive of November pre-Christmas double money draw.

Total profit = £936 inclusive of gratuities, an increase of £168 from 2023

I would like to thank all ongoing members and would welcome new ones.

Annual subscription £12 per number or Bi-annual £6 payable in two six monthly payments (May/November).

**Maureen Davies**

## **Appendicies**

Balance Sheet

Income & Expenditure

Photo's of work done

### **From Jan (Church Committee Secretary)**

Many thanks to all for your reports (Apologies for any missing), it does show how busy St Giles is and that we are:

**‘Visible and Active Christian witness in the Heart of Wrexham’**