

LAMBS Annual Report 2023.

What is LAMBS

For those that are not aware what LAMBS is, it is a disco for those with learning or physical disabilities. It provides a safe environment for members to come and meet with their peers and enjoy 2 hours of socialising with or without carers. It is a free disco, thanks to the contribution made by you, the parishioners of St Vincents. Any money not used for a disco in a particular month is saved and used to subsidise the cost of the coach for the LAMBS trip to Blackpool. We do not receive any funding from anywhere else and every penny is spent on LAMBS events. If you are interested in supporting LAMBS in any way, from prayers, to physical assistance for any amount of time, even if it's not on a monthly basis please contact the parish office, Jane or Lucy at St Vincent's and we will be glad to tell you more about LAMBS and see if it is something you would like to do.

Looking back at 2023

This year there have been ten LAMBS events. Nine in the form of discos, plus our annual trip to Blackpool in August. We think this is the 38th consecutive year of LAMBS running at St Vincent's.

Our DJ's Mat and James have been in attendance making sure the music is just right. Members put requests in for songs to be played and we usually have at least one soloist serenading us with his/her favourite song at some point during the evening.

Sadly, we didn't have a disco in February due to safety concerns with the porch being built but all members and carers have expressed how delighted they are with the porch and how much it improves the building. It also makes it much safer for members entering and leaving the building. We sadly had to close in September as we didn't have enough staff or DJ's to run the disco. Hopefully next year we will be back to full capacity of 12 events per year. This year we had a Christmas Party with 39 members and 29 Carers, with Fr Christmas in attendance of course. Early in 2023 we had a New Years Glamorous and Glitzy Party, followed by a Masquerade Party and a Prom with photographs at the end of the summer term in front of the glittery curtain.

We have 53 members to date with an average 30 members and 19 carers attending per disco. A big shout out to both the members and the carers for continuing to come to LAMBS and making it such an enjoyable event for all of us.

The trip to Blackpool was well attended with 19 members, 23 carers and 4 support staff from the parish for those without carers. We had some spare seats on the coach, and we were once again able to offer a place for our Refugee family who had a thoroughly enjoyable time in Blackpool too.

I would like to thank all the generous parishioners who donate money to allow the disco to run. For all the parishioners who generously give their time on a Wednesday morning preparing the church and others putting the church back together again at the end of the disco, please accept our significant gratitude. To the lovely ladies who monthly offer to make fresh sandwiches for our members and bring them to church on the disco evening and for the Blackpool trip – Yum, they are delicious. Lastly, but not least, our DJ's - Uncle & Nephew Team, Mat and James, our exceptional kitchen staff who prepare, serve, tidy up and clean the church so you wouldn't know it had occurred – they are outstanding. Everybody that contributes in whatever small or larger way, make this happen and we are extremely grateful – Thank you all. One last shout out to 'Sam' our newest and youngest volunteer - (by approximately 37yrs!!!) Way to go Sam and thanks for joining the team.