

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF TARPORLEY

England & Wales · Charity number 1130496

Details

Other names	TARPORLEY, ST. HELEN'S PCC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-07-09
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	The Rectory High Street Tarpорley CW6 0AG
Phone	01829732491
Email	p.emerson125@btinternet.com
Website	www.tarpорleyparishchurch.org

Activities

Objects: Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Activities: St Helen's Tarpорley Parochial Church Council (PCC) co-operates with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the Parish's three churches: St Helen, St John and the Holy Cross and St Thomas, and their attendant churchyards and two other building's:

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Cheshire West & Chester

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£287,890	£334,161	-	-
2023-12-31	£139,001	£149,752	-	-
2022-12-31	£117,269	£112,948	-	-
2021-12-31	£107,902	£126,660	-	-
2020-12-31	£115,380	£118,588	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Amelia McCourty		2024-01-29
Andrew Needham		2024-01-29
Christine Noblett		2023-04-30
DAVID JULIAN GARDNER SMITHSON		2023-06-11
Duncan Gordon		2024-05-12
ELIZABETH ANN NEELY		2015-04-27
Elaine Glenys Meredith JP		
John Burton		2023-04-30
Kate O'Neill		2023-04-30
PHILLIP ROBERT POSNETT		
Rev James Bridgman		2021-09-13
Rev Jenny Bridgman		2024-02-13
Rosemary Lilley		2024-01-29
Sandra Hardy		2023-04-30
Walter Thomas Gibson		2022-05-20

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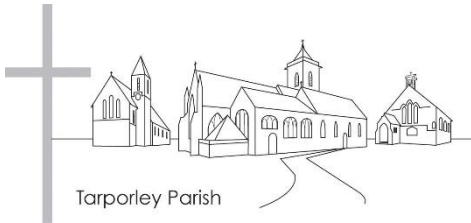
Accounts



Annual Report of the Tarporley Parochial Church Council and Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2024



On Mothering Sunday at St Helen's during Café Church, Bishop Mark helped to install the memorial stone for those who have experienced Stillbirth, Abortion or Miscarriage



Annual Report of the Tarporley Parochial Church Council and Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

What follows is a brief report of our Parish life in 2024.

As ever with these kinds of reports, this only scratches the surface of all the hard work and faithfulness that is seen in abundance in this parish often seen in the small or unseen jobs that ensure that our three churches are still standing, and our services function without major hiccups!

My thanks go to clergy colleagues who helped sustain and enhance ministry and mission in the parish during the year - Revd Trevor Davies, Revd Jenny Bridgman and Revd Richard Tuckwell – as well as Church Wardens and officers and members of our PCC for their unstinting hard work and complete support.

I hope that it is not an act of great self-deception, but as I look back at 2024, I feel that God has been here, bringing a spirit of life, hope and togetherness, which I pray will continue into 2025. While there have been difficult goodbyes, there have also been celebratory welcomes too, and in all the ups and down, a reassurance of God being present.

Let us continue to look for God's presence in Tarporley, Eaton, Cotebrook, Rushton and Utkinton, and be ready for where God wants to take us next.

With every blessing

Jim

Revd. Jim Bridgman
Rector of Tarporley

**The Parochial Church Council
of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Tarporley
A Registered Charity: Number 1130496**

Aim and Purposes

St Helen's Tarporley Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the Parish's three churches: St Helen's Tarporley, St John and the Holy Cross Cotebrook and St Thomas, Eaton their attendant churchyards and The Done Room. In pursuing these aims and purposes the PCC has due regard to the Charity Commission's concern for public benefit.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches. Our services are open to all, and we are committed to making and keeping our churches, both during and outside of worship, welcoming sacred spaces where people can encounter the presence of God, sanctuary from an often-stressful world and, if they wish it, a place in a welcoming and caring community. When planning our activities for the year, both our regular worship and our extra activities, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. We are open to all and actively encourage participation in our services and activities from all sections of the community believing as we do that every person is made in the image of God. We try to help each other grow in knowledge and love of God and his son, our Lord Jesus Christ, through our worship and prayer and discipleship activities believing that the good news of the gospel enriches and gives purpose and direction to life. And we try to follow this teaching and communicate God's love for all people through our pastoral and outreach work.

Achievements and Performance

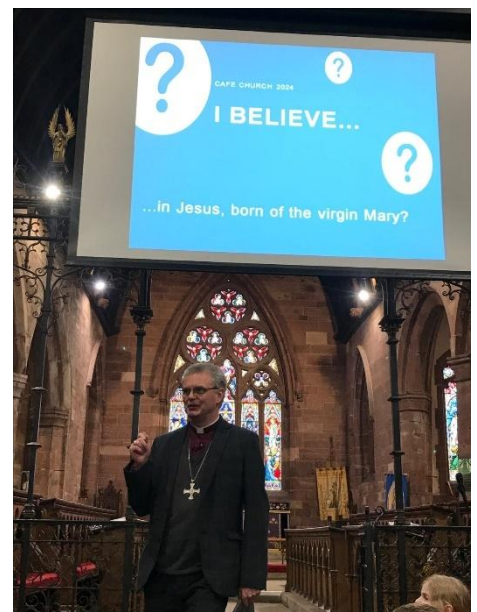
In autumn 2022, the parish vision process identified a number of priorities:

- a. Exploring a new pattern of worship.
- b. Deepening prayer and discipleship.
- c. Improving Facilities.
- d. Engagement.
 - I. With communities.
 - II. With 'un-churched' people.
 - III. With schools.

During 2024, we continued to press ahead with making these priorities into reality.

a. Exploring a new pattern of worship.

In 2024, we continued to offer a broad range of services across the three churches. As well as ensuring that our regular services of Communion were offered, with a good standard of singing, praying and preaching, 2024 saw a real consolidation and expansion of some of the 'different' services offered:



Café Church continued to take place on the second Sunday of the month, and through 2024 alternated between St Helen's and the Done Room – whilst the former allows the use of the screen and audio visual system as well as increased capacity, the latter allowed closer access to toilets and the use of kitchen facilities, as well as a more café style environment. Everyone had their own



preference, but regardless of venue, each month we enjoyed great hospitality, times of singing, praying and discussing. The themes for the majority of the year were based around the Apostles' Creed, looking at some of the core statements of our faith. Café Church brings all ages together, and has good support from each of the three churches, helping to draw us closer together as a parish.



Songs of Praise at St Thomas' has also been firmly cemented into the regular pattern of worship, regularly drawing people from across the other two churches to hear (and sing) the music that has shaped the faith of the people in the pews. We sang a broad range of hymn and songs, many of which resonated with our



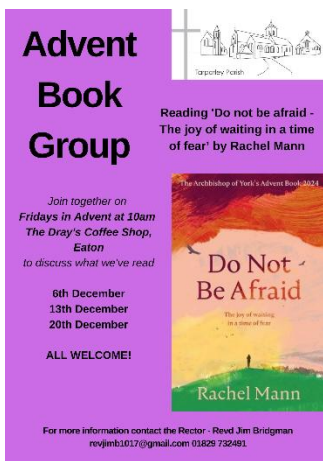
childhoods, weddings or journeys of faith; in addition to a 'Greatest Hits' compilation service,



both the St Thomas' choir and The Eatonians chose their favourite music, and organist Jill Robey told us of her influences in her final service with us. We also heard some musical numbers that reminded us of Wales, Yorkshire and the Guiding movement, and managed to introduce some church members to the music of The Proclaimers, Morrissey and The Seekers, and finally had Cliff Richard played in church! And the fantastic team of breakfast helpers, provide the perfect ending for the morning with a great array of food!

Evensong on the third Sunday of the month is cherished by those who attend. In the winter months and darker nights, the service remained at St Helen's at an earlier time of 4pm, and then once the clocks changed, we continued to put Evensong 'on tour', visiting all three churches, and being supported by those who may never regularly travel to one of the other churches. In October, we were joined by *Vox Vocavit* who led a beautiful service of Evensong, complete with chanted Psalm 86 Hear me Lord and the beautiful "Greater love hath no man" by John Ireland. **Joint services** on months with 5 Sundays have led to further mixing of congregations and catching up with old and new friends (and some people even entering a different church for the first time!).

b. Deepening prayer and discipleship.



Advent Book Group

Join together on Fridays in Advent at 10am
The Dray's Coffee Shop, Eaton
to discuss what we've read

6th December
13th December
20th December

ALL WELCOME!

For more information contact the Rector - Revd Jim Bridgman
revjim1017@gmail.com 01825 732491

Reading 'Do not be afraid - The joy of waiting in a time of fear' by Rachel Mann

The Archbishop of York's Advent Book 2024

Do Not Be Afraid

The joy of waiting in a time of fear

Rachel Mann

The annual **Lent group** considered a publication by the Archbishop of York 'How to Pray', which both stimulated good conversation and exploration of different ways to pray. This came in useful after Easter during **Thy Kingdom come**, when the whole church is encouraged to pray for more people to come to know God. During the week of TKC, Revd Jim opened each of the churches at midday for times of prayer.

Following on from a mini worship review in the summer, the autumn term saw Sunday services follow a sermon series on the **'Heroes of the Old Testament'**, looking at some of the men and women remembered in the Bible for their

faith and action. To compliment the Sunday sermons, a time for further discussion and study was offered each Friday at 10am at The Dray's coffee shop in Eaton. During the autumn, this was very well received, drawing in lots of different people and perspectives, and helping to have some really illuminating conversations of the flawed lives of figures such as Sarah, Abraham, Ruth, Judah, Daniel and Gideon to name a few. We only scratched the surface and there are plenty more 'heroes' left to consider, so the series may return for part 2 in 2025!



HEROES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

AN AUTUMN SERMON SERIES
in Sunday Communion services and on Fridays at 10am at
The Dray's coffee shop, Eaton from 8th Sept

SARAH
ABRAHAM
JUDAH
DEBORAH
RUTH
GIDEON
HANNAH
NEHEMIAH
ESTHER
DANIEL
JONAH
DAVID

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT REVD JIM BRIDGMAN
REVJIM1017@GMAIL.COM
07526243702

As that group proved worthwhile and popular, its format and location was retained for the **Advent group**, where we read Rachel Mann's book 'Do not be afraid', which once more elicited good discussion and a deeper appreciation of the season of Advent. The Friday Bible group will continue in 2025 looking at The Psalms.

The **Eco church** worked hard over 2024 to move us towards the goal of a Silver award. Nick Parker and Walter Gibson were joined by Netty Oakes to form a core Eco Church team for the parish, and met regularly to share expertise, support each other and consider what we needed to do next. A number of policies were adopted by PCC, to make simple but important changes to things such as light pollution, cleaning product usage and refreshments. Maintenance of the three churchyards continued to be undertaken by a mixture of contractors and volunteers, with dedicated areas for longer grass growth, special planting and composting. There was also an emphasis on the lifestyle of the congregations, with everyone encouraged to undertake their own carbon footprint, and consider offsetting the carbon dioxide they produce. Thank you to Walter, Nick and Netty, and all who volunteered throughout the year as a parish Silver award got closer!

c. Improving Facilities.

After years of planning 2024 finally was the year that the **Done Room** repairs could begin! Thanks to the expertise and hard work of Stephen Wright, we were able to secure some big grants for the work: FCC Communities Foundation have committed £94,728 to the cause, the Ursula Keyes Trust has contributed £23 000, while the National Lottery have weighed in with £18,960. There have also been contributions from local benefactors including a generous £5,000 grant from the Holroyd Foundation.

In the wake of tendering for the work, Grosvenor Construction Ltd was approached and work began in July to repair the gable ends, insulate and re-slate the roof, insert a fire escape and replace the front door. The work took longer than planned, and was approaching completion at 2024 ended. Huge thanks

goes to Phillip Posnett for steering the project, and to Tarporley Done Room Pre-School for accommodating the building work around their continued provision.

At **St Thomas'**, with an eye on eco sustainability, and improved efficiency, Mike Wilson led a team to consider options on changing the oil-based heating in church. After extensive and thorough testing and trials of different options, the best system proposed was a mixture of infra-red heaters and air heaters, positioned through church. Faculty permission was applied for, with the hope that 2024 would be the final oil fired (and cold!) winter at St Thomas'!

d. Engagement.

I. With communities.

Each of the three churches in the parish continue to make positive impacts and connections with the surrounding local community.



St John and the Holy Cross built upon the good relationship with **Utkinton and Cotebrook Parish council** through the year: in June, the church helped take part in the Big Community Raffle, donating prizes and selling raffle tickets before the big BBQ and prize draw at Rose Farm, and received a share of the proceeds along with the other four community organisations. In addition, the parish council attended the Act of Remembrance at the end of November's service at St John's, and helped with a reading at the Carol service, as well as aiding with funding for improvements to the churchyard path as part of our Eco Church initiative.

A new venture in the parish arrived in spring with an invitation to come and sing at **Iddenshall Hall and Beeston View Nursing homes**, after singing there at their Christmas lantern parade in 2024. Soon, a large choir from across the three churches now gathers monthly to entertain the residents with some favourite hymns and now branching out into some easy listening classics too! It is lovely to see the residents connect with some meaningful music, and it led to them bringing a collection of food for the Foodbank to church at Harvest time.



With the now annual rainstorm (!), in July the parish had a stall at the **Tarporley Carnival**, offering games and a chance to talk to those at the event. During November, St Helen's was floodlit in red thanks to Ian and Connor Diskin, and our **Remembrance service** was once again packed to the rafters, with a special focus on the 80th anniversary of D-Day.



As Christmas approached, we worked with **Tarporley Parish Council**, Tarporley Independent Traders and Tarporley Chapel to be a part of the Tarporley Christmas weekend event; sadly the planned Christmas light switch on was cancelled due to storm weather, but a few weekends later Revd Jim and Revd Mark led some community carol singing and the Blessing of a newly created crib on Burton Square.



During Advent and Christmas, **carol singing** in the community was a popular way of connecting and sharing the Christmas story, and this year we sang at The Alvanley Arms, on the green in Eaton, on the High Street in Tarporley on Christmas Eve, at Iddenshall Nursing home with residents and their families for their lantern parade, and joined at The Dray's as they celebrated a special event when the Posada (travelling nativity) stopped with Anne and Declan Kelly.



As ever, the **social side** of life was prominent in the parish this year: from the two Afternoon Teas at the Done Room ably organised by Elaine Meredith and the team, to the annual quizzes organised by both the Bell ringers' and St Thomas' church, to an enjoyable summer evening's singing at St Thomas' and the Jessie Hughes Hall by the Vale Royal

Singers. There were also some special fundraising events in aid of the Done Room Restoration project, including a Soul Night at the Tarporley Community Centre, and an open house event hosted by Charles and Sandra Hardy.



And not to forget the usual feast for the St Thomas' Harvest Supper!



After the success last year of the BBQ to celebrate St Thomas, we expanded our celebrations of the **patron saints** in the parish – alongside another enjoyable return to The Dray's in July to remember St Thomas, we also took time to celebrate St Helen in May through a special service of Communion followed by strawberries and fizz, which was very eagerly and happily received! Thanks go to all those whose hard work, dedication and sacrifice meant that all these events were so successful and such good fun!



Continuing our Eco Church efforts, and keen to engage the wider community, the team put on our first Eco Church Film night in St Helen's, watching the film '2040', which provoked a lot of challenge and thought. We also had a Fair Trade stall that evening, showing some of the Fair Trade products now available in shops.



Last year we received faculty permission for the introduction of a **new memorial** in St Helen's to commemorate lives lost through stillbirth, abortion and miscarriage. This will be a place for people to gather and remember those who so often are not remembered elsewhere. This stone was donated by Jackie Wilson Funeral Directors and Blackwell's Memorials, and was unveiled at a special Café Church service on Mothering Sunday 2024 by Bishop Mark, bishop of Chester.

The Link continues to keep the community updated with church life, in addition to the Facebook page and weekly email, sharing weekly readings and prayers and upcoming services and events from the three churches. Thanks to Andy Jobson for his sterling work on editing both the website and The Link, and his team of distributors for spreading the news across the parish.



II. With 'un-churched' people.

Messy Church is one of the ways that we try to connect with those who are not used to church, and have no faith background. This year Messy Church looked at some of the heroes of the faith from the Bible, as well as Saints from the early church to the present day.

III. With schools.

We certainly had lows and highs with our two church schools in 2024: sadly, in early 2024, the decision was made to close **St Paul's CE primary in Utkinton**. The combination of the nationwide falling birthrate, a falling school roll, a lack of new housing and families in the locality of the school, and the competition from other schools locally were all factors that sadly worked against all the great improvements and the 'Good' Ofsted grade of 2023. Following on from a moving closing service at St Helen's, the school finally shut its doors at the end of July. Each student and member of staff was given a special holding cross from the parish as a reminder of God's continuing presence with them in their new phase of learning and life. These crosses were featured on a special edition of BBC's *Songs of Praise*, where Revd Jim even made a fleeting appearance!



The parish continued to strengthen connections with **Tarporley CE Primary** through the year; Christine Robinson, a member of St Helen's, was elected as a Foundation Governor, and helped Revd Jim



and existing governor Sara Diggle to maintain the governors' focus on the Christian distinctiveness of the school. During the summer term, Years 3 and 4 returned to find out about St Helen on St Helen's day, hearing about her remarkable life through a number of activities and crafts such as making stained glass crosses, rock painting, and offering our own prayers on a prayer tree.

We also worked with school and Tarporley Chapel to fund a week of worship by **iSingPop** where the whole school learnt the words and actions to 6 new worship songs, and then put on two concerts for parents hosted at St Helen's. This was a superb week, which impacted students, staff and parents, and the songs are still regularly used in Collective Worship in school and in both churches. It was a great initiative to work together as church for the community. It was all the more impressive as this was the same week that **Ofsted** visited Tarporley Primary – the inspectors were very encouraged by the high standards at school and their assessment that the school retain its previous 'Good' grading was a vindication of the hard work of all the staff and governors. In the autumn term, school celebrated **175 years** since its opening, with a special open day showcasing the history of the school and



its impact on the community, with some of the photo montages moving to St Helen's for further viewing after the event.

In conjunction with school, we were also delighted to be taking part in a brand new national Church of England project called **Flourish**. Flourish is an innovative pilot project which is taking place in around 40 schools across the country, seeking to start new, intergenerational worshipping communities within schools. Although each Flourish project will be unique, there are five core values underpinning them all:



1. *Young people's voices will instinctively be at the centre of all leadership decision-making and implementation*
2. *There will be a clearly articulated and shared purpose to grow a younger and more diverse community of Christian disciples*
3. *There will be a strategic leadership partnership between school/college and at least one church community*
4. *Each Flourish project will be an intergenerational faith development experience, involving children and their families of all ages*
5. *Flourish will lead worship that is fully integrated into the regular rhythms, practices, structures and resources of the school/college's vision for the flourishing of children and adults*

Due to the strong links already existing between church and school, we were seen as an ideal pilot placement, and were chosen as one of 4 projects for Chester diocese, starting in autumn 2024.

As part of this process, our project in Tarporley wanted to appoint a Children's and Families Worker, to help lead the project and develop the young leaders in our school. In December, after a rigorous interview process, Debbie Wood was appointed to this role. (pictured with the Flourish board, comprising (l-r) Sandra Hardy, Christine Robinson, Debbie Wood, Kerry Forrester and Revd Jim Bridgman). Flourish was launched on Dec 20th at school with a special Christmas themed event, full of Lego and songs and refreshments, with 56 people coming along – a great start, with lots to work with!



St Helen's continued to host a number of school events during the year, with Easter, Harvest, Christmas and Leavers' services for Tarporley Primary. Revd Jim continued to open church for school RE visits, exploring about weddings and baptisms, and the history of St Helen's and its continued use and significance today. Add to this regular Collective worship, RE lessons in school, and congregation members helping with reading with children and we can see that our links with Tarporley Primary are flourishing.



Outside of our church schools, all of Year 7 of **Tarporley High School** once again visited in November as part of their joint history/geography field trip on the local area, and they returned at Christmas for their now annual Christmas carol service. Revd Jim also visited RE lessons at school for GCSE and A-Level students, trying valiantly to answer some of their very deep questions! **Eaton Primary** made good connections with St Thomas', through Nick Parker's initiative to help grow runner beans outside church, which the children helped to plant and harvest. It was also a joy to host Eaton Primary for their carol service at St Helen's. We have continued to support the **Done Room Preschool** too, and welcomed them for performance at St Helen's at



Easter, end of summer term, Harvest and Christmas. Please continue to pray for the staff, pupils, governors and parents of our local schools.

Pastoral Services and Activity

The PCC recognizes that our ministry and churches offer a very important and unique resource at particular moments in people's lives. It is a joy to be asked to baptise and marry people and share this celebration with family and friends and a privilege to be able to offer help and support to others through our funeral ministry. Rather than dictating the content of these services we work hard with all concerned to make sure that, within a Christian setting, they have a service that holds meaning for them. Such pastoral services mark important rites in everyone's life and the Church extends the welcome and compassion of God to all people, regardless of their beliefs or background.

In addition to organizing and delivering the service itself the churches are involved in baptism and marriage preparation, helping families prepare for and organise funerals and following up with bereavement visits. Whilst the Clergy undertake most of this work they are supported and enormously helped by the Parish Pastoral Team formed of representatives from all our churches. The PCC also acknowledges the foundational importance of the informal visiting and pastoral care that takes place every day as members of our churches look out for and take care of each other and their neighbours and members of the wider community.

Church	Number of 'usual' Sunday services	Usual Sunday Attendance*	Baptisms	Weddings/ Renewal of Vows (RoV)	Funerals	Burial of Ashes
St Helen's	37	54 adults (-3) 2 children (-2)	12 (+2)	4 (-2)	15 (-4)	5 (+1)
St Thomas'	40	17 adults (-4) 1 children (-1)	2 (-)	3 (+3)	3 (+1)	3 (+1)
St John's	12	14 adults (-1) 2 children (-)	1 (+1)	0 (-1)	2 (+1)	0 (-)

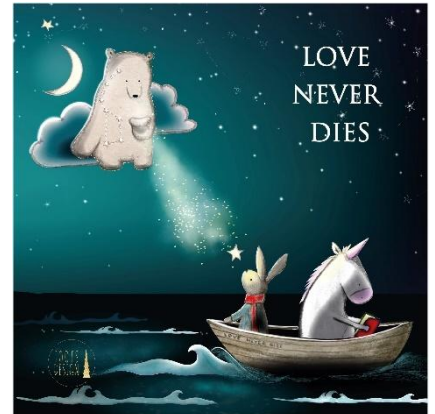
Change from 2023 (+/-)

	Number of services (2023 stats)	Average Attendance (2023 stats)
Joint services	4 (5)	48 (56) adults 8 (1) children
Messy Church	9 (11)	12 (18) adults 12 (19) children
Evensong	11 (10)	10 (11) adults
Café Church	11 (9)	42 (47) adults 6 (10) children
Songs of Praise	9 (8)	32 (32) adults 2 (3) children

**based on average over the year. This however does not reflect the extent of the 'worshipping community' (those connected with each church, and whose attendance may be irregular) which is higher.*



In addition to regular Sunday and mid-week worship, we had usual special services to mark the Christian year. We held services throughout Holy Week and Easter, including a joint service on Good Friday with Tarporley Chapel; all three churches celebrated Harvest; a special service for All Souls was held at St Helen's for those bereaved during the year with an opportunity to light candles and use the work of local author and artist Lorna Gibson and her book 'Love never dies'; Remembrance Sunday continued to be well attended, with an act of Remembrance at St Thomas, followed by the full parade in Tarporley, with all uniformed organisations joining us in church. We also had Canon Rosie Woodall, Canon for Worship & Spirituality, Vice Dean & Canon Librarian at Chester Cathedral, preach in the parish in April.



Remembrance Sunday continued to be well attended, with an act of Remembrance at St Thomas, followed by the full parade in Tarporley, with all uniformed organisations joining us in church. We also had Canon Rosie Woodall, Canon for Worship & Spirituality, Vice Dean & Canon Librarian at Chester Cathedral, preach in the parish in April.





Christmas 2024 across the parish

The Parochial Church Council St Helen's Church, Tarporley

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 31st December 2024 and Independent Examiners report

Introduction

Below are the accounts for the Parish of Tarporley which comprises of St Helen's Church, Tarporley, St Thomas', Eaton & St John & the Holy Cross, Cotebrook.

The accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

The Treasurer, whilst having some financial qualifications is not a qualified Chartered or Certified Accountant and all errors and omissions are to be expected.

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts					
Planned giving	45,288.50	-	-	45,288.50	42,926.00
Collections and other giving	27,241.84	1,686.00	-	28,927.84	32,251.98
Other voluntary receipts	141,869.79	100.00	-	141,969.79	612.10
Gift Aid recovered	15,262.71	-	-	15,262.71	15,330.04
Other receipts	85.22	11,147.00	-	11,232.22	1,327.05
Activities for generating funds	44,311.66	-	-	44,311.66	29,323.54
Investment Income	2,822.38	5,357.34	-	8,179.72	8,004.06
Receipts from church activities	11,008.00	-	-	11,008.00	9,226.00
Total income	287,890.10	18,290.34	-	306,180.44	139,000.77
Payments					
Cost of generating funds	801.75	-	-	801.75	1,287.48
Missionary and Charitable Giving	-	-	-	-	1,625.22
Parish Share	75,344.40	-	-	75,344.40	71,756.64
Clergy and Staffing costs	5,658.37	-	-	5,658.37	4,714.51
Church Running Expenses	32,723.51	2,165.61	-	34,889.12	32,192.83
Hall Running Costs	208,161.41	-	-	208,161.41	34,313.45
Church Repairs & Maintenance	8,104.94	5,747.23	-	13,852.17	2,550.00
Hall Repairs & Maintenance	3,367.00	-	-	3,367.00	-
New Building work	-	-	-	-	1,312.20
Governance Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	334,161.38	7,912.84	-	342,074.22	149,752.33
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(46,271.28)	10,377.50	-	(35,893.78)	(10,751.56)
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	-	-	-	-	92.06
Gross transfers between funds - out	-	-	-	-	(92.06)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains/losses on investment assets	5,010.17	2,464.84	-	7,475.01	22,929.14
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(41,261.11)	12,842.34	-	(28,418.77)	12,177.58
Total funds brought forward	225,170.17	123,932.89	-	349,103.06	336,925.48
Total funds carried forward	183,909.06	136,775.23	-	320,684.29	349,103.06

Represented by**Unrestricted**

General fund	70,473.96	-	-	70,473.96	67,630.63
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Designated

ALTAR FRONTAL FUND	416.63	-	-	416.63	416.63
CHILDRENS SOCIETY & OTHERS	-	-	-	-	-
CHOIR FUND	2,111.89	-	-	2,111.89	2,111.89
Churchyard Footpath St H	7,555.38	-	-	7,555.38	16,067.10
DONE ROOM	(21,485.17)	-	-	(21,485.17)	13,740.45
General Mission Fund	1,006.22	-	-	1,006.22	986.02
HEARSE HOUSE	542.95	-	-	542.95	-
Rectors Leaving Fund	-	-	-	-	-
St Helens Fabric	3,819.92	-	-	3,819.92	3,819.92
St Helen's Fixed Projector & Screen	-	-	-	-	-
ST JOHN CLOCK AND BELLS APPEAL	-	-	-	-	-
Toilet & Kitchen St Helens	3,687.80	-	-	3,687.80	3,687.80
UNRESTRICTED ST HELENS	91,038.40	-	-	91,038.40	86,042.91
UNRESTRICTED ST JOHN	-	-	-	-	7,497.87
UNRESTRICTED ST THOMAS	24,741.08	-	-	24,741.08	23,168.95

Restricted

Agency collection	-	-	-	-	-
DIVIDENDS REST ST THOMAS	-	8,513.58	-	8,513.58	7,805.77
Flourish Project	-	8,718.06	-	8,718.06	-
PARISH CHURCHYARDS	-	87,139.34	-	87,139.34	83,977.29
RESTRICTED RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	-	21,210.87	-	21,210.87	20,982.18
RESTRICTED ST HELENS (FORMER CONS CHARITY)	-	2,000.00	-	2,000.00	-
RESTRICTED ST JOHN	-	7,788.12	-	7,788.12	9,421.31
St John's Churchyard	-	1,405.26	-	1,405.26	1,746.34
UNRESTRICTED ST THOMAS	-	-	-	-	-

Total funds	183,909.06	136,775.23	-	320,684.29	349,103.06
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Balance Sheet (Summary)

	As at 31/12/2024	As at 31/12/2023
Fixed assets		
Investments	321,589.03	320,018.37
	321,589.03	320,018.37
Current assets		
Cash At Bank And In Hand	66,567.30	95,066.96
	66,567.30	95,066.96
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year	-	20.00
	-	20.00
Net current assets less current liabilities	66,567.30	95,046.96
Total assets less current liabilities	388,156.33	415,065.33

Liabilities

Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	67,472.04	65,962.27
	67,472.04	65,962.27
Total net assets less liabilities	320,684.29	349,103.06

Represented by**Unrestricted**

Unrestricted - General Funds	70,453.96	67,610.63
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Designated

Designated - ALTAR FRONTAL FUND	416.63	416.63
Designated - CHOIR FUND	2,111.89	2,111.89
Designated - Churchyard Footpath St H	7,555.38	16,067.10
Designated - DONE ROOM	(21,465.17)	13,760.45
Designated - General Mission Fund	1,006.22	986.02
Designated - HEARSE HOUSE	542.95	-
Designated - St Helens Fabric	3,819.92	3,819.92
Designated - Toilet & Kitchen St Helens	3,687.80	3,687.80
Designated - UNRESTRICTED ST HELENS	91,038.40	86,042.91
Designated - UNRESTRICTED ST JOHN	-	7,497.87
Designated - UNRESTRICTED ST THOMAS	24,741.08	23,168.95

Restricted

Restricted - DIVIDENDS REST ST THOMAS	8,513.58	7,805.77
Restricted - Flourish Project	8,718.06	-
Restricted - PARISH CHURCHYARDS	87,139.34	83,977.29
Restricted - RESTRICTED RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	21,210.87	20,982.18
Restricted - RESTRICTED ST HELENS (FORMER CONS CHARITY)	2,000.00	-
Restricted - RESTRICTED ST JOHN	7,788.12	9,421.31
Restricted - St John's Churchyard	1,405.26	1,746.34

Endowment

Fund Totals	320,684.29	349,103.06
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Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by code)

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Fixed Asset - Investments						
6512: St Helen's Footpath CB3022782	-	-	-	-	-	7,945.08
6513: Parish Churchyards CB3022780	-	-	6,501.41	-	6,501.41	6,355.93
6514: St Helen's Unrestricted CB3022775	-	80,374.51	-	-	80,374.51	78,576.02
6515: Unrestricted Parish Churchyard & Fabric CB3022769	-	-	38,496.10	-	38,496.10	31,780.34
6522: J Palmer Ancient Endowment CB3022768	-	-	36,695.72	-	36,695.72	35,874.61
6523: Miss Lewis Ancient Endowment CB3022776	-	-	12,948.71	-	12,948.71	12,658.97
6524: Lady Grisell Ancient Endowment CB3022777	-	-	5,942.53	-	5,942.53	5,809.56
6526: Eaton Church Wardens Fund CB3022784	-	4,208.33	-	-	4,208.33	4,114.16
6529: John Derek Davies CB3022779	-	-	4,764.66	-	4,764.66	4,658.05

6530: Sale of Cotebrook Church M& G 0024011783	-	-	-	-	-	5,215.87
6531: Canon Hughes Ancient Endowment 109001124S	-	-	67,472.04	-	67,472.04	65,962.27
6534: 2014 investment (Accum Shares) St Thomas UST	-	19,420.45	-	-	19,420.45	17,861.70
6535: 2014 investment (Accum Shares) General fund	26,980.58	-	-	-	26,980.58	26,980.58
6536: 2014 investment (Accum Shares) Done Room	-	98.37	-	-	98.37	98.37
6537: 2014 investment (Accum Shares) Parish Churchyards	-	-	5,402.76	-	5,402.76	5,402.76
6538: 2014 investment (Accum Shares) RRE	-	-	4,940.95	-	4,940.95	4,940.95
6539: 2014 investment (Accum Shares) USH	-	7,341.91	-	-	7,341.91	5,783.15
Total	26,980.58	111,443.57	183,164.88	-	321,589.03	320,018.37

Current Asset - Cash At Bank And In Hand

6501: Bank Current Account	41,779.82	1,991.53	21,082.39	-	64,853.74	93,428.62
6510: CCLA (CBF) deposit account	1,690.93	-	-	-	1,690.93	1,605.71
6590: Petty Cash	22.63	-	-	-	22.63	32.63
Total	43,493.38	1,991.53	21,082.39	-	66,567.30	95,066.96

Liability - Agency Accounts

6699: Agency collections	-	-	-	-	-	20.00
Total	-	-	-	-	-	20.00

Liability - Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

6532: Canon Hughes Ancient Endowment 109001124S	-	-	67,472.04	-	67,472.04	65,962.27
Total	-	-	67,472.04	-	67,472.04	65,962.27

Net total assets **70,473.96** **113,435.10** **136,775.23** **-** **320,684.29** **349,103.06**

Represented by

General (Unrestricted)	70,453.96	-	-	-	70,453.96	67,610.63
Designated - AFF	-	416.63	-	-	416.63	416.63
Designated - CF	-	2,111.89	-	-	2,111.89	2,111.89
Designated - DONE	-	(21,465.17)	-	-	(21,465.17)	13,760.45
Designated - Fabric	-	3,819.92	-	-	3,819.92	3,819.92
Designated - Footpath	-	7,555.38	-	-	7,555.38	16,067.10
Designated - GMF	-	1,006.22	-	-	1,006.22	986.02
Designated - HH	-	542.95	-	-	542.95	-
Designated - TFSTH	-	3,687.80	-	-	3,687.80	3,687.80
Designated - USH	-	91,038.40	-	-	91,038.40	86,042.91
Designated - USJ	-	-	-	-	-	7,497.87
Designated - UST	-	24,741.08	-	-	24,741.08	23,168.95
Restricted - DRST	-	-	8,513.58	-	8,513.58	7,805.77
Restricted - FLP	-	-	8,718.06	-	8,718.06	-
Restricted - PCY	-	-	87,139.34	-	87,139.34	83,977.29
Restricted - RRE	-	-	21,210.87	-	21,210.87	20,982.18
Restricted - RSH	-	-	2,000.00	-	2,000.00	-
Restricted - RSJ	-	-	7,788.12	-	7,788.12	9,421.31
Restricted - SJCY	-	-	1,405.26	-	1,405.26	1,746.34
Total	70,453.96	113,455.10	136,775.23	-	320,684.29	349,103.06

Our financial performance in 2024 proved to be fruitful despite the challenging circumstances in which we are operating and the climate of financial pressures facing individual parishioners, as we continue to consolidate our attendances and donations to pre pandemic levels.

To solidify our position we undertook a financial appeal to all members of the congregation and those on the electoral roll in February encouraging those who did not have a monthly regular giving commitment to consider doing so while asking those who did to review if they could increase it. This led to an increase overall for the year of over £2,000 against 2023.

Our total receipts for 2024 were £306,180 which was a considerable increase on 2023, however this included a significant increase in activities to generate funds specifically for the Done Room renovation.

Our expenditure for 2024 was £342,074 which was £192,322 more than 2023, again due in main to the Done Room investment, giving a net deficit of £35,893. However, this will be addressed in 2025 once the final costs of the Done Room work is known and the release of funds from the St Helens unrestricted investment (6514 £80, 374) that has already been approved by PCC.

As a result of the investment in the Done Room refurbishment we ended 2024 with an overall deficit of £28,419.

We continued to monitor our investments with CCLA and review our bank balance with a view to further investment if necessary.

We continue to benefit from the foresight of arranging fixed rate energy contracts for all three churches that was negotiated in June 2021 although they didn't come into place until May 2022. As these are for three years, we will continue to benefit from these until mid 2025.

We have reviewed our Reserves policy and have decided that we can keep the period we need to reserve for to three months. This is due to the fact that our Standing Orders give regular income and we have decided to invest more of our income which will result in receiving more dividends. Items we reserve for are: Utilities, Parish Share, Rector & Staffing costs, Insurance, Organ and Bell Maintenance, Grass Cutting & Done Room Costs. The amount we reserved in 2023 was £28,952.

This report dated: 18th February 2025

David JG Smithson
Treasurer



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	Charity Name The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Tarporley		
On accounts for the year ended	31 December 2024	Charity no (if any)	1130496
Set out on pages	1-23 <small>(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)</small>		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

Responsibilities and basis of report As the charity's trustees, you 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of ICAEW.

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed: [Signature] Date: 14/3/2025

Name: ROBERT HALL

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): ICAEW - FCA

Address: 24 NICHOLAS STREET, CHESTER CH1 2AN.

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

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Reports from Our Three Churches regarding Fabric

The main project this year was the restoration work on the Done Room summarised as follows:

1. Stripping the roof, treating the timbers, installing insulation, felting and battening and then replacing the slates and stone ridges on both the main building and store room. The guttering was also cleaned and repaired and a valley had the lead replaced.
2. All the stone and brickwork was repointed and in places repaired.
3. Repairing the timber framed gable ends which involved taking out and replacing the rotten timbers with oak. Infilling and remortaring the panels and then painting them.
4. Installing a new fire exit next to the kitchen and replacing the doors with fire doors. A new fire alarm was also installed.
5. Replacing the front door, clearing the earth away from the building to enlarge the yard and putting a new drain in front of the building.
6. Stripping out and installing a new kitchen along with a new cooker, fridge freezer and dishwashing machine.

A team has worked hard all year on grant applications, fundraising, obtaining tenders and then managing the work which started in July and was finally completed at the end of January 2025. The contractor whose bid was successful was Grosvenor Construction of Conwy. The work has cost more than £200,000.

Henry Williams & Son has resurfaced the paths with tarmac on the south side of the church which look much better now. The quote was £13,838 + VAT = £16,605.



Calberrie was chosen to undertake a survey and test all the electrics in the three churches. Reports were produced and the remedial work has been done.

At **St John's** major repairs were undertaken in spring and early summer to the church tower with all the stonework being repointed and a displaced stone in the chimney made secure. The first stage of a three-year programme of repointing to the walls of the church and making the window cills watertight was also completed. Our neighbour, Mr Nick Parker, kindly repaired the churchyard gate, and repairs were also made to the adjoining wall free of charge by the tower contractor, Jamie Gregory and his team.

The Quinquennial report at **St Thomas'** highlighted some minor repair work to be undertaken over the next one to two years. Much work has been done in exploring how to replace the current oil heating system with electric radiant heating. The lighting will also be upgraded to LED spotlights at the same time. Various fund-raising initiatives and donations have covered the majority of the cost of these upgrades which make the church more environmentally friendly. Work is hoped to be started in early 2025.

As this will mean the current boiler room now becoming redundant and suffering from damp, and there is no kitchen or toilet facility in church, a proposed re-design of that part of church has been undertaken and shared with the congregation, and will be reviewed again once the heating project has been completed.

Volunteers have worked hard in the churchyard, weeding and levelling graves and re-seeding grass. An improvement to the gravel paths will be undertaken in the next 12 months.

Safeguarding

The PCC considers that it has, to the best of its knowledge, taken all reasonable steps to comply with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2017. St Helens Parish Church takes its duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously. We have adopted the national Church of England's robust procedures and guidelines. You can find out more about the national policies and procedures at www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding.

If you have any safeguarding concerns or issues of a safeguarding matter then you can find useful contact information below and at www.chester.anglican.org/socialresponsibility/safeguarding

In line with the diocesan regulations on safeguarding the PCC has adopted a Policy Statement on the Safeguarding of Children and Adults in the Church. There are notices in the Church providing contact details for Childline and Family Lives and also contact details for the Rector and the Parish Safeguarding Officer should anyone wish to speak privately and in confidence on safeguarding issues.

The Parish Dashboard

On 30/05/2024 the parish of Tarporley was invited to sign up to the Parish Dashboard, an online programme for use by incumbents and the safeguarding teams. This has proven to be an invaluable tool which helps to clarify the steps and stages of safeguarding training to be done (and by whom), risk assessments, health and safety issues and much more to ensure our parish churches are safe for all using them. The programme covers not only the churches in our parish but also the belltower and ringers, the Done Room and the users of that space too. Stages 1 and 2 are completed and Stage 3 (the final part) is well on the way to completion.

The Done Room

During the latter part of 2024 work began on repairs and renovations in the Done Room and safeguarding issues arose around various contractors working in close proximity to children at the pre-school. While the majority of the workforce had clear and current DBS certificates some did not and the Parish Safeguarding Officer was called in to ensure those people were checked and cleared to work on site.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer

In November 2023 the current PSO, Liz Neely, gave notice that she would like to hand over the role within the next year, having taken it on several years earlier. Although no-one had stepped forward by November 2024 all safeguarding training, DBS applications and any issues continued to be monitored and all safeguarding guidelines continued to be followed. It is expected that by mid 2025 a new person will be appointed.

The PCC thanks all the volunteers for their time and commitment given in running these activities and for their understanding in having background checks completed. We take the safeguarding of our children and vulnerable adults in church extremely seriously and DBS checks and procedures ensure all who are vulnerable as well as those who volunteer are protected. No safeguarding issues have arisen in the past year.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll of the church is a list of people who consider themselves to be members of one of our three churches including those who are housebound or unable to attend regularly. Everyone is welcome and forms, available in our churches or from the Electoral Roll Officer, are completed by each individual (over 16 and baptised). We are grateful to our Electoral Roll officer who oversees this work.

After the annual revision in 2024 the Electoral roll stood at 190

(2023: 199; 2022: 199; 2021: 190; 2020: 199; 2019: 191; 2018: 202; 2017: 198; 2016: 205; 2015: 185)

Malpas Deanery Synod Report

Synod gathered at Hargrave Church Hall on 25th April 2024 to hear a presentation on the ALIVE Project given by Pat Blackwood. Pat formed ALIVE (Alleviating Loneliness In A Village Environment) and arranges events in the Bunbury area which are available for anyone who needs company. The Rural Dean, Revd Tim Hayward led synod in prayers and thanked all the Clergy and Laity in the Parishes for all they do for the life of the churches in the Rural Deanery. Phillip Posnett chaired the business meeting with contributions from Dianne Ouseley, Treasurer, Dr. John Mason, General Synod Rep with each Parish sharing ideas and giving updates on their services and events. In September there was a Deanery Youth event with a series of pizza nights every Thursday evening in Tilly's Cafe in Bunbury. The overall theme was "Thinking about the big questions in Life". The Annual Deanery Service was held at St John the Baptist Church, Aldford during September. This year it was a Songs of Praise Evensong followed by refreshments. The next Synod is planned for May 2025. Our Parish is well represented by Phillip Posnett, Dianne Ouseley, Elaine Meredith, and Revds Jim and Jenny Bridgman.

Structure Governance and Management

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity. As trustees of the charity the PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. There is a Standing Committee comprised of the Incumbent, 2 Church Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary of the PCC, and two further PCC representatives. This Committee will consult only in extremis when a decision must be made between PCC meetings. The full PCC met five times during the year

Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of Parish Life, but all these committees report back to the PCC for decision making.

In 2023, three new sub-groups were formed, with each member of the PCC assigned to one sub-group. The committees are:

1. Worship, Mission and Pastoral group
2. Finance group
3. Buildings group

Each group would meet between PCC meetings, to look in further depth at their areas, and then provide reports to full PCC for discussion and comment.

Administrative Information

Michael Scott completed his term of office, and was thanked for his service. At the APCM on Sunday, 12th May 2024, the following were elected to the PCC unopposed, for a period of three years:

Rosemary Lilley, Amelia McCourty, Andrew Needham, and Duncan Gordon.

There were still 2 vacancies on PCC. Revd Jenny Bridgman, as a member of General Synod, also joined PCC. Dave Smithson took up the reins as Treasurer.

The lay membership of the PCC currently comprises the following:

John Burton	
Walter Gibson	(PCC Standing Committee)
Duncan Gordon	(PCC Standing Committee)
Charles Hardern	
Sandra Hardy	
Liz Neely	(Churchwarden; PCC Standing Committee)
Rosemary Lilley	
Amelia McCourty	
Elaine Meredith	(Deanery Synod representative; PCC Standing Committee)
Andrew Needham	
Christine Noblett	
Kate O'Neil	
Phillip Posnett	(Churchwarden; Deanery Synod representative; PCC Standing Committee)
David Smithson	(Treasurer; PCC Standing Committee)
Paul Emerson	(ex officio Secretary; PCC Standing Committee)
Dianne Ouseley	(Deanery Synod Treasurer, not PCC)

Jenny Christian kindly agreed to become the new Electoral Roll Officer.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF TARPORLEY

England & Wales - Charity number 1130496

Accounts



Annual Report of the Tarporley Parochial Church Council and Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2023



Praying for

on the parish for the year ahead at Epiphany

God's blessing



Annual Report of the Tarporley Parochial Church Council and Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

What follows is a brief report of our Parish life in 2023.

Once again, it was a full year, with plenty going on and signs of God's work among us. There is much to be thankful for, as well as lots to continue to pray for.

My thanks go to clergy colleagues who helped sustain and enhance ministry and mission in the parish during the year - Revd Trevor Davies, Revd Jenny Bridgman and Revd Richard Tuckwell - as well as Church Wardens and officers and members of our PCC for their unstinting hard work and complete support.

One of the words that really struck home in 2023 was 'gongoozler', a canal phrase for those who stand on the cut and offer advice or criticism whilst never actually getting involved. In 2023, it was pleasing to see that this parish is the antithesis of the gongoozler: instead, so many people were willing to roll up their sleeves, get involved and put their faith into practice. So thank you to all those who have resisted the temptation to gongoozle!!

I hope that you will join with me to take encouragement from this report as evidence of God's love and blessing unfolding in Tarporley, Eaton, Cotebrook, Rushton and Utkinton.

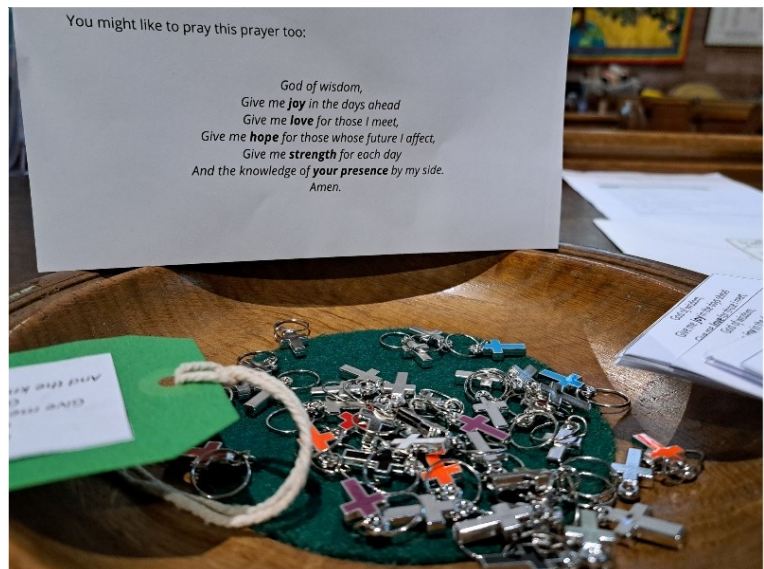
With every blessing

Jim

Revd. Jim Bridgman
Rector of Tarporley

Cross key rings and luggage tags prayers given out in September as people started new adventures: new schools, classes or holidays, with a reminder of God going with them.

**The Parochial Church Council
of the Ecclesiastical Parish of**



Tarporley

A Registered Charity: Number 1130496

Aim and Purposes

St Helen's Tarporley Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the Parish's three churches: St Helen's Tarporley, St John and the Holy Cross Cotebrook and St Thomas, Eaton their attendant churchyards and The Done Room. In pursuing these aims and purposes the PCC has due regard to the Charity Commission's concern for public benefit.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches. Our services are open to all, and we are committed to making and keeping our churches, both during and outside of worship, welcoming sacred spaces where people can encounter the presence of God, sanctuary from an often-stressful world and, if they wish it, a place in a welcoming and caring community. When planning our activities for the year, both our regular worship and our extra activities, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. We are open to all and actively encourage participation in our services and activities from all sections of the community believing as we do that every person is made in the image of God. We try to help each other grow in knowledge and love of God and his son, our Lord Jesus Christ, through our worship and prayer and discipleship activities believing that the good news of the gospel enriches and gives purpose and direction to life. And we try to follow this teaching and communicate God's love for all people through our pastoral and outreach work.

Achievements and Performance

In autumn 2022, the parish vision process identified a number of priorities:

- a. Exploring a new pattern of worship.
- b. Deepening prayer and discipleship.
- c. Improving Facilities.
- d. Engagement.
 - I. With communities.
 - II. With 'un-churched' people.
 - III. With schools.

a. Exploring a new pattern of worship.

A new pattern of worship was introduced from February 2023:

1st Sunday of the Month

9am Communion	St Thomas'
10am Communion/Baptism	St Helen's
11.15am Communion	St John's

2nd Sunday of the month

9.30am Café Church	St Helen's/Done Room
4pm Communion	St Thomas'

3rd Sunday of the month

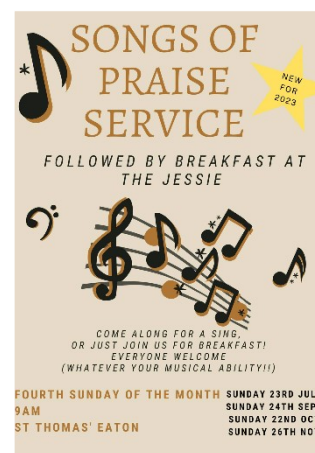
9am Communion	St Thomas'
10am Communion	St Helen's
[11.45am Baptisms at St Helens/St Thomas']	
6.30pm Evensong [4pm in winter]	Alternates between all 3 churches

4th Sunday of the month

9am Songs of Praise - followed by Community brunch at the Jessie	St Thomas'
10am Communion	St Helen's
4pm Messy Church	Done Room
[11.45am Baptisms at St Helens/St Thomas']	

5th Sunday of the month

10am Joint Parish breakfast and service	Alternates by each church with use of Jessie Hughes Hall/Done Room/Cotebrook Hall
[11.45am Baptisms at St Helens/St Thomas']	





The major changes were the introduction of two new services: Café Church on the second Sunday and Songs of Praise on the fourth Sunday. Café Church was billed as a joint parish service, with no other services in the parish that morning, an opportunity to worship altogether in a more informal, relaxed way, with plenty of refreshments. Pews were rearranged at St Helen's to make a more café style atmosphere, and with plenty of food and drink available, each service had time for an opening quiz, times to sing, pray, and discuss with those around us. Over the course of the year, we considered topics such as Love, Forgiveness, Children and Communion, and Advent, as well as having a special service about the environment, with a speaker from the Christian conservation charity A Rocha. There has also been the chance to hear from congregation members about how their faith impacts their everyday life, in the monthly segment 'This Time Tomorrow', asking what they will be doing this time tomorrow. Café Church has been well received from families too, with the more relaxed atmosphere and food being a big hit.



in Eaton on the fourth Sunday of the similarly been very well received. different congregation member music, hymns and readings that have their faith and life journey, and space share where God has been a part of assisted by our organist, choir and music group, we've also heard music extremes: Elgar to Bruce Springsteen, Handel to Fleetwood Mac! It has often been emotional, and humbling to hear people's experiences, and has helped us get to know one another better. Finishing with an excellent breakfast in the Jessie Hughes hall, it has now become the favourite Sunday of many people's months.



Songs of Praise month has Each month a chooses the been a part of is given to their life. Aibly the Eatonian from the

Evensong moved to the third Sunday of the month, and was trialled moving around the churches, rather than being just at St Helen's. In winter, it was also held at a slightly earlier time. Happily these changes allowed for



others to be involved in Evensong, as well as encouraging those who have appreciated the liturgy at the end of the busy day. Additionally, on months with a fifth Sunday, we joined together for worship at one of the churches. This too has been an important part in breaking down barriers between congregations, getting familiar with different buildings, and making new friends across the parish. Thank you to everyone who has been brave enough to try something different in 2023, to move out of the comfort zone, to worship in another church or venue: mostly it has been a lot more pleasant than you feared, and you found that God is still there!!

Messy Church continued on the afternoon of the fourth Sundays of the month, looking at the themes of Jesus's miracles and then some of the Heroes of the Old Testament, as well as seasonal sessions for Easter and Advent with the special guest helpers of Sandra and Charles Hardy helping to make chocolates (*pictured right*): unsurprisingly, these sessions were VERY well attended!! Messy Church continues to grow, with a good core of young people enjoying the crafts, games, worship songs and edible goodies each month. We are fortunate to have many connections with our children through the Done Room pre-school and our church schools. The team of helpers continues to produce wonders with paper, card, glue, icing sugar and biscuits, in addition to feeding all the children at the end of the session.



b. Deepening prayer and discipleship.

To compliment new styles of worship, there has also been a focus this year on deepening prayer and discipleship in the three churches, following Jesus in the ways we live as well as in deepening of our knowledge of God.

2023 saw a return of Lent and Advent book groups, focusing on *'Failure'* by Emma Ineson in Lent, and *'Stick with love'* by Arun Arora in Advent. Both books were stimulating and challenging, seeking to broaden our approaches to life and faith.

We continued to consider the impact that our lifestyles had on the world around us through the Eco Church initiative. Having gained a Bronze award for all three buildings at the

start of 2023, the next goal was Silver, with the emphasis especially on engagement with individual lifestyle choices, encouraging congregation members to undertake carbon footprints and lifestyle surveys, and sharing practical tips for eco-friendly living. Walter Gibson and Nick Parker have also led the way in the creative use of our churchyards, with an ambitious seeding regime at St John's, the introduction of bird boxes and benches at St Thomas' and St John's to encourage wildlife and the graveyards to be a place of recreation and space, as well as a differentiated approach to grass cutting. There is much still to do, and the introduction of some parish-wide policies on cleaning equipment, Fairtrade goods and light use will also help us in the quest for Silver.

There have also been opportunities for growth of discipleship with young people too, as PCC agreed to move forward with the Admission of Children to Communion before Confirmation, with a plan to prepare children in the spring of 2024. The travelling nativity (or 'Posada') in Advent proved so popular in 2022 that a second set travelled in the parish in 2023, one for families and one for adults, but both sets helped to



prepare people for Christmas and led to some thoughtful reflections and conversations in the days of Advent. We also produced a lovely Christmas card for sale, using a fantastic drawing of St Helen's by Roger Mottram (*pictured right*). Thanks to Kate O'Neill and the team for organising, packing and selling in church and the community!

c. Improving Facilities.

The main planning this year has revolved around the necessary work in the Done Room. In December 2022, the heating was replaced in the building. We also finally received faculty permission for the planned work to repair the gable ends, the roof, insert a fire escape and replace the front door. This work is hoped to be undertaken in the summer of 2024.

Outside of this, the two areas of improving facilities have been assessing the heating at St Thomas', and plans for a toilet and small kitchen at St Helen's. Both projects are still in the early planning stages, but hope to bring significant improvement for regular worshippers and visitors alike.



d. Engagement.

I. With communities.

One of the many positives of this parish is the role that each of the churches plays within their local community, and 2023 saw a continuation of that good work, being part of the heart of all things local. May saw the celebration and excitement of the coronation of King Charles III, with special services in each of the churches, as well as plenty of community events that we took part in - Revd Jim helped 'crown' two of the pupils from St Paul's school at the Utkinton Coronation party (*pictured right*), and then led Grace with Revd Mark from the Chapel on the High Street in Tarporley before the street party, enjoyed in glorious sunshine.



In July, the parish had a stall at the Tarporley Carnival (*pictured right*) and (amid the torrential downpours!) offered games and a chance to talk to those at the event.

Working with parish councils has been a highlight of the year, cooperating in making our communities stronger and more connected. We have helped with Tarporley Parish Council in their Warm Spaces project, and being a space that received food from the Coop as part of the Zero Waste initiative. It was also good to

have the first part of the new Art Trail unveiled outside St Helen's, in addition to the revamped Tarporley village sign. A number of parishioners were involved in the Santa Dash at Christmas, and Revd



Jim again helped to lead the Blessing of the Crib and Community carols with Revd Mark from Tarporley Chapel. In Utkinton, we worked with the parish council to support their Remembrance Day fundraising event at Rose Farm, and were able to invite the council to lay a wreath at St John's church too.

For the communities of Eaton and Rushton, the Jessie Hughes Hall is an important focal point, and in September there was a wonderful dedication of some beautiful stained glass windows and Memorial Rose Garden (pictured above) in memory of Her Majesty the late Queen. The windows were designed with the help of pupils at Eaton Primary, and produced by villager Gill Ellison. Both garden and windows were dedicated at a celebratory gathering by Revd Jim and are great additions to the front of the Hall.



During Advent and Christmas, carol singing in the community was a popular way of connecting and sharing the Christmas story, and this year we sang at The Alvanley Arms, on the green in Eaton, on the High Street in Tarporley on Christmas Eve, at Iddenshall Nursing home with residents and their families, and joined at The Dray's as they celebrated a special event when the Posada (travelling nativity) stopped with Anne and Declan Kelly (pictured right). For Christingle this year, a number of painted rocks (pictured left) were placed on the High Street in Tarporley, with each rock found being swapped for a special gift at the service, an Advent Calendar.



There were a number of social events in the year to reach out to our communities: from the Afternoon Teas at the Done Room (pictured below left), which produced so much fun and entertainment, to the annual quizzes organised by both the Bell ringers' and St Thomas' church, to the one-man rendition of 'A Christmas Carol' at Cotebrook Village Hall, to the first of a number of planned presentations by local historian Maurice Hunt called 'Tarporley Through Time'.



We also had a great time celebrating one of our patron saints, St Thomas, in July, with a BBQ and social time at The Dray's (pictured below centre and right). Thanks go to all those whose hard work, dedication and sacrifice meant that all these events were so successful and such good fun!



It has been an eventful year for the three

churchyards too – as we have assessed our responsibility for our land through the Eco Church initiative, we began to think about how we use our churchyards, balancing a sense of respect and order, with a desire to be thoughtful and aware of our impact on the environment, and with an eye to the cost of the work. All three churchyards have assessed how often grass should be cut, and come up with churchyard plans for maintenance. A big thank you to the willing bands of volunteers at all three churches who have stepped up to the challenge, and will continue to monitor and care for the churchyards. During the year, we also received faculty permission for the introduction of a new memorial in St Helen’s to commemorate lives lost through stillbirth, abortion and miscarriage. This will be a place for people to gather and remember those who so often are not remembered elsewhere. This stone will be unveiled on Mothering Sunday 2024 by Bishop Mark, bishop of Chester.

The parish continues to support the Mid Cheshire Foodbank, with collection points in all three buildings, which are used throughout the year. We collected again for harvest, and during Advent offered a reverse Advent calendar to collect items for each day of Advent to give to the foodbank. Thank you for all your generous donations, and to those who organise delivery and collection of our donations.

The Link continues to keep the community updated with church life, in addition to the Facebook page and weekly email, sharing weekly readings and prayers and upcoming services and events from the three churches. Thanks to Andy Jobson for his sterling work on editing both the website and *The Link*, and his team of distributors for spread the news across the parish.

II. With ‘un-churched’ people.

Part of our mission to reach those within the community was the continuation of the Warm Space at St Helen’s on a Wednesday morning, offering a warm place, free refreshments and a chance to talk. During 2023, we also utilised the Warm Space time for a number of free talks (*pictured below*): we were grateful to hear from a diverse range of speakers, from Cyber security advice from Cheshire Police, the life and work of a local magistrate, Citizens Advice sharing with us how to save energy and keep warm during the cost of living crisis, and parishioners Martin and Fiona Buck sharing their work as Waterways Chaplains.



III. With schools.

We continue to be very grateful for the connections that we have with local schools, in particular our two church schools, Tarporley Primary School and St Paul’s Primary in Utkinton and Cotebrook. The parish continues to play a regular role in school life, with congregational representatives on both governing bodies, and groups of volunteers who have offered to listen to pupils



reading at both schools (*pictured left*). Revd Jim continues to take Collective Worship fortnightly in both schools, and is now Vice-Chair of both Governing bodies. Both schools had inspections during 2023: St Paul's had its Ofsted Inspection in the penultimate week of the summer term, and has seen great improvement in the school, earning it a 'Good' evaluation; Tarporley is waiting for its Ofsted, but in 2023 had a SIAMS inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) which came out as 'Excellent'. Both schools and their staff thoroughly deserve the outstanding achievements!

St Helen's continued to host a number of school events during the year, with Easter, Harvest, Christmas and Leavers' services, and regular 'Star of the Term' Collective Worship for Tarporley Primary, who also held a musical showcase, exhibiting the musical talents of the pupils. Revd Jim continued to open church for school RE visits too (*pictured right*), exploring about weddings and baptisms, and the history of St Helen's and its continued use and significance today. All of Year 7 of Tarporley High School once again visited in November as part of their joint history/geography field trip on the local area, and they returned at Christmas for another successful Christmas carol service. It has also been a joy to engage with Eaton Primary, visiting school for RE lessons. We have continued to support the Done Room Preschool too, and welcomed them for performance at St Helen's at Easter, end of summer term, Harvest and Christmas.



A new venture for 2023 was a special celebration with Year 3 and 4 of Tarporley Primary on St Helen's day. A group of volunteers and Revd Jim led three classes throughout the day in May, learning about the life of St Helen, and thinking about what saints are, and what St Helen can teach us about God's



role in our lives. There were quizzes to answer, Lego saints to make, and everyone went away with a special holding cross from clay to help them pray. Please continue to pray for the staff, pupils, governors and parents of our local schools.

Pastoral Services and Activity

The PCC recognizes that our ministry and churches offer a very important and unique resource at particular moments in people's lives. It is a joy to be asked to baptise and marry people and share this celebration with family and friends and a privilege to be able to offer help and support to others through our funeral ministry. Rather than dictating the content of these services we work hard with all concerned to make sure that, within a Christian setting, they have a service that holds meaning for them. Such pastoral services mark important rites in everyone's life and the Church extends the welcome and compassion of God to all people, regardless of their beliefs or background.

In addition to organizing and delivering the service itself the churches are involved in baptism and marriage preparation, helping families prepare for and organize funerals and following up with bereavement visits. Whilst the Clergy undertake most of this work they are supported and enormously helped by the Parish Pastoral Team formed of representatives from all our churches. The PCC also acknowledges the foundational importance of the informal visiting and

pastoral care that takes place every day as members of our churches look out for and take care of each other and their neighbours and members of the wider community.

After the last few years of lockdowns and closures, all three churches had a full year of services.

Church	Number of 'usual' Sunday services	Usual Sunday Attendance*	Baptisms	Weddings/ Renewal of Vows (RoV)	Funerals	Burial of Ashes
St Helen's	38	57 adults (-1) 4 children (-1)	10 (-5)	6 (-2)	19 (-)	4 (-4)
St Thomas'	38	18 adults (-) 2 children (+2)	2 (+1)	0 (-1)	2 (-)	2 (+2)
St John's	13	15 adults (-4) 2 children (+2)	0 (-1)	1 (+1)	1 (-)	0 (-3)

Change from 2022 (+/-)

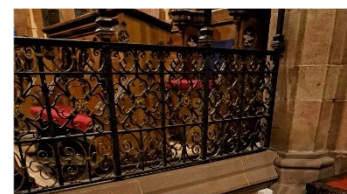
	Number of services	Average Attendance
Joint services	5	56 adults 1 child
Messy Church	11	18 adults 19 children
Evensong	10	11 adults
Café Church	9	47 adults 10 children
Songs of Praise	8	32 adults 3 children

**based on average over the year. This however does not reflect the extent of the 'worshipping community' (those connected with each church, and whose attendance may be irregular) which is higher.*



In addition to regular Sunday and mid-week worship, we had usual special services to mark the Christian year. We held services throughout Holy Week and Easter, including a moving service on Good Friday based on 'The Nail' by Archbishop Stephen Cottrell; all three churches celebrated Harvest festivals (with a spectacular Harvest supper at St Thomas'); a special service for All Souls was held at St Helen's for those bereaved during the year with an opportunity to light candles and build a cairn to remember loved ones (pictured left and right); Remembrance Sunday continued to be well

attended, with an act of Remembrance at St Thomas, followed by the full parade in Tarporley, with all uniformed organisations joining us in



church, where the focus was the 20th anniversary of the start of the Iraq war, where a number of veterans shared their reflections (*pictured below right*).



Bishop Julie, bishop of Birkenhead, came at Pentecost for a joint confirmation service held at St Helen's (*pictured left*), and we also hosted this year's World Day of Prayer, produced by sisters and brothers in Taiwan. During September, we also gathered at St Boniface in Bunbury for a special service to celebrate the work of Malpas Deanery, joining with friends from the local churches.

The Parochial Church Council

St Helen's Church, Tarporley End of Year Financial Statements Year ending 31st December 2023 and Independent Examiners report

Introduction

Below are the accounts for the Parish of Tarporley which comprises of St Helen's Church, Tarporley, St Thomas', Eaton & St John & the Holy Cross, Cotebrook.

The accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

In 2022, we incorporated all our Ancient Endowments & Investments into our accounts which is why we are showing fixed assets of £320k and liabilities of £60k.

The Treasurer, whilst having some financial qualifications is not a qualified Chartered or Certified Accountant and all errors and omissions are to be expected.

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts					
Planned giving	42,926.00	-	-	42,926.00	40,863.75
Collections and other giving	31,918.28	333.70	-	32,251.98	21,132.19
Other voluntary receipts	612.10	-	-	612.10	-
Gift Aid recovered	15,330.04	-	-	15,330.04	13,156.87
Other receipts	880.74	446.31	-	1,327.05	2,422.16
Activities for generating funds	29,323.54	-	-	29,323.54	21,460.79
Investment Income	2,749.42	5,254.64	-	8,004.06	7,741.08
Receipts from church activities	9,226.00	-	-	9,226.00	10,493.00
Total income	132,966.12	6,034.65	-	139,000.77	117,269.84
Payments					
Cost of generating funds	1,287.48	-	-	1,287.48	1,127.14
Missionary and Charitable Giving	-	1,625.22	-	1,625.22	200.00
Parish Share	71,756.64	-	-	71,756.64	69,666.60
Clergy and Staffing costs	4,654.56	59.95	-	4,714.51	4,707.23
Church Running Expenses	28,603.23	3,589.60	-	32,192.83	27,556.04
Hall Running Costs	34,313.45	-	-	34,313.45	9,093.98
Church Repairs & Maintenance	-	2,550.00	-	2,550.00	468.10
Hall Repairs & Maintenance	-	-	-	-	-
New Building work	1,312.20	-	-	1,312.20	-
Governance Costs	-	-	-	-	129.71
Total expenditure	141,927.56	7,824.77	-	149,752.33	112,948.80
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(8,961.44)	(1,790.12)	-	(10,751.56)	4,321.04
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	69.29	22.77	-	92.06	13,997.65
Gross transfers between funds - out	(22.77)	(69.29)	-	(92.06)	(13,997.65)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains/losses on investment assets	14,575.99	8,353.15	-	22,929.14	(18,970.61)
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-	106,604.60
Net movement in funds	5,661.07	6,516.51	-	12,177.58	91,955.03

Total funds brought forward	219,509.10	117,416.38	- 336,925.48	244,970.45
Total funds carried forward	225,170.17	123,932.89	- 349,103.06	336,925.48
Represented by				
Unrestricted				
General fund	67,630.63	-	- 67,630.63	80,552.26
Designated				
ALTAR FRONTAL FUND	416.63	-	- 416.63	416.63
CHILDRENS SOCIETY & OTHERS	-	-	- -	-
CHOIR FUND	2,111.89	-	- 2,111.89	2,111.89
Churchyard Footpath St H	16,067.10	-	- 16,067.10	15,166.72
DONE ROOM	13,740.45	-	- 13,740.45	16,139.50
General Mission Fund	986.02	-	- 986.02	1,064.00
HEARSE HOUSE	-	-	- -	-
Rectors Leaving Fund	-	-	- -	-
St Helens Fabric	3,819.92	-	- 3,819.92	3,819.92
St Helen's Fixed Projector & Screen	-	-	- -	-
ST JOHN CLOCK AND BELLS APPEAL	-	-	- -	-
Toilet & Kitchen St Helens	3,687.80	-	- 3,687.80	-
UNRESTRICTED ST HELENS	86,042.91	-	- 86,042.91	73,729.66
UNRESTRICTED ST JOHN	7,497.87	-	- 7,497.87	7,260.80
UNRESTRICTED ST THOMAS	23,168.95	-	- 23,168.95	19,247.72
Restricted				
Agency collection	-	-	- -	-
DIVIDENDS REST ST THOMAS	-	7,805.77	- 7,805.77	7,108.78
PARISH CHURCHYARDS	-	83,977.29	- 83,977.29	79,554.11
RESTRICTED RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	-	20,982.18	- 20,982.18	18,865.43
RESTRICTED ST HELENS (FORMER CONS CHARITY)	-	-	- -	1,625.22
RESTRICTED ST JOHN	-	9,421.31	- 9,421.31	7,618.28
St John's Churchyard	-	1,746.34	- 1,746.34	2,598.04
UNRESTRICTED ST THOMAS	-	-	- -	46.52
Total funds	225,170.17	123,932.89	- 349,103.06	336,925.48

Balance Sheet (Summary)

	As at 31/12/2023	As at 31/12/2022
Fixed assets		
Investments	320,018.37	320,110.80

	320,018.37	320,110.80
Current assets		
Cash At Bank And In Hand	95,066.96	100,378.00
	95,066.96	100,378.00
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year	20.00	30.00
	20.00	30.00
Net current assets less current liabilities	95,046.96	100,348.00
Total assets less current liabilities	415,065.33	420,458.80
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	65,962.27	83,533.32
	65,962.27	83,533.32
Total net assets less liabilities	349,103.06	336,925.48
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General Funds	67,610.63	80,532.26
Designated		
Designated - ALTAR FRONTAL FUND	416.63	416.63
Designated - CHOIR FUND	2,111.89	2,111.89
Designated - Churchyard Footpath St H	16,067.10	15,166.72
Designated - DONE ROOM	13,760.45	16,159.50
Designated - General Mission Fund	986.02	1,064.00
Designated - St Helens Fabric	3,819.92	3,819.92
Designated - Toilet & Kitchen St Helens	3,687.80	-
Designated - UNRESTRICTED ST HELENS	86,042.91	73,729.66
Designated - UNRESTRICTED ST JOHN	7,497.87	7,260.80
Designated - UNRESTRICTED ST THOMAS	23,168.95	19,247.72
Restricted		
Restricted - DIVIDENDS REST ST THOMAS	7,805.77	7,108.78
Restricted - PARISH CHURCHYARDS	83,977.29	79,554.11
Restricted - RESTRICTED RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	20,982.18	18,865.43
Restricted - RESTRICTED ST HELENS (FORMER CONS CHARITY)	-	1,625.22
Restricted - RESTRICTED ST JOHN	9,421.31	7,618.28
Restricted - St John's Churchyard	1,746.34	2,598.04
Restricted - UNRESTRICTED ST THOMAS	-	46.52
Endowment		
Fund Totals	349,103.06	336,925.48

Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by fund)

	Balance	Previous balance
Investments		
6512: St Helen's Footpath CB3022782		
Churchyard Footpath St H Designated	7,945.08	7,261.86
	7,945.08	7,261.86
6513: Parish Churchyards CB3022780		
PARISH CHURCHYARDS Restricted	6,355.93	5,809.37
	6,355.93	5,809.37

6514: St Helen's Unrestricted CB3022775			
UNRESTRICTED ST HELENS	Designated	78,576.02	71,819.03
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		78,576.02	71,819.03
6515: Unrestricted Parish Churchyard & Fabric CB3022769			
PARISH CHURCHYARDS	Restricted	31,780.34	20,620.08
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		31,780.34	20,620.08
6521: Palmer/Mann Ancient Endowment 609002012S			
PARISH CHURCHYARDS	Restricted	-	8,427.37
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		-	8,427.37
6522: J Palmer Ancient Endowment CB3022768			
PARISH CHURCHYARDS	Restricted	35,874.61	32,789.64
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		35,874.61	32,789.64
6523: Miss Lewis Ancient Endowment CB3022775			
RESTRICTED RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	Restricted	12,658.97	11,570.38
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		12,658.97	11,570.38
6524: Lady Grisell Ancient Endowment CB3022777			
RESTRICTED RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	Restricted	5,809.56	5,309.98
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		5,809.56	5,309.98
6525: Hughes Fund Ancient Endowment 10901118S			
PARISH CHURCHYARDS	Restricted	-	5,450.52
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		-	5,450.52
6526: Eaton Church Wardens Fund CB3022784			
UNRESTRICTED ST THOMAS	Designated	4,114.16	3,760.37
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		4,114.16	3,760.37
6527: Brooks Legacy 109001123S			
DIVIDENDS REST ST THOMAS	Restricted	-	23,288.58
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		-	23,288.58
6529: John Derek Davies CB3022779			
St John's Churchyard	Restricted	4,658.05	4,257.49
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		4,658.05	4,257.49
6530: Sale of Cotebrook Church M& G 0024011783			
UNRESTRICTED ST JOHN	Designated	5,215.87	5,250.79
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		5,215.87	5,250.79
6531: Canon Hughes Ancient Endowment 109001124S			
RESTRICTED ST JOHN	Restricted	65,962.27	60,244.74
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		65,962.27	60,244.74
6534: 2014 investment (Accum Shares) St Thomas UST			
UNRESTRICTED ST THOMAS	Designated	17,861.70	14,453.24
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		17,861.70	14,453.24
6535: 2014 investment (Accum Shares) General fund			
General fund	Unrestricted	26,980.58	26,980.58
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		26,980.58	26,980.58
6536: 2014 investment (Accum Shares) Done Room			
DONE ROOM	Designated	98.37	98.37
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		98.37	98.37
6537: 2014 investment (Accum Shares) Parish Churchyards			
PARISH CHURCHYARDS	Restricted	5,402.76	5,402.76
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		5,402.76	5,402.76
6538: 2014 investment (Accum Shares) RRE			
RESTRICTED RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	Restricted	4,940.95	4,940.95

		4,940.95	4,940.95
6539: 2014 investment (Accum Shares) USH			
UNRESTRICTED ST HELENS	Designated	5,783.15	2,374.70
		<u>5,783.15</u>	<u>2,374.70</u>
Investments		320,018.37	320,110.80
Cash At Bank And In Hand			
6501: Bank Current Account			
ALTAR FRONTAL FUND	Designated	416.63	416.63
CHOIR FUND	Designated	2,111.89	2,111.89
DONE ROOM	Designated	13,642.08	16,041.13
DIVIDENDS REST ST THOMAS	Restricted	7,805.77	7,108.78
St Helens Fabric	Designated	3,819.92	3,819.92
Churchyard Footpath St H	Designated	8,122.02	7,904.86
General Mission Fund	Designated	986.02	1,064.00
PARISH CHURCHYARDS	Restricted	4,563.65	1,054.37
RESTRICTED RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	Restricted	(2,427.30)	(2,955.88)
RESTRICTED ST HELENS (FORMER CONS CHARITY)	Restricted	-	1,625.22
RESTRICTED ST JOHN	Restricted	9,421.31	7,618.28
St John's Churchyard	Restricted	(2,911.71)	(1,659.45)
Toilet & Kitchen St Helens	Designated	3,687.80	-
UNRESTRICTED ST HELENS	Designated	1,683.74	(464.07)
UNRESTRICTED ST JOHN	Designated	2,282.00	2,010.01
UNRESTRICTED ST THOMAS	Designated	1,193.09	1,034.11
UNRESTRICTED ST THOMAS	Restricted	-	46.52
General fund	Unrestricted	39,011.71	52,053.55
Agency collection	Restricted	20.00	30.00
		<u>93,428.62</u>	<u>98,859.87</u>
6510: CCLA (CBF) deposit account			
General fund	Unrestricted	1,605.71	1,492.50
		<u>1,605.71</u>	<u>1,492.50</u>
6590: Petty Cash			
General fund	Unrestricted	32.63	25.63
		<u>32.63</u>	<u>25.63</u>
	Cash At Bank And In Hand	95,066.96	100,378.00
Agency Accounts			
6699: Agency collections			
Agency collection	Restricted	20.00	30.00
		<u>20.00</u>	<u>30.00</u>
	Agency Accounts	20.00	30.00
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year			
6532: Canon Hughes Ancient Endowment 109001124S			
RESTRICTED ST JOHN	Restricted	65,962.27	60,244.74
		<u>65,962.27</u>	<u>60,244.74</u>
6533: Brooks Legacy Ancient Endowment 109001123S			
DIVIDENDS REST ST THOMAS	Restricted	-	23,288.58
		<u>-</u>	<u>23,288.58</u>
	Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	65,962.27	83,533.32
	Grand Total	<u><u>349,103.06</u></u>	<u><u>336,925.48</u></u>

2023 was yet another challenging year for the Parish as we continued to rebuild our attendances and donations to pre pandemic levels.

This led to the unfortunate decision being made in June to ask the Diocese for a reduction of our Parish Share for the remainder of the year to be reviewed before the year end. However, we were able to pay the arrears accrued and by 31st December 2023, we had managed to pay our full commitment of £71,756.

We continued to monitor our investments with CCLA and the decision was taken in February 2023 to take advantage of the Small Charities provision and wind up the Hughes fund investment under the 'Small Charities Provision' and re-invest the funds into account 609002003S - Parish Churchyard & Fabric Fund.

We also agreed in November 2023 that the Eaton Endowment-M. Brookes Legacy be wound up, in order to release the capital for the general benefit of Chester Diocese Stipend Fund.

We continue to benefit from the foresight of arranging fixed rate energy contracts for all three churches that was negotiated in June 2021 although they didn't come into place until May 2022. As these are for three years, we will continue to benefit from these until mid 2025.

Our total receipts for 2023 were £138,960 which was £21,691 more than 2022, a reflection of an increase in activities to generate funds and an uptake in regular giving and following an appeal to all parishioners on the electoral roll in October 2022.

Our dividend income was slightly higher (£8k up from £7.7k), while improvements in the stock market helped to rebalance the paper loss experienced in 2022.

Our expenditure for 2023 was £149,752 which was £36,804k more than 2022, giving a net deficit of £10,791. However, this included payment of an invoice from 2022 relating to the replacement of the Done Room heating system of £23k as the invoice wasn't received until January 2023.

Part of this increase is also due to the following:
Increased running costs £4.5k (churchyard maintenance/tree removal)
Increased Minor repairs across all three churches £2k
New building work costs £1.3k

Despite this, overall, we ended 2023 with a net increase in assets of £17,855 despite the challenges we faced.

We have reviewed our Reserves policy and have decided that we can keep the period we need to reserve for to three months. This is due to the fact that our Standing Orders give regular income and we have decided to invest more of our income which will result in receiving more dividends. Items we reserve for are: Utilities, Parish Share, Rector & Staffing costs, Insurance, Organ and Bell Maintenance, Grass Cutting & Done Room Costs. The amount we reserved in 2023 was £28,475.

This report dated: 23rd February 2024

David JG Smithson
Treasurer



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	Charity Name The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Tarporley		
On accounts for the year ended	31 December 2023	Charity no (if any)	1130496
Set out on pages	1-8		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/23**.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed: Robert Hall Date: 15/3/24

Name: ROBERT HALL

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): FCA

Address: 24 NICHOLAS ST
CHESTER CH1 2AL

Reports from Our Three Churches regarding Fabric

Following a tree survey carried out in 2022 the tree safety work highlighted in the report was undertaken by Frankland Tree Services around **St Helen's** Church, as well as along the drive to the Rectory and Done Room and in the churchyard. Plans were drawn up for a loo and kitchen to be located in the North West corner of the church.

A faculty was finally approved for the restoration work on the Done Room which is as follows:

1. Repairing the roof and guttering
2. Repairing the gable ends
3. Installing a new fire exit
4. Replacing the front door
5. Providing a new kitchen

A team has been put together who are working on grant applications, fundraising, obtaining tenders with the hope of undertaking the work in July and August next year.

Following the earlier quinquennial inspection in 2022 at **St John's**, repairs were carried out to the roof and new gutters and downpipes were installed. There is a need for repointing to the stonework, and work on this has been delayed because significant erosion was found on the tower during the roof repairs, which had not been reported in the quinquennial and which necessitated a fresh round of tendering. It is hoped that the work on the tower and other severely eroded pointing will be done in 2024.

The Quinquennial report at **St Thomas'** highlighted some minor repair work to be undertaken over the next one to two years. The congregation have been looking at ways to future-proof the heating in St Thomas', planning to move away from oil to a more environmentally acceptable system. As the current boiler room suffers from damp and there is no kitchen facility in church, including a re-design of that part of church has been included in the investigation.

Safeguarding

The PCC considers that it has, to the best of its knowledge, taken all reasonable steps to comply with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2017. St Helens Parish Church takes its duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously. We have adopted the national Church of England's robust procedures and guidelines. You can find out more about the national policies and procedures at www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding.

If you have any safeguarding concerns or issues of a safeguarding matter then you can find useful contact information below and at www.chester.anglican.org/socialresponsibility/safeguarding

In line with the diocesan regulations on safeguarding the PCC has adopted a Policy Statement on the Safeguarding of Children and Adults in the Church. There are notices in the Church providing contact details for Childline and Family Lives and also contact details for the Rector and the Parish Safeguarding Officer should anyone wish to speak privately and in confidence on safeguarding issues.

Following Thirtyoneeight guidelines, and in line with Diocesan advice, the on-line safeguarding courses in Foundation, Basic Awareness and Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse have been completed by PCC members and most of the Bell ringing team too. The next phase for training will cover all sidespersons, the verger and the pastoral visiting team. Clear and current DBS certificates are held by all PCC members and those bell ringers who have training duties.

The PCC thanks all the volunteers for their time and commitment given in running these activities and for their understanding in having background checks completed. We take the safeguarding of our children and vulnerable adults in church extremely seriously and DBS checks and procedures ensure all who are vulnerable as well as those who volunteer are protected. All non-church activities being run on a regular basis in the Done Room have also been checked as per diocesan guidelines to ensure that safeguarding policies are in place and that they too are covered by all necessary certificates, procedures and insurance. No safeguarding issues have arisen in the past year.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll of the church is a list of people who consider themselves to be members of one of our three churches including those who are housebound or unable to attend regularly. Everyone is welcome and forms, available in our churches or from the Electoral Roll Officer, are completed by each individual (over 16 and baptised). We are grateful to our Electoral Roll officer who oversees this work.

After the annual revision in 2023 the Electoral roll stood at 199

(2022:199; 2021: 190; 2020: 199 2019: 191 2018: 202 2017: 198 2016: 205, 2015: 185)

Malpas Deanery Synod Report

There was one meeting of the Malpas Deanery Synod in June held in the Done Room in Tarporley. The Revd Jim Bridgman gave a talk on Eco Church, the history, benefits of applying for the various levels and his experience in Tarporley parish. Peter Williams from Waverton gave a talk on the Children's Society. John Mason reported on Diocesan Synod and Bishop Mark's proposals for a new vision of priorities called "Together in Christ, sharing hope" which will underpin the future work of the Diocese of Chester in the coming years.

In September Bunbury Church hosted a non-eucharistic, cafe church service for the Malpas Deanery. It was a good opportunity for the whole Deanery to come together to give thanks to God for all that is going on in our communities with a special focus on education.

Structure Governance and Management

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity. As trustees of the charity the PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. There is a Standing Committee comprised of the Incumbent, 2 Church Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary of the PCC and one representative from St Thomas and one from St John's. This Committee will consult only in extremis when a decision must be made between PCC meetings. The full PCC met six times during the year

Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of Parish Life, but all these committees report back to the PCC for decision making.

In 2023, three new sub-groups were formed, with each member of the PCC assigned to one sub-group. The committees are:

1. Worship, Mission and Pastoral group
2. Finance group
3. Buildings group

Each group would meet between PCC meetings, to look in further depth at their areas, and then provide reports to full PCC for discussion and comment.

Administrative Information

At the APCM on Sunday, 30th April, 2023, the following were elected to the PCC unopposed, for a period of three years:

John Burton, Charles Hardern, Sandra Hardy, Angela Hicks, Peter Jones, Christine Noblett, and David Smithson. During the year, Angela Hicks and Peter Jones have subsequently resigned, while Kate O'Neil, was elected after the meeting.

No election was necessary for the remaining members.

Those completing their term of office this year included: Paul Bullen, Alastair Findlay, Mike Kiddle, John Meredith, and Marjorie Rathbone. Anita Langford stood down as *Ex-Officio* Treasurer.

The lay membership of the PCC currently comprises the following:

John Burton	
Walter Gibson	
Charles Hardern	
Sandra Hardy	
Liz Neely	(Churchwarden)
Elaine Meredith	(Deanery Synod representative)
Christine Noblett	
Kate O'Neil	
Phillip Posnett	(Churchwarden and Deanery Synod representative)
Michael Scott	
David Smithson	(Treasurer)
Paul Emerson	(ex officio Secretary)
Dianne Ouseley	(Deanery Synod Treasurer, not PCC)

The post of Electoral Roll Officer was vacant, as at 31/12/2023.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF TARPORLEY

England & Wales - Charity number 1130496

Accounts



Annual Report of the Tarporley Parochial Church Council and Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2022



The three images chosen for the parish's contribution to the Pilgrim Porch at Chester Cathedral – a carved angel from the choir stalls at St Thomas', the Delamere Horn from the St Francis window at St Helen's, and 'The Petition of the Repentant Sinners' from behind the communion table at St John's.



Annual Report of the Tarporley Parochial Church Council and Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

What follows is a brief report of our Parish life in 2022. In comparison to previous years of disruption, 2022 felt relatively 'normal'. While the start of 2022 continued to see a new COVID variant and some lingering restrictions, by the end of the year, it did feel as if life was returning to pre-pandemic normality. Therefore, a lot more happened in 2022 in the life of the parish, a snapshot of which appears in this report.

While the following puts into words some of what happened in 2022, it does little to capture the full energy, joy and commitment that so many volunteers have expended in the past year. It has been a real joy to see what this parish does in 'normal' times, and it has been very pleasing to see the faith, hope and love that is displayed by so many members of the parish.

My thanks go to clergy colleagues who helped sustain and enhance ministry and mission in the parish during the year - Revd Julian Osborne, Revd Trevor Davies, Revd Jenny Bridgman and Revd Richard Tuckwell – as well as Church Wardens and officers and members of our PCC for their unstinting hard work and complete support. I hope that you will take encouragement from this report as evidence of God's love and blessing unfolding in our Parish despite the challenging year we have shared.

With the new priorities given in the parish audit in the autumn, I am felt extremely hopeful and excited about what 2023 will bring for us as parish, as we continue to find ways (both old and new) to share God's love and message in Tarporley, Eaton, Cotebrook, Rushton and Utkinton.

With every blessing

Jim

Revd. Jim Bridgman
Rector of Tarporley

**The Parochial Church Council
of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Tarporley
A Registered Charity: Number 1130496**

Aim and Purposes

St Helen's Tarporley Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the Parish's three churches: St Helen's Tarporley, St John and the Holy Cross Cotebrook and St Thomas, Eaton their attendant churchyards and The Done Room. In pursuing these aims and purposes the PCC has due regard to the Charity Commission's concern for public benefit.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches. Our services are open to all, and we are committed to making and keeping our churches, both during and outside of worship, welcoming sacred spaces where people can encounter the presence of God, sanctuary from an often-stressful world and, if they wish it, a place in a welcoming and caring community. When planning our activities for the year, both our regular worship and our extra activities, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. We are open to all and actively encourage participation in our services and activities from all sections of the community believing as we do that every person is made in the image of God. We try to help each other grow in knowledge and love of God and his son, our Lord Jesus Christ, through our worship and prayer and discipleship activities believing that the good news of the gospel enriches and gives purpose and direction to life. And we try to follow this teaching and communicate God's love for all people through our pastoral and outreach work.

Achievements and Performance

1. Worship and Prayer

In terms of services, we were able to hold a full programme of services on Sundays and throughout the liturgical year. For regular worship, the decision to reinstate the common cup at Communion was passed by PCC in June, to begin again from 1st July.



Patterns of worship continued throughout the year, with a monthly All Age service on the first Sunday, and Communion services on other weeks. After a hiatus due to the pandemic Messy Church restarted in the spring (*pictured left*) on the fourth Sunday of each month, and it has been pleasing to reconnect with families old and new through this service. The renewed links with the two church schools has also been a great advantage in publicising and connecting with families and children.

In 2022 we were able to fully engage with the year: the Lent book group returned to read Lawrence's *Practice of the Presence of God*; we services throughout Holy Week and Easter, moving vigil on Maundy Thursday evening; all churches celebrated Harvest festivals (with lunches and suppers at St Helen's and St respectively; a service for All held at St Helen's bereaved during



Remembrance Sunday continued to be well attended, with an act of Remembrance at St Thomas, followed by the full parade in Tarporley, with all uniformed organisations joining us in church, where the focus was the 40th anniversary of the Falkland's conflict; Advent saw the Advent Book group read *Freedom is Coming* by Nick Baines, based on the prophet Isaiah, as well as the Posada (a travelling nativity set) making its way throughout the parish and stopping in a different home each night in Advent; Christmas was especially busy with a full compliment of carol services, Christingle (pictured above), crib services as well as community carol singing.



Church's Brother held including a three Harvest Thomas' special Souls was for those the year;

National events surrounding the Platinum Jubilee and then the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II were reflected in worship in the parish: special services of celebration were held on the Jubilee weekend, and we joined in with many of the local community events to celebrate, and in September all three church buildings were open for prayer and reflection, with the opportunity for members of the congregation and community to sign books of condolence. The smooth running of these events at such an emotional time is testament to the good organisation put in place by the PCC and the previous Rector, Revd Georgina Watmore, as well as the willingness of volunteers to open up our buildings, all of whom deserve our thanks.



In the summer, the parish said goodbye to curate Revd Julian Osborne, who was appointed as Rector of Barrow (and licensed in November 2022). We were very thankful for Julian's presence and ministry among us, and all that he gave to the parish and its people; a final service with goodbye refreshments was held at the end of June. In the autumn, Jan Mills, who had offered secretarial assistance over a number of years also had



a change of work situation and decided to call time on her work as administrator for the parish. We are so grateful for all her hard work and efficiency over the last few years, and to Bill Holroyd for releasing Jan during that time to pick up some of the administration for the parish.

All three of the bishops visited the Deanery in June as part of their Deanery Visitation, starting with a Communion service and Deanery Chapter meeting at St Helen's, before Bishops Mark and Sam visited Tarporley High School with Revd Jim. Then later in the summer, Bishop Sam returned to the parish for a pastoral visit, preaching and presiding in all three churches followed by a social time at Cotebrook Village Hall (*pictured right*).

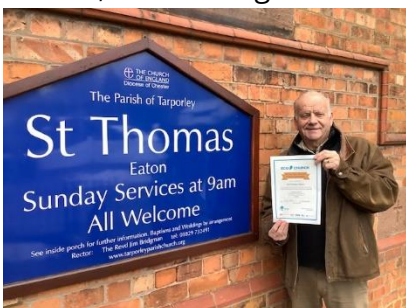


We were fortunate to hold a number of special services throughout the year, ranging from a special sung Evensong at St Helen's accompanied by *Vox Vocavit* singers in February, to a special Songs of Praise at St Thomas' with singer/songwriter Stu Larsen (*pictured below left*), the Eatonians and the St Thomas' choir in June, to a reflective service to mark Babyloss Awareness Week in October.



All three churches engaged with Chester Cathedral's 'Pilgrim Porch' project, submitting photos and information about significant parts of our buildings (the Delamere horn in the stained glass of St Helen's, the wooden carved angels at St Thomas' and 'The Petition of the Repentant Sinners' painting at St John's), which will be engraved on the new door at the cathedral and added to an interactive information panel. The door is now in situ, with the interactive panel soon to be added – do look for the three churches' submissions the next time you visit the cathedral!

Another important activity in the background this year was the beginning of the Eco-Church initiative in the parish, to assess and survey the environmental impact that the parish has on its Worship, use of Buildings and Land, in its Community and National Engagement, and in terms of Lifestyle. Through completing online questionnaires, each building was assessed to consider what we can do to become better stewards of God's creation. All three churches are well on their way to achieving the Bronze Eco Award, which is a great achievement, but only the start!



In the autumn the parish underwent an audit and evaluation to hear thoughts and ideas from church members for the future direction of the parish and its churches. It was a helpful and fruitful exercise, out of which a number of key priorities were identified:

- a. Exploring a new pattern of worship.
- b. Deepening prayer and discipleship.
- c. Improving Facilities.
- d. Engagement.
 - I. With communities.
 - II. With 'un-churched' people.
 - III. With schools.

A new pattern of worship was proposed to start in February 2023. On item b, new service booklets were produced for the Advent and Epiphany seasons (and very kindly printed and collated free of charge by Tarporley Primary School), and added to our seasonal worship from Advent Sunday 2022. These priorities will give the parish focus for the coming years.

2. Pastoral Services and Activity

The PCC recognizes that our ministry and churches offer a very important and unique resource at particular moments in people’s lives. It is a joy to be asked to baptise and marry people and share this celebration with family and friends and a privilege to be able to offer help and support to others through our funeral ministry. Rather than dictating the content of these services we work hard with all concerned to make sure that, within a Christian setting, they have a service that holds meaning for them. Such pastoral services mark important rites in everyone’s life and the Church extends the welcome and compassion of God to all people, regardless of their beliefs or background.

In addition to organizing and delivering the service itself the churches are involved in baptism and marriage preparation, helping families prepare for and organize funerals and following up with bereavement visits. Whilst the Clergy undertake most of this work they are supported and enormously helped by the Parish Pastoral Team formed of representatives from all our churches. The PCC also acknowledges the foundational importance of the informal visiting and pastoral care that takes place every day as members of our churches look out for and take care of each other and their neighbours and members of the wider community.

After the last few years of lockdowns and closures, all three churches had a full year of services.

Church	Usual Sunday Attendance*	Number of Sunday services	Baptisms	Weddings/ Renewal of Vows (RoV)	Funerals	Burial of Ashes
St Helen’s	58 adults 5 children	50	15	8	19	8
St Thomas’	18 adults 0 children	50	1	1 (RoV)	2	0
St John’s	19 adults 0 children	13	1	0	1	3

**based on average over the year. This however does not reflect the extent of the ‘worshipping community’ (those connected with each church, and whose attendance may be irregular) which is higher.*

3. Community Connections



This year saw an extension of our connections with local schools, especially our two church schools: Tarporley Primary School and St Paul's Primary in Utkinton and Cotebrook. The parish now has congregational representatives on both governing bodies, and has organised a group of volunteers to listen to pupils reading at both schools.



Throughout the year, there have been plenty of visits to St Helen's from school – for visits to a place of worship to find out about its features and uses, end of term celebrations, special all school worship for Easter, Harvest and Christmas, and Leavers' services for Year 6 pupils, at which each leaver was gifted a holding cross from the parish as an aid to prayer as they transitioned to High School and new settings. Both schools were also given an Advent wreath from the parish to aid with worship during the Advent season.

Revd Jim has also made good links with other non-Church schools locally: with Tarporley High School, arranging visits to St Helen's, and going into school to share in RE provision, as well as visiting Eaton Primary to engage in RE lessons, and share about the importance of Christmas and Easter to Christians. We have continued to support the Done Room Preschool too, and welcomed them for performance at St Helen's at Easter, end of summer term, Harvest and Christmas.

Outside of schools, 2022 saw a return to some of the social events that had to be curtailed during the pandemic – the annual St Thomas' church quiz at the Jessie Hughes hall in Eaton, the St Helen's Harvest



lunch at Rose farm and the St Thomas' harvest supper and auction at the Jessie, Afternoon teas in the Done room (*pictured below*), and the ever-popular bellringers quiz at Tarporley Community centre. In addition, there were a few one-off events, such as the Kelsborrow choir Concert at St Helen's (*pictured left*) and an extra special performance by Australian singer/songwriter Stu Larsen at the Jessie in Eaton. The parish took the opportunity to have a stall at the Tarporley Carnival in July,

offering simple crafts for kids, and taking prayer requests. It has also been very pleasing to see church going into the community, especially at Christmas, when we had parish Pub carol singing at The Alvanley Arms, and led outdoor carols on the green in Eaton and the High Street in Tarporley.

Our links with the Tarporley parish council were cemented by making connections around the proposed Tarporley Public Art Trail, the Tarporley Christmas events, and setting up St Helen's as a Warm Space on Wednesdays, as part of the Parish council's Warm Heart of Tarporley initiative.





Ecumenical links with Tarporley Chapel and St Thomas a Becket Catholic church were strengthened this year; all three ministers now meet together regularly for support and reflection, and we have held a number of joint services throughout the year, including lunchtime prayers for the Week Of Prayer For Christian Unity, a joint Good Friday service at the Chapel, Revd Mark preaching on Maundy Thursday and Remembrance Sunday at St Helen's, and a collaboration as we blessed the crib and sang carols on the High Street to mark the beginning of the Tarporley Christmas celebrations (*pictured left*).

The parish continues to support the Mid Cheshire Foodbank, with collection points in all three buildings, which are used throughout the year. We collected again for harvest, and during Advent offered a reverse Advent calendar to collect items for each day of Advent to give to the foodbank. Thank you for all your generous donations, and to those who organise delivery and collection of

our donations.

The Link continues to keep the community updated with church life, in addition to the Facebook page and weekly email, sharing weekly readings and prayers and upcoming services and events from the three churches.

The PCC offers its thanks to all who work to share the life of the Church and the love of God: all who tell and invite others to services and events, those who contribute articles, edit and put together the information we can share and ensure its successful distribution, and those who work to keep our website up to date.

4. Financial Review and Independent Examiner's Report

The Parochial Church Council St Helen's Church, Tarporley

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 31st December 2022

Introduction

Below are the accounts for the Parish of Tarporley which comprises of St Helen's Church, Tarporley, St Thomas', Eaton & St John & the Holy Cross, Cotebrook.

The accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

In 2022, we incorporated all our Ancient Endowments & Investments into our accounts which is why for the first time, we are showing fixed assets of £320k and liabilities of £83k.

The Treasurer, whilst having some financial qualifications is not a qualified Chartered or Certified Accountant and all errors and omissions are to be excepted.

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior Year total funds
Receipts						
Planned giving	40,863	—	—	—	40,863	38,293
Collections and other giving	20,922	60	150	—	21,132	19,937
Other voluntary receipts	—	—	—	—	—	12,000
Gift Aid recovered	13,156	—	—	—	13,156	12,515
Other receipts	1,922	250	250	—	2,422	107,296
Activities for generating funds	10,716	10,744	—	—	21,460	13,627
Investment Income	—	2,831	4,909	—	7,741	29,246
Receipts from church activities	10,193	300	—	—	10,493	10,992
Total income	97,774	14,186	5,309	—	117,269	243,907
Payments						
Cost of generating funds	1,127	—	—	—	1,127	462
Missionary and Charitable Giving	200	—	—	—	200	300
Parish Share	60,662	—	9,004	—	69,666	68,131
Clergy and Staffing costs	4,519	—	187	—	4,707	8,490
Church Running Expenses	18,443	203	8,908	—	27,556	18,821
Hall Running Costs	—	9,093	—	—	9,093	7,644
Church Repairs & Maintenance	—	468	—	—	468	22,809
Hall Repairs & Maintenance	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Building work	—	—	—	—	—	—
Governance Costs	—	129	—	—	129	—
Total expenditure	84,952	9,895	18,101	—	112,948	126,660
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	(6,985)	(11,984)	—	(18,970)	—
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	12,822	(2,695)	(24,776)	—	(14,649)	117,246
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	12,399	1,598	—	—	13,997	162,352
Gross transfers between funds - out	(1,598)	(12,399)	—	—	(13,997)	(162,352)
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	9,916	96,687	—	106,604	—
Net movement in funds	23,622	(3,578)	71,911	—	91,955	117,246
Total funds brought forward	56,909	142,555	45,505	—	244,970	127,723
Total funds carried forward	80,532	138,976	117,416	—	336,925	244,970
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
General fund	80,532	—	—	—	80,532	56,909
Designated						
ALTAR FRONTAL FUND	—	416	—	—	416	416
CHILDRENS SOCIETY & OTHERS	—	—	—	—	—	—
CHOIR FUND	—	2,111	—	—	2,111	1,955
Churchyard Footpath St H	—	15,166	—	—	15,166	15,350
DONE ROOM	—	16,159	—	—	16,159	14,322
General Mission Fund	—	1,064	—	—	1,064	1,064
HEARSE HOUSE	—	—	—	—	—	1,598
Rectors Leaving Fund	—	—	—	—	—	—
St Helen's Fixed Projector & Screen	—	—	—	—	—	—
St Helens Fabric	—	3,819	—	—	3,819	4,288
UNRESTRICTED ST HELENS	—	73,729	—	—	73,729	85,482
UNRESTRICTED ST JOHN	—	7,260	—	—	7,260	1,770
UNRESTRICTED ST THOMAS	—	19,247	—	—	19,247	16,306
Restricted						
Agency collection	—	—	—	—	—	—
DIVIDENDS REST ST THOMAS	—	—	7,108	—	7,108	6,415
PARISH CHURCHYARDS	—	—	79,554	—	79,554	17,578
RESTRICTED RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	—	—	18,865	—	18,865	1,816
RESTRICTED ST HELENS (FORMER CONS CHARITY)	—	—	1,625	—	1,625	1,625
RESTRICTED ST JOHN	—	—	7,618	—	7,618	14,829
St John's Churchyard	—	—	2,598	—	2,598	3,193
UNRESTRICTED ST THOMAS	—	—	46	—	46	46

Balance sheet

	Total funds	Previous year funds
Fixed assets		
Investments	320,110	—
	320,110	—
Current assets		
Investments	—	134,645
Cash at bank and in hand	100,378	110,324
	100,378	244,970
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	30	—
	30	—
Net current assets less current liabilities	100,348	244,970
Total assets less current liabilities	420,458	244,970
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	83,533	—
	83,533	—
Total net assets less liabilities	336,925	244,970
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
General fund	80,532	56,909
Designated		
ALTAR FRONTAL FUND	416	416
Rectors Leaving Fund	—	—
UNRESTRICTED ST HELENS	73,729	85,482
UNRESTRICTED ST JOHN	7,260	1,770
UNRESTRICTED ST THOMAS	19,247	16,306
CHOIR FUND	2,111	1,955
CHILDRENS SOCIETY & OTHERS	—	—
DONE ROOM	16,159	14,322
St Helen's Fixed Projector & Screen	—	—
St Helens Fabric	3,819	4,288
Churchyard Footpath St H	15,166	15,350
General Mission Fund	1,064	1,064
HEARSE HOUSE	—	1,598
Restricted		
DIVIDENDS REST ST THOMAS	7,108	6,415
PARISH CHURCHYARDS	79,554	17,578
RESTRICTED RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	18,865	1,816
RESTRICTED ST HELENS (FORMER CONS CHARITY)	1,625	1,625
RESTRICTED ST JOHN	7,618	14,829
St John's Churchyard	2,598	3,193
UNRESTRICTED ST THOMAS	46	46
Agency collection	—	—
Funds of the church	336,925	244,970

Statement of assets and liabilities

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last Year
Fixed assets - Investments						
St Helen's Footpath 69002016S -	—	7,261	—	—	7,261	—
Parish Churchyards 609002014S -	—	—	5,809	—	5,809	—
St Helen's Unrestricted 609002009S -	—	71,819	—	—	71,819	—
Unrestricted Parish Churchyard & Fabric -	—	—	20,620	—	20,620	—
Palmer/Mann Ancient Endowment	—	—	8,427	—	8,427	—
609002012S -						
J Palmer Ancient Endowment 609002002S -	—	—	32,789	—	32,789	—
Miss Lewis Ancient Endowment 609002010S -	—	—	11,570	—	11,570	—
Lady Grisell Ancient Endowment 609002011 -	—	—	5,309	—	5,309	—
Hughes Fund Ancient Endowment 10901118S	—	—	5,450	—	5,450	—
-						
Eaton Church Wardens Fund 609004001S -	—	3,760	—	—	3,760	—
Brooks Legacy 109001123S -	—	—	23,288	—	23,288	—
John Derek Davies 609002013S -	—	—	4,257	—	4,257	—
Sale of Cotebrook Church M& G 0024011783 -	—	5,250	—	—	5,250	—
Canon Hughes Ancient Endowment	—	—	60,244	—	60,244	—
109001124 -						
2014 investment (Accum Shares) St Thomas -	—	14,453	—	—	14,453	—
2014 investment (Accum Shares) General f -	26,980	—	—	—	26,980	—
2014 investment (Accum Shares) Done Room	—	98	—	—	98	—
-						
2014 investment (Accum Shares) Parish Ch -	—	—	5,402	—	5,402	—
2014 investment (Accum Shares) RRE -	—	—	4,940	—	4,940	—
2014 investment (Accum Shares) USH -	—	2,374	—	—	2,374	—
Totals	26,980	105,018	188,111	—	320,110	—
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
Bank Current Account -	52,053	33,938	12,867	—	98,859	109,019
CCLA (CBF) deposit account -	1,492	—	—	—	1,492	1,223
Petty Cash -	25	—	—	—	25	81
Totals	53,571	33,938	12,867	—	100,378	110,324
Current assets - Investments						
CBF C of E Investment - Accum Shares -	—	—	—	—	—	59,645
CBF CoE Investments - Income Shares -	—	—	—	—	—	75,000
Totals	—	—	—	—	—	134,645
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
Agency collections -	—	—	30	—	30	—
Totals	—	—	30	—	30	—
Liabilities - Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year						
Canon Hughes Ancient Endowment	—	—	60,244	—	60,244	—
109001124 -						
Brooks Legacy Ancient Endowment 10900112	—	—	23,288	—	23,288	—
-						
Totals	—	—	83,533	—	83,533	—
Grand total	80,552	138,956	117,416	—	336,925	244,970

Conclusion

2022 was another challenging year for the Parish as at the start of the year, attendances and donations etc still hadn't returned to pre pandemic levels. This led to the unfortunate decision being made in January 2022 that we were unable at the current time, to pay our Parish Share in full. We continued to have discussions with the Diocese and by 31st December 2022, we had managed to pay our full commitment of £60,662.

Throughout the year, we continued to monitor our investments with CCLA and a decision was made in November 22 to take advantage of the Small Charities provision and wind up any investments which fell into this category (capital of less than £10k and annual income <£1k). The funds released were reinvested into one investment called 'Parish Churchyard and Fabric'. We also realised investments of £20k to fund a new heating system for the Done Room.

We were very fortunate in that new fixed rate contracts for all three churches were negotiated in June 2021 although they didn't come into place until May 2022. As these are for three years, we will continue to benefit from these until mid 2025.

Our total receipts for 2022 were £117,270 which was £126, less than 2021 but 2021 had one of receipts of £136k. Therefore, excluding the one of receipts for both years, then our income was comparable in 2021 & 2022.

We undertook a Giving program in October 2022 which resulted in more people giving by standing order and some existing standing orders being increased. Hopefully, this will continue throughout 2023 and will have a positive effect on our income. Fundraising recommenced in all three Churches in 2022, with St Thomas' holding a several well attended and successful events.

Our dividend income was £2.2k higher at £7.7k in 2022. However, due to stock market fluctuations the value in our investments year on year had reduced by several thousands. As we don't have any plans at the moment to cash in these investments, then this is only a 'paper' loss.

Our expenditure for 2022 was £112,949 which was £13.7k less than 2021. Taking into account the one off expenditure in 2021 of around £30k, our expenditure in 2022 increased by £30k. This excludes the cost of replacing the Done Room heating system as the invoice wasn't received until January 2023.

Part of this increase is due to the following:

Increased grass cutting fees £3.8k

Increased utility costs £2.3k

Increased Done Room repair costs £2.5k

Increased Minor repairs across all three churches £2.5k

We have reviewed our Reserves policy and have decided that we can keep the period we need to reserve for to three months. This is due to the fact that our Standing Orders give regular income and we have decided to invest more of our income which will result in receiving more dividends. Items we reserve for are: Utilities, Parish Share, Rector & Staffing costs, Insurance, Organ and Bell Maintenance, Grass Cutting & Done Room Costs. The amount we need to reserve in 2022 is £28,475.

This report dated: 19th March 2023

Anita Langford
Treasurer



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

On accounts for the year ended **Charity no (if any)**

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2021

Responsibilities and basis of report As the charity's trustees, you 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed: **Date:**

Name:

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address:

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

5. Reports from Our Three Churches regarding Fabric

On the subject of fabric a quinquennial inspection of the church was carried out by Graham Holland in June at both St Helen's and St John's. There was a tree survey also carried out. A risk assessment and remedial works were undertaken on the section of the graveyard on the south side of the church.

The heating system in the Done Room was replaced in December while the Pre School were away for the Christmas break and the fan heaters were replaced with radiators and a conventional heating system.

No major fabric work was carried out on any of the three church buildings.

6. Structure Governance and Management

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity. As trustees of the charity the PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. There is a Standing Committee comprised of the Incumbent, 2 Church Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary of the PCC and one representative from St Thomas and one from St John's. This Committee will consult only in extremis when a decision must be made between PCC meetings. The full PCC met six times during the year both in person and on Zoom.

Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of Parish Life, but all these committees report back to the PCC for decision making.

Safeguarding

The PCC considers that it has, to the best of its knowledge, taken all reasonable steps to comply with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2017. St Helens Parish Church takes its duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously. We have adopted the national Church of England's robust procedures and guidelines. You can find out more about the national policies and procedures at www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding.

If you have any safeguarding concerns or issues of a safeguarding matter then you can find useful contact information below and at www.chester.anglican.org/socialresponsibility/safeguarding

In line with the diocesan regulations on safeguarding the PCC has adopted a Policy Statement on the Safeguarding of Children and Adults in the Church. There are notices in the Church providing contact details for Childline and Family Lives and also contact details for the Rector and the Parish Safeguarding Officer should anyone wish to speak privately and in confidence on safeguarding issues.

Following ThirtyeightOne guidelines there are currently 6 volunteer leaders and assistants with clear and current DBS certificates and who have completed the Basic Awareness and Foundation courses in Safeguarding; these people coach bellringers.

Due to the pandemic, organised activities in church for children were put on hold and the majority of adult volunteers who held clear and current DBS certificates will now need to re-apply as certificates are no longer valid. However, until a new programme of children's activities requiring adult supervision or teaching is scheduled fresh applications will not be made.

The PCC thanks all the volunteers for their time and commitment given in running these activities and for their understanding in having background checks completed. We take the safeguarding of our children and vulnerable adults in church extremely seriously and DBS checks and procedures ensure all who are vulnerable as well as those who volunteer are protected. All non-church activities being run on a regular basis in the Done Room have also been checked as per diocesan guidelines to ensure that safeguarding policies are in place and that they too are covered by all necessary certificates, procedures and insurance. No safeguarding issues have arisen in the past year.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll of the church is a list of people who consider themselves to be members of one of our three churches including those who are housebound or unable to attend regularly. Everyone is welcome and forms, available in our churches or from the Electoral Roll Officer, are completed by each individual (over 16 and baptised). We are grateful to our Electoral Roll officer who oversees this work.

After the annual revision in 2022 the Electoral roll stood at 199

(2021: 190; 2020: 199 2019: 191 2018: 202 2017: 198 2016: 205, 2015: 185)

Malpas Deanery Synod Report

There were three meetings of the Malpas Deanery Synod this year. The first meeting was a joint meeting with Chester Deanery at St Mary's Handbridge Church Hall where we enjoyed a talk on 'Everyday Faith' which is asking churches to encourage people to live out their faith in everyday life.

In June Bishops Mark, Sam and Julie came to the Deanery for a three day visitation. The visit began at St Helens Church on Monday 27th for worship, a meeting and catch up with the Deanery clergy. Later that day Bishop Mark and Sam went to Tarporley High School with Jim where they met the Headteacher and Head of Humanities for a question and answer session with Yr 7 students. On Tuesday they did a walk through the Deanery starting at Hargrave via Beeston Castle to Bunbury where they had dinner and a social evening with representatives from all the parishes in Bunbury Church. We enjoyed worship and explaining the mission and things we were proud of in Tarporley, Eaton and Cotebrook churches. Their visitation ended on Wednesday with a day in Shocklach hearing about the Agricultural chaplaincy and visiting the Primary School.

At the meeting in November held in the Burley Hall in Waverton The Revd Peter Froggatt on behalf of Harriet Roberts (Director of Development, Vision and Strategy in the Diocese) gave a talk inviting us to look at the bible and consider its relevancy today and asking us what we felt was today's vision. He talked about a project being led by Bishop Mark to develop a new vision for the church in our Diocese.

Administrative Information

At the APCM on Sunday, 8th May, 2022, the following were elected to the PCC unopposed, for a period of three years:

Paul Bullen, Alistair Findlay and Walter Gibson.

No election was necessary for the remaining members.

The lay membership of the PCC currently comprises the following:

Paul Bullen	
Alistair Findlay	
Walter Gibson	
Mike Kiddle	(Electoral Roll Officer)
Rosemary Lilley	
Elaine Meredith	(Deanery Synod representative)
John Meredith	
Liz Neely	(Churchwarden)
Dianne Ouseley	(Deanery Synod representative)
Phillip Posnett	(Churchwarden and Deanery Synod representative)
Marjorie Rathbone	
Michael Scott	
Paul Emerson	(ex officio Secretary)

Anita Langford currently serves as ex officio Treasurer after resigning from the PCC during 2022.

Accounts

**THE PARISH OF TARPORLEY:
ST HELEN, ST JOHN AND THE HOLY CROSS, ST THOMAS**



**Annual Report of the Tarpорley Parochial Church Council
and Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2021.**

What follows is a brief report of our Parish life in 2021.

In some ways 2021 seemed little different from 2022, as Covid-19 continued to disturb and disrupt normal life in 2021, as lockdowns and rules changed at a bewildering rate, amid vaccination programmes and new variants. However, 2021 was also a significant year in the parish as we moved from a period of vacancy and welcomed a new Rector to the parish. As this report shows, while Covid-19 continued to ensure that there were plenty of frustrations and setbacks, there was also new life and new starts.

My thanks go to our Curate Revd Julian Osborne, Church Wardens and officers and members of our PCC for their unstinting hard work and complete support.

I hope that you will take encouragement from this report as evidence of God's love and blessing unfolding in our Parish despite the challenging year we have shared.

I pray that 2022 will be a year when we reflect on who we are as church, and how we can continue to share God's love in Tarpорley, Eaton, Cotebrook, Rushton and Utkinton.

With every blessing

Jim

Revd. Jim Bridgman
Rector of Tarpорley

**The Parochial Church Council
of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Tarpорley
A Registered Charity: Number 1130496**

Aim and Purposes

St Helen's Tarporley Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the Parish's three churches: St Helen's Tarporley, St John and the Holy Cross Cotebrook and St Thomas, Eaton their attendant churchyards and The Done Room. In pursuing these aims and purposes the PCC has due regard to the Charity Commission's concern for public benefit.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches. Our services are open to all, and we are committed to making and keeping our churches, both during and outside of worship, welcoming sacred spaces where people can encounter the presence of God, sanctuary from an often-stressful world and, if they wish it, a place in a welcoming and caring community. When planning our activities for the year, both our regular worship and our extra activities, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. We are open to all and actively encourage participation in our services and activities from all sections of the community believing as we do that every person is made in the image of God. We try to help each other grow in knowledge and love of God and his son, our Lord Jesus Christ, through our worship and prayer and discipleship activities believing that the good news of the gospel enriches and gives purpose and direction to life. And we try to follow this teaching and communicate God's love for all people through our pastoral and outreach work.

Achievements and Performance

1. Worship and Prayer

Following Georgina's retirement at Christmas the parish entered a period of interregnum. We were very blessed to have our Curate Julian Osborne taking the majority of services supported by Trevor Davies, Richard Tuckwell and others. Our thank go to Julian for all his work and support throughout the year.

Unfortunately, there was another lockdown due to Covid and all services were suspended in our three churches from 19th January until 28th March (Palm Sunday). During that time Julian organised and sent out a service each week for parishioners to follow at home and he also arranged and led a Lent Book Club with discussions each week on a book by Dr Hannah Steele called "Living his story". As restrictions lifted, Julian was able to lead a Good Friday vigil in St Helens with music and images based upon the stations of the cross. Easter Sunday was also celebrated in church, albeit without singing, but with the inaugural use of the screen and projector to help us celebrate the timeless truth that "He is Risen!" Weekly worship continued, and it was not long before all three churches were re-opened in line with careful risk assessments and Church of England guidance.

On September 1st, we welcomed Revd Jim Bridgman and his family to the parish, as Jim was Instituted as Rector of Tarporley. We were honoured to have not one, but two bishops in attendance for the service, as Bishop Mark of Chester was joined by Bishop Sam, the newly consecrated Bishop of Stockport (who was also completing his first day at work that day!).

For the first time in a while, St Helen's was full without a masked congregation and the service was further enhanced by the ability to sing, which the congregation took great delight in! The service was followed by wine and biscuits in the Done Room.

During the autumn we were able to hold some of the 'normal' features of the liturgical year – in October we held Harvest services at all three churches, and were able to collect donations to the Mid-Cheshire Foodbank; Messy Church made a welcome return in October as a special 'Muddy Church', outside St Helen's in the wooded area, where the theme was Creation, and youngsters and families were encouraged to use natural materials found in the woods and graveyard to help recap the Genesis creation story; at the end of October, we held an All Souls' service at St Helen's, where the theme was 'The Sea', encouraging bereaved families to gather and draw comfort and hope from Jesus' ability to calm the storm (both on lake Galilee, and the storms of our lives) in what was an especially difficult year to lose a loved one; despite a number of changes and restrictions, we were still able to gather for the annual Remembrance parade and service, with a shortened parade down to the War Memorial with a time of Remembrance and silence outside, before moving into church. The Rector also helped to mark a short time of prayer and silence around the war memorial in Eaton, accompanied by the reading of the names of the fallen and The Last Post by younger members of church and local community.

During Advent, a small group met in person and online to read a new Advent book: *An Advent book of days* by Gregory Cameron, and those who came and read it enjoyed engaging more deeply with the characters and events of the Christmas story.

As Christmas approached, we held a very successful Christingle service at St Helen's at the start of December and were able to also offer usual Christmas services such as Lessons and Carols, crib services and Christmas Day services. The rise of the Omicron variant meant that plans were adapted and changed, and many people used their common sense and judgement in deciding when and if to congregate, especially as we inched closer to Christmas day. Sadly, the usual carol service at St Thomas' was cancelled, and a plan for an outdoor carol service at The Drays was eagerly anticipated until Storm Arwen intervened and blew away the marquee! Hopefully 2022 may allow the plan to come to fruition!

We are grateful to the many who worked hard to make it possible for us to return to worship safely and to all who returned or took an active part in our services, whilst being fully understanding and supportive of those who were unable so to do.

Due to the continued disruption of the pandemic, the usual attendance figures submitted to the Church of England remain anomalous, so are not included here for a second year. Congregation members are returning to church, but with so much uncertainty and sustained infection, many people are understandably still cautious.

What this year's enforced closure of our Churches has shown is how important the buildings are to our whole community not just as places of worship, but also as places of stillness, sanctity and prayer. The PCC is grateful to all who help to fund, maintain, clean, decorate and keep our churches open, inviting and safe spaces for all to spend time. Being a listed Church, medieval in origin and situated in the heart of the Village of Tarporley, St Helen is the most accessible of our churches and it receives many visitors. People come for many reasons, but most to spend time in quiet and prayer.

2. Pastoral Services and Activity

The PCC recognizes that our ministry and churches offer a very important and unique resource at particular moments in people's lives. It is a joy to be asked to baptise and marry people and share this celebration with family and friends and a privilege to be able to offer help and support to others through our funeral ministry. Rather than dictating the content of these services we work hard with all concerned to make sure that, within a Christian setting, they have a service that holds meaning for them. Such pastoral services mark important rites in everyone's life and the Church extends the welcome and compassion of God to all people, regardless of their beliefs or background.

In addition to organizing and delivering the service itself the churches are involved in baptism and marriage preparation, helping families prepare for and organize funerals and following up with bereavement visits. Whilst the Clergy undertake most of this work they are supported and enormously helped by the Parish Pastoral Team formed of representatives from all our churches. The PCC also acknowledges the foundational importance of the informal visiting and pastoral care that takes place every day as members of our churches look out for and take care of each other and their neighbours and members of the wider community.

This year, our usual level of activity has been severely disrupted and curtailed by Covid and so again annual figures cannot be compared. Despite changing restrictions, some baptisms and weddings were able to proceed this year, and it was a joy to be once again involved in the happier times of the lives of those in our community. However, 2022 looks like it will be the year when many of the postponed weddings of the past few years will finally take place, so the summer looks to be a busy time!

3. Community Connections

Despite a year when so much outreach and activity has had to cease strong links have been maintained with all five of our local schools and pre-schools, two of which are Church of England schools.

Both Revd Julian and Revd Jim have been busy in supporting our church schools, both on the governing bodies, via regular Collective Worship in school, and through lesson visits for staff and pupils, as well as organising tours and lessons at St Helen's. It was a real privilege to welcome both Tarporley CE Primary and Utkinton St Paul's into church for a joint Harvest service, and separate carol services and nativity plays. We also welcomed the Done Room Preschool into church for a wonderful Christmas show; these are always fantastic ways to extend God's welcome to the children and their families. Revd Jim has also been invited to Eaton primary on a number of occasions since the autumn, talking to classes about church buildings, the incarnation and the story of Christmas.

The PCC also agreed to buy a Fairtrade chocolate Christingle for every pupil in our two church schools, delivered by the clergy during an explanatory Collective worship and an invitation to the Christingle service at St Helen's, which many children came along to.

Relationships with our local councils, organisations and businesses continue to be built upon.

The Link continues to keep the community updated with church life, and since the autumn the parish now has a social media presence via its new Facebook page, as well as (from Advent Sunday) a weekly email sent to nearly 400 contacts, sharing weekly readings and prayers and upcoming services and events from the three churches.

The PCC offers its thanks to all who work to share the life of the Church and the love of God: all who tell and invite others to services and events, those who contribute articles, edit and put together the information we can share and ensure its successful distribution, and those who work to keep our website up to date. In Covid times all of this has proved even more important.

Before Christmas, there were a number of opportunities for community engagement through carol singing: from a (very wet!) community carol singing on the High Street on the weekend of the Tarporley Christmas Event, carol singing on a Friday night outside at the Alvanley Arms with members of St John and the Holy Cross, community led carols in Eaton in place of the carol service, and the usual Christmas Eve carols before the crib service.

Sadly, once again many of our concerts, social and fundraising activities also had to be cancelled this year. It has been very hard not to be able to gather together, share meals, coffee, prayer, worship, music, stories, hugs and laughter, but our priority throughout the year continued to be keeping people as safe as possible so that when restrictions are finally lifted everyone will be there to gather together and give thanks to God.

So, 2021 has been a year of endings, and new beginnings, plenty of uncertainty and challenges, but we can see the presence of God with us throughout, with hope and faith that God will continue to lead and guide us throughout 2022, whatever that may bring.

4. Financial Review and Independent Examiner's Report

Our thanks go to all involved in ensuring the smooth running of our Parish finances. First and foremost, we recognise the hard work and commitment of our Treasurer, but we also recognise the contribution of the many who help with: collecting and counting monies, banking the same, overview of our stewardship, and administration of our giving and gift aid. As with all our volunteers this important work is undertaken with cheerfulness and reliability. We are indeed blessed to have the help of so many and we thank you all. We also express our thanks to our Examiner for her expertise and support. The full accounts can be found in Appendix A beginning on page 8.

COVID continued in impact on our finances throughout 2021 with fewer people attending services, reduced fund-raising events and reductions in giving. Over the past two years since the start of COVID, we have seen our income reduce by £52,200 which is directly attributed to COVID (churches being closed, lack of fundraising and weddings etc).

The careful stewardship by the Treasurer and Wardens, expenditure reduced by £39,235 over the same period, reducing the negative financial impact of Covid upon Parish finances. Our thanks to all those who continued to give by monthly standing order throughout the vacancy and church closures. The figures quoted above exclude income from the sale of assets and quinquennial work on the fabric of St Helen's.

We also express our thanks to our new examiner Rob Hall of Mitchell Charlesworth in Chester for his expertise and support.

5. Reports from Our Three Churches regarding Fabric

The PCC thanks all who have worked, often unseen, throughout the year to maintain our buildings and keep our communities so vibrant.

St Helen's church carried out the remaining work which was highlighted in the last quinquennial report – namely work on some stained glass and the boiler house roof.

There weren't any fabric repairs undertaken at St John's and the Holy Cross and St Thomas' churches.

6. Structure Governance and Management

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity. As trustees of the charity the PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. There is a Standing Committee comprised of the Incumbent, 2 Church Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary of the PCC and one representative from St Thomas and one from St John's. This Committee will consult only in extremis when a decision must be made between PCC meetings. The full PCC met six times during the year both in person and on Zoom.

Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of Parish Life, but all these committees report back to the PCC for decision making.

Safeguarding

The PCC considers that it has, to the best of its knowledge, taken all reasonable steps to comply with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2017. St Helens Parish Church takes its duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously. We have adopted the national Church of England's robust procedures and guidelines. You can find out more about the national policies and procedures at www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding.

If you have any safeguarding concerns or issues of a safeguarding matter then you can find useful contact information below and at www.chester.anglican.org/socialresponsibility/safeguarding

In line with the diocesan regulations on safeguarding the PCC has adopted a Policy Statement on the Safeguarding of Children and Adults in the Church. There are notices in the Church providing contact details for Childline and Family Lives and also contact details for the Rector and the Parish Safeguarding Officer should anyone wish to speak privately and in confidence on safeguarding issues.

Following ThirtyeightOne guidelines there are currently 6 volunteer leaders and assistants with clear and current DBS certificates and who have completed the Basic Awareness and Foundation courses in Safeguarding; these people coach bellringers.

Due to the pandemic, organised activities in church for children were put on hold and the majority of adult volunteers who held clear and current DBS certificates will now need to re-apply as certificates are no longer valid. However, until a new programme of children's activities requiring adult supervision or teaching is scheduled fresh applications will not be made.

The PCC thanks all the volunteers for their time and commitment given in running these activities and for their understanding in having background checks completed. We take the safeguarding of our children and vulnerable adults in church extremely seriously and DBS checks and procedures ensure all who are vulnerable as well as those who volunteer are protected. All non-church activities being run on a regular basis in the Done Room have also been checked as per diocesan guidelines to ensure that safeguarding policies are in place and that they too are covered by all necessary certificates, procedures and insurance. No safeguarding issues have arisen in the past year.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll of the church is a list of people who consider themselves to be members of one of our three churches including those who are housebound or unable to attend regularly. Everyone is welcome and forms, available in our churches or from the Electoral Roll Officer, are completed by each individual (over 16 and baptised). We are grateful to our Electoral Roll officer who oversees this work. After the annual revision in 2021 the Electoral roll stood at 190 (2020: 199 2019: 191 2018: 202 2017: 198 2016: 205, 2015: 185)

Malpas Deanery Synod Report

There were two meetings of Deanery Synod. The first meeting in April welcomed our new Rural Dean - The Revd Tim Hayward and paid tribute to the Revd Canon Ian Davenport who has retired after 10 years as Rural Dean.

At the second meeting in September Phillip Posnett was elected as Lay Chairman following the retirement of Marion Randles after 8 years. There will be an episcopal visit from Monday 27th June until Wednesday 29th June in 2022 when the Bishop will visit churches, schools, homes in the Deanery as well as undertaking a Prayer walk.

Administrative Information

At the APCM on Sunday 23rd May 2021, the following were elected unopposed:

For a period of three years:

Marjorie Rathbone, Michael Scott, William Spiegelberg

No election was necessary for the remaining members of the PCC:

For a period of one year: (now for re-election in 2022)

Paul Bullen, Alastair Findlay

For a period of two years: (now for re-election in 2023)

Simon Corradine, Mike Kiddle, Anita Langford, John Meredith and Rosemary Lilley

APPENDIX A

THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

**The Parochial Church Council
St Helen's Church, Tarporley**

**End of Year Financial Statements
Year ending 2021**

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total
Receipts						
Planned giving	38,293	—	—	—	38,293	45,331
Collections and other giving	19,563	7	366	—	19,937	22,563
Other voluntary receipts	—	12,000	—	—	12,000	120
Gift Aid recovered	12,515	—	—	—	12,515	17,507
Other receipts	11,601	94,695	1,000	—	107,296	11,067
Activities for generating funds	3,857	9,769	—	—	13,627	8,115
Investment Income	68	24,506	4,671	—	29,246	5,015
Receipts from church activities	10,992	—	—	—	10,992	5,661
Total income	96,891	140,977	6,037	—	243,907	115,380
Payments						
Cost of generating funds	462	—	—	—	462	1,580
Missionary and Charitable Giving	—	—	300	—	300	300
Parish Share	68,131	—	—	—	68,131	67,624
Clergy and Staffing costs	7,554	936	—	—	8,490	3,697
Church Running Expenses	18,158	—	663	—	18,821	25,068
Hall Running Costs	33	7,611	—	—	7,644	10,054
Church Repairs & Maintenance	—	22,809	—	—	22,809	10,264
Hall Repairs & Maintenance	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Building work	—	—	—	—	—	—
Governance Costs	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total expenditure	94,340	31,356	963	—	126,660	118,588
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	2,551	109,620	5,074	—	117,246	(3,208)
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	—	150,000	12,352	—	162,352	—
Gross transfers between funds - out	—	(162,352)	—	—	(162,352)	—
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds	2,551	97,268	17,426	—	117,246	(3,208)
Total funds brought forward	54,308	45,336	28,078	—	127,723	130,932
Total funds carried forward	56,859	142,605	45,505	—	244,970	127,723

Balance sheet

	Total funds	Prior year funds
Current assets		
Investments	134,645	50,744
Cash at bank and in hand	110,324	76,978
	244,970	127,723
Net current assets less current liabilities	244,970	127,723
Total assets less current liabilities	244,970	127,723
Total net assets less liabilities	244,970	127,723
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
General fund	56,859	54,308
Designated		
ALTAR FRONTAL FUND	416	416
Rectors Leaving Fund	—	—
UNRESTRICTED ST HELENS	85,482	3,041
UNRESTRICTED ST JOHN	1,770	1,549
UNRESTRICTED ST THOMAS	16,306	16,198
CHOIR FUND	1,955	1,955
CHILDRENS SOCIETY & OTHERS	—	—
DONE ROOM	14,372	4,003
St Helen's Fixed Projector & Screen	—	—
St Helens Fabric	4,288	—
Churchyard Footpath St H	15,350	15,350
General Mission Fund	1,064	2,000
HEARSE HOUSE	1,598	821
Restricted		
DIVIDENDS REST ST THOMAS	6,415	5,745
PARISH CHURCHYARDS <i>Note 1</i>	17,578	2,567
RESTRICTED RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	1,816	964
RESTRICTED ST HELENS (FORMER CONS CHARITY)	1,625	1,925
RESTRICTED ST JOHN	14,829	13,095
St John's Churchyard	3,193	3,734
UNRESTRICTED ST THOMAS	46	46
Agency collection	—	—
Funds of the church	244,970	127,723

Statement of assets and liabilities

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
Bank Current Account -	28,593	48,796	31,629	—	109,019	75,940
CCLA (CBF) deposit account -	1,223	—	—	—	1,223	980
Petty Cash -	81	—	—	—	81	57
Totals	29,898	48,796	31,629	—	110,324	76,978
Current assets - Investments						
CBF C of E Investment Fund -	26,980	18,789	13,875	—	59,645	50,744
CBF CoE Investments - Income Shares -	—	75,000	—	—	75,000	—
Totals	26,980	93,789	13,875	—	134,645	50,744
Grand total	56,879	142,585	45,505	—	244,970	127,723

Notes:

Note 1 – Parish Churchyard Restricted Fund. A decision was made to charge grass cutting to general funds rather than Parish Churchyard. This means that all grass cutting for 2019-2020 was reallocated in 2020. This is why this fund has increased by £15,000.

Financial Report for the year Ending 31st December 2021

Our total receipts for 2021 were £243,907 but this included one-off receipts of £136,005.

These one-off receipts included the realising of assets (sale of Hearse House and cashing in of a legacy), donation towards redecoration of The Rectory, a COVID restart grant for the Done Room, VAT reclaim for St Helen's quinquennial and an insurance claim for stolen microphones and hearing loop.

Excluding these entries, our underlying income was £107,902. Our income for 2020 was £115,300, so it is £7,398 less.

Part of this decrease was due to the ongoing effect on COVID which meant that congregations were still less than pre-pandemic and greatly reduced fund-raising activities.

As well as this, we have seen a decrease of £7,038 in standing order receipts which also impacts on the gift aid we can claim, reducing this by £5,000.

On the positive side, our fees for weddings and funerals increased by also 50% to £10,992. We also received more for letting out the Done Room.

Our expenditure for 2021 was £126,660 which also contained the following one-off costs – St Helen's quinquennial, Rectory redecoration, replacing stolen microphones and hearing loop and the fees relating to the sale of Hearse House. These total £30,690, making our underlying expenditure £95,959.

This is £22,619 less than 2020. Part of this is due to not having a Rector until September, 50% reduction in the insurance premium for St Helen's and less being spent on Done Room repairs. Whilst we incurred some St Helen's quinquennial costs in 2020 these were £12k less than in 2022.

Despite our reduced income, we managed to pay 100% of our Parish Share which totalled £68,131 We also paid our fees for weddings & funerals to the Diocese in full.

We placed some of our staff on furlough in 2021 and claimed some of their salaries from HMRC's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

We have reviewed our Reserves policy and have decided that we can reduce the period we need to reserve for from six to three months. This is due to the fact that our Standing Orders give regular income and we have decided to invest more of our income which will result in receiving more dividends. Items we reserve for are: Utilities, Parish Share, Rector & Staffing costs, Insurance, Organ and Bell Maintenance, Grass Cutting & Done Room Costs.

In addition to the figures presented, the PCC has a stewardship responsibility for other capital assets.

Anita Langford

Treasurer

8th February 2022

Accounts

**THE PARISH OF TARPORLEY:
ST HELEN,
ST JOHN AND THE HOLY CROSS, ST THOMAS**



**Annual Report of the Tarporley Parochial Church Council
and Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2020**

What follows is a brief report of our Parish life in 2020 a year that proved truly testing for us all.

Covid-19 has disturbed and disrupted everyone and everything this year. It is testament to the support, faithfulness and hard work of many that as a Parish, despite all the closures, restrictions and difficulty, we have managed to continue our journeys of discipleship and worship together even whilst apart, and when allowed gathered to hold meaningful services in Church, continuing throughout to offer support to our community. As this report shows our overriding concern this year has been to keep us all well in mind, body and soul.

My thanks go to our Curate Rev Julian Osborne, Church Wardens and officers and members of our PCC for their unstinting hard work and complete support.

I hope that you will take encouragement from this report as evidence of God's love and blessing unfolding in our Parish despite the challenging year we have shared.



I pray that 2021 will bring health and new opportunities to share God's love and life with all

With every blessing

Georgina

Revd. Georgina Watmore
Rector of Tarporley

**The Parochial Church Council
of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Tarporley
A Registered Charity: Number 1130496**

Aim and Purposes

St Helen's Tarporley Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the Parish's three churches: St Helen, St John and the Holy Cross and St Thomas, their attendant churchyards and two other buildings: The Done Room and Hearse House. In pursuing these aims and purposes the PCC has due regard to the Charity Commission's concern for public benefit.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches. Our services are open to all and we are committed to making and keeping our churches, both during and outside of worship, welcoming sacred spaces where people can encounter the presence of God, sanctuary from an often stressful world and, if they wish it, a place in a welcoming and caring community. When planning our activities for the year, both our regular worship and our extra activities, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. We are open to all and actively encourage participation in our services and activities from all sections of the community believing as we do that every person is made in the image of God. We try to help each other grow in knowledge and love of God and his son, our Lord Jesus Christ, through our worship and prayer and discipleship activities believing that the good news of the gospel enriches and gives purpose and direction to life. And we try to follow this teaching and communicate God's love for all people through our pastoral and outreach work.

Achievements and Performance.

1. Worship and Prayer

The pattern of services continued unchanged for the first two months of the year. There is a weekly 9am and 10am service at St Thomas and St Helen and on the 1st Sunday of each month at 11:15am at St John's and Evensong at 6:30pm at St Helen' alongside a weekly Communion service at St Helen on Wednesdays at 10am.

As usual all are welcome at our services and provision was made and activities available for children in all our churches. At St Helen, Light Keepers, a group for children, continued to meet during our communion services.

Sadly on March 18th all of this stopped as, because of the threat of Covid-19, our Churches had to close for both public worship and opening for visitors and prayer. We immediately moved our worship online ensuring as many as possible received our collective worship via email or post every Sunday, a number that grew as the weeks went on.

As soon as we were able, we undertook extensive risk assessments, put safety measures in place and opened St Helens for private prayer in early June.

Again, as soon regulations allowed and after further risk assessments and consequent work, we resumed services on 5th July. For the first few weeks we held a single service of Morning Prayer in the Parish, going slowly to ensure that our building and practices kept and made people feel as safe as possible. After putting in place further measures and introducing track and trace procedures, we then moved to Holy Communion. Being unable to sing or share wine and having to wear masks and socially distance meant our services, of course felt different, but they worked well, and our worship continued to be meaningful and uplifting.



After consultation and further risk assessments and risk-minimising measures we were delighted in September to welcome our choirs back and resume services at St Thomas and from 4th October at St John's. For the first three months Clergy undertook all roles so as not to put pressure on anyone to return before they felt comfortable but by October we had re-introduced rotas for some of the roles and it was wonderful to once more hear different voices and see others involved.

We are grateful to the many who worked hard to make it possible for us to return to worship safely and to all who returned or took an active part in our services, whilst being fully understanding and supportive of those who were unable so to do. Sadly a further lockdown in November meant we worshipped together at home for another four weeks before returning to all our Churches for our December services.

Normally at this point in our Annual Report we report the mission statistics that we are asked to return annually to the Church of England which help to monitor levels of outreach and attendance. However because of Covid, this year's figures are not comparable and are not therefore included. Even when we have been able to open and hold services this year our numbers have, understandingly been lower than usual. Everyone's circumstances, and appreciation of risk are necessarily different, and our congregations have consistently been about half the number we would normally expect. This has however meant that we have been able to welcome all who wish to attend whilst maintaining social distancing and keeping everyone as safe as possible.

What this year's enforced closure of our Churches has shown is how important the buildings are to our whole community not just as places of worship, but also as places of stillness, sanctity and prayer. The PCC is grateful to all who help to fund, maintain, clean, decorate and keep our churches open, inviting and safe spaces for all to spend time. Being a listed Church, medieval in origin and situated in the heart of the Village of Tarporley, St Helen is the most accessible of our churches and it receives many visitors. People come for many reasons, but most to spend time in quiet and prayer. We have a special area set aside where people can light a candle and request or write a prayer which are gathered up in our mid-week Eucharistic Service. Our Visitor's Book (sadly removed in Covid times) attests to the comfort and inspiration that the Church offers to everyone.



2. Pastoral Services and Activity

The PCC recognizes that our ministry and churches offer a very important and unique resource at particular moments in people's lives. It is a joy to be asked to baptise and marry people and share this celebration with family and friends and a privilege to be able to offer help and support to others through our funeral ministry. Rather than dictating the content of these services we work hard with all concerned to make sure that, within a Christian setting, they have a service that holds meaning for them. Such pastoral services mark important rites in everyone's life and the Church extends the welcome and compassion of God to all people, regardless of their beliefs or background.

In addition to organizing and delivering the service itself the churches are involved in baptism and marriage preparation, helping families prepare for and organize funerals and following up with bereavement visits. Whilst the Clergy undertake most of this work they are supported and enormously helped by the Parish Pastoral Team formed of representatives from all our churches. The PCC also acknowledges the foundational importance of the informal visiting and pastoral care that takes place every day as members of our churches look out for and take care of each other and their neighbours and members of the wider community.

This year, our usual level of activity has been severely disrupted and curtailed by Covid and so again annual figures cannot be compared. It was with great sadness that we had to explain to our couples hoping to be married in 2020 that their weddings could either not go ahead or could only do so in a very different and restricted way. Fortunately nearly all moved their dates to next year whilst two brave couples went ahead regardless (see photos)



It has been a feature of weddings, baptisms and funerals this year that although they have not been able to be held in the way people would have liked or to which they are used, they have all been spiritual, dignified and beautifully intimate. It has been humbling to see so many people find the courage, strength and resilience to make the best of the difficult circumstances they have had to face.



3. Community Connections

Despite a year when so much outreach and activity has had to cease strong links have been maintained with all five of our local schools and pre-schools, two of which are Church of England schools.

Relationships with our local councils, organisations and businesses continue to be built upon and as many Tarporley High Street retailers and restaurants as possible were personally visited by the Rector before the first lockdown took place and offered a card of prayer and the community's support.

We temporarily ceased publication of our weekly news sheet, distributing information via email and our Parish magazine: the Link. Whilst this could not be printed and safely distributed by hand for five months it was nonetheless produced and sent to all via email.

The PCC offers their thanks to all who work to share the life of the Church and the love of God: all who tell and invite others to services and events, those who contribute articles, edit and put together the information we can share and ensure it's successful distribution, and those who work to keep our website up to date. In Covid times all of this has proved even more important.

Like everything else 'Messy Church' has been badly affected by Covid and could only meet a couple of times in 2020 as risk assessments showed that it was impossible to deliver the activities safely. However links were maintained with our 'Messy Families' through emails, calls and suggested online activities. It has been a particularly difficult year for families and our committed, creative and hard-working Messy Team have held our families in their prayers.

Sadly our many community services, concerts, social and fundraising activities also had to be cancelled this year. It has been very hard not to be able to gather together, share meals, coffee, prayer, worship, music, stories, hugs and laughter, but our priority throughout the year was to keep people as safe as possible so that when restrictions are finally lifted everyone will be there to gather together and give thanks to God



4. Special Activity in the Year:



Covid-19 resulted in losses, casualties and changes of plan throughout 2020.

One of these was the Maundy Day service where the Sovereign distributes alms. This year Marjorie Rathbone was to have been one of the recipients. For almost countless years, Marjorie has played the organ or piano during weekly services, for weddings, funerals, ballet and choir practices. She is a long-standing member of the PCC and always first to volunteer to help. But even more than these costly and important acts of witness, Marjorie shines with faith. She is an encouragement to all whom she meets. There are many in our Christian community who give much and to whom we also owe our deep gratitude, but it was a real delight that Marjorie was chosen for this honour. Although Marjorie missed out on meeting the Queen, she did hear from her and received her Maundy Money in the post.

Although much had to be cancelled in 2020 new initiatives began. From the first day of lockdown in March when our church buildings had to close, we worked hard to support as many as we could and make sure everyone remained connected. From that first Sunday we shared our Worship at Home: Together Whilst Apart and continued this every week until all our Churches were open for worship in October.

For the 12 weeks of 'lockdown' a P's in our Time Sheet was also produced, using everyone's wonderful contributions, a weekly sheet of photos, humour, poems, recipes etc, was distributed by email and post. When lockdown ended, we shared Daily Worship electronically alongside a thought and music for the day.

As shops began to open and restrictions lifted further, we then began a series of daily readings to help us see the overview or 'big-story' of the bible which took us right through to Bible Sunday and the end of October.

All of this, along with phone calls and visits, where allowed and appropriate, helped the community continue to feel connected and went some way to encouraging us all through isolating and challenging times whilst deepening our discipleship and feeding our spirituality. The overriding principle and vision throughout 2020 was undoubtedly to keep us all as well as possible in mind, body and soul.



Despite the restrictions we had to work under and before lockdown struck again in November, we were able to celebrate Julian's Ordination to the Priesthood. Sadly this has to take place behind closed doors in Chester Cathedral but the following day October 4th we celebrated Harvest in all three of our churches and re-visited Julian's Ordination at St Helen's, where joined by Canon Sarah Fenby the Diocesan Director of Vocations, we showed part of the recorded Cathedral service and all gustily joined in with the commitment to help and support him in his ministry.



At the beginning of November we held our annual All Souls evening service to name and remember those whom we love and see no longer. This year we had to do things very differently with masks, social distancing, no singing and a much shorter service. But despite this the Church was as full as space allowed and those who had been bereaved during this year, and therefore who has not had the opportunity to say the goodbyes they might have wished, were grateful for the space so to do. Delivering this service safely involved much preparation and administration and we are grateful to all who made it possible.

The 5th November heralded a second lockdown and meant that our Remembrance Service also had to be re-imagined. This was pre-recorded in many sections before being put together for live streaming on the day. This method allowed for the involvement of many representatives from village organisations and businesses. Although we could not gather physically in the large numbers to which we are used, it was wonderful to see so many participating whilst knowing that many more were watching at home. It was nonetheless strange to be preaching to a church empty but for the soldier silhouettes from the 'There But not There' exhibition representing the names of those on our war memorial.



As usual St Helen's remained open throughout November but, unable to gather for worship, we returned to our electronic Worship at Home: Together whilst Apart. With short dark days this second lockdown felt different and perhaps harder than the first and so it was suggested that rather than enforced isolation this period might be viewed as the opportunity to make a 'retreat' at home.

Daily prayer ideas and resources were therefore sent throughout the month to try to keep spirits and spirituality up, remind everyone they were not alone even if it felt like it, and hopefully invigorate prayer lives. When this came to an end, Advent began, and

we moved on to an Advent Book Club with questions/reflections to ponder each day and the opportunity to join zoom discussions. Thankfully we were able to resume services in December and held several Christmas ones with joy and gladness. But it was with sadness that we could not safely accommodate our usual large number of varied services and so were unable to welcome the thousands we normally see pass through our Church doors during this period.

Christmas Day saw Revd Georgina Watmore preside at her last service in the Parish as Rector. During the six years of her incumbency our congregations have grown in number and discipleship helped by lent courses; two series of lectures; reflection groups and many Christian exploration courses which have led to over 40, of all ages, being confirmed. We have also provided training for several ordinands and welcomed Julian as our Curate. Our services are now seasonal encompassing a much broader range of Christian liturgy and following various training courses, encouragement and



support, include far more lay involvement. Outreach is strong with close links with councils, the hospital, RBL, local business, retailers and of course, our pre-school, 3 primaries and High School. Our churches have hosted concerts; a fashion show; music schools; fundraisers for charity; art exhibitions; a week of activities for our schools; a day of activity to mark remembrance; our 'There But Not There' exhibition; a Remembrance Walk and Art Walk in grounds by St Helen; alongside the very many visits we welcome and services we hold for local groups and schools. Through a successful stewardship campaign and the hard work of church, fabric and resources committees, our buildings and finances are on a sound footing, whilst consistent attention to administrative detail and records has allowed us to improve communication and reach out more effectively, the importance of which was seen this year when we quickly had to move to a more digital outreach.

This year has been a challenging one for everyone but although we have had to close our buildings for much of it and curtail most of our usual activity, we have remained a Church throughout: a group of pilgrims on a journey together, growing in knowledge and love of God and of his son Jesus, supporting each other and sharing with others God love's and light as best we can. Although Covid-19 will still be with us and this Parish will begin 2021 without a Rector, this year has demonstrated that God remains at work through change and uncertainty, that we are in safe hands and that we are a strong and growing Parish. There is much to look forward to.

5. Financial Review and Independent Examiner's Report

Our thanks go to all involved in ensuring the smooth running of our Parish finances. First and foremost, we recognise the hard work and commitment of our Treasurer but we also recognise the contribution of the many who help with: collecting and counting monies, banking the same, writing cheques, overview of our stewardship, and administration of our giving and gift aid. As with all our volunteers this important work is undertaken with cheerfulness and reliability. We are indeed blessed to have to have the help of so many and we thank you all. We also express our thanks to our new examiner Rob Hall of Mitchell Charlesworth accountants in Chester for his expertise and support. The full accounts can be found in Appendix A beginning on page 12.

Our total income for the year was £115,380 which was £39,629 down on 2019. The fact that the churches were closed from March until July and again in November had an impact on our plate giving, fundraising and wedding income. When we reopened our congregations were greatly reduced. We cut our expenditure as much as possible so we were still able to pay our parish share of £67,624 in full. We also furloughed our organists and church hall cleaner which helped cut our expenditure.

6. Report's from Our Three Churches regarding Fabric

The PCC thanks all who have worked, often unseen, throughout the year to maintain our buildings and keep our communities so vibrant.

St Helen's Church Report

On the subject of fabric in November and December Mallet Stonemasonry undertook stonework repairs and repointing around the exterior of the church which was highlighted in the Quinquennial Report of 2017. Scaffolding was erected on the South East Side of the Chapel to repair the Gable Apex Stone.

Mallet Stonemasonry also repaired some floor slabs in the church in both the North Vestry and South Aisle areas. The Chancel Rail step was descaled as well.

St John and the Holy Cross

No Fabric repairs undertaken this year.

St Thomas

No Fabric repairs undertaken this year.

7. Structure Governance and Management

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity. As trustees of the charity the PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. There is a Standing Committee comprised of the Incumbent, 2 Church Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary of the PCC and one representative from St Thomas and one from St John's. This Committee will consult only in extremis when a decision must be made between PCC meetings. The full PCC met six times during the year and this year for the first time introduced Zoom meetings.

Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of Parish Life but all these committees report back to the PCC for decision making.

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The PCC considers that it has, to the best of its knowledge, taken all reasonable steps to comply with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2017. St Helens Parish Church takes its duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously. We have adopted the national Church of England's robust procedures and guidelines. You can find out more about the national policies and procedures at:

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If you have any safeguarding concerns or issues of a safeguarding matter, then you can find useful contact information below and at:

www.chester.anglican.org/socialresponsibility/safeguarding

In line with the diocesan regulations on safeguarding the PCC has adopted a Policy Statement on the Safeguarding of Children and Adults in the Church. There are notices in the Church providing contact details for Childline and Family Lives and also contact details for the Rector, Associate Minister and the Parish Safeguarding Officer should anyone wish to speak privately and in confidence on safeguarding issues.

Following ThirtyeightOne guidelines there are currently 20 volunteer leaders and assistants with clear and current DBS certificates who take part in activities in church with children or who coach bell ringers.

The PCC would like to thank all the volunteers for their time and commitment in continuing to run these activities and for their understanding in having background checks completed. We take the safeguarding of our children and vulnerable adults in church extremely seriously and the DBS checks and procedures ensure all who are vulnerable, and those who volunteer are protected.

All non-church activities being run on a regular basis in the Done Room have also been checked as per diocesan guidelines to ensure that safeguarding policies are in place and that they too are covered by all necessary certificates, procedures and insurance.

No safeguarding issues have arisen in the past year.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll of the church is a list of people who consider themselves to be members of one of our three churches including those who are housebound or unable to attend regularly. Everyone is welcome and forms, available in our churches or from the Electoral Roll Officer, are completed by each individual (over 16 and baptised). We are grateful to our Electoral Roll officer who oversees this work.

After the annual revision in 2020 the Electoral roll stood at 199
(2020: 199 2019: 191 2018: 202 2017: 198 2016: 205, 2015: 185)

Malpas Deanery Synod Report

There were no meetings of Deanery Synod this year due to COVID-19.

Administrative Information

Our Meeting of Parishioners and subsequent APCM was delayed because of Covid. Sadly, we could not therefore hold our usual Celebratory Parish Service as part of this process and instead held a socially distanced and masked meeting on Monday 7th September in St Helen's Church.

Nomination forms had been received for all members appropriately signed by the nominees, their proposers and seconders; all being members on the Electoral Roll.

The following members were elected as Churchwardens:

Phillip Posnett (Vice-Chair) Liz Neely (Safeguarding Officer)

The following members were elected on to the Deanery Synod until 2023:

Dianne Arden Elaine Hulton Phillip Posnett

As well as these ex-officio members, the following were re-elected onto the PCC unopposed: Until 2023:

Michael Kiddle (Electoral Roll Officer), Anita Langford (Treasurer),
Rosemary Lilley, Simon Corradine, John Meredith

Already Elected Until 2021:

Marion Moss (PCC Secretary), Marjorie Rathbone,
Michael Scott, William Spiegelberg. Alastair Stoddard

Elected until 2022:

Paul Bullen, Alastair Findlay

APPENDIX A

THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

**Parochial Church Council
St Helen's Church, Tarporley**

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 2020

Financial Report for the year Ending 31st January 2020

Our total receipts for the year have decreased by £39,629 to £115,380. This can mainly be attributed to the Coronavirus as this meant that our churches were closed from March to July 2020 and when they reopened, we saw a greatly reduced congregation. Our regular fundraising and fellowship events were also unable to go ahead.

Our planned giving and collections were reduced by £11,422. We also saw reductions in our other forms of income:

- General fundraising reduced by £6,428 of this £2,096 was due to stopping the 200+ Club
- We did not receive any legacies in 2020
- All forms of income for the Done Room were reduced by £7,171
- Our income from Wedding & Funerals was £5,534 lower than 2019 of which £4,801 related to weddings.

On a positive note, our investments increased by almost £5,000. Part of this is due to transferring £30,000 from a deposit account into a stocks and shares investment account.

Our total expenditure was down by £24,498. We incurred £34,923 in one of costs in 2019 whereas in 2020 our only major one of cost was £10,264 re pointing at St Helen's which the latest quinquennial report highlighted as needed. The majority of this work was funded from donations.

Despite our reduced income, we managed to pay 100% of our Parish Share which totaled £67,624. We also paid our fees for weddings & funerals to the Diocese in full.

We placed some of our staff on furlough in 2020 and claimed some of their salaries from HMRC's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

Our current funding levels are adequate to cover six months running costs. General running costs are: Utilities, Parish Share, Rector & Staffing costs, Insurance, Organ and Bell Maintenance, Grass Cutting & Done Room Costs.

In addition to the figures presented, the PCC has a stewardship responsibility for other capital assets.

Anita Langford
Treasurer
23rd January 2021

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year Total funds
Receipts					
Planned giving	45,331	—	—	45,331	44,263
Collections and other giving	22,488	75	—	22,563	39,475
Other voluntary receipts	120	—	—	120	444
Gift Aid recovered	17,507	—	—	17,507	18,696
Other receipts	11,067	—	—	11,067	14,594
Activities for generating funds	8,115	—	—	8,115	21,442
Investment Income	398	4,617	—	5,015	4,899
Receipts from church activities	5,661	—	—	5,661	11,195
Total income	110,687	4,692	—	115,380	155,009
Payments					
Cost of generating funds	1,580	—	—	1,580	1,563
Missionary and Charitable Giving	—	300	—	300	600
Parish Share	67,624	—	—	67,624	65,974
Clergy and Staffing costs	3,555	142	—	3,697	3,985
Church Running Expenses	18,939	6,129	—	25,068	61,539
Hall Running Costs	10,054	—	—	10,054	9,422
Church Repairs & Maintenance	10,264	—	—	10,264	—
Hall Repairs & Maintenance	—	—	—	—	—
New Building work	—	—	—	—	—
Governance Costs	—	—	—	—	—
Total expenditure	112,017	6,571	—	118,588	143,086
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(1,329)	(1,878)	—	(3,208)	11,923
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	—	—	—	—	—
Gross transfers between funds - out	—	—	—	—	—
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	—	—	—
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	4
Net movement in funds	(1,329)	(1,878)	—	(3,208)	11,928
Total funds brought forward	100,975	29,957	—	130,932	119,004
Total funds carried forward	99,645	28,078	—	127,723	130,932

Balance sheet

	As at 31.12.2020	As at 31.12.2019
Current assets		
Investments	50,744	10,186
Cash at bank and in hand	76,978	120,741
	127,723	130,928
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	—	(4)
	—	(4)
Net current assets less current liabilities	127,723	130,932
Total assets less current liabilities	127,723	130,932
Total net assets less liabilities	127,723	130,932
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
General fund	54,308	49,114
Designated		
ALTAR FRONTAL FUND	416	1,636
Rectors Leaving Fund	—	—
ST JOHN CLOCK AND BELLS APPEAL	—	—
UNRESTRICTED ST HELENS	3,041	3,306
UNRESTRICTED ST JOHN	1,549	1,337
UNRESTRICTED ST THOMAS	16,198	16,094
CHOIR FUND	1,955	1,955
CHILDRENS SOCIETY & OTHERS	—	—
DONE ROOM	4,003	5,004
St Helen's Fixed Projector & Screen	—	—
St Helens Fabric	—	10,000
Churchyard Footpath St H	15,350	10,350
General Mission Fund	2,000	—
HEARSE HOUSE	821	2,175
Restricted		
DIVIDENDS REST ST THOMAS	5,745	5,097
PARISH CHURCHYARDS	2,567	6,071
RESTRICTED RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	964	563
RESTRICTED ST HELENS (FORMER CONS CHARITY)	1,925	2,225
RESTRICTED ST JOHN	13,095	11,420
St John's Churchyard	3,734	4,532
UNRESTRICTED ST THOMAS	46	46
Agency collection	—	—
Funds of the church	127,723	130,932

Statement of assets and liabilities

	General	designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
Bank current account -	35,209	26,527	14,202	—	75,940	89,988
CCLA (CBF) deposit account -	980	—	—	—	980	30,695
Petty Cash -	57	—	—	—	57	57
Totals	36,248	26,527	14,202	—	76,978	120,741
Current assets - Investments						
CBF C of E Investment Fund -	18,079	18,789	13,875	—	50,744	10,186
Totals	18,079	18,789	13,875	—	50,744	10,186
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
Agency collections -	—	—	—	—	—	(4)
Totals	—	—	—	—	—	(4)
Grand total	54,328	45,316	28,078	—	127,723	130,932