

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of
St Helen with Holy Trinity, Kensington

Annual Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

St Helen's is a UK registered charity, number 1134830



St Helen's Church
NORTH KENSINGTON

1. Legal and Administrative Information

Charity Name	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Helen with Holy Trinity, Kensington (St Helen's North Kensington)
Charity registration number	1134830
Governing Documents	Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended; Church Representation Rules - contained in Schedule 1 to the Church Representation and Ministers Measure 2019 (No. 1).
Independent Examiners	Stewardship Services (UKET) Ltd, 1 Lamb's Passage, London, EC1Y 8A
Bank	HSBC, 69 Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5EY
Correspondence Address	St Helen's Church St Helen's Gardens London W10 6LP
Telephone	020 8968 7807
Email	info@sthelenschurch.org.uk
Website	www.sthelenschurch.org.uk
Context	St Helen's Church is situated in North Kensington and, as part of the Church of England, is located in the Diocese of London.
Incumbent	Rev Steve Divall, St Helen's Vicarage, St Helen's Gardens, London, W10 6LP
Other staff member	Sasha Kumari Part-Time Administrator (9 hours per week) (until 9 th May 2023)

Trustees / PCC Members serving during 2023

Role	Name	Note
Incumbent / PCC Chair	Revd Steve Divall	
Deanery Synod Member	Oness Williams	From 2023 APCM to 2026 APCM
Elected Members	Emrita Popoola	Elected 2021 APCM to 2024 APCM
	Gift Ofori	Elected 2021 APCM to 2024 APCM
	Jennifer Brown	Elected 2021 APCM to 2024 APCM
	Timothy Wells	Elected 2022 APCM to 2025 APCM
	Michelle Wu	Elected 2023 APCM to 2026 APCM
	Elliot Ford	Elected 2023 APCM to 2026 APCM
Curate	Revd Mark Selby	From July 2023

Responsibilities of Trustees

Responsibility for setting policy and for determining the parameters within which the charity should operate rests with the PCC, which meets regularly to monitor the activities of the charity.

Responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the charity is delegated to the incumbent.

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the receipts and payments of the charity for the year.

We are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

Statutory Duties

In pursuing the aims described in this report the Trustees can confirm that they have:

- had due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance, as required by the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations
- complied with their duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding & Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

It is our intention that no one starts a role with children, youth, or vulnerable adults before they have received appropriate training and been taken through the DBS process. The Diocese has produced a basic level e-learning safeguarding training tool, which we ask all volunteers, staff and PCC to do. A copy of our safeguarding policy is on our website and also held within the church office.

2. Aims and Purposes

The charity is responsible for co-operating with the incumbent in promoting, to the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is also responsible for maintaining certain church property situated within the parish, namely:

- St Helen's Church and Hall

3. Vision 2023-2028

We finalised a fresh Mission Action Plan at the start of 2023, for the following five years, arriving at the following statement:

Vision Statement

St Helen's Church is a vibrant, all-age community which loves Jesus, and welcomes all. We seek to grow deeper into God as we hear, receive and respond to his word; to be a prayerful church, where we support one another, grow as disciples, share the gospel, and reach out and care for the wider community; and to be a church growing in number, youth, and leadership across the ages.

As part of the Church of England and the Diocese of London we seek to play our part in Capital Vision 2030: *For Every Londoner to Encounter the Love of God in Christ.*

Priorities for 2023-2028

Goals in four key areas have been identified:

Prayer

Develop a culture of prayer at St Helen's such that by 2026, 70% of regular members report that they are regularly praying privately, and 35% are attending prayer meetings/partnerships.

Outreach

Help at least 68* people who are not currently members of the church hear the good news of Jesus each year and for at least 9* people to be personally invited each time we run an enquirers course.

Pastoral Care

Establish a pastoral care structure during 2023 (drawing on lessons learnt during lockdown) so that every member of the Electoral Roll is included, whether currently attending on Sundays or not.

Developing Leaders And Volunteers

By the end of 2024, offer each regular church member the opportunity to serve, together with appropriate training. In 2025 50% of committed members will identifiably be involved in active service, increasing to 70% by the end of the MAP period.

*68 is the number of members of the Electoral Roll at time of writing

*9 is the number of PCC members at time of writing

[These two numbers will be updated each year after the Annual Meeting]

We will pursue these priorities over the next five years as we seek to be a church with Loves God and Loves People.

4. What we did in 2023

4.1 Ministry Review

2023 began progress towards some of the goals in our Mission Action Plan. During the year:

- We met each Sunday and continued to stream services on YouTube
- Three 'Life Groups' enabled people to deepen friendships, support one another and grow as disciples. Two of these met in person. One via Zoom.
- A small group met each Thursday for prayer, with a 'hybrid' setup allowing people to join via Zoom.
- A Women's Friendship Group met during the day on the first Thursday of each month
- In the Autumn, a new format 'Prayer Together' Meeting began on the evening of the first Thursday of each month; starting with food together and then praying for our church, our city, our country and our world.
- We ran 'Friendship With God' Outreach Events in February with the help of a team from the Cornhill Training Course. Events included:
 - ⇒ Different team members sharing their faith stories with the regular Life Groups and Women's Friendship Group
 - ⇒ A Gala Dinner, comprising a meal and an after-dinner talk
 - ⇒ A 'Guest Service' – a simple service with an accessible sermon on the topic of Friendship with God.
- We screened the Coronation in the church building, with full sized programmes printed out, to enable us not only to watch King Charles III's coronation, but also to join in with the hymns and prayers.
- We also screened the Coronation Prom LIVE from the Royal Albert Hall that evening.
- On the Sunday, as well as a Coronation themed service, we hosted a Street Party, to bring the community together, funded by a grant from RBKC's 'City Living Local Life'. All three events were attended by a mixture of regular church members and neighbours and friends from the community
- We ran several 'Bring & Share lunches after Sunday services and a Picnic in the summer.
- We hosted a 'Christian Life and Witness Course' run by the BGEA, to encourage and equip people to talk about their faith. Several other local churches also attended.
- We hosted a service to mark the 6th anniversary of the Grenfell fire, in partnership with other local churches with the theme of 'Seeking God, Finding Hope'.
- We developed a first attempt at a Pastoral Care Structure, to be implemented in early 2024.
- We ran training meetings for service leaders and Sunday Club leaders.
- A monthly Friday Club for secondary aged children was relaunched
- In December we continued the tradition of recent years of taking a sound-system to different parts of the Parish and leading 'Carols on Your Street'. We were encouraged by people thanking us for coming each time we did that.
- We gave over £10,000 to our mission partners both to invest in gospel ministry and to meet immediate needs. (Some of this was a catch up on money that was set aside to be given in 2022, but because of an administrative oversight wasn't transferred until 2023).

4.1.1 Cornhill students

We continued to have students placed with us from the Cornhill Training Scheme. We covered their living and travel costs (with a grant from a The Rock Foundation, of £6000, covering approximately a third of the overall amount). It has been a privilege to be able to support global gospel ministry in this way, as well as to learn from Christians from other cultures.

Bay Zie, who arrived in September 2021, from Myanmar, completed his time on the course at the end of June 2023 but had applied for a job in Eastbourne combining music ministry and pastoral

ministry, which seemed like a really good next step for him. Wanting to support him while he waited for the result of his visa application to be able to stay on in the UK, we used our remaining allocation to apply for a short term student visa to allow him to stay for continued (self-directed) study, with supervision, over the summer. This added to our costs, but at the same time Bay Zie continued to serve in practical, behind the scenes ways – for example, cleaning the Hall after children’s parties – as well as continuing to use his musical gifts to lead and bless us on Sundays. We were delighted when permission was given for him to stay in the UK for this new role, and continue to pray for him.

Subsequently, Ernest Mulenga arrived from Zambia, at the end of October 2023. His placement includes the opportunity to preach (approximately once per term), involvement in Life Group, helping with the Children’s ministry and some practical work to help the church function.

4.2 PCC Review

Our main activity during the year was to lead the church in the priorities identified in our Mission Action Plan.

The other major undertaking of the year was to seek to discern the appropriate response to the decision at General Synod in February 2023 to produce ‘Prayers of Love and Faith’ to ‘bless’ people in same-sex couples, which were then authorised for experimental use by General Synod in November 2023. We unanimously agreed that this was not the progress that it was intended to be, but a departure from the historic teaching and practice of the Christian faith. As a prophetic protest we initially paused our Common Fund payments; then, having re-examined the calculation of the ‘Parish Standard Cost’ (£87,775 in 2023), worked out what we should contribute to cover the core costs of a minister, house, pension etc. together with essential central services such as safeguarding. We re-calculated what that would be for 2023 (£48,500) as well as looking ahead to 2024 (£51,200). We then asked our finance officer whether the London Diocesan Fund would prefer us to pay the full amount that we had pledged for 2023, and then make a significantly reduced pledge for 2024; or to pay the recalculated amounts. The answer was the latter of these options, which we duly did. We continue to seek to welcome all, and are delighted that LGBTQIA+ people are part of our church family, but pray that once this experimental period has concluded, Synod will find a better way to communicate both God’s love for all and his call to repent, as well as believe.

In December we advertised for a new administrator and had the privilege of interviewing three strong candidates and appointing someone with previous experience of church administration to start in January 2024.

5. Mission Partners

We continued to partner in mission with Notting Hill Churches Homeless Concern (the 240 Project); Churches Together in Notting Hill; Glass Door (formerly West London Churches Homeless Concern); London City Mission (ministering to ‘The Last, The Least and The Lost’ throughout London); UCCF London (student work); Eden London (youth work), Rose of Sharon (mission and ministry in rural South Africa).

In addition we bought paid for 5 nights in a hostel for a vulnerable homeless woman (£150) and an unexpected hospital bill for the son of our current Cornhill student (£300).

6. Financial Review

During the year, income decreased by £65,265 to £166,836, while expenditure also decreased by £48,418 to £133,172 – resulting in a surplus of £33,664. As a result, the cash held by the charity increased from £278,844 to £312,509, of which £97,509 is undesignated and unrestricted and can be used for any charitable purpose.

7. Reserves Policy

The PCC has determined that the charity should aim to hold unrestricted cash of no less than £60,000, so that the charity could continue to operate should income and/or expenditure vary adversely. At the year end, the charity held unrestricted, undesignated cash of £97.5K.

8. Quinquennial Inspection / Building Maintenance

Routine maintenance on the boilers was carried out in the Autumn.

The Quinquennial Inspection of the building was conducted in November identifying urgent work that is needed on the gutters and sections of the roof to prevent water ingress. This will be further surveyed and addressed in 2024.

9. Structure, Governance and Management

Each area of the church's life and ministry falls under the oversight of the Vicar, PCC and staff team. The PCC draws on the blessings of the skills of many members of our church family beyond the PCC in order to help it meet its responsibilities.

9.1 Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The PCC is a body corporate established by the Church of England and operates under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure and the Church Representation Rules. Members of the PCC are either ex-officio; elected representatives of Deanery Synod; or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

The ex-officio members of the PCC are:

- the Vicar (PCC Chair); the Curate
- ordinarily two Churchwardens – elected each year at the meeting of parishioners, however this year we carried vacancies
- our Deanery Synod representative

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern to the parish including deciding how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. All PCC members are trustees of the charity. Elected PCC members serve for a three-year term, with three elected members standing down each year. All eligible church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll. Prior to the APCM, the congregation is informed of the forthcoming election to the PCC and the Deanery Synod. People are encouraged to stand for election and/or to nominate others. The congregation is informed of resulting appointments immediately following the election. Ongoing training is available to members of the PCC, particularly in areas of their responsibilities as trustees such as finance and child protection. All elected PCC members are asked to complete a DBS check, as confirmation of their suitability to serve, clergy having already done so, as an occupational requirement.

9.2 Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by statute. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between full Council meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. Its membership is determined by the PCC and ordinarily comprises the vicar, PCC secretary, treasurer, and the two churchwardens. In light of vacancies in all of these positions, excepting that of the vicar, there were no Standing Committee meetings in 2023.

9.3 Deanery Synod

Each church in a geographical area is part of a deanery. St Helen's is part of the Kensington Deanery.

Elections to the Kensington Deanery Synod take place every three years with Mr Oness Williams duly re-elected at our 2023 annual meeting for a further three year period as our Deanery Synod representative. Rev Steve Divall and Rev Mark Selby are also members of Deanery Synod.

The main items covered in the synods during the course of the year were the three ambitions of the Diocese of London's 2030 Vision, namely to see:

- Confident Disciples
- Compassionate Communities and
- Creative Growth

10. Approval

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by Steve Divall (PCC Chair) on 14 April 2024.

Steve Divall

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST HELEN WITH HOLY TRINITY, KENSINGTON**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Helen with Holy Trinity, Kensington ('the charity') for the year ended 31 December 2023 on pages 9 to 13 following.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect: 1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or 2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

S Crispin

Sarah Crispin ACA
Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date: 15 April 2024

THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST HELEN WITH HOLY TRINITY, KENSINGTON
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		Unrestricted Funds				
		General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	2023	2022
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£
Income receipts						
Voluntary receipts	2(a)	33,801	-	6,714	40,516	48,690
Fundraising income	2(b)	-	-	-	-	-
Investment income	2(c)	854	-	-	854	404
Church activities	2(d)	125,466	-	-	125,466	183,007
Total receipts		160,121	-	6,714	166,836	232,101
Payments						
Church activities	3(a)	95,058	-	6,000	101,058	112,393
Church expenses	3(b)	29,322	-	714	30,036	38,372
Major Capital Expenditure	3(c)	2,078	-	-	2,078	30,825
Total payments		126,457	-	6,714	133,172	181,589
Net of receipts/(payments) before transfers		33,664	-	-	33,664	50,512
Transfers between funds		(33,560)	33,560	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		104	33,560	-	33,664	50,512
Cash funds as at last year end		97,405	181,440	-	278,845	228,332
Cash funds at this year end	A	97,509	215,000	-	312,509	278,844

THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST HELEN WITH HOLY TRINITY, KENSINGTON
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>				
	General funds £	Designate d funds £	Restrict e d funds £	2023 £	2022 £
A Cash funds					
Cash at bank with immediate access	97,466	190,012	-	287,479	254,598
Notice deposits	-	24,988	-	24,988	24,211
Petty cash	43	-	-	43	35
	97,509	215,000	-	312,509	278,844
B Other monetary assets					
CCLA Investment Interest to Q4 2023	335	-	-	335	-
Stripe Balance on 31 Dec 2023	157	-	-	157	-
Gift aid due to charity	11,386	-	-	11,386	6,500
	11,879	-	-	11,879	6,500
C Liabilities					
Falling due within one year					
Delayed Giving	-	-	-	-	3,207
Fee for Independent Examination	1,230	-	-	1,230	1,175
Total	1,230	-	-	1,230	4,382

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Steve Divall

Steve Divall (PCC Chair)

Date: 14 April 2024

The notes on pages 11-13 form part of these accounts.

THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST HELEN WITH HOLY TRINITY, KENSINGTON
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the PCC in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the PCC for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>			Total	Total
	General funds	Designated funds	Restricted Funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
2 a) Voluntary income					
Planned giving	25,351	-	-	25,351	24,731
Collections at services	3,769	-	-	3,769	2,491
Other donations	4,682	-	-	4,682	2,373
Gift aid recovered	-	-	-	-	9,958
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
Other grants	-	-	6,714	6,714	9,136
	<u>33,801</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,714</u>	<u>40,516</u>	<u>48,690</u>
b) Fundraising income	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
c) Investment income	<u>854</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>854</u>	<u>404</u>
	<u>854</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,630</u>	<u>404</u>
d) Church activities					
Fees for weddings and funerals	954	-	-	954	1,311
Rental Income	119,722	-	-	119,722	139,319
Utility reimbursement	-	-	-	-	42,376
Other incoming resources	4,790	-	-	4,790	-
	<u>125,466</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>125,466</u>	<u>183,007</u>

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	General funds	Designated funds			
	£	£	£	£	£
3 a) Church Activities					
Mission Charitable Giving	10,897	-	-	10,897	1,283
Common Fund plus Fees due	49,190	-	-	49,190	85,200
Salaries, wages, honoraria	33,414	-	6,000	39,414	24,239
Expenses	1,557	-	-	1,557	1,671
	<u>95,058</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>101,058</u>	<u>112,393</u>

Rev Steve Divall receives a stipend from the Diocese. The cost of this stipend is not included in the above payroll cost. However, some of the Common Fund contribution is used to pay the stipend and provide accommodation (which is customary for clergy). Rev Mark Selby also receives his stipend from the Diocese, which rebills St Helen's for this cost. This amount is included in 'Salaries, wages, honoraria'. St Helen's provides Mark with accommodation and the expenses incurred by Steve and Mark whilst serving as clergy are also disclosed in the above note.

b) Church Expenses

Mission and evangelism costs	925	-	-	925	359
Church running expenses	14,250	-	-	14,250	16,646
Utility bills	12,447	-	-	12,447	19,242
Costs of trading	1,698	-	-	1,698	1,628
Other outgoing resources	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>714</u>	<u>716</u>	<u>497</u>
	<u>29,322</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>714</u>	<u>30,036</u>	<u>38,372</u>

c) Major Capital Expenditure

Major repairs to the church building	2,078	-	-	2,078	30,825
Major repairs to the church hall	-	-	-	-	-
New building work	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>2,078</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,078</u>	<u>30,825</u>

4 Movement on designated, restricted and endowment funds

	Opening				Closing
	balance £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	balance £
General funds	97,405	160,121	(126,457)	(33,560)	97,509
Designated funds					
Building Development	41,440	-	-	10,560	52,000
Emergency Building	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
Curate	90,000	-	-	23,000	113,000
	<u>181,440</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,560</u>	<u>215,000</u>
Restricted funds					
Cornhill Students Grant	-	6,000	(6,000)	-	-
Coronation Grant	<u>-</u>	<u>714</u>	<u>(714)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>6,714</u>	<u>(6,714)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u>278,845</u>	<u>166,836</u>	<u>(133,172)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>312,509</u>