

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 2024

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



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 members	Rev Mark Selby, Curate Moji Ogunkanmi, Part-Time Administrator (9 hours per week)

Trustees / PCC Members serving during 2024

Role	Name	Note
Incumbent / PCC Chair	Revd Steve Divall	
Churchwarden	Tamsin Wright	Elected 2024 APCM to 2025 APCM
Deanery Synod Member	Oness Williams	From 2023 APCM to 2026 APCM
Elected Members	Amy Pointer	Elected 2024 APCM to 2027 APCM
	Gifty Ofori	Elected 2024 APCM to 2027 APCM
	Jennifer Brown	Elected 2024 APCM to 2027 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 65* people who are not currently members of the church hear the good news of Jesus each year and for at least 10* 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.

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

*10 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 as we seek to be a church with Loves God and Loves People.

4. What we did in 2024

4.1 Ministry Review

2024 continued progress towards the goals in our Mission Action Plan. During the year:

- We met each Sunday and continued to stream services on YouTube
- A Sunday Club ran during services, each week of term time, to help young people develop their own faith by hearing about Jesus and understanding the Bible for themselves.
- A monthly Friday Club for secondary aged children continued to meet and encourage the older youngsters to ask their questions and explore the Faith
- 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 Women's Friendship Group met during the day on the first Thursday of each month
- A small group met each Thursday for prayer, with a 'hybrid' setup allowing people to join via Zoom.
- 'Prayer Together' continued 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.
- This monthly gathering to eat together meant fewer 'Bring & Share lunches after Sunday services but we naturally did this for Harvest lunch, as well as before the Community Ceilidh we ran in January.
- In the Autumn we had a series of teaching on prayer, working through the Lord's Prayer together, and at the same time, surveyed the congregation on their current habits in prayer so that we can then return to a similar question proforma and monitor progress.
- We made further progress in establishing a Pastoral Care Structure, whereby each regular member of church is linked to a member of the PCC or another Pastorally minded member of church, so that if they need support someone at church will notice and can be in touch with them to talk about how the church might help and also pray.
- We ran training meetings for Service Leaders; Sunday Club leaders and those involved in Pastoral Care.
- We hosted a service to mark the 7th anniversary of the Grenfell fire, in partnership with other local churches with the theme of 'Seeking God, Finding Hope'.
- We also hosted a service to mark the 25th anniversary of the Ladbroke Grove (Paddington) Rail Disaster, led by the Bishop of Kensington.
- We partnered with the local shops, the Residents' Association and others, under the leadership of one of our local Councillors, to revive the 'St Helen's Festival' in September – a Street Party to bring the community together.
- 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 £6,940 to our mission partners, both to invest in gospel ministry and to meet immediate needs.

4.1.1 Cornhill students

We had the privilege of hosting Ernest Mulenga for the first 6 months of the year, while he completed the Cornhill Training Course. We covered his living and travel costs and were looking forward to continuing as a mission partner when Ernest returned to Zambia in the Summer. The plan was to resume his work as a pastor and trainer, while at the same time doing a Masters via distance learning (through Cornhill Scotland). Each year begins with a residential, so Ernest returned to the UK, for his induction week at the beginning of September.

Tragically, while on that residential, Ernest died in the night as a result of a pulmonary embolism. We hosted a memorial service for Ernest, in November, in partnership with Cornhill, Cornhill

Scotland and UFM, and together with those partners and others contributed towards the repatriation of his body and ongoing support for his widow, Annie, and children, Mishaël, Raphael and Nathaniel, who he spoke about constantly and loved so much.

As a church we remember his deep love for Jesus; his servant heart and selfless commitment; a faith that was infectious; his passion for Christ and his example in reminding us to trust in God and keep going; sermons that were enjoyable and inspirational to listen to and the inspiration and mark left having witnessed a true deep love for the Lord in the life that he lived among us.

4.2 PCC Review

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

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 supported CEEC (the Church of England Evangelical Council) who have stepped up their support for churches seeking to remain orthodox in a changing denomination and gave a small gift to LGST (the London Good Stewards Trust) to aid running costs. We also gave a £700 gift to Augustine Kusi-Appiah to help fund a return flight from Ghana to the UK at the start of his second year on the masters programme run by Cornhill Scotland .

Additionally, Christ Church Kensington has made St Helen's one of its mission partners and in 2024 gave £5,300 for the support and development (sabbatical, training, counselling, retreat) of the vicar.

6. Financial Review

During the year, income increased by £30,860 to £197,696, while expenditure also increased by £27,392 to £160,563 – resulting in a surplus of £37,133. As a result, the cash held by the charity increased from £312,509 to £349,642, of which £76,092 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 £76K.

8. Quinquennial Inspection / Building Maintenance

A gutter clean was done in January and routine servicing and 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. Contractors were identified in 2024 and work will be done in 2025.

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. One of these posts was filled this year and we carried a vacancy
- 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 many of these positions, there were no Standing Committee meetings in 2024.

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).

Steve Divall (PCC Chair)

Date:

**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 2024 on pages 8 to 12 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.

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

Date:

THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST HELEN WITH HOLY TRINITY, KENSINGTON
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		Restricted Funds	2024	2023
		General Funds	Designated Funds			
		£	£	£	£	£
Income receipts						
Voluntary receipts	2(a)	55,648	-	5,540	61,188	40,516
Fundraising income	2(b)	-	-	-	-	-
Investment income	2(c)	4,737	-	-	4,737	854
Church activities	2(d)	131,771	-	-	131,771	125,466
Total receipts		<u>192,156</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,540</u>	<u>197,696</u>	<u>166,836</u>
Payments						
Church activities	3(a)	118,947	-	1,990	120,938	101,058
Church expenses	3(b)	39,404	-	-	39,404	30,036
Major Capital Expenditure	3(c)	221	-	-	221	2,078
Total payments		<u>158,573</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,990</u>	<u>160,563</u>	<u>133,172</u>
Net of receipts/(payments) before transfers		33,583	-	3,550	37,133	33,664
Transfers between funds		(55,000)	55,000	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(21,417)	55,000	3,550	37,133	33,664
Cash funds as at last year end		97,509	215,000	-	312,509	278,845
Cash funds at this year end	A	<u>76,092</u>	<u>270,000</u>	<u>3,550</u>	<u>349,642</u>	<u>312,509</u>

THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST HELEN WITH HOLY TRINITY, KENSINGTON
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		Restricted	2024	2023
	General	Designated	funds		
	funds	funds			
	£	£	£	£	£
A Cash funds					
Cash at bank with immediate access	59,383	-	3,550	62,933	287,479
Instant Access Savings	16,665	243,686	-	260,351	-
Notice deposits	-	26,314	-	26,314	24,988
Petty cash	43	-	-	43	43
	76,092	270,000	3,550	349,642	312,509
B Other monetary assets					
CCLA Investment Interest to Q4 2023	-	-	-	-	335
Stripe Balance on 31 Dec	-	-	-	-	157
Gift aid due to charity	8,021	-	-	8,021	11,386
	8,021	-	-	8,021	11,879
C Liabilities					
Falling within one year					
Fee for Rent Review Uplift	2,700	-	-	2,700	-
Fee for Independent Examination	1,290	-	-	1,290	1,230
Total	1,290	-	-	1,290	1,230

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

Steve Divall (PCC Chair)

Date: _____

The notes on pages 10-12 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 2024

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>		Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	General funds	Designated funds			
	£	£	£	£	£
2 a) Voluntary income					
Planned giving	29,541	-	-	29,541	25,351
Collections at services	5,887	-	-	5,887	3,769
Other donations	12,538	-	240	12,778	4,682
Gift aid recovered	7,683	-	-	7,683	-
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
Other grants	-	-	5,300	5,300	6,714
	<u>55,648</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,540</u>	<u>61,188</u>	<u>40,516</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>4,737</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,737</u>	<u>854</u>
	<u>4,737</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,737</u>	<u>854</u>
d) Church activities					
Fees for weddings and funerals	1,551	-	-	1,551	954
Rental Income	130,110	-	-	130,110	119,722
Utility reimbursement	-	-	-	-	-
Other incoming resources	110	-	-	110	4,790
	<u>131,771</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>131,771</u>	<u>125,466</u>

2024 REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE PCC OF ST HELEN WITH HOLY TRINITY, KENSINGTON

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	General funds	Designated funds			
	£	£	£	£	£
3 a) Church Activities					
Mission Charitable Giving	6,940	-	240	7,180	10,897
Common Fund plus Fees due	52,272	-	-	52,272	49,190
Salaries, wages, honoraria	57,234	-	-	57,234	39,414
Expenses	2,501	-	1,750	4,251	1,557
	<u>118,947</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,990</u>	<u>120,938</u>	<u>101,058</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 is funded entirely by St Helen's. These costs are included above and expenses incurred by Steve and Mark whilst serving as clergy are also disclosed in the above note.

b) Church Expenses

Mission and evangelism costs	260	-	-	260	925
Church running expenses	24,752	-	-	24,752	14,250
Utility bills	13,041	-	-	13,041	12,447
Costs of trading	1,352	-	-	1,352	1,698
Other outgoing resources	-	-	-	-	716
	<u>39,404</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,404</u>	<u>30,036</u>

c) Major Capital Expenditure

Major repairs to the church building	221	-	-	221	2,078
Major repairs to the church hall	-	-	-	-	-
New building work	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>221</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>221</u>	<u>2,078</u>

4 Movement on designated, restricted and endowment funds

	Opening				Closing
	balance £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	balance £
General funds	97,509	192,156	(158,573)	(55,000)	76,092
Designated funds					
Building Fund	52,000	-	-	48,000	100,000
Emergency Building	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
Ministry Workers	<u>113,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,000</u>	<u>120,000</u>
	<u>215,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>55,000</u>	<u>270,000</u>
Restricted funds					
Vicar Support & Development	-	5,300	(1,750)	-	3,550
Gifts for Mulenga family	<u>-</u>	<u>240</u>	<u>(240)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>5,540</u>	<u>(1,990)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,550</u>
Total funds	<u><u>312,509</u></u>	<u><u>197,696</u></u>	<u><u>(160,563)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>349,642</u></u>

We have designated £48,000 for the Building Fund in response to the architect's quinquennial inspection, highlighting the poor state of the gutters and downpipes and in light of the need for roofing work.

Having been able to fund the curate without drawing on moneys set aside, we decided to redesignate this fund as being for 'Ministry Workers'. That could be a future curate or assistant minister or youth worker or it could be a partnership with an agency like LCM, for example, reaching out to the parish and visiting homes. We designated an additional £7,000 to that purpose.