

ST HELEN AUCKLAND PCC

England & Wales - Charity number 1163265

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2015-08-24

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 34 Ullswater Avenue
West Auckland
Bishop Auckland
DL14 9LR

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Activities

Objects: PROMOTING IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Activities: Place of worship as a member of the Church of England

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Durham

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£106,320	£95,920	-	-
2023-12-31	£103,528	£104,021	-	-
2022-12-31	£126,628	£131,942	-	-
2021-12-31	£80,145	£88,838	-	-
2020-12-31	£71,249	£91,983	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ALYSON SMITH		2019-04-06
Anne Skillcorn		2017-04-05
Claire Bake		2017-04-05
Dianne Chew		2017-04-05
Ian Skillcorn		2017-04-05
JOHN BAKE		2019-04-06
Kay Richardson		2017-04-05
Margaret Clark		2025-02-01
Marion Curtis		2017-04-05
Marjorie Carole Brodie		2018-05-08
PAT BAKE		2019-04-06
Patricia Jean Elliott		2025-02-01
Vannessa Pearson		2018-04-08

ST HELEN AUCKLAND PCC

England & Wales - Charity number 1163265

Accounts

S. HELEN AUCKLAND

The Parish Church of West Auckland, St Helen Auckland and Tindale

The Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2024



Incumbent
Vacancy

Bank
Barclays Bank
Business Park
Bishop Auckland

Independent Examiner
Mr. Joseph Kellett FMAAT

*S. Helen Auckland is a Society Parish under the
Episcopal care of the Bishop of Beverley*

REPORT OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDING

31st DECEMBER 2024

S Helen's P.C.C. has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent of the parish, in promoting the ecclesiastical parish, and the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for S Helen's Parish Church and S Helen's Parish Centre.

Membership

Members of the P.C.C. are either *ex-officio* members or are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year, the following served as members of the P.C.C.

Incumbent: Vacant

Churchwardens:

Mr. John Bake
Mrs. Anne Skillcorn

Lay Chairman: Mr. John Bake

Deanery Synod

Representatives: Miss Marion Curtis
Mrs. Anne Skillcorn
Miss Vanessa Pearson

Elected Members: Mrs Pat Bake
Miss Claire Bake
Miss Marjorie Brodie
Miss Marion Curtis
Mrs Dianne Chew
Mr Robin Brown
Mrs Kay Richardson
Mr Ian Skillcorn
Miss Alyson Smith
Mrs Pat Elliott
Mrs Margaret Clark
Mr Paul Riding

P.C.C. Treasurer: Mrs. Pat Bake ACMA MAAT.

P.C.C. Secretary: Miss Vanessa Pearson

Church Wardens and members of the Deanery Synod are ex-officio members of the PCC.

Constitution

The constitution is that of the Constitution of the Church of England, which can be found in "A Handbook for Churchwardens and Parochial Church Councillors" Mowbray ISBN 0-264-67411-1.

Committees

The P.C.C. operates through a Standing Committee, which can meet between full meetings of the P.C.C. It is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the P.C.C. between its meetings, subject to any direction given by the Church Council.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll was fully in accordance with church representation rules which states the roll has to be fully revised every six years and a full review has taken place this year. The current roll consists of 103 persons.

Review of the Work of the P.C.C.

The Parochial Church Council has met six times this year. Vanessa Pearson was elected during the May PCC meeting as Secretary.

The work of the PCC has centred around the vacancy and the completion of the Vacancy Audit Report for the Diocese.

The Bronze Award for Eco Church has been achieved, and we are currently working on obtaining Silver.

For the time being the roof has had to be put on a back burner until the post of Vicar is filled.

Further areas included in PCC meetings this year have included:

- Safeguarding – Dianne Chew gives regular updates on safeguarding which have included the online portal, DBS updates and safeguarding training renewal.
- The Parish Centre – The guttering and roof repairs have been completed at the Centre and the Centre painted throughout.
- Children and Youth Work – Busy Bees and Jolly Tots continue to thrive lead by a small but very enthusiastic band, many, many thanks to those who help in any way.
- Welcoming spaces was resurrected for the winter months meeting in the Centre on a Monday afternoon.

Vanessa Pearson

Secretary to the PCC, Auckland St Helen

Deanery Synod Report

Our three members of synod have attended the deanery meetings and have reported back any relevant information to the PCC- guest speakers included Eco Church, Diocesan Mission Officer, Parish Giving, caring for a world. Deanery Mission Grants are available for any new projects £500.

Treasurer's Report

Planned giving was down on the previous year mainly due to regular givers either passing away or moving out of the area and this resulted in our tax claim also being reduced.

Funerals, and weddings were financially about the same but there was an increase in general alms giving.

The number of funerals, baptisms, and weddings has continued to decline.

Fund raising was down on previous years but has shown a marked increase so far for 2025.

We did well with Grants for the Youth Work and the Parish centre which has meant that both the parish centre and youth work are currently self supporting.

The quota was paid in full.

Overall total cash funds increased in 2024 due to;

- a. Just over £3k being obtained in farm rent which covered the last 3 years
- b. A grant of £15k being obtained to refurbish the Centre Kitchen

Although the cash funds are £14k higher than last years closing - £15k is ring fenced for the kitchen.

Safeguarding

Mrs. Dianne Chew is our parish safeguarding officer. All those involved in children's work or working with vulnerable adults are DBS checked, and a role of the names is maintained. Safeguarding training took places for all officers, our policies are displayed with contact numbers on the church and centre notice board, web site and face book page Safeguarding is on each PCC Agenda. The Diocese have created dashboards by which they communicate any safeguarding issues to the Parishes and this goes to the Churchwardens as well as the Parish Safe Guarding Officer

The Report of the Fabric and Ornaments of the Church

The building is well looked after and major works have been completed over the last 20 years including a major restoration of the church, including a new floor, under floor heating, damp protection, new pews and other associated works, the organ has been restored and added to the church has had a full rewire and new lighting scheme with external floodlighting. Two new entrance doors with glass installed along with stonework repairs to the porch. The vestry has been completely refitted including a new access staircase. A new extension including a toilet and meeting room was completed in 2018 after 10 years of planning and fundraising. Minor repairs are undertaken as and when necessary.

The church is cleaned each week along with brass, silver and linen. The Guild of S. Martha's team work hard every week to keep the church in first class order.

The roof and drains are cleared twice a year, the boilers serviced, organ tuned, and fire extinguishers serviced. All electrical and gas certificates are up to date.

The under-floor heating is in constant use during the winter months, enabling background heat to the building all day to help preserve the fabric of the building and create a warm environment for daily worship.

The church has undergone an inspection by the Fire Brigade and we were given a clean bill of health.

The Quinquennial inspection was undertaken on 8th March 2021 and was received on 18th November 2021. The report highlights some issue with re-pointing stonework, the chancel roof, and chancel coping stones. A faculty has now been granted for the total work which needs to be carried out at an estimated cost of £370,762.

Additions to the ornaments of the church during 2024

No additions to the fabric were made this year.

Works to the Church during 2024

- Soak-away drains cleared, drain pipes and roof gullies checked January and November.
- Fire extinguishers checked and serviced.
- Roof alarm system serviced.
- Gas boilers repaired and serviced and gas certificate issue.
- The external lights at ground level which are now obsolete were replaced with energy saving fittings in March 2022 is now completed.
- Organ tuned twice during the year.
- The church is heated through the week from October to April by the under-floor system to

protect the fabric of the building and the organ.

- Church doors treated with Osmo oil.
- Boiler repaired in the Ark.
- The Ark alarm repaired.

Pastoral review

As we have been in interregnum for nearly all of 2024 pastoral work has been limited but we have still managed the following

- Growing Durham Adult Learning group visited Jolly Tots and Welcoming Spaces.
- A full programme of social events was held enjoyed during the year.
- Parish pilgrimage to Walsingham in August. Some members of the parish attend the National Pilgrimage during the late May bank holiday.
- A weekly Lent lunch was held in aid of a charity.
- Members of the church serve the wider church by attending, Deanery Synod, and Patronal Festivals around the diocese.
- Members of the congregation are involved in many social and community activities within the parish including visiting the sick, providing transport for the elderly, providing meals for the lonely on Christmas Day, W.I. meetings, helping with Sunday School and youth work.
- The parish maintains its own website, Facebook page and weekly notice sheet.
- We meet for coffee and cake on Sunday and Wednesday after Mass in the Ark.
- Quiz night each month.
- Computer skill classes for all age groups.
- Warm spaces were opened in the Parish Centre.
- 4 young members of the congregation are preparing for Confirmation.

Provision for young people

- Jolly Tots pre-school meet weekly with lunch provided.
- Busy Bees preschool meet weekly with lunch provided.
- Messy Church meets once per month.
- The parish provide Beavers, Cub and Scout Groups.
- Copeland Road, Oakley Cross and S. Helen's school visited on a regular basis for assemblies and church visits.
- School services and visits of children for course work take place in the church.
- Sunday Club which runs in the Ark during the first half of the Parish Mass.
- Our choir continues to be strong and is a great support to the Mass.
- Our serving team has ten members of mixed age including four children under 12.
- Two teenagers are members of the Choir.

The Ark

- Weekly Coffee and open church.
- Monthly quiz nights.
- Silver surfers.
- Local history club.
- Coffee after services.

- Choir practice.
- Funeral and baptism teas.
- ABRSM music exams.

The Parish Centre

A Health and Safety Policy has been agreed, and a Fire Policy is in place. A Policy for the Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults is in place.

Works to the centre in 2024

The guttering and down-comers have been fully replaced.

Other work included:

- Gas boilers serviced.
- Fire extinguished serviced.

Centre users:

- Jolly Tots
- Busy Bees
- Scout, beaver and cub groups
- Guide group
- Slimming World
- Church social events
- Children's birthday parties
- Funeral and baptism teas
- Community events

The centre is well used an excellent facility for the parish and community.

The Vicarage

The vicarage has been sold STC and a new vicarage purchased by the Diocese.

Works to the Vicarage

No works were carried out to the vicarage during the past year.

Conclusion

We hope that 2025 will see us able to appoint a new Vicar and to move forward fulfilling our Mission Statement -

Our mission is to love, serve and worship Our Lord Jesus Christ

John Bake - PCC Chairman
March 2025

S. Helen Auckland PCC
Receipts and Payment Account

2024

Receipts	
Voluntary Income	
Planned Giving	21936
Income Tax recovered	12827
Alms	2465
Donations/Charities	1703
Heat and Light Appeal	
Receipts from Church Activities	
PCC Fees	1427
Diocesan Fees	1042
Hall/Ark Lettings	10295
Roof Fund	
Activities for generating funds	
Fund Raising	9281
Curate's House Rent	
Nicholson Trust Interest 2	
sub total	60976
Non-recurring receipts	
Snowdon Youth Work Trust	0
DCC - Warm spaces	
PCP NHS	
DCC - Jolly Tots	
Sir James Knott-Jersey-Kitchen	
Walsingham- Bus	
St John of God- children Walsingham	
Warm Spaces	0
Church Com H/L	0
North East Churches	0
Grants Youth Worker	
Grants Gaunless Gateway	0
Believe	
Farm Rent	0
Total Receipts	60976
Payments	
Quota	30000
Administration	2484
Roof Fund	
Messy Church	
Charities	1201
Church Repairs	0
Centre Repairs	
Fund raising	2380
Maintenance/Insurance	9813
Youth Worker Exp	0

Youth Worker	0
Youth Work scotto	
Believe	
Parish Centre	12055
Heat and Light	4113
Heat and Light Subsidy	300
Cost of Services	3096
Vicarage Exp	400
Support Costs	5031
Clergy Exp	1900
stationery	754
Walsingham	2420
Wm Leech Loan repayments	
Total Payments	75947
Net receipts/payments	-14971
Transfers between funds	10000
Cash funds last year	5953
Cash funds this year end	982
	Total
Cash Funds	
Parish Current-barclays	
Restricted Deposit Acc-barclay	
Centre Current	
CCLA Investment	
CCLA Investment Diocese	
Total cash funds	94346
Restricted funds under the Nicholson Trust are as per the the Vicar and Churchwardens and not under the jurisdiction of these accounts for clarity purposes only.	
This trust money is available for the upkeep of the fabric	
Investment Assets stated at cost	
Nicholson Trust Property Pool Shares	
Curates House	

Designated	Nicholson Trust Restricted	Total Funds
		21936
		12827
		2465
0		1703
2998		2998
		0
		1427
0		1042
		10295
1484		1484
		0
2504		11785
3973	0	3973
	6114	6114
10960	6114	78050
0		0
5500	0	5500
0		0
1000		1000
15000		15000
1170		1170
1250		1250
		0
0		0
		0
0		0
		0
500		500
3850		3850
39230	6114	106320
		0
	0	30000
		2484
0		0
0		0
0		1201
0		0
10400		10400
0		2380
0		9813
6600		6600

		0
2473		2473
0		0
		12055
		4113
		300
		3096
		400
		5031
		1900
		754
500		2920
0		0
19973	0	95920
19257	6114	10400
-10000		0
35188	42806	83946
44445	48920	94346
Actual	Unrestricted	Restricted
PCC Funds	Funds	Funds
8143		20000
11483		0
	5800	
		0
19626	5800	20000
terms of the legacy under the control of		
on of the PCC but have been included in		
of the Parish Church of S.Helen Auckland only		

Last Year
23882
14966
3771
942
2590
1584
0
10885
0
0
14033
3709
6114
82476
10000
0
2500
0
0
0
0
0
0
0
0
9667
0
0
0
104643
30000
3164
0
0
940
925
2244
9434
3564

9314
2727
4793
11158
4985
600
4885
2509
7451
686
-358
5000
104021
Nicholson
Trust
46612
2308
48920
75000
155000



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name: St. Helen Auckland PCC

On accounts for the year ended

31.12.24

Charity no (if any)

1163265.

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/24.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 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 (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
• 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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: [Signature]

Date: 29-4-25

Name: JOSEPH KELLETT

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

FMAAT.

Address:

12 GREENFINCH ROAD
DMS OGG

ST HELEN AUCKLAND PCC

England & Wales - Charity number 1163265

Accounts

S. HELEN AUCKLAND

The Parish Church of West Auckland, St Helen Auckland and Tindale

The Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2023



Incumbent

The Revd. Canon Robert McTeer
The Vicarage
Manor Road
St Helen

Auckland Bank

Barclays Bank
Business Park
Bishop Auckland

Independent Examiner

Mr Joseph Kellett FMAAT

*S. Helen Auckland is a Society Parish under the
Episcopal care of the Bishop of Beverley*

REPORT OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDING

31st DECEMBER 2023

S Helen's P.C.C. has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent of the parish, in promoting the ecclesiastical parish, and the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for S Helen's Parish Church and S Helen's Parish Centre.

Membership

Members of the P.C.C. are either *ex-officio* members or are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year, the following served as members of the P.C.C.

Incumbent: The Rev'd Canon Robert McTeer (Chairman)

Curate The Rev'd Edward Gunn

Churchwardens:

Mr. John Bake
Mrs Anne Skillcorn

Lay Chairman: Mr John Bake

Deanery Synod

Representatives: Mrs Anne Skillcorn
Miss Vannessa Pearson
Miss Marion Curtis

Elected Members: Mrs Pat Bake
Miss Claire Bake
Miss Marjorie Brodie
Mr Robin Brown
Mrs Margaret Clark
Mrs Pat Elloitt
Miss Marion Curtis
Mrs Dianne Chew
Mrs Kay Richardson
Mr Paul Riding
Mr Ian Skillcorn
Miss Alyson Smith

P.C.C. Treasurer: Mrs Pat Bake ACMA MAAT.

P.C.C. Secretary: Mrs Emma Gunn

Church Wardens and members of the Deanery Synod are ex-officio members of the PCC

Constitution

The constitution is that of the Constitution of the Church of England, which may be found in “A Handbook for Churchwardens and Parochial Church Councillors” Mowbray ISBN 0-264-67411-1

Committees

The P.C.C. operates through a Standing Committee, which can meet between full meetings of the P.C.C. It is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the P.C.C. between its meetings, subject to any direction given by the Church Council.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll was fully in accordance with church representation rules which states the roll has to be fully revised every six years. The current roll consists of 125 persons.

Review of the Work of the P.C.C.

The Parochial Church Council has met four times this year. Gareth Gladman stepped down as PCC secretary and Emma Gunn was elected during the 23.5.22 PCC meeting. Many thanks for all Gareth's hard work and dedication shown during his time as PCC secretary.

The work of the PCC has mainly centred around the roof issues this year. This has included reading through the Quinquennial Inspection, and a report from the Quantity Surveyor which detailed the costing for the repair work. From this a 'roof committee' was formed to discuss funding, grants and projects that would allow us to apply for lottery heritage grants as well as other grants. The roof committee have met a further 3 times and have decided on a project that will hopefully satisfy the heritage requirements of the lottery grant. It was approved by the PCC to employ the architect to complete the grant process to ensure we stand the best chance of receiving the money. The proposals for the work have been sent to Diocesan Advisory Committee for a faculty approval but at the last PCC meeting (9.1.23) we had no update about this.

Further areas included in PCC meetings this year have included:

- Safeguarding - Diane Chew gives regular updates on safeguarding which have included the online portal, DBS updates and safeguarding training renewal.
- The Parish Centre - we have received several grants (£20,000 from Believe housing, £4,000 for the emergency doors) which has allowed improvements to be carried out including 4 windows being added, new emergency doors and shower cubicles being turned into storage. Further grants are going to need to be sourced to ensure the centre is maintained specifically for guttering, painting, floors and outdoor paving.
- Children and Youth Work - Gareth Gladman, the youth and community worker, has reported on how the main groups he runs are going including Jolly Tots and Busy Bees..

Emma Gunn Secretary to the PCC, Auckland St Helen

Deanery Synod Report

Treasurer's Report

The year ended with a cash loss of £4k but considering we repaid the final instalment of the Leech loan we in fact broke even on our current accounts. We paid our quota to the Diocese of £30k (a £2k increase on 2022) Youth and Community work expenses were lower than in 2022 as the employed Community and

Youth Worker reduced his hours at the end of Q2 and left before the year end thus making a saving. All other costs are in line with previous years.

Planned giving was slightly up and we will have a major appeal in Lent 2024 to try and increase this. Hall lettings were slightly down with the departure of LCBC and Wednesday Slimming World but these have now been replaced with a Saturday morning Slimming Group. The number of Church Funerals continues to fall as in line with other Churches. We received a grant of £2500.00 from the PCP/NHS to start a craft/chat club and due to the Community Worker leaving this will not commence until February 2024.

Pat Bake

Treasurer

Youth and Community Report

The last couple of years has seen most of the significant work focus around the Parish Centre, and what we can offer in the way of Mission to people in these uncertain economic times, and with the cost of living crisis.

Following a very generous grant from the Housing Association, Believe, we have improved our storage facilities, replaced much of the tired play equipment and created a new sensory space in the old Parish Office. This last has meant that what we offer in the Centre twice a week is more attractive to carers with very young children, and has provided a play space for children with additional needs away from the hubbub of the main hall.

The Tuesday Jolly Tots, and Thursday Busy Bees groups remain popular with both groups receiving a free hot lunch and numbers over 50 at each session.

Fr Edward and Emma Gunn ran a youth group called 'Ark Youth' which has grown in the space of three months to include up to 15 teenagers, with others expressing an interest to come. They enjoy activities such as bowling and learning circus skills! From this group (who are not all Church kids) a group of eight attended the week long 'Youth Pilgrimage' at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk in August. The young people did an amazing job of helping to fundraise for this!

Fr Edward was also chaplain to Bishop Auckland ATC and visited once per month until he left the parish in December 2023. The Air Training Corps also attended church a couple of times per year.

Safeguarding

Mrs. Dianne Chew is our parish safeguarding office. All those involved in children's work or working with vulnerable adults are DBS checked and a role of the names is maintained. Safeguarding training took place for all officers, PCC members and some members of the congregation in 2020 and training is due once again in 2023. Our policies are displayed with contact numbers on the church and centre notice board web site and face book page. Safeguarding is on each PCC Agenda.

The Report of the Fabric and Ornaments of the Church

The building is well looked after and major works have been completed over the last 20 years including a major restoration of the church, including a new floor, under floor heating, damp protection, new pews and other associated works, the organ has been restored and added to. The church has had a full rewire and new lighting scheme with external floodlighting. Two new entrance doors with glass installed along with stonework repairs to the porch. The vestry has been completely refitted including a new access staircase. A new extension including a toilet and meeting room was completed in 2018 after 10 years of planning and fundraising. Minor repairs are undertaken as and when necessary.

The church is cleaned each week along with brass, silver and linen. The Guild of S. Martha's team work hard every week to keep the church in first class order.

The roof and drains are cleared twice a year, the boilers serviced, organ tuned, and fire extinguishers serviced. All electrical and gas certificates are up to date

Work has been completed to upgrade the outdoor floodlights.
The Alarms system has been upgraded.

The under floor heating is in constant use during the winter months, enabling background heat to the building all day to help preserve the fabric of the building and create a warm environment for daily worship.

The Ark extension built during 2018 it is now in full use most days for a variety of events for the local community.

The Quinquennial inspection was undertaken on 8th March 2021 and was received on 18th November 2021. The report highlights some issue with re-pointing stonework, the chancel roof, and chancel coping stones. A facility has now been granted for the total work which needs to be carried out in the QI at an estimated cost of £370,762 and we will be approaching charities and trusts for grants during 2023 and beyond.

Additions to the ornaments of the church during 2023

No additions to the fabric were made this year

Works to the Church during 2023

- Soak-away drains cleared, drain pipes and roof gullies checked January and November.
- Fire extinguishers checked and serviced.
- Roof alarm system serviced.
- Gas boilers repaired and serviced and gas certificate issue.
- The external lights at ground level which are now obsolete were replaced with energy saving fittings
- Organ tuned twice during the year.
- The church is heated through the week from October to April by the under-floor system to protect the fabric of the building and the organ.
- Church doors treated with Osmo oil.
- Boiler repaired in the Ark.
- The Ark alarm repaired.
- New Alarm fitted into church

Pastoral review

The main pastoral work in a normal year at of S. Helen's includes:

- Daily Mass and offices.

- The needy, sick, dying and bereaved were visited at home or in the hospital by the Vicar, curate and Eucharistic Ministers.
- Members of the parish received home visits and the housebound received communion at home
- Growing Durham Adult Learning group visited church and members of the congregation joined the group for coffee or tea.
- A full programme of social events was held enjoyed during the year.
- Parish pilgrimage to Walsingham each year. Some members of the parish attend the National Pilgrimage late May bank holiday.
- A weekly Lent lunch is held in aid of a charity.
- Fr McTeer and members of the church serve the wider church by attending; Deanery Synod, Forward in Faith Chapter, Society of the Holy Cross chapters, Forward in Faith National Assembly and attended various Patronal Festivals around the diocese. The Vicar also serves as a Trustee to Durham Historic Churches Trust and Local Vicar of the Society of the Holy Cross.
- Fr McTeer retired from the Governing Body of Copeland Road School. He stood down from St Helen's School during 2022 after 25 years of service. Fr Edward was a governor of Oakley Cross School until December 2023. School work along with assemblies accounts for quite a large proportion of clergy time. Durham County Council presented Fr. McTeer with a Long Service Award for over 25 years of service as school governor.
- Members of the congregation are involved in many social and community activities within the parish including fostering of children, school governors, visiting the sick, providing transport for the elderly, providing meals for the lonely on Christmas Day, W.I. meetings, helping with Sunday School and youth work.
- The parish maintains its own website, Facebook page and weekly notice sheet. More information is now sent electronically.
- We meet for coffee and cake on Sunday and Wednesday after Mass in the new extension.
- Quiz night each month.
- Computer skill classes for all age groups.

Provision for young people

- Jolly Tots pre-school meet weekly with lunch provided.
- Busy Bees preschool meet weekly with lunch provided.
- Messy Church meets once per month.
- The parish provide Beavers, Cub and Scout Groups.
- Copeland Road, Oakley Cross and S. Helen's school visited on a regular basis for assemblies and church visits.
- School services and visits of children for course work take place in the church.
- Fr McTeer is Vice President of Bishop Auckland District Scouts.
- Around 6-8 children attend Sunday Club which runs in the Ark during the first half of the parish mass.
- Two children are members of our junior choir.
- Our serving team has ten members of mixed age including four children under 10 and two teenagers.
- A monthly teenage group of 15 meet once per month in the Ark or for nights out.
- We have six young servers under 13 year of age and two teenagers along with three adults.

The Ark

- Weekly Coffee and open church.
- Community lunch on Wednesday.
- Monthly quiz nights.
- Silver surfers.
- Local history club.
- Coffee after services.
- Craft afternoon once per month
- Choir practice.
- Funeral and baptism teas.

Parish statistics for 2022

The Worshipping community including Messy Church is 123 consisting of

- Children 26
- Young people (11-17) 10.
- Adults (18-69) 40
- Adults (over 70) 45.
- Baptisms 23.
- Weddings 0
- Funerals 20 conducted through the ministry of S. Helen's.
- Easter attendance was 120 school service attendances.
- Christmas attendance 523 (which includes schools services).
- Average Sunday attendance in 2023 54 Adults and 8 Children making an average Parish Mass attendance of 60.
- Average weekly communions including weekday masses in 2023 were 110.
- Wednesday Mass 2023 Mass has an average attendance of 30 with other weekdays from 3 to 9 depending on the day.
- Monthly attendance at Messy Church of 12-20 people in 2023.
- Jolly tot average attendance is 45-up to up to 60 school holidays as siblings join for the session
- Busy bees average attendance is 40 up to 55 school holidays as siblings join for the session

The Parish Centre

A Health and Safety Policy has been agreed and a Fire Policy is in place. A Policy for the Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults is in place.

Works to the centre in 2023

Windows were installed via a grant for the parish centre main hall and lounge area achieving natural light into the building.

Other work included:

- Gas boilers serviced
- Fire extinguished serviced
- Windows installed
- Guttering around the building renewed
- painted as a community project by Trades4care. Grants are being applied for the repair guttering at a cost of £11,000.
- Paths repaired in entrance

- Raised garden installed

Centre users:

- Jolly Tots
- Busy Bees
- Scout, beaver and cub groups
- Guide group
- Slimming World
- Church social events
- Children's birthday parties
- Funeral and baptism teas
- Community events

The centre is well used a excellent facility for the parish and community

The Vicarage

The Quinquennial Inspection took place in October 2021 by the diocesan surveyor, It was reported, "The property is particularly well maintained and cared for and has no apparent structural defects".

The size of the vicarage along with no double glazing means it is a struggle for the incumbent to heat it adequately with very large heating bills to heat a selection of rooms to 15 degrees for part of the day. A wood burner helps heat the main reception room during the evening.

The gardens continued to be well maintained with the help of a gardener who works two hours per week.

Works to the Vicarage

No works were carried out to the vicarage during the past year

Conclusion

Part way through 2023 we started to feel that normal worship attendance and social events had reverted to pre-pandemic levels. We were only closed when ordered to do so and remained open while many other parishes closed. This is reflected in our bounce back.

We celebrated the coronation in May 2023 of HM King Charles III

Some patterns of attendance have changed from Sunday to weekdays. Some people are simply out of the habit of coming to church at all, some are less regular and some have found other things to do on Sundays. However, we have an increase of new people worshipping with us.

Fr Edward our curate left the parish in December to take up the appointment of Shine Priest at Walsingham

Mr. Gareth Gladman our Youth and Community Worker left the parish to be ordained deacon and now serves at Tudhoe and Bowburn.

Fr Peter Anderton carried on as Associate Priest and is a great help to the parish.

One of the great strengths of S. Helen's is the large number of people taking on responsibility and doing some work or service in the parish. A lot of people doing something small achieves great results. I am extremely grateful for this sharing of responsibility, commitment and collaboration of so many to the parish and our service and mission.

The improvement of our choral tradition is still a major objective. We will continue to work to become a centre of excellence in worship, prayer and service to our community and the wider church. This in itself can lead to growth. Our Director of Music, Mrs. Joan Johnson is outstanding in her commitment to the music of the parish.

It is interesting that young people and young adults and children seem to be attracted to traditional teaching, ceremonial, prayer, worship and music. As a parish we will continue to remain faithful to the catholic faith and practice that comes to us from the apostles and of which the Church of England is part, working and praying for the re-union of the Church of God, celebrating the Mass and offices each day, trying to order our lives to the teaching of our Lord in Holy Scripture, proclaiming the word of God, building up our faith, baptising our children, caring for the sick and the poor, providing for our young people, serving those in need, burying the dead, caring for the bereaved and proclaiming Christ crucified, died and risen.

We are committed to worshipping God, teaching and nurturing our people, serving our community in Christian love and joy, with a passion for mission and conversion using the Sacraments of the Church and Holy Scriptures, confident that

THE MASS IS THE GREATEST ACT OF MISSION OF THE CHURCH

and the ability of the Mass and good worship to build the discipleship of the congregation and convert people to the Christian faith and a living relationship with Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

A number of our people are members of the "Save Parish Church Movement". The traditional parish system is by far the best way to stop the decline of the Church of England. We are committed to simply being the Parish Church in West Auckland, St Helen Auckland and Tindale Crescent. To celebrate the Mass and daily offices which deepens our discipleship and inspires us to go out and serve our community and bring more people to experience the life changing love of God.

This is my last report before retirement after 29 years in the parish. I would like to thank all past and present PCC members, wardens and congregation, (that is the people of S. Helen's who attend and who contribute time, talent and money) and the local community for 29 years of happy ministry in this community and church. We have achieved a great deal in that period and the restoration and extension to the church, the rebuilding of the organ and the purchase of the Parish Centre being the major projects of many.

The parish is in a good place, finances are sound and the PCC and congregation are committed to growing the parish, serving God and the community.

Our mission is to love, serve and worship Our Lord Jesus Christ

To God be the Glory

The Reverend Canon Robert McTeer SSC Vicar and PCC Chairman 15th March 2024

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	S. Helen Auckland PCC Current Account							
2	ACCOUNTS 2023							
3								
4	Income		£		£			
5			2023		2022			
6	PLANNED GIVING		23882		21471			
7	Tax recoverd		14966		10803			
8	ALMS		3771		3011			
9	Christmas Appeal				0			
10	CHARITIES		375		1432			
11	Tea and Coffee		2021		1065			
12	PCC Fees		1584		1860			
13	Diocesan Fees		2593		2696			
14	Organist and Verger		2205		1910			
15	FUND RAISING		12012		13874			
16	Ark Youth		91					
17	Lamps				544			
18	Organ Fund				100			
19	Heat and Light		2590		3140			
20	Roof Fund				410			
21	Ark Rent		1120		1090			
22	Donations		567		1200			
23			67777		64606			
24	Donations / Grants							
25	Snowdon Trust Youth Work		10000		10000			
26	PCP NHS Craft Club		2500		0			
27	Lord Crewe				100			
28	Millbank Sale				0			
29	Grants - Youth Worker		9667		6667			
30	Grants - Tesco				0			
31	Farm Rent							
32	Messy church - deanery				300			
33	Believe				19000			
34	Warm Space				1000			
35	Church Comm H/L				4590			
36	Scotto				5200			
37	North East churches - covid				0			
38	Transfers from Trust							
39	VAT Refund		0		0			
40			22167		46857			
41								
42	Curates House Rent		3709		3375			
43	Walsingham		358		0			
44	Receipts for the year		94012		114838			
45	Expenditure							
46	QUOTA		30000		28000			
47	Wm Leech Loan Repay		5000		5000			
48	Roof Restoration				17072			
49	Administration		3164		3442			
50	Other church repairs		925		0			
51	CHARITIES		940		1836			
52	Messy Church				65			
53	DBF Fees		2593		2696			
54	FUND RAISING EXPENSES		2244		2451			
55	MAINTENANCE/Insurance		9434		10548			
56	Heat and Light		4985		4801			
57	Heat and Light Vicarage		600					
58	Cost of Service		4885		3419	£249.53		
59	STATIONERY		686		1210			
60	Walsingham Deposit c/f		0		200			
61	Youth Worker		9314		13195			
62	Youth Work Provision and Costs		3564		6564			
63	Youth Work Scotto		2727		352			
64	Support Costs- Lay workers and organi		4714		4191			
65	Believe		4793		12416			
66	Clergy Exp		7451		6635	£6,250.00		
67	Curates House Maint/Insurance				0			
68	West 60				0			
69	Ordination				991			
70								
71	Total Expenditure		98018		125084			
72								
73	Net receipts		-4007	0	-10246			
74								
75	Bank Balances b/f		36797		47042			
76						bank statements	£20,679.70	
77	Bank Balance c/f		32790		36797		£9,287.58	
78							£29,967.28	
79						To Clear	£2,822.48	
80	RESTRICTED						£32,789.76	
81	Millbank Sale		20000					
82	Youth Work		8764					
83	Scotto		2121					
84	Wm Leach Balance		0					
85	Believe		1791					
86			30885					
87								
88	Unrestricted Balance		1905					
89								
90								
91								
92								
93								
94								
95								

St Helen Auckland Parish Centre

ACCOUNTS 2023

<u>Income</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>Lettings</u>		
Guides	774	416
Scouts	2340	2241
Slimming World	849	1644
Church - Youth Work	2000	1800
DCC	0	272
Others	272	48
Parties	737	1059
LCBC	51	1700
	<u>7023</u>	<u>9180</u>
Donations / Grants	2650	3000
<u>Receipts for the year</u>	<u>9673</u>	<u>12180</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Consummables	196	224
Cleaning	2875	2480
Gas + Electric	2225	5091
Water	362	403
Maintenance	3545	525
Insurance	1755	1625
Sundry	200	540
<u>Expenditure for the year</u>	<u>11158</u>	<u>10888</u>
<u>Net receipts</u>	<u>-1485</u>	<u>-1708</u>
<u>Bank Balances b/f</u>	<u>9793</u>	<u>8501</u>
<u>Bank Balance c/f</u>	<u>8308</u>	<u>9793</u>
<u>Deposit ACC</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>41</u>

Notes
Guides to pay 773

Nicholson Trust Account 1 (held by the Diocese)

	2023	2022		2023	2022
Opening Balance	2308	2308	Quota-transfer to dioces	0	0
			Closing Bal	2308	2308
	2308	2308		2308	2308

The money in these accounts can only under the terms of the trust be available for the upkeep of the fabric of the Parish Church of S Helen Auckland only and it is at the discretion of the incumbent and church wardens

	2023	2022		2023	2022
Opening Balance	35500	31285	Withdrawn	0	0
Property Fund	75000	75000			
Nicholson Trust					
100 Club	0	0			
Interest	4998	4215			
			Closing Bal	40498	35500
			Property fund	75000	75000
	115498	110500		115498	110500

The money in these accounts can only under the terms of the trust be available for the upkeep of the fabric of the Parish Church of S Helen Auckland only and it is at the discretion of the incumbent and church wardens
The property fund shares were valued at 70397.26 (73839.26) as at 31.12.23(31.12.22)

	Unrestricted Funds	Organ/Kibi Parish Centre Fund Walsingham Restricted	Nicholson Trust Restricted	Total Funds	Last Year
Receipts					
<u>Voluntary Income</u>					
Planned Giving	23882			23882	21471
Income Tax recovered	14966			14966	10803
Aims	3771			3771	3011
Donations/Charities	942	0		942	2632
Heat and Light Appeal		2590		2590	3140
<u>Receipts from Church Activities</u>					
PCC Fees	1584			1584	1860
Diocesan Fees	0	0		0	0
Lamps	0			0	544
Hall/Ark Lettings	10885			10885	13271
Organ Fund		0			100
Roof Fund		0			410
<u>Activities for generating funds</u>					
Fund Raising	12012	2021		14033	14939
Curate's House Rent		3709	0	3709	3375
Nicholson Trust Interest 2			4998	4998	4215
sub total	68043	8320	4998	81361	79771
Non-recurring receipts					
Snowdon Youth Work Trust	0	10000		10000	10000
Millbank Sale		0	0	0	0
PCP NHS		2500		2500	0
Lord Crewe		0		0	100
DCMS VAT Refund		0		0	0
Scotto Food Jolly Tots		0		0	5200
Deanery Messy church		0		0	300
Warm Spaces	0			0	1000
Church Com H/L	0	0		0	4590
North East Churches	0			0	0
Grants Youth Worker		9667		9667	6667
Grants Gaunless Gateway	0			0	0
Believe		0		0	19000
Farm Rent	0	0		0	0
Total Receipts	68043	30487	4998	103528	126628
<u>Payments</u>					
Quota	30000		0	30000	28000
Administration	3164			3164	3442
Roof Fund		0		0	17072
Messy Church		0		0	65
Charities	940	0		940	1836
Church Repairs	925	0		925	0
Fund raising	2244	0		2244	3027
Maintenance/Insurance	9434	0		9434	10548
Youth Worker Exp	0	3564		3564	6564
Youth Worker	0	9314		9314	13195
Youth Work scotto		2727		2727	352
Believe		4793		4793	12416
Parish Centre	11158			11158	10889
Heat and Light	4985			4985	4801
Heat and Light Subsidy	600			600	
Cost of Services	4885			4885	3419
Support Costs	2509			2509	2281
Clergy Exp	7451			7451	6635
Ordination	0	0		0	990
stationery	686			686	1210
Walsingham	0	-358		-358	200
Wm Leech Loan repayments		5000		5000	5000
Total Payments	78982	25039	0	104021	131942
Net receipts/payments	-10939	5449	4998	-493	-5314
Transfers between funds	10000	-10000	0	0	
Cash funds last year	6892	39739	37808	84439	89753
					0
Cash funds this year end	5953	35188	42806	83946	84439
	Total	Actual PCC Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Nicholson Trust
Cash Funds					
Parish Current		1905		10205	
Restricted Deposit Acc				20680	
Centre Current			8349		
CCLA Investment				0	40498
CCLA Investment Diocese					2308
Total cash funds	83945	1905	8349	30885	42806
Restricted funds under the Nicholson Trust are as per the terms of the legacy under the control of the Vicar and Churchwardens and not under the jurisdiction of the PCC but have been included in these accounts for clarity purposes only.					
This trust money is available for the upkeep of the fabric of the Parish Church of S.Helen Auckland only					
Investment Assets stated at cost					
Nicholson Trust Property Pool Shares					
Curates House					
					75000
					155000



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	St Helen Auckland PCC	
On accounts for the year ended	31 December 2023	Charity no (if any) 1163265
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

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
- 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:	27.03.2024
Name:	Joseph W Kellelt		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	FMAAT AATQB		
Address:	12 Greenfinch Road Easington Lane Houghton le Spring DH 0GG		

ST HELEN AUCKLAND PCC

England & Wales - Charity number 1163265

Accounts

S. HELEN AUCKLAND

The Parish Church of West Auckland, St Helen Auckland and Tindale Crescent

The Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2022



Incumbent

The Revd. Canon Robert McTeer
The Vicarage
Manor Road
St Helen Auckland

Bank

Barclays Bank
Business Park
Bishop Auckland

Independent Examiner

Mr Joseph Kellett FMAAT

*S. Helen Auckland is a Society Parish under the
Episcopal care of the Bishop of Beverley*

**REPORT OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31stDECEMBER 2022**

S Helen's P.C.C. has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent of the parish, in promoting the ecclesiastical parish, and the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for S Helen's Parish Church and S Helen's Parish Centre.

Membership

Members of the P.C.C. are either *ex-officio* members or are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year, the following served as members of the P.C.C.

Incumbent: The Rev'd Canon Robert McTeer (Chairman)

Curate The Rev'd Edward Gunn

Churchwardens:
 Mr. John Bake
 Mrs Anne Skillcorn

Lay Chairman: Mr John Bake

Deanery Synod
Representatives: Mr Gareth Gladman
 Mrs Anne Skillcorn
 Miss Vannessa Pearson

Elected Members: Mrs Pat Bake
 Miss Claire Bake
 Miss Marjorie Brodie
 Miss Marion Curtis
 Mrs Dianne Chew
 Mrs Joan Johnson
 Mrs Kay Richardson
 Mr Ian Skillcorn
 Miss Alyson Smith

P.C.C. Treasurer: Mrs Pat Bake ACMA MAAT.
P.C.C. Secretary: Mrs Emma Gunn

Church Wardens and members of the Deanery Synod are ex-officio members of the PCC

Constitution

The constitution is that of the Constitution of the Church of England, which can be found in "A Handbook for Churchwardens and Parochial Church Councillors" Mowbray ISBN 0-264-67411-1

Committees

The P.C.C. operates through a Standing Committee, which can meet between full meetings of the P.C.C. It is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the P.C.C. between its meetings, subject to any direction given by the Church Council.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll was fully in accordance with church representation rules which states the roll has to be fully revised every six years. The current roll consists of 125 persons.

Review of the Work of the P.C.C.

The Parochial Church Council has met three times this year. Gareth Gladman stepped down as PCC secretary and Emma Gunn was elected during the 23.5.22 PCC meeting. Many thanks for all Gareth's hard work and dedication shown during his time as PCC secretary.

The work of the PCC has mainly centred around the roof issues this year. This has included reading through the Quinquennial Inspection, and a report from the Quantity Surveyor which detailed the costing for the repair work. From this a 'roof committee' was formed to discuss funding, grants and projects that would allow us to apply for lottery heritage grants as well as other grants. The roof committee have met a further 3 times and have decided on a project that will hopefully satisfy the heritage requirements of the lottery grant. It was approved by the PCC to employ the architect to complete the grant process to ensure we stand the best chance of receiving the money. The proposals for the work have been sent to Diocesan Advisory Committee for a faculty approval but at the last PCC meeting (9.1.23) we had no update about this.

Further areas included in PCC meetings this year have included:

- Safeguarding - Diane Chew gives regular updates on safeguarding which have included the online portal, DBS updates and safeguarding training renewal.
- The Parish Centre - we have received several grants (£20,000 from Believe housing, £4,000 for the emergency doors) Which has allowed improvements to be carried out including 4 windows being added, new emergency doors and shower cubicles being turned into storage. Further grants are going to need to be sourced to ensure the centre is maintained specifically for guttering, painting, floors and outdoor paving.
- Children and Youth Work - Gareth Gladman, the youth and community worker, has reported on how the main groups he runs are going including Jolly Tots and Busy Bees. Gareth has presented other ideas to ensure we are maximising his time and the resources church has, especially around being a 'Warm Bank'. Gareth has also completed work to make 'The Ark' an NHS hub which has benefits for all groups that use the Ark including funding and training.

Emma Gunn

Deanery Synod Report

Vanessa, Anne and Gareth are the representatives for St Helen at Deanery Synod. There have been four meetings in the last 12 months. The usual format of the meetings is coffee, formal part of the meeting and a guest speaker. The guest speakers have included a youth worker and climate action worker. The deanery leadership team meets between the meetings. Currently the leadership team are working on Facebook and Instagram pages to allow a wider understanding of the work of the Deanery Synod.

Treasurer's Report

Planned giving was slightly down on the previous year but as the year picked up it did improve but we must hope that some increases will occur for 2023

Funerals, and weddings were financially about the same but there was an increase in general alms giving.

Fund raising was really good last year and also the heat and light events i.e. the monthly quiz did extremely well and is now nearly at capacity so thanks must go to the team who have maintained and developed that.

We did well with Grants for the Youth Work and the Parish centre which has meant that neither the parish centre or youth work are self supporting

The quota was paid in full and we also paid the Architect for the both the Quinquennial and the Roof Renewal quotation and specifications.

The fourth instalment of the Leech loan was paid leaving a balance of £5000 to be repaid in August 2023

Overall total cash funds were down by £5000 but considering the Architects initial bill was paid a good result for 2023

Families, youth and Community Worker Report

This year has seen most of the significant work focus around the Parish Centre, and what we can offer in the way of Mission to people in these uncertain economic times, and with the cost of living crisis.

Following a very generous grant from the Housing Association, Believe, we have improved our storage facilities, replaced much of the tired play equipment and created a new sensory space in the old Parish Office. This last has meant that what we offer in the Centre twice a week is more attractive to carers with very young children, and has provided a play space for children with additional needs away from the hubbub of the main hall.

The Tuesday Jolly Tots, and Thursday Busy Bees groups remain popular. There was less growth on a Thursday, but we have recently begun offering a free cooked meal at that group also – which is already seeing a positive impact. We continue to offer a small children's clothing stall, and have been responsible for making reading books available for children to take home and keep over the last two months

activities we offer, and a number of people now regularly attend on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays to eat with us. These range from older people to some younger people who are long term unemployed or suffer anxiety.

I am shortly to leave post so want to take this opportunity to thank the entire worshipping community for everything they have provided in support, prayer and friendship over the 14 years I have been part of St. Helen's. But special thanks must go to Father McTeer, for all he has done for me, and his support, over this time. I will be back soon!

Fr Edward and Emma Gunn now run a youth group called 'Ark Youth' which has grown in the space of three months to include up to 15 teenagers, with others expressing an interest to come. They enjoy activities such as bowling and learning circus skills! From this group (who are not all Church kids) a group of eight are attending the week long 'Youth Pilgrimage' at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk in August. The young people did an amazing job of helping to fundraise for this!

Fr Edward is also chaplain to Bishop Auckland ATC and visits once per month. The Air Training Corps also attended church a couple of times per year.

Safeguarding

Mrs. Dianne Chew is our parish safeguarding office. All those involved in children's work or working with vulnerable adults are DBS checked and a role of the names is maintained. Safeguarding training took place for all officers, PCC members and some members of the congregation in 2019 and training is due once again in 2022. Our policies are displayed with contact numbers on the church and centre notice board web site and face book page Safeguarding is on each PCC Agenda.

The Report of the Fabric and Ornaments of the Church

The building is well looked after and major works have been completed over the last 20 years including a major restoration of the church, including a new floor, under floor heating, damp protection, new pews and other associated works, the organ has been restored and added to the church has had a full rewire and new lighting scheme with external floodlighting. Two new entrance doors with glass installed along with stonework repairs to the porch. The vestry has been completely refitted including a new access staircase. A new extension including a toilet and meeting room was completed in 2018 after 10 years of planning and fundraising. Minor repairs are undertaken as and when necessary.

The church is cleaned each week along with brass, silver and linen. The Guild of S. Martha's team work hard every week to keep the church in first class order.

The roof and drains are cleared twice a year, the boilers serviced, organ tuned, and fire extinguishers serviced. All electrical and gas certificates are up to date

The under floor heating is in constant use during the winter months, enabling background heat to the building all day to help preserve the fabric of the building and create a warm environment for daily worship.

The Ark extension built during 2018 it is now in full use most days for a variety of events

for the local community.

The Quinquennial inspection was undertaken on 8th March 2021 and was received on 18th November 2021. The report highlights some issue with re-pointing stonework, the chancel roof, and chancel coping stones. A facility has now been granted for the total work which needs to be carried out in the QI at an estimated cost of £370,762 and will be approaching charities and trusts for grants during 2023 and beyond.

Additions to the ornaments of the church during 2022

No additions to the fabric were made this year

Works to the Church during 2022

- Soak-away drains cleared, drain pipes and roof gullies checked January and November.
- Fire extinguishers checked and serviced.
- Roof alarm system serviced.
- Gas boilers repaired and serviced and gas certificate issue.
- The external lights at ground level which are now obsolete were replaced with energy saving fittings in March 2022- (works still yet be competed).
- Organ tuned twice during the year.
- The church is heated through the week from October to April by the under-floor system to protect the fabric of the building and the organ.
- Church doors treated with Osmo oil.
- Boiler repaired in the Ark.
- The Ark alarm repaired.

Pastoral review

The main pastoral work in a normal year at of S. Helen's includes:

- Daily Mass and offices.
- The needy, sick, dying and bereaved were visited at home or in the hospital by the Vicar, curate and Eucharistic Ministers.
- Members of the parish received home visits and the housebound received communion at home
- St. Helen's and Devonshire House nursing homes visiting was put on hold due to the pandemic and this has not been restarted.
- Growing Durham Adult Learning group visited church and members of the congregation joined the group for coffee or tea.
- A full programme of social events was held enjoyed during the year.
- Parish pilgrimage to Walsingham each August. Some members of the parish attend the National Pilgrimage each late May bank holiday.
- A weekly Lent lunch is normally held in aid of a charity.

- Fr McTeer and members of the church serve the wider church by attending; Deanery Synod, Forward in Faith Chapter, Society of the Holy Cross chapters, Forward in Faith National Assembly and attended various Patronal Festivals around the diocese. The Vicar also serves as a Trustee to Durham Historic Churches Trust and Local Vicar of the Society of the Holy Cross.
- Fr McTeer serves on the Governing Body of Copeland Road School. He stood down from St Helen's School. Fr Edward is a governor of Oakley Cross School. School work along with assemblies accounts for quite a large proportion of clergy time. Durham County Council present Fr. McTeer with a Long Service Award for over 25 years of service as school governor.
- Members of the congregation are involved in many social and community activities within the parish including fostering of children, school governors, visiting the sick, providing transport for the elderly, providing meals for the lonely on Christmas Day, W.I. meetings, helping with Sunday School and youth work.
- The parish maintains its own website, Facebook page and weekly notice sheet.
- We meet for coffee and cake on Sunday and Wednesday after Mass in the new extension.
- A community lunch take place on Wednesday in the Ark. This provides a warm space for people and free food.
- Quiz night each month.
- Computer skill classes for all age groups.
- Warm spaces were opened in the Ark and Parish Centre over three days of the week.

Provision for young people

- Jolly Tots pre-school meet weekly with lunch provided.
- Busy Bees preschool meet weekly with lunch provided.
- Messy Church meets once per month.
- The parish provide Beavers, Cub and Scout Groups.
- Copeland Road, Oakley Cross and S. Helen's school visited on a regular basis for assemblies and church visits.
- School services and visits of children for course work take place in the church.
- Fr McTeer is Vice President of Bishop Auckland District Scouts.
- Around six children attend Sunday Club which runs in the Ark during the first half of the parish mass.
- Two children are members of our junior choir. This is down from six as a result of the pandemic.
- Our serving team has ten members of mixed age including four children under 10 and two teenagers.
- A monthly teenage group of 15 meet once per month in the Ark or for nights out.

The Ark

Post pandemic Ark events have really taken off with the extension in use most days which also allows for the church to be open for a good period most days

- Weekly Coffee and open church.
- Warm space three times a week.
- Community lunch on Wednesday-pay what you can.

- Monthly quiz nights.
- Silver surfers.
- Local history club.
- Coffee after services.
- Book Club.
- Choir practice.
- Funeral and baptism teas.

We were able to continue employ a Youth and Community Worker during 2022 for 20 hours per week and this has produced a good number of community and children's projects and we support our community through difficult times. Gareth will leave this post in 2023 when he is ordained deacon to serve at S .Andrew Tudhoe with Christ the King Bowburn

Parish statistics for 2022

The Worshipping community including Messy Church is 146 consisting of

- Children 25.
- Young people (11-17) 10.
- Adults (18-69) 66.
- Adults (over 70) 45.
- Baptisms 25.
- Weddings 1.
- Funerals 24 conducted through the ministry of S. Helen's.
- Easter attendance was 118 (259) school service attendance.
- Christmas attendance 577 (250 which schools services).
- Average Sunday attendance in 2022 60 Adults and 12 Children making an average Parish Mass attendance of 72.
- Average weekly communions including weekday masses in 2022 were 110.
- Wednesday Mass 2022 Mass has an average attendance of 38 with other weekdays from 5 to 12 depending on the day.
- Monthly attendance at Messy Church of 35 people in 2022.
- Jolly tot average attendance is 45
- Busy bees average attendance is 20

The Parish Centre

A Health and Safety Policy has been agreed and a Fire Policy is in place. A Policy for the Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults is in place.

Works to the centre in 2022

Windows were installed via a grant for the parish centre main hall and lounge area achieving natural light into the building.

Other work included:

- Gas boilers serviced
- Fire extinguished serviced
- Sensory room crested out of old office
- Store rooms crested from old shower rooms

The centre is to be painted internally as a community project by Believe Housing. Grants are being applied for the repair guttering at a cost of £11,000.

Centre users:

- Jolly Tots
- Busy Bees
- Scout, beaver and cub groups
- Guide group
- Slimming World
- Church social events
- Children's birthday parties
- Funeral and baptism teas
- Community events

The centre is well used a excellent facility for the parish and community

The Vicarage

The Quinquennial Inspection took place in October 2021 by the diocesan surveyor, It was reported, "The property is particularly well maintained and cared for and has no apparent structural defects".

The size of the vicarage along with no double glazing means it is a struggle for the incumbent to heat it adequately with very large heating bills to heat a selection of rooms to 15 degrees for part of the day. A wood burner helps heat the main reception room during the evening.

The gardens continued to be well maintained with the help of a gardener who works two hours per week.

Works to the Vicarage

No works were carried out to the vicarage during the past year

Conclusion

Part way through 2022 we started to feel that normal worship attendance and social events had reverted to pre-pandemic levels. We were only closed when ordered to do so and remained open while many other parishes closed. This is reflected in our bounce back.

In June 2022 we celebrated the late Queen's Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee with a wonderful Last Night of the Proms and a civic service of celebration. Following her death on the 8th September S. Helen's was open daily for prayer and the signing of a Book of Condolence. A Civic Requiem Mass was celebrated for the repose of her soul and in thanksgiving as our longest serving monarch. We look forward to HM King Charles III coronation in May 2023.

Some patterns of attendance have changed from Sunday to weekdays. Some people are simply out of the habit of coming to church at all, some are less regular and some have

found other things to do on Sundays. However, we have an increase of 15 new people worshipping with us, some Sunday and some weekday which has brought us to just about back to where we were attendances before 2020.

It was a great joy to welcome the Mr. Edward Gunn to serve his curacy with us from July 2021. He is self supporting (Fr Edward receives no stipend and works part time- 25-30 hour a week, which is far beyond the expectation of self supporting ministers). Fr Edward has settled into the parish well along with his family and has had an excellent two years with us and made quite a commitment to our parish life. We had a wonderful time celebrating his ordination to the Sacred Priesthood and the offering of Mass for the first time in July 2022.

Mr. Gareth Gladman is our Youth and Community Worker (20 hours per week). He has made great progress in developing our youth and community work, working with partners in the parish. His report is included in this Annual Report.

One of the great strengths of S. Helen's is the large number of people taking on responsibility and doing some work or service in the parish. A lot of people doing something small achieves great results. I am extremely grateful for this sharing of responsibility, commitment and collaboration of so many to the parish and our service and mission. A new leadership team was in place by the end of 2021 with people taking responsibility for key areas of mission, service and growth. Over half of our PCC are under 45; a good sign for future growth and I have every confidence with God's help we can continue to grow in opposition to the national trends of the Church of England.

The improvement of our choral tradition is still a major objective. We will continue to work to become a centre of excellence in worship, prayer and service to our community and the wider church. This in itself can lead to growth. Our Director of Music, Mrs. Joan Johnson is outstanding in her commitment to the music of the parish.

It is interesting that young people and young adults and children seem to be attracted to traditional teaching, ceremonial, prayer, worship and music. As a parish we will continue to remain faithful to the catholic faith and practice that comes to us from the apostles and of which the Church of England is part, working and praying for the re-union of the Church of God, celebrating the Mass and offices each day, trying to order our lives to the teaching of our Lord in Holy Scripture, proclaiming the word of God, building up our faith, baptising our children, caring for the sick and the poor, providing for our young people, serving those in need, burying the dead, caring for the bereaved and proclaiming Christ crucified, died and risen.

We are committed to worshipping God, teaching and nurturing our people, serving our community in Christian love and joy, with a passion for mission and conversion using the Sacraments of the Church and Holy Scriptures, confident that
THE MASS IS THE GREATEST ACT OF MISSION OF THE CHURCH
and the ability of the Mass and good worship to build the discipleship of the congregation and convert people to the Christian faith and a living relationship with Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

A number of our people are members of the "Save Parish Church Movement". The traditional parish system is by far the best way to stop the decline of the Church of England. We are committed to simply being the Parish Church in West Auckland, St

Helen Auckland and Tindale Crescent. To celebrate the Mass and daily offices which deepens our discipleship and inspires us to go out and serve our community and bring more people to experience the life changing love of God.

Our mission is to love, serve and worship Our Lord Jesus Christ

The Reverend Canon Robert McTeer SSC Vicar and PCC Chairman

18th April 2023

	Unrestricted Funds	Organ/Kibi Parish Centre Fund Walsingham Restricted	Nicholson Trust Restricted	Total Funds	Last Year
Receipts					
Voluntary Income					
Planned Giving	21471			21471	23796
Income Tax recovered	10803			10803	9198
Alms	3011			3011	2401
Christmas Appeal	0			0	416
Donations/Charities	2632	0		2632	2001
Heat and Light Appeal		3140		3140	1708
Receipts from Church Activities				0	
PCC Fees	1860			1860	1871
Diocesan Fees	0	0		0	0
Lamps	544			544	682
Hall/Ark Lettings	13271			13271	7175
Organ Fund		100			70
Roof Fund		410			0
Activities for generating funds				0	0
Fund Raising	13874	1065		14939	9045
100 Club		0		0	539
Curate's House Rent		3375	0	3375	6283
Nicholson Trust Interest 2			4215	4215	3683
sub total	67466	8090	4215	79771	68868
Non-recurring receipts					
Snowdon Youth Work Trust	0	10000		10000	0
Millbank Sale		0	0	0	2810
Tesco		0		0	100
Lord Crewe		100		100	100
DCMS VAT Refund		0		0	100
Scotto Food Jolly Tots		5200			
Deanery Messy church		300			
Warm Spaces	1000				
Church Com H/L	0	4590			
North East Churches	0			0	1500
Grants Youth Worker		6667		6667	6667
Grants Gaunless Gateway	0			0	0
Believe		19000		19000	0
Farm Rent	0	0		0	0
Total Receipts	68466	53947	4215	126628	80145
Payments					
Quota	28000		0	28000	28000
Administration	3442			3442	3974
Roof Fund		17072		17072	0
Messy Church		65		65	
Charities	1836	0		1836	1426
Church Repairs	0	0		0	1357
Fund raising	2451	576		3027	581
Maintenance/Insurance	10548	0		10548	11566
Youth Worker Exp	0	6564		6564	2286
Youth Worker	0	13195		13195	6496
Youth Work scotto		352		352	
Believe		12416		12416	
Parish Centre	10889			10889	8725
Heat and Light	4801			4801	5151
Cost of Services	3419			3419	3450
Support Costs	2281			2281	2441
Clergy Exp	5655			5655	4979
Curates House	0			0	2295
West of 60	0	0		0	648
Curates Exp	980			980	341
Ordination	0	990		990	
stationery	1210			1210	300
Walsingham	200	0		200	-178
Wm Leach Loan repayments		5000		5000	5000
Total Payments	75712	56230	0	131942	88838
Net receipts/payments	-7246	-2283	4215	-5314	-8693
Transfers between funds	30000	-30000	0	0	
Cash funds last year	-15862	72022	33593	89753	98446
					0
Cash funds this year end	6892	39739	37808	84439	89753

	Total	Actual PCC Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Nicholson Trust
Cash Funds					
Parish Current		6730		7917	
Restricted Deposit Acc				22150	
100club			0		
Centre Current			9834		
CCLA Investment				0	35500
CCLA Investment Diocese				0	2308
Total cash funds	84439	6730	9834	30067	37808
Restricted funds under the Nicholson Trust are as per the terms of the legacy under the control of the Vicar and Churchwardens and not under the jurisdiction of the PCC but have been included in these accounts for clarity purposes only.					
This trust money is available for the upkeep of the fabric of the Parish Church of S.Helen Auckland only					
Investment Assets stated at cost					
Nicholson Trust Property Pool Shares					75000
Curates House					155000



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	St Helen Auckland PCC		
On accounts for the year ended	31 December 2022	Charity no (if any)	1163265
	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

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

- 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:	27.03.2023
Name:	Joseph W Kellett		

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	FMAAT AATQB
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Address:	12 Greenfinch Road
	Easington Lane
	Houghton le Spring DH 0GG

ST HELEN AUCKLAND PCC

England & Wales - Charity number 1163265

Accounts

S. HELEN AUCKLAND

The Parish Church of West Auckland, St Helen Auckland and Tindale Crescent

The Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2021



Incumbent

The Revd. Canon Robert McTeer
The Vicarage
Manor Road
St Helen Auckland

Bank

Barclays Bank
Business Park
Bishop Auckland

Independent Examiner

Mr Joseph Kellett FMAAT

*S. Helen Auckland is a Society Parish under the
Episcopal care of the Bishop of Beverley*

**REPORT OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st DECEMBER 2021**

S Helen's P.C.C. has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent of the parish, in promoting the ecclesiastical parish, and the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for S Helen's Parish Church and S Helen's Parish Centre.

Membership

Members of the P.C.C. are either *ex-officio* members or are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year, the following served as members of the P.C.C.

Incumbent: Canon Robert McTeer (Chairman)

Churchwardens:
Mr. John Bake
Mrs Anne Skillcorn

Lay Chairman: Mr John Bake

Deanery Synod
Representatives: Mr Gareth Gladman
Mrs Anne Skillcorn
Miss Vannessa Pearson

Elected Members: Mrs Pat Bake
Miss Claire Bake
Mr Adrian Beswick
Miss Marion Curtis
Mrs Dianne Chew
Miss Anna Duffey
Miss Emily Dowson
Mrs Joan Johnson
Mrs Kay Richardson
Mr Ian Skillcorn

P.C.C. Treasurer: Mrs Pat Bake ACMA MAAT.
P.C.C. Secretary: Mr Gareth Gladman

Church Wardens and members of the Deanery Synod are ex-officio members of the PCC

Constitution

The constitution is that of the Constitution of the Church of England, which can be found in "A Handbook for Churchwardens and Parochial Church Councillors" Mowbray ISBN 0-264-67411-1

Committees

The P.C.C. operates through a Standing Committee, which can meet between full meetings of the P.C.C. It is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the P.C.C. between its meetings, subject to any direction given by the Church Council.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll was fully in accordance with church representation rules which states the roll has to be fully revised every six years. The current roll consists of 114 persons.

Review of the Work of the P.C.C.

The PCC has been meeting in a blended format this year and is utilising zoom for the majority of its meetings. This is to accommodate younger members of the PCC who have families primarily - we are fortunate to have a PCC where younger members of the congregation are well represented. We have worked on planning to implement new guidance and direction from the Diocese on safer recruitment of staff and volunteers and safeguarding. There are dedicated members of the PCC with significant experience in these fields working on these for us. In addition, we have developed and are implementing a more rigorous policy of social media, media consent and are now keeping records of all our young people to ensure we always have knowledge of next of kin, responsible guardians and significant events to celebrate such as birthdays.

The PCC has received reports from our clergy and community worker and considered how we progress God's Mission in our community. The PCC is aware that it has a leadership role in discipleship formation and has involved itself in every aspect of our work and all areas of our work, both within and without, the Church are represented.

Gareth Gladman PCC Secretary

Curate's Report

'...[S]eek and you shall find, knock and the door will be opened' (Matthew 7.7) after joining the parish of St Helen's following my ordination to the diaconate in July 2021 these words spoken by Jesus sum up my first few months in the parish. In a literal sense I was seeking addresses and knocking on doors as I wandered around the parish with google maps in my hand seeking a door to knock on. This helped me greatly to get a feel of the parish and meet many people. I would often go out with the intention of visiting a few people and have many more unplanned encounters. What struck me was the kindness and respect of all those I met on the street as they all greeted me with a 'Good morning Father'. This I would say is a testament of the presence in the Parish that St Helen's has and the work it does in the parish.

It has been my privilege to join in with this work at Jolly Tots which I have seen grow. The parents I met speak very highly of Fr McTeer and of the presence of St Helen's in the community. This presence inspired me to involve the community in the Scarecrow Angel Trail and with the support of a few parishioners we reached out into the community groups and they all delivered a fantastic Angel which was displayed over Christmas around the Village Green. This happened just at the right time for Auckland Youth and Community Centre who were looking for a project to engage the youth they were working with and so they reached out to us. As well as creating an Angel they were also inspired to visit Jolly Tots and

talk with Gareth about who they could help out. The Scarecrow Angels also spilled out into the community and reached into our local streets as members of the Parish were invited to create their own Angel. Although the Angels were few in numbers the positive feedback generated through social media would suggest to me that this is something to pursue and build on this Christmas.

Another area that was a joy to be involved in and engaged the community, increasing the number of followers on the Church social media feed was the Posada that ran throughout Advent. As Mary, Joseph and the 'wee donkey' (thank you to the knitters that made these figures) people who hadn't previously commented on a church post in the community not only commented but began to follow our feed.

In my deaconing service one of the statements that stands out is ... and this inspires me at St Helen's. As I continue to wander the streets, being present (incarnate) my ministry is one of inclusion as I meet people where they are. My curiosity has also led me to walk through doors and meet groups which I wouldn't ordinarily have met. I have continued the close bond with Growing Together Durham and The Well and reforged links with Oakley Cross school. This school has recently reached out to the Church to help create a weekly Christian church focussed assembly and wants the church to help the children to pray. After Easter we will begin this chaplaincy role within the school, a role that has also been extended to Copeland Road school. St Helen's now has a strong presence in all three of the parish primary schools.

In serving my role continues with all that I have previously mentioned and starts with deaconing at the mass and helping to lead the Parish in worship. During this year, with the blessing of Fr McTeer, I have also been given the privilege of leading worship at Walsingham and deaconing for several other local parishes and national events. Although I still occasionally forget things, my confidence has increased greatly in this important role. A role that has also seen preaching regularly. I started this summary report by quoting from the end of the Sermon on the Mount but at the centre of this sermon Jesus teaches the people to pray. The centrality of prayer is what also sustains me in my ministry. This importance on prayer inspired me to create a lent course focussing on prayer and those who attended, I pray, were able to take something from it. Stemming from this course I am currently looking into the possibility of a day at St Anthony's Priory for the parish to continue the exploration of contemplative prayer.

Outside of the parish I have been able to continue my ministry with the Multi Faith Chaplaincy Team at HMP Holme House. This role takes me around the wings to meet the inmates in their cells and at work supporting them in whatever ways I can as well as praying with them and for them. I am also now fully registered with the Air Cadets where I continue the service of St Helen's as Padre to them. In this role I have found myself leading prayers, sessions on military ethics and using drama to explore Holy Week and Easter. This prayer in the community is also a role I have found myself engaging in the Car Park at Tindale Crescent Shops where I am listed in the staff break rooms as the Chaplain. Prayer is a vital role for personal growth and can grow the community as Ephesians 6.18 says 'pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people' and this is what I try to do in my ministry to pray constantly a role that I am supported in by Fr McTeer, the Parish and the new prayer circle who pray for the parish and its intentions daily.

But my ministry, and my journey, would not be possible without the love, prayers and support of my family and I thank Aaron and Elisha for their support and especially for the love, prayerful support and confidence that Emma gives me.

Deanery Synod Report

Over the past 12 months, the majority of Deanery Synod meetings have been held via zoom due to Covid restrictions. We were able to meet again in person for first time in November 2021 at St.Pauls church Spennymoor. During the last year Barrie Kirton stood down as Lay Chair after many years service to the Deanery and Sarah Phelps was appointed to the role.

Each Deanery Synod meeting welcomes a guest speaker and these have ranged from church planting, the Children's society, caring for the environment and mental health first aid.

A permanent reoccurring item on the agenda now is sharing good news from parishes within the Deanery. Three are shared each month and a short report sent prior to the meeting. It is a nice opportunity to hear about the mission in other parishes and to share ideas.

Treasurer's Report

A difficult year but one which closed a lot better than we had originally expected. The normal running of the Parish saw an increase in funds of just over £5.5K this was mainly due to the fantastic response to the Christmas Fayre. Planned giving was down and there are several reasons for this but I must appeal to you all firstly to consider changing to standing order so as to ensure regular giving to the Church and if applicable to Gift Aid your Giving. Forms for both are obtainable from myself. We received grants during the year to cover the cost of our Youth Work and a small Grant from NE Churches to help offset the costs of re-opening after the 'Covid Lock Down'. We did manage to pay the Diocesan Quota of £28k in full which was a tremendous achievement. We also paid the instalment of the Wm Leech loan (£5K) and this leaves a balance of £10k payable by August 2023. This year we have installed a tap to give machine which has proven to be most successful and covered the cost of its purchase within 2 months.

We managed throughout the year using only current funds and we are therefore starting to re-build reserves which we used for the Ark extension. A copy of the consolidated PCC Accounts is attached to this report.

Families And Community Worker Report

The busiest area of our work with families and community continues to be our work at the Parish Centre each week. Jolly Tots on a Tuesday, while numbers can fluctuate, continues to grow. We now offer a children's library and access to a bank of children's clothing for free or a small donation. The two course lunch is popular, at the moment Kay and I are preparing this as our volunteer chef and kitchen assistant have left due to ill health. As of writing this, in March, I am in discussion with the AAP about potentially employing a part time cook. We are also hosting two work experience students at the moment and will be taking a third soon when Bishop Auckland College begin using us as a placement for childcare students after Easter.

We have opened a second, smaller and quieter, family group on a Thursday afternoon called 'Busy Bees' at which we have a music and movement session led by the staff from a local kindergarden. This session offer refreshments but has a focus of being a quieter, smaller session than Jolly Tots on a Tuesday which can be busy and noisy.

There is interest in a 'Stay and Play' session being set up at church where there would be Church focused activities and time for prayer and music. This is being considered as it will need to be carefully staffed to be able to develop.

The Church and Ark are open on a Wednesday lunchtime for light lunches. This has taken a considerable amount of time to get off the ground. However, working in partnership with the NHS this will soon be a hub for 'Wellbeing 4 Life' who will be running their first session on 20th April. This will mean the Ark is open for lunch between 12 - 2pm and will overlap with crafts and other wellbeing activities provided by, and led by, the staff of Wellbeing 4 Life between 1 and 3pm. They will publicise and resource these and are already well known in the area. In addition, the GP Surgeries will be signposting people to these activities through the local social prescribers as a means of combating social isolation.

The Church and Ark are also open from 8.30 -12noon on a Thursday. Breakfast and cake and coffee are available. This Open Church time is now working in partnership with St. Helen's Care

Home and Growing Durham to provide a safe environment for their clients to have something to eat and conversation. In addition, we have a number of local families who drop in and out as well as members of our congregation.

The next step for me is to work to ensure the viability of this work through seeking funding going forward. Hopefully this will prove fruitful.

Safeguarding

Mrs. Dianne Chew is our parish safeguarding office. All those involved in children's work or working with vulnerable adults are DBS checked and a role of the names is maintained. Safeguarding training took place for all officers, PCC members and some members of the congregation in 2019 and training is due once again in 2022. Our policies are displayed with contact numbers on the church and centre notice board web site and face book page

The Report of the Fabric and Ornaments of the Church

Following the major restoration to the parish church undertaken during 2001, the organ in 2009 and the extension in 2018, the church is now sound and in an excellent state of repair. The building is well looked after and minor repairs are undertaken as and when necessary.

The church is cleaned each week along with brass, silver and linen. The Guild of S. Martha's team work hard every week to keep the church in first class order.

The roof and drains are cleared twice a year.

The under floor heating is in constant use during the winter months, enabling background heat to the building all day to help preserve the fabric of the building and create a warm environment for daily worship.

With the Ark extension built during 2018 and before the lockdown was being used most days for a variety of events and organization both for the local community.

The Quinquennial inspection was undertaken on 8th March 2021 and was received on 18th November 2021. The report highlights some issue with re-pointing stonework, the chancel roof, and chancel coping stones. A Meeting of the Standing Committee is scheduled with the architects for 16th March 2022 and will report to the full PCC. We will report further on the Quinquennial Inspection in the 2022 Annual Report

Additions to the ornaments of the church during 2021

No additions to the fabric were made this year

Works to the Church during 2021

- **NEW £350,000 EXTENSION COMPLETED TO THE NORTH OF S. HELEN AUCKLAND IN OCTOBER 2018**

- soak-away drains cleared, drain pipes and roof gullies checked January and November
- fire extinguishers checked and serviced⁵

- organ tuned
- roof alarm system serviced
- gas boilers repaired and serviced and gas certificate issue
- replacement to external floodlights on the roof after electrical inspection (The external light at ground level which are now obsolete will be replaced by with energy saving fittings in March 2022)
- organ tuned twice times during the year
- the church is heated through the week from October to April by the underfloor system to protect the fabric of the building and the organ.

Future building work

- A plan to implement work from the QI report will be drawn up and priced by our QS during 2022.

Pastoral review

The Covid pandemic continued to have a heavy toll our work during 2021 in line with businesses and charities across the nation and world. It has been a challenging and difficult year for everyone. Together we have lived through some dark days.

A third lockdown was ordered on 1st January 2021. Churches were allowed to stay open this time with restrictions. Many closed and we were one of the few churches open for worship daily in the diocese and we ministered to a small number of our congregation who wished to attend and visitors from parishes where their building was closed.

During the lockdowns and over the year we:

1. Telephoned every member of the congregation in rotation over the year
- 2 Every member of the Electoral Roll was contacted by 'phone
- 3 Service sheets for use at home, prayer cards and newsletter sent by post
- 4 Newsletters and updates via email
- 5 Live stream Masses during the second lockdown
- 6 Morning and Evening Prayer celebrated daily within the parish
- 7 The PCC met by Zoom

To those who continued with their giving over the year, especially those who give by bankers order we owe a great deal to them. This has kept the parish solvent.

Thanks to the cleaners who kept the building clean during the third lockdown when we opened and to our organist Mrs Joan Johnson who has played organ Masses for us and kept the choir together on Zoom. To Mr Gareth Gladman for a great deal of work producing service sheets for use at home and sending out information by email

The main pastoral work in a normal year at of S. Helen's includes:

- daily Mass and offices
- the needy, sick, dying and bereaved were visited at home or hospital by the Vicar, and Eucharistic Ministers
- members of the parish received home visits and the housebound received communion at home

- St. Helen's and Devonshire House nursing homes visiting was put on hold due to the pandemic
- Growing Durham Adult Learning group visited church and members of the congregation joined the group for coffee or tea.
- a full programme of social events was held enjoyed during the year.
- parish pilgrimage to Walsingham last year after a two year break re: Covid,
- a weekly Lent lunch is normally held in aid of a charity
- Fr McTeer and members of the church serve the wider church by attending, Deanery Synod, Forward in Faith Chapter, Society of the Holy Cross chapters, Forward in Faith National Assembly and attended various Patronal Festivals around the diocese. The Vicar also serves as a Trustee to Durham Historic Churches Trust and Local Vicar of the Society of the Holy Cross.
- Fr McTeer has stepped down as Chairman for S. Helen's School Governing body (taking on the role of vice chairman for one year) and serves on the Governing Body of Copeland Road School. School works accounts for quite a large proportion of the incumbent's time.
- members of the congregation are involved in many social and community activities within the parish, fostering of children, school governors, visiting the sick, providing transport for the elderly, providing meals for the lonely on Christmas Day, W.I. meetings, helping with Sunday School and youth work.
- the parish maintains its own website, face book page and weekly notice sheet.
- We meet for coffee and cake on Sunday and Wednesday after Mass in the new extension.
- Intergeneration groups meet for lunch on Wednesday and breakfast in the Ark on Thursday mornings. This provides a warm space for people and free food.
- quiz night each month
- computer skill classes for all age groups

Provision for young people

- jolly tots meet weekly with lunch provided
- busy bees meet weekly with afternoon meal provided
- messy Church meets once per month
- the parish provide Beaver, Cub and Scout Groups
- Copeland Road, Oakley Cross and S. Helen's school visited on a regular basis for assemblies and church visits (temporary halt over 2021 due to covid)
- school services and visits of children for course work take place in the church;
- Fr McTeer is Vice President of Bishop Auckland District Scouts,
- around six children attend Sunday Club which runs in the Ark during the first half of the parish mass
- two children are members of our junior choir. This is down from six as a result of the pandemic
- our serving team has ten members of mixed age

The Ark

- Weekly breakfast and open church
- Intergenerational group meet twice per week
- Quiz nights
- Silver surfers
- Film nights
- Local history club
- Coffee after services
- University of the Third Age

- Book Club

We were able to employ a Youth and Community Worker during 2021 for 20 hours per week and this has produced a good number of community and children's projects and we support our community through difficult times.

Parish statistics for 2021

2019(pre Covid) figures in red

The Worshipping community including Messy Church is 135 consisting of

Children 27

Young people (11-17) 8

Adults (18-69) 43

Adults (over 70) 57

- baptisms 6 (30)
- weddings 2 (7)
- funerals 16 (22) conducted through the ministry of S. Helen's *
- Easter attendance was 108 (259 and 220 school service attendance)
- Christmas attendance 163 (1250 which includes schoolsservices and carol services)
- average Sunday attendance in 2021 60 Adults and 12 Children making an average Parish Mass attendance of 72
- average weekly communions **including weekday** masses in 2021 were 103
- Wednesday Mass 2021 Mass has an average attendance of 32 with other weekdays from 3 to 12 depending on the day
- monthly attendance at Messy Church of 45 people in 2019 21 in 2021

The Parish Centre

A Health and Safety Policy has been agreed and a Fire Policy is in place. A Policy for the Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults is in place.

The centre was closed for most of the year due to the national lockdown and restrictions. The Community Pantry was open during the pandemic as an essential service to the community.

Centre users in a normal year:

Jolly Tots

Busy Bees

Scout, beaver and cub groups

Guide group

Slimming World

Little Chef, Big Chef Community Pantry and community cookery training

The Vicarage

The Quinquennial Inspection took place in October 2021 by the diocesan surveyor, It was reported, "The property is particularly well maintained and cared for and has no apparent structural defects".

The size of the vicarage along with no double glazing means it is a struggle for the incumbent to heat it adequately with very large heating bills to heat a selection of rooms to 15 degrees for part of the day. A wood burner helps heat the main reception room during the evening.

The vast increase in heating bills forecast for April/October 2022 will make it impossible to heat the whole Vicarage.

The gardens continued to be well maintained with the help of a gardener who works two hours per week.

Works to the Vicarage

Full electrical check in December 2020 with remedial work and new fuse box installed

Trees pruned in the garden

Secondary glazing to the bedrooms was installed in February 2021

A new garage door was fitted

Conclusion

We face a major task in rebuilding the parish and church attendance post pandemic. Some people are still unsure about returning to public worship. Some patterns of attendance have changed from Sunday to weekdays. Many people are simply out of the habit of coming to church at all, some are less regular and some have found other things to do on Sundays. The PCC are working on various areas of church life, what needs developing, introducing, changing or discarding. It is going to be a hard task to recover, build our numbers, start our social life and organization and repair our finances.

It was a great joy to welcome the Mr. Edward Gunn to serve his curacy with us from July 2021. He is self supporting (Fr Edward receives no stipend and works part time- 25-30 hour a week, which is far beyond the expectation of self supporting ministers). Fr Edward has settled into the parish well along with his family and has had an excellent first year with us and made quite a commitment to our parish life. We look forward to his ordination to the Sacred Priesthood in July 2022

It was also good to welcome Mr Gareth Gladman as our Youth and Community Worker (20 hours per week) He has made great progress in restating our youth and community work, working with partners in the parish. His report is included in this Annual Report

One of the great strengths of S. Helen's is the large number of people taking on responsibility and doing some work or service in the parish. A lot of people doing something small achieves great results. I am extremely grateful for this sharing of responsibility, commitment and collaboration of so many to the parish and our service and mission. A new leadership team was in place by the end of 2021 with people taking responsibility for key areas of mission, service and growth. Over half of our PCC are under 45; a good sign for future growth and I have every confidence with God's help we can grow back stronger.

The improvement of our choral tradition is still a major objective. We will continue to work to become a centre of excellence in worship, prayer and service to our community and the wider church. This in itself can lead to growth.

It is interesting that young people and young adults and children seem to be attracted to traditional teaching, ceremonial, prayer, worship and music. As a parish we will continue to remain faithful to the catholic faith and practice that comes to us from the apostles and of which the Church of England is part, working and praying for the re-union of the Church of God, celebrating the Mass and offices each day, trying to order our lives to the teaching of our Lord in Holy Scripture, proclaiming the word of God, building up our faith, baptising our children, caring for the sick and the poor, providing for our young people,

Serving those in need, burying the dead, caring for the bereaved and proclaiming Christ

crucified, died and risen.

We are committed to worshipping God, teaching and nurturing our people, serving our community in Christian love and joy, with a passion for mission and conversion using the Sacraments of the Church and Holy Scriptures, confident that

THE MASS IS THE GREATEST ACT OF MISSION OF THE CHURCH
and the ability of the Mass and good worship to build the discipleship of the congregation and convert people to the Christian faith and a living relationship with Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

The traditional parish system is by far the best way to stop the decline of the Church of England. We are committed to simply being the Parish Church in West Auckland, St Helen Auckland and Tindale Crescent. To celebrate the Mass and daily offices which deepens our discipleship and inspires us to go out and serve our community and bring more people to experience the life changing love of God.

Our mission is to love, serve and worship Our Lord Jesus Christ

The Reverend Canon Robert McTeer SSC Vicar and PCC Chairman

28th March 2022

S. Helen Auckland PCC
Receipts and Payment Account

2021

	Unrestricted Funds	Organ/Kibi Parish Centre Fund Walsingham Restricted	Nicholson Trust Restricted	Total Funds	Last Year
Receipts					
Voluntary Income					
Planned Giving	23796			23796	25143
Income Tax recovered	9198			9198	10853
Alms	2401			2401	864
Christmas Appeal	416			416	1544
Donations/Charities	2071	0		2071	471
Heat and Light Appeal		1708		1708	1132
Receipts from Church Activities				0	0
PCC Fees	1871			1871	1100
Diocesan Fees	0	0		0	0
Lamps	682			682	722
Hall/Ark Lettings	7175			7175	5503
Parish Centre Restricted		0			0
Activities for generating funds				0	0
Fund Raising	8344	701		9045	4609
100 Club		539		539	225
Curate's House Rent		6283	0	6283	7140
Nicholson Trust Interest 2			3683	3683	3879
sub total	55954	9231	3683	68868	63185
Non-recurring receipts					
Grant re-security lights	0	0		0	5000
Millbank Sale		2810	0	2810	0
Tesco		100		100	0
Lord Crewe		100		100	100
DCMS VAT Refund		100		100	2964
North East Churches	1500			1500	0
Grants Youth Worker		6667		6667	0
Grants Gaunless Gateway	0			0	0
Leach Loan		0		0	0
Farm Rent	0	0		0	0
Total Receipts	57454	19008	3683	80145	71249
Payments					
Quota	28000		0	28000	25000
Administration	3974			3974	3257
Ark final bills		0		0	7067
External Lighting		0		0	8400
Charities	1426	0		1426	849
Church Repairs	1357	0		1357	0
Fund raising	581	0		581	163
Maintenance/Insurance	11566	0		11566	8075
Youth Worker Exp	0	2286		2286	528
Youth Worker	0	6496		6496	680
Parish Centre	8725			8725	5674
Running Exp	5151			5151	6052
Cost of Services	3450			3450	3157
Support Costs	2441			2441	2644
Clergy Exp	4979			4979	4562
Deanery	0			0	0
Curates House	2295			2295	3738
West of 60	648	0		648	951
Curates Exp	341			341	0
Vicarage Maintenance	0			0	0
stationery	300			300	439
Walsingham		-178		-178	800
Wm Leech Loan repayments		5000		5000	10000
Total Payments	75234	13604	0	88838	92036
Net receipts/payments	-17780	5404	3683	-8693	-20787
Transfers between funds	0	0	0	0	0
Cash funds last year	1918	66618	29910	98446	119232
					0
Cash funds this year end	-15862	72022	33593	89753	98446
	Total	Actual PCC Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Nicholson Trust
Cash Funds					
Parish Current		1975			
Restricted Deposit Acc		15067		30000	
100club			576		
Centre Current			8542		
CCLA Investment				0	31285
CCLA Investment Diocese				0	2308
Total cash funds	89753	17042	9118	30000	33593
Restricted funds under the Nicholson Trust are as per the terms of the legacy under the control of the Vicar and Churchwardens and not under the jurisdiction of the PCC but have been included in these accounts for clarity purposes only.					
This trust money is available for the upkeep of the fabric of the Parish Church of S.Helen Auckland only					
Investment Assets stated at cost					
Nicholson Trust Property Pool Shares					75000
Curates House					155000

Post year end there is £10k owing to Wm Leech which is payable by August 2023

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Report to the trustees/
members of

S. Helen Auckland PCC

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2021

Charity no
(if any)

1163265

Set out on pages

11

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: *J Kellett*

Date: 10.04.2022

Name: Joseph Kellett

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

FMAAT

	Unrestricted Funds	Organ/Kibi Parish Centre Fund Walsingham Restricted	Nicholson Trust Restricted	Total Funds	Last Year
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Investment Assets stated at cost					
Nicholson Trust Property Pool Shares					75000
Curates House					155000



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

St Helens Church

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 December 2021

**Charity no
(if any)**

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

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 trustees of the Trust, 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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- 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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

Name:

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

Address:

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight 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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ST HELEN AUCKLAND PCC

England & Wales - Charity number 1163265

Accounts

S. HELEN AUCKLAND

The Parish Church of West Auckland, St Helen Auckland and Tindale Crescent

The Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2020



Incumbent

The Revd. Canon Robert McTeer
The Vicarage
Manor Road
St Helen Auckland

Bank

Barclays Bank
Business Park
Bishop Auckland

Independent Examiner

Mr Michael James Morris ACA FCCA

*S. Helen Auckland is a Society Parish under the
Episcopal care of the Bishop of Beverley*

**REPORT OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31stDECEMBER 2020**

S Helen's P.C.C. has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent of the parish, in promoting the ecclesiastical parish, and the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for S Helen's Parish Church and S Helen's Parish Centre.

Membership

Members of the P.C.C. are either *ex-officio* members or are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year, the following served as members of the P.C.C.

Incumbent: Canon Robert McTeer (Chairman)

Churchwardens:
Mr. John Bake
Mrs Anne Skillcorn

Lay Chairman: Mr John Bake

Deanery Synod
Representatives: Mr Gareth Gladman
Mrs Anne Skillcorn
Miss Vannessa
Pearson

Elected Members: Mrs Pat Bake
Miss Claire Bake
Mr Adrian Beswick
Miss Marion Curtis
Mrs Dianne Chew
Miss Anna Duffey
Miss Emily Dowson
Mrs Joan Johnson
Mrs Kay Richardson
Mrs Debbie Schulman
Mr Ian Skillcorn

P.C.C. Treasurer: Mrs Pat Bake ACMA MAAT.

P.C.C. Secretary: Mr Gareth Gladman

Church Wardens and members of the Deanery Synod are ex-officio members of the PCC

Constitution

The constitution is that of the Constitution of the Church of England, which can be found in "A Handbook for Churchwardens and Parochial Church Councillors" Mowbray ISBN 0-264-67411-1

Committees

The P.C.C. operates through a Standing Committee, which can meet between full meetings of the P.C.C. It is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the P.C.C. between its meetings, subject to any direction given by the Church Council.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll was fully in accordance with church representation rules which states the roll has to be fully revised every six years. The new roll consists of 121 persons.

Review of the Work of the P.C.C. for the year 2019-2020

The work of the PCC has been hampered this year by the coronavirus pandemic with most correspondence via e-mail. The PCC is currently using zoom for its meetings and this worked reasonably well. A small group has been appointed to look at recovery from the pandemic and the PCC will shortly discuss a new baptism policy giving lay leadership in this important mission field. The PCC wishes to offer heartfelt thanks to Alyson Smith, Marjorie Brodie, Pat Elliott, Margaret Clark and Ann Maxfield who all retired from the council this year after many years faithful service. We welcome Debbie Schullman, Adrian Beswick, Joan Johnson and Emily Dawson our Organ Scholar as new members to the PCC.

Gareth Gladman

Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod Reps have been updated by the Rural Dean about ongoing initiatives by e mail and we hope to be back to meetings again soon. The elected Representatives are Anne Skillcorn, Gareth Gladman and Vanessa Pearson.

Gareth Gladman

Treasurer's Report

I should like to start by thanking every member of our planned giving for maintaining and improving on their financial commitment to the Church in 2020. As a result we have improved on our 2019 commitment a wonderful achievement in these troubling times. Unfortunately, we still have a downturn in general alms giving and fund raising of over £11,000. We were unable to meet our Quota obligations to the diocese by £3000 but I am sure other churches will be in the same position, however if we wish to retain a fulltime priest this is something that we must address in 2021. We have met our

repayments on the William Leech Loan for the Ark and with the help of a grant from the Garfield Weston Trust we have been able to replace the roof lighting which was condemned at the beginning of 2020. We have also upgraded the heating system in Church which hopefully should see savings in 2021 on heating bills.

Again many thanks for your continued financial commitment and stay safe until we can all meet up again and re-ignite our social events.

Pat Bake

Safeguarding

Mrs. Dianne Chew is our parish safeguarding office. All those involved in children's work or working with vulnerable adults are DBS checked and a role of the names is maintained. Safeguarding training took place for all officers, PCC members and some members of the congregation in 2019. Our policies are displayed with contact numbers on the church and centre notice board web site and face book page

The Report of the Fabric and Ornaments of the Church

Following the major restoration to the parish church undertaken during 2001, the organ in 2009 and the extension in 2018, the church is now sound and in an excellent state of repair. The building is well looked after and minor repairs are undertaken as and when necessary.

The church is cleaned each week along with brass, silver and linen. The Guild of S. Martha's team work hard every week to keep the church in first class order.

The roof and drains are cleared twice a year.

The under floor heating is in constant use during the winter months, enabling background heat to the building all day to help preserve the fabric of the building and create a warm environment for daily worship.

With the Ark extension built during 2018 and before the lockdown was being used most days for a variety of events and organization both for the local community.

The postponed outstanding Quinquennial inspection will take place on 8th March 2021

Additions to the ornaments of the church during 2020

No additions to the fabric were made this year

Works to the Church during 2020

- **NEW £350,000 EXTENSION COMPLETED TO THE NORTH OF S. HELEN AUCKLAND IN OCTOBER 2018**

- soak-away drains cleared, drain pipes and roof gullies checked

- January and November
- fire extinguishers checked and serviced
 - organ tuned
 - roof alarm system serviced
 - gas boilers repaired and serviced and gas certificate issue
 - the five year electrical was carried out and the certificate issued.
 - new timer and heating control with thermostat installed to replace broken and outdated equipment. The controls are now worked by wifi and the heatmiser app via mobile phone which will save consumption of gas.
 - replacement to external floodlights on the roof after electrical inspection
 - organ tuned twice during the year
 - repairs to boiler in the Ark (under warranty)
 - the church was maintained and heated throughout the lockdowns to protect the fabric of the building and the organ.
 - The church was checked daily during lockdown

Future building work

- Floodlighting lamps to be replaced with new led lights and reinstated to the rear of the church after building work for security reasons
- A plan to implement work from the QI report will be drawn up when the report is received in the spring of 2021

Pastoral review

The Covid pandemic has affected our work during 2020 in line with businesses and charities across the nation and world. It has been a challenging and difficult year for everyone. Together we have lived through some dark days.

The church was closed for public worship from 19th March to 3rd July 2020 during the first lockdown The Archbishops would not allow even the clergy to say their offices or celebrate Mass or live stream them from church. The Church of England would not allow Funerals were in church, however crematorium funerals and graveside were allowed with restricted numbers. It was a mistake not to allow the clergy to live stream from church or say office and Mass in them and is acknowledged by those in charge.

We opened again on 3rd July with social distancing, face covering and no singing. Many people were still shielding and some did not have the confidence to return to public worship. After numbers gradually recovering the second wave hit the country and we closed from 14th November until 2nd December. This time we lived streamed from church and the offices and Mass celebrated daily within the building. Confidence was low during December and this is reflected in the small figures attending Mass over Christmas. A third lockdown was ordered on 1st January 2021. Churches were allowed to stay open this time with restrictions. Many closed and we were one of the few churches open for worship daily in the diocese and we ministered to a small number of our congregation and visitors from parishes where their building was closed.

During the lockdowns and over the year we:

1. Telephoned every member of the congregation in rotation over the year
2. Every member of the Electoral Roll was contacted by 'phone on Easter Day
3. Service sheets for use at home, prayer cards and newsletter sent by post
4. Newsletters and updates via email
5. Live stream Masses during the second lockdown
6. Morning and Evening Prayer celebrated daily within the parish, some of the time by the Parish Priest on his own or when allowed with a small number of assistants.
7. The PCC met by Zoom

To those who continued with their giving over the year, especially those who give by bankers order thank you. This has kept the parish solvent.

Thanks to the cleaners who kept the building clean during the lockdowns and to our organist Mrs Joan Johnson who has played organ Masses for us and kept the choir together on Zoom. To Mr Gareth Gladman for a great deal of work producing service sheets for use at home and sending out information by email

Thanks to the Bishop of Durham, The Bishop of Jarrow and the Archdeacon of Auckland for their pastoral calls to the clergy during the lockdown periods.

The main pastoral work in a normal year at S. Helen's includes:

- daily Mass and offices
- the needy, sick, dying and bereaved were visited at home or hospital by the Vicar, and Eucharistic Ministers
- members of the parish received home visits and the housebound received communion at home
- St. Helen's and Devonshire House nursing homes are visited
- Growing Durham Adult Learning group visited church and members of the congregation join the group for coffee or tea.
- a full programme of social events is held enjoyed during the year.
- parish pilgrimage to Walsingham each year,
- a weekly Lent lunch is normally held in aid of the church in Ghana
- a ladies group meet once a month
- Fr McTeer and members of the church serve the wider church by attending, Deanery Synod, Forward in Faith Chapter, Society of the Holy Cross chapters, Forward in Faith National Assembly and attended various Patronal Festivals around the diocese. The Vicar also serves as a Trustee to Durham Historic Churches Trust and Local Vicar of the Society of the Holy Cross.
- Fr McTeer is Chairman for S. Helen's School Governing body and serves on the Governing Body of Copeland Road School. School works accounts for quite a large proportion of the incumbent's time.
- members of the congregation are involved in many social and community activities within the parish, fostering of children, school governor, visiting the sick, providing transport for the elderly, providing meals for the lonely on Christmas Day, W.I. meetings, helping with Sunday School and youth work.
- the parish maintains its own website, face book page and weekly

notice sheet.

- for coffee and cake on Sunday and Wednesday after Mass in the new extension.
- Intergeneration groups meet for lunch and breakfast in the Ark
- monthly breakfast social time
- quiz night each month
- computer skill classes for all age groups

Provision for young people

- jolly tots meet weekly with lunch provided
- messy Church meets once per month
- the parish provide Beaver, Cub and Scout Groups
- Copeland Road, Oakley Cross and S. Helen's school visit on a regular basis for assemblies and church visits
- school services and visits of children for course work take place in the church;
- Fr McTeer is Vice President of Bishop Auckland District Scouts, Chairman of S. Helen's School Governing body and a member of the governing body of Copeland Road School.
- around ten children attend Sunday Club which runs in the Ark during the first half of the parish mass
- four children are members of our junior choir
- our serving team has eight members of mixed age

The Ark

- Monthly breakfast
- Intergenerational group meet twice per week
- Quiz nights
- Silver surfers
- Craft club
- Local History Club

Future Plans

- Look at our youth work in relationship to changing family lifestyle
- Study of the mission document "A Time to Sow" a report by The Revd Dr John W B Tomlinson on Anglo Catholic Church Growth in the Northern Province in which S. Helen's took part. We will use the finding of the project as a base for a new Parish Mission Plan.
- Development of our ministry team and leadership team
- Continue development of music in the liturgy and the junior choir
- Development of our teaching and nurture courses
- Maintain the daily mass
- Implement more activities in the new extension to serve our community
- Look at an open door policy for church
- Look at providing funds for a parish administrator
- Seek funding for a youth worker
- Work with local support groups to provide extra services from the parish centre for the most vulnerable in our community.
- Re-launch Jolly Tots, Intergenerational groups, junior choir and community groups and social events when allowed
- Look at home- how we can better use social media
- Having a presence in the local shopping centre

Parish statistics for 2020

2019 figures in red

- baptisms 4 (30)
- weddings 0 (7)
- funerals 24 (22) conducted through the ministry of S. Helen's *
- Easter attendance was 0 (church closed) 259 and 220 school service attendance
- Christmas attendance 80 (1250 which includes schools services and carol services)
- average Sunday attendance in 2019 70 Adults and 12 Children making an average Parish Mass attendance of 82
- average weekly communions **including weekday** masses in 2019 were 123
- Wednesday Mass 2019 Mass has an average attendance of 32 with other weekdays from 3 to 12 depending on the day
- monthly attendance at Messy Church of 45 people in 2019 0 in 2020

The Parish Centre

A Health and Safety Policy has been agreed and a Fire Policy is in place. A Policy for the Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults is in place.

The centre was closed for most of the year due to the national lockdown and restrictions. The Community Pantry was open during the pandemic as an essential service to the community.

Centre users in a normal year:

Jolly Tots

Scout, beaver and cub units

Guide group

Line dancing group

Slimming World

Little Chef, Big Chef Community Pantry and community cookery training

Tuesday Ladies Group

The Vicarage

The Quinquennial Inspection took place in October 2015 by Mr. M Galley Back (Hons) MCIQB. Diocesan Surveyor, Auckland Castle, Bishop Auckland. It was reported, "The property is particularly well maintained and cared for and has no apparent structural defects".

The size of the vicarage along with no double glazing means it is a struggle for the incumbent to heat it adequately with very large heating bills to heat a selection of rooms to 15 degrees for part of the day. A wood burner helps heat the main reception room during the evening.

The gardens continued to be well maintained with the help of a gardener who works two hours per week.

Full electrical check in December 2020 with remedial work and new fuse box installed

Trees pruned in the garden

Secondary glazing to be installed in February 2021

Conclusion

We face a major task in rebuilding the parish and church attendance. At the time of compiling this report people are drifting back, many of the congregation have received both vaccinations and the roll out is going well. Some are still unsure about returning to public worship. Some patterns of attendance have changed from Sunday to weekdays. We have a Covid recovery group of young adults working on various areas of church life, what needs developing, introducing, changing or discarding. It is going to be a hard task to recover, build our numbers, start our social life and organization and repair our finances.

We also look forward to the ordination as deacon of Mr. Edward Gunn to serve his curacy with us from July 2021 and hopefully the appointment of part time youth worker.

One of the great strengths of S. Helen's is the large number of people taking on responsibility and doing some work or service in the parish. A lot of people doing something small achieves great results. I am extremely grateful for this sharing of responsibility, commitment and collaboration of so many to the parish and our service and mission. A new leadership team will be in place by the end of 2021 with people taking responsibility for key areas of mission, service and growth. Over half of our PCC are under 40; a good sign for future growth and I have every confidence with God's help we can grown back stronger.

The improvement of our choral tradition is still a major objective. We will continue to work to become a centre of excellence in worship, prayer and service to our community and the wider church. This in itself can lead to growth.

It is interesting that young people and young adults and children seem to be attracted to traditional teaching, ceremonial, prayer, worship and music. As a parish we will continue to remain faithful to the catholic faith and practice that comes to us from the apostles and of which the Church of England is part, working and praying for the re-union of the Church of God, celebrating the Mass and offices each day, trying to order our lives to the teaching of our Lord in Holy Scripture, proclaiming the word of God, building up our faith, baptising our children, caring for the sick and the poor, providing for our young people, Serving those in need, burying the dead, caring for the bereaved and proclaiming Christ crucified, died and risen.

We are committed to worshipping God, teaching and nurturing our people, serving our community in Christian love and joy, with a passion for mission and conversion using the Sacraments of the Church and Holy Scriptures, confident that THE MASS IS THE GREATEST ACT OF MISSION OF THE CHURCH and the ability of the Mass and good worship to build the discipleship of the congregation and convert people to the Christian faith and a living relationship with Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

The traditional parish system is by far the best way to stop the decline of the

Church of England. We are committed to simply being the Parish Church in West Auckland, St Helen Auckland and Tindale Crescent. To celebrate the Mass and daily offices which deepens our discipleship and inspires us to go out and serve our community and bring more people to experience the life changing love of God.

Our mission is to love, serve and worship Our Lord Jesus Christ

The Reverend Canon. Robert McTeer SSC

Vicar and PCC Chairman.

April 23rd 2021

	Unrestricted Funds	Organ/Kibi Parish Centre Fund Walsingham Restricted	Nicholson Trust Restricted	Total Funds	Last Year
Receipts					
Voluntary Income					
Planned Giving	25143			25143	23632
Income Tax recovered	10853			10853	10164
Alms	864			864	5312
Christmas Appeal	1544			1544	643
Donations/Charities	471	0		471	2502
Heat and Light Appeal		1132		1132	3638
Receipts from Church Activities				0	0
PCC Fees	1100			1100	3636
Diocesan Fees	0	0		0	53
Lamps	722			722	310
Hall/Ark Lettings	5503			5503	6722
Parish Centre Restricted		0			0
Activities for generating funds				0	0
Fund Raising	4226	383		4609	12906
100 Club		225		225	225
Curate's House Rent		7140	0	7140	4169
Nicholson Trust Interest 2			3879	3879	4489
sub total	50426	8880	3879	63185	78401
Non-recurring receipts					
Grant re-security lights	0	5000		5000	235
Millbank Sale		0	0	0	30000
Grants ACS		0		0	1700
DCMS VAT Refund		3064		3064	27159
Grants West of 60	0			0	8240
Grants Youth Worker		0		0	5960
Grants Gaunless Gateway	0			0	3000
Leach Loan		0		0	0
Farm Rent	0	0		0	1305
Total Receipts	50426	16944	3879	71249	156000
Payments				0	
Quota	25000		0	25000	28000
Administration	3257			3257	3641
Ark final bills		7067		7067	119413
External Lighting		8400		8400	
Charities	849	0		849	945
Church Repairs	0	0		0	5748
Fund raising	163	0		163	2084
Maintenance/Insurance	8075	0		8075	11242
Youth Worker Exp	0	528		528	2112
Youth Worker	0	680		680	1560
Parish Centre	5674			5674	8308
Running Exp	6052			6052	5459
Cost of Services	3157			3157	6353
Support Costs	2644			2644	713
Clergy Exp	4562			4562	4892
Deanery	0			0	90
Curates House	3738			3738	2400
West of 60	898	0		898	707
Clergy Cover	0			0	76
Vicarage Maintenance	0			0	154
stationery	439			439	702
Walsingham		800		800	167
Wm Leech Loan repayments		10000		10000	
Total Payments	64508	27475	0	91983	204766
Net receipts/payments	-14082	-10530	3879	-20733	-48766
Transfers between funds	0	0	0	0	
Cash funds last year	16000	77148	26084	119232	167997
					0
Cash funds this year end	1918	66618	29963	98499	119232
	Total	Actual PCC Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Nicholson Trust
Cash Funds					
Parish Current		2693			
Restricted Deposit Acc		24831		30000	
100club			37		
Centre Current			10975		
CCLA Investment				0	27602
CCLA Investment Diocese				0	2361
Total cash funds	98499	27524	11012	30000	29963
Restricted funds under the Nicholson Trust are as per the terms of the legacy under the control of the Vicar and Churchwardens and not under the jurisdiction of the PCC but have been included in these accounts for clarity purposes only.					
This trust money is available for the upkeep of the fabric of the Parish Church of S.Helen Auckland only					
Investment Assets stated at cost					
Nicholson Trust Property Pool Shares					75000
Curates House					155000

Post Year End
£15000 on the Leech Loan payable by 2023
£30000 from Millbank is restricted for the development of Youth Work in the Parish



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

St Helens Church

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 December 2020

**Charity no
(if any)**

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2020

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- 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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Michael Morris

Date:

10/04/2021

Name:

Michael Morris

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

FCA and FCCA

Address:

UNW LLP, Citygate,
St James' Boulevard,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
NE1 4JE

S. Helen Auckland PCC
Receipts and Payment Account

2020

	Unrestricted Funds	Organ/Kibi Parish Centre Fund Walsingham Restricted	Nicholson Trust Restricted	Total Funds	Last Year
Receipts					
<u>Voluntary Income</u>					
Planned Giving	25143			25143	23632
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<u>Receipts from Church Activities</u>				0	0
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Investment Assets stated at cost					
Nicholson Trust Property Pool Shares					75000
Curates House					155000

Post Year End
£15000 on the Leech Loan payable by 2023
£30000 from Millbank is restricted for the development of Youth Work in the Parish



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

St Helens Church

On accounts for the year ended

31 December 2020

Charity no (if any)

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
• 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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Michael Morris

Date:

15-4-21

Name:

Michael Morris

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

FCA and FCCA

Address:

UNW LLP, Citygate, St James' Boulevard, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4JE

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight 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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