

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 31st DECEMBER 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) MCIOB. 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					
<u>Voluntary Income</u>					
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
<u>Receipts from Church Activities</u>				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
<u>Activities for generating funds</u>				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
<u>Non-recurring receipts</u>					
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
<u>Payments</u>				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					
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Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

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ended**

31 December 2020

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(if any)**

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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

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

<div>Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.</div>	
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