

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 Vannessa 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 Vannessa 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. Vannessa 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.

Vannessa 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 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 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, drainpipes 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
<u>104643</u>
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:

Date:

29-4-25

Name:

JOSEPH KELLETT

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

FM AAT.

Address:

12 GREENFINCH ROAD

DHS OGG