

NORTHWICH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ST HELEN, WITTON.

England & Wales · Charity number 1179543

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2018-08-14

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

Contact

Address 7 Stretton Walk
Northwich
Cheshire
CW9 8GH

Phone 01606334874

Website <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6775/>

Activities

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

Activities: Our primary objective is the promotion of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrine and practices of the Church of England. This includes public acts of worship, provision of pastorally relevant religious ceremonies. We are actively involved in our local community and aim to welcome all from our community and we engage in a variety of community based events.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Cheshire West & Chester

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£131,614	£113,038	-	-
2023-12-31	£196,160	£187,782	-	-
2022-12-31	£124,987	£209,479	-	-
2021-12-31	£130,136	£443,653	-	-
2020-12-31	£130,136	£443,653	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
AMELIA JANE VISSCHER		2018-07-31
ANDREW CHARLES CANNON		2018-07-31
ANDREW JEAPES		2020-10-18
Aaron Lambert		2026-04-26
Barbara Joan Spencer		2022-04-24
Francis Eduard Pendlebury		2024-04-21
GORDON DAVID ATKINSON		2021-04-18
Ian Cross		2026-04-26
Jennifer Susan Thomas		2021-05-19
Joanne Hind		2024-05-15
KENNETH MOTH		2018-07-31
Lesley Moss		2025-04-27
ROSEMARY JOY MONTGOMERY		2018-07-31
Rachel Clarke		2022-04-24

NORTHWICH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ST HELEN,WITTON.

England & Wales - Charity number 1179543

Accounts

**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council
of
St Helen's Witton**
(also known as Northwich PCC)

for the year ended 31 December 2024

Incumbent:

Rev Andrew Ridley

Readers

Mrs Berenice Kirwan

Mr David Drinkwater

Bank:

HSBC Bank plc, Northwich

Independent Examiner:

Mr Frank Strange

1. Reference and administration details

Charity name: Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Helen's Witton

Also known as: St Helen's, Northwich

Registered charity number: 1179543

Principal address: The Vicarage, 61 Church Road, Northwich, CW9 5PB

Names of the trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
Andrew Ridley	Chairman		Chester Diocese
Mr Gordon Atkinson	Church warden		APCM
Mr Kenneth Moth	Church warden		APCM
Mrs Berenice Kirwan	Deanery Synod Rep		APCM
Mrs Barbara Spencer	Deanery Synod Rep		APCM
Mr Andrew Cannon	Deanery Synod Rep		APCM
Mrs Rachel Clarke			APCM
Mrs Joy Montgomery			APCM
Mrs Amelia Visscher			APCM
Mrs Jennifer Thomas			APCM
Mrs Jo Hind	Co-opted member	From 15 th May 2024	PCC
Mrs Ijeomer Alozor	Co-opted member	From 11 th June 2024	PCC
Mr Tim Finlay		Until 14 th January 2025	APCM
Mr Andrew Jeapes	Secretary & Treasurer		APCM
Mr Francis Pendlebury		From 24/4/24	APCM
Mr Michael Roberts		Until 21 st February 2024	APCM
Mr Paul Tott			APCM

APCM = Annual Parochial Church Meeting

2. Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document:	Act of Parliament: Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended)
How the charity is constituted:	Parish Church Council
Trustee selection methods:	Members of the PCC are either ex-officio due to an office or appointment they hold from Chester Diocese or are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The parish consists of one church: St Helen's. The vicar also has responsibility for St John's, Lostock Gralam.

3. Aims and Objectives

Aims and purposes

The PCC of St Helen's, Witton (also known as St Helen's Northwich) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Helen's Church, the Sexton's House and 4 houses which are rented to produce income.

Objectives and activities

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We aim to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community. We have adopted the overall objectives:

“Serving Christ, Serving the Community”

The primary object of St Helen's Parochial Church Council is the promotion of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrine and practices of the Church of England within the ecclesiastical parish.

Reference: “The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit”, Crown Copyright 2008

To this end we undertake activities in the following 4 areas:

- To maintain, develop and renew public acts of worship held regularly within our church building.
- To provide pastorally-relevant religious ceremonies open to all parishioners for baptisms, weddings and funerals.
- To extend the knowledge of and education in Christian teaching to both church members and members of the parish, within our acts of worship and through specific teaching opportunities, such as, confirmation groups and Sunday schools
- To provide pastoral care to members of the church and any parishioners in need of spiritual, social or practical support.
- The PCC acts to underpin all these activities by provision of well-maintained buildings.

4. Performance & Achievements

4.1 Vicar's Report

St Helen's Church has been a place of worship since 1350. So many generations have gathered here to meet Christ in Word and Sacrament. And now we, in our time, find ourselves called to worship and serve the Living God. We are blessed with a beautiful, much-loved and well-maintained building. In the course of 2024, we tried our best to advance our Mission Statement: 'Serving Christ, Serving the Community'. As a congregation we aspire to be a joy-filled and welcoming worshipping community that cares for the visitor and the enquirer and provides friendship and fellowship on Sunday and on weekdays.

In 2024, numbers attending Sunday worship increased and scarcely a week went by when there wasn't someone new to welcome. There were 84 Easter communicants (exactly the same as in 2023), 102 in total (compared with 123 in 2023 and probably down as a result of Bishop Sam's visit the previous week). Christmas communicants were 91 (91), total attendance 321 (314). Usual Sunday attendance (averaged across the year) was 57 Adults (50) and 5 children (4), and the 'Worshipping Community' stood at 135, which is 7 up on 2023. All these figures are derived from

careful recording keeping - in the Register of Services and a People Register - and numbers have been submitted to the Church of England's 'Statistics for Mission' database.

We have live-streamed and recorded on YouTube virtually every Sunday morning service. There is a small, faithful following of parishioners who watch online.

Bishop Sam conducted a Service of Confirmation on Palm Sunday and Janiss, Jo, Vicki, Imogen, Matilda and Nova were confirmed. Kamsin and Annie joined Bishop Sam at the altar and were welcomed as communicants.

Bert and Keira were the only couple to be married at St Helen's in 2024. We presented them with a wedding goody bag a week or two before their wedding in November. The number of funerals in church was down (from 29 to 17) and 10 (14) funerals were conducted at crematoria. Just before Christmas we celebrated the life and commended to God's safe keeping Frank Horrocks. Grieving families were invited to a Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving on the last Sunday in October and to the Christmas Carol Service. 27(21) children under 5 were baptised in 2024, plus 2 adults. The adults were presented with Bibles. Baptised children and their families continued to be invited to the following month's Worship Together Communion to pick up their child's baptism certificate and a Hannah Dunnett print for their child's bedroom wall.

Witton Church Walk School pupils and staff have continued to attend St Helen's for Collective Worship every fortnight during school term. WCWS had its Harvest Service, Christmas Christingle Service, Easter Service and Leavers' Service in St Helen's. Victoria Road School held its Christmas Performance in church and Rudheath Senior Academy Lower School held their Christmas Service.

The third Wednesday in the month Communion Service in the Holy Cross Chapel continued, followed by CAMEO lunch. 'Praise and Play' met weekly during term time. Seasonal occasions such as Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and Ascension Day were observed. St Helen's was well represented on Good Friday at the *Churches Together* Service at the Salvation Army Citadel, followed by an Open Air Service in Baron's Square. Fr. Paul from St Wilfrid's joined me in leading the Service at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. This followed the traditional Parade Service in church.

St Helen's signed up to the Jesus Shaped People Project – 'A Whole Church Discipleship Adventure based on the life of Jesus' - in 2024. From June to December, on 15 Sundays and in 4 small groups meeting after church on Sundays, Monday afternoons, Monday evenings and Thursday evenings, we explored how Jesus connected with people, taught about God through stories rooted in real life, built a team which learnt to forgive and love; made space for God in daily life through prayer and challenged the way things are with a vision of the way things could be.

Where we go next on our 'Jesus Shaped People' Adventure is up to us. Rebecca Holland, our JSP accompanier in 2024, has a new job as Strategic Programme Manager for the Diocese's 'Together in Christ, Sharing Hope' Project. But before she left she collated all the suggestions from the JSP Suggestion Box at the back of church and fed them into an after-service discussion which produced a very practical list of Jesus Shaped things to do as individuals and as a church family in 2025.

I continue to hope and pray that as a result of our ongoing JSP discipleship adventure ('Cross Shaped Jesus' is our 2025 JSP Lent Course) the congregation will grow in confidence, vision and in engaging with the local community. And that our discipleship deepens and is more purposeful. And new members are added.

Thank you, everyone who has contributed to the worshipping, serving life of St Helen's in 2024. There is much to look forward to in 2025 with new initiatives and changes of personnel in the offing.

Andrew Ridley

4.2 Churchwardens' Report

The Church Wardens have continued to carry out their primary responsibility of supporting the Vicar throughout the year. Regular meetings, have been held in order to help develop the mission of the Church and to progress administrative and maintenance matters. In terms of the Church building and facilities the last 12 months has again been a busy period.

Volunteers

Various calls have been made over the year for additional volunteers to help with the many essential tasks. These include Side persons / welcomers and servery volunteers on Sunday mornings and also volunteers for Saturday morning duties. Thursday Place of Welcome now has a strong group of volunteers, many of whom are not Church members. However, there are still only two Church member volunteers who share the task of opening / closing and coordinating all the various Thursday activities. These include Place of Welcome, the MIND bereavement counselling group and the Cheshire West and Chester Lets Talk initiative.

The Church Wardens are most grateful for all those volunteers who have, for many years, contributed lots of time each week to support the needs of St Helen's and indeed for those who have more recently stepped forward to help. Nonetheless we would like to encourage every church member to consider how they might further support the various needs that the Church has. For example, just a couple of hours cleaning each month, helping behind the servery once every couple of months, this type of help would be much appreciated. There are lots of other opportunities that members might want to offer help with. In addition, it is in doing these things that bonds and greater fellowship develops.

Inventory

We are grateful for the work that Ann and Frank have carried out to update the Church inventory records. The previous document was hand written some years ago and has been annotated many times to the point where it was difficult to follow. Ann and Frank have re typed the majority of the detailed records to create a modern useable document. The Inventory for 2025 has been completed and we expect a visit by the Archdeacon to check this at some time.

Roof - Repair already complete and future plans

Re-roofing and renewal of flashings to the aisle and vestry roofs is complete. Biannual checks of gutters and downpipes have been carried out. Whilst the main nave and chancel roof is sound and watertight a condition survey has been carried out. Costs for its eventual repair or replacement are currently being prepared to assist with forward planning and grant applications.

Servery

Leaks from the sink outlet and drain have been diagnosed and remedied.

Tower room

Work has been ongoing to develop this project and to meet points raised by the Chester Diocese Advisory Committee (DAC). We are expecting full approval during April 2025 and we will then implement the scheme.

Car Park

We are assembling supporting information in the form of a survey of all church users to demonstrate the need for a car park. We are also collecting letters of support from advocates (for example our MP). This will then be included in a formal planning application to create a car park. We already have consent for the widening of the east gate.

Food Hygiene

Volunteers have made excellent progress in establishing robust working practices and completing further training. An official inspection by Cheshire West and Chester resulted in a Food Hygiene rating of 4 with 5 the highest score. For comparison there are local commercial catering businesses that have Food Hygiene ratings of less than 4.

Organ

Work has continued at a much slower pace than was anticipated. However the original work remains within the agreed budget. Additional work to replace very old electrical systems associated with the main organ blower was authorised and has been completed.

Grounds

Work to maintain the Church grounds continues with help by volunteer teams. There have been a number of positive comments from both Church members and members of the public about the improved condition of our Church grounds.

Sextons House

This property was eventually sold free of any conditions related to St Helen's Church

Various improvements

Additional lighting has been added in the area above the space between the organ and the cupboards and toilet entrance. This was requested by the flower team who carry out much of their voluntary work in that area.

A handrail for the ramp has been designed and the architect is seeking a local metalworker to make and install this.

The external lights that is fitted to the building was checked, new lamps fitted and others repaired.

The burner nodes on the gas fired boiler have been replaced as have the two motors that drive the warm air into church. One of these new motors subsequently caught fire. The damage to the motor was such that any evidence as to why it caught fire was lost. The motor was replaced and appears to be working well. Over the very cold weeks around late December and January the boiler was working many hours each day and appeared to function well.

There was a mechanical failure of the sump pump that operated to keep the cellar area, and boiler, free from flooding. The pump has been replaced with no further issues. Excessive ground water had been leaching into the cellar area. The ground level drains and gullies have been inspected and no issues found other than the need to ensure the ground level gullies are kept clear of debris.

PA System

The control boxes and associated electrical wiring for the PA system was located in the rear choir stall behind the pulpit. The original installation involved many extension leads and trailing wires. Access to turn these on and off was difficult, not least for older volunteers, and the many trailing wires was considered a fire risk. The PCC decided to have all this relocated. And properly housed. It is now much safer and easier to use located in the corner behind the computer streaming work-station.

GA, and KM, churchwardens

4.3 Place of welcome & 4C's

Place of Welcome 2025

Place of Welcome on Thursdays continues to go from strength to strength, with between 50 and 60 attending each week, many staying for lunch. These include members of the MIND bereavement group, volunteers from Grozone, asylum seekers, casual visitors, and regulars from the parish. Passing walkers and visitors to Northwich take the opportunity to pop in while the church is open, many most stopping for a drink and chat with volunteers. The unconditional welcome and conversations are such an important part of what is offered. For some homemade soup is their only hot meal or chance to eat with company. Visitors come to 'Lets Talk Northwich', present from 11.30 – 1.30pm and obtain advice on a range of issues, see [Let's Talk Northwich | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#). New people come each week, some becoming regulars due to the warmth and welcome of the Place of Welcome community. Saying grace before the meal is an expected and accepted part of sharing together, initiated by one of our guests.

The volunteer team operate like a well-oiled machine gliding round each other in the server to serve drinks, make soup, prepare food and clear up, with set up and take down running equally smoothly. We are grateful to Gordon and Andrew Jeapes for opening-up and closing; to Christine for weekly shopping and to Andrew, Christine, Berenice, Angela and Barbara for making a great variety of soups. Bob, Keith, Ian and Jude are committed to set up, serving and clearing each week and we are grateful to the many others who assist and listen. Place of Welcome is only possible due to the willing service of volunteers, generous with their time and skills, and through the financial support of grants obtained by Gordon.

Barbara Moth

4Cs: Coffee, Cake, Company, Conversation

Every Saturday morning, between 10am and 12noon, hospitality is provided by regular volunteers and this is an important way in which St Helen's Church is in contact with our community. Paul and Lesley Tott have stepped back from volunteering after many years and we are immensely grateful to them for all their hard work. We pleased that others have been willing to do more on a regular basis, notably Dorothy Bostock, Barbara Jones. We have about 20 regular attenders but have been pleased to welcome a range of visitors from within the town and further afield. Good coffee and home-made cake are provided every week as well as a warm welcome. The atmosphere is further enhanced by the three talented flower arrangers and the equally talented knit and natter group! 4C's also plays a role in fund raising for the PCC nominated charities and during 2024, nearly £3,000 has been raised for: the Samaritans (£793) Christian Aid (£641) Cheshire Young Carers (£923) and the Children's Society (£608).

Andrew Jeapes

4.4 Praise & Play & Sunday Creche

Praise and Play continues to meet on a Friday morning between 9.30am and 11.00am and is slowly growing in numbers. We are in regular contact with 15 families.

The morning is specially prepared for pre-school children and their parents or carers and starts with a short service lasting about 10 minutes, during which we sing a couple of songs, listen to a story and say a short prayer. After the service there is a craft activity linked to the theme of the worship for the children and a chance to have a drink and a snack, recently toast or toasted teacakes, and for parents to enjoy a chat whilst the children play. There is no charge for "Praise and Play".

Topics explored this year during the worship session include;

- Finding out about God with Teddy Horsley when we learned about and celebrated Easter, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday. Teddy Horsley stories helped us to explore some of the Jesus Shaped People topics.
- God made a colourful world
- Getting ready for and celebrating Christmas and Epiphany
- God knows all about me
- Stories Jesus told

We would like to thank Angela Atkinson, Jennifer Thomas, Chris Davies and Vicki Ikin for all their help and support in welcoming and chatting to parents and providing the refreshments. We are always looking for more Church members to help and support this outreach initiative. Anyone is welcome to come along to join in with the worship and find out how you could help.

The Sunday Morning Creche meets every Sunday morning apart from the first Sunday in the month when there is a Worship Together Communion Service. The creche meets in the lower vestry during the first part of the service. The children join the rest of the congregation during the offertory hymn.

The creche is for pre-school children accompanied by a parent or carer. There is a space for the children to play, a Bible story is shared, often a simple version of the Gospel reading for the day, and the children can take part in a simple art or craft activity linked to the story.

The children attending the creche used the Jesus Shaped People readings and activities during the summer and autumn terms.

4.5 Sunday Club

Sunday club have continued to meet in the upper vestry on the 2nd and 3rd Sunday of the month during term time. We still continue to use the Godly Play scheme of teaching stories from the bible following the Church's year. We were also asked by Rev Andrew Ridley to consider using the Jesus-Shaped People (JSP) resources available to young people in this last year. We began with JSP 'follow me' the 15 week course for children and young people where we have been able to plan in some JSP sessions. The on-line resource materials have been easy to use and give great suggestions of activities we can include at age appropriate levels. The children have enjoyed the JSP sessions and we have had some thought provoking questions and fun activities.

We continue to have between 2 and 4 children attend on a regular basis and we actively ask all new families if they would like to attend Sunday Club if their children are old enough to attend. We also hope to follow the JSP Lent course for young people in the future months.

I would like to thank Ruth and Amelia for their continued support and help with running Sunday Club.

Rachel Clarke.

4.6 Choir

The choir continues to lead the congregation in the singing of hymns. During practice on Thursday evenings we tackle more challenging music to help improve our sight reading. At the moment, we are enjoying Herbert Sumsion's Magnificat. Sumsion had a very distinct style which endears him to singers and listeners alike. We are willing to find an occasion when we might introduce this and other anthems to our worship.

In the meantime, we welcome new members. We rehearse on Thursday evenings between 7.15pm and 8.15 pm, in the vestry. If you would like to come along to a practice, please speak to David Nangreave or another choir member, as very occasionally we need to cancel choir practice.

4.7 Bell Ringers

We are an active group of bell-ringers, who ring regularly for the Sunday services and practise on Monday evenings. It was with great sadness that we rang half muffled for the funeral of Frank Horrocks. Frank, who passed away on 8th December 2024, had been a loyal member of the band for many years and we will miss him greatly. Again, we will be ringing with demonstrations for the summer Tea at the Tower events. We are grateful for the support of visiting ringers from local towers but we are open to receive new recruits .

4.8 Parish Recorder's Report

The planned giving in the Parish continued with a Weekly Thanksgiving Envelope scheme, Yellow Envelopes, individual Standing Orders arranged through the bank, Contactless Payments, Open Plate donations and Annual Gifts.

Our Annual review for 2024 was distributed in Dec 24 together with thanks from Rev. Andrew Ridley to all regular givers and a renewal of pledge forms for 2025. A full set of Thanksgiving envelopes was issued in Jan 25 for the period Jan 2025 to Dec 2025.

The following shows the profile of giving and donations received for 2024 (Jan to Dec) compared to January to December of 2023.

	2024		2023	
Weekly Donation Value	No of donors	% of total	No of donors	% of total
less than £5	21	40%	18	37%
£5 - £10	15	28%	7	15%
£10 - £20	6	11%	12	25%
£20 - £30	4	8%	3	6%
£30 - £100	7	13%	7	15%
over £100	0	0%	1	2%
Total	53		48	

		Total Donations		Total Donations
Weekly Envelopes	5	1,150	7	£2213
Standing Orders	38	30,929	36	£28,667
Annual Gifts	-	-	5	£1,035
Yellow Envelopes	11	2,220	13	£11,498
		£34,299		£43,413
SCDS (including contactless)		£8083		£7567
Grand Total		£42382		£50980

Special Projects Last year numerous members of the congregation, (plus other donors NOT included here) gave to special projects such as the church clock, stained glass cleaning and towards the new church organ (as reflected in 2023 figures- see the yellow envelopes). Some members & non-members have continued to give towards these projects in 2024. This is greatly appreciated.

Contactless & Open Plate - The amount given has increased from £7567 to £8083. Thank you to everyone who gives in this way.

For the tax year purposes

In the tax year 2023/24-

During the tax year 2023/24, Regular Gift Aid Giving and Giving for Special Projects, totalled £39453.63 enabling us to claim £9863.42 for the parish on this sum.

A further £2000 was claimed on donations made through the Small Cash Donations scheme, (those donations made via contactless, open plate and other donations), plus £191.91 in interest, so a total of £12055.33 for the parish.

In the tax year 2022/2023

In the tax year 2022/23, we claimed £8323.50 Gift Aid on £33294 of Regular gifts and Weekly Gift Aid giving.

A further £1791.25 was claimed on donations made through the SCDS, plus £99.84 in interest, so a total of £10,214.59 for the parish.

4.9 Safeguarding

During 2024, no matters of concern were reported to either the Parish Safeguarding Officer(PSO) or the PCC. We have reviewed and published our safeguarding policy and continued with progress in training of appropriate volunteers and of DBS clearances. We are grateful for the work of Michael Roberts, who unfortunately had to resigned as PSO due to ill health and are pleased to welcome Mrs Lesley Moss as our new PSO.

4.10 Health & Safety Report

During the year 2024-25 the following UNOR reportable incidents have occurred:

Level 1 1
Level 2 2
Level 3 5

Level 3) Near miss incident/Observed Hazard: This is an incident or observed hazard/behaviour that could have resulted in an injury or damage to property if nothing was done about it. An example could be a damaged electrical socket or a spill of water that is not cleared up.

Level 2) Incident that caused damage to property or a minor injury requiring first aid: This is an incident that would have caused injury had there been a person in the wrong place at the wrong time or a minor injury not requiring professional medical attention. An example of this could be an overloaded electrical socket or a minor lighting fire. Level 1) Incident that led to a more severe injury requiring first aid/emergency services call out/RIDDOR report: Any incident that requires an emergency services call out is the highest level of UNOR.

Incidents

Incidents are rated according to the severity or potential for harm that could arise from the incident. Following each reported incident or near miss, an evaluation of the incident and the events leading up to the incident are undertaken by the H&S Officer and other members of the PCC if required. The investigation will result in a number of recommendations being made to the PCC.

Of the above incidents, one was rated as a level 1 and resulted in injuries being sustained by a parishioner that required medical help.

The level 2 and 3 incidents were near misses, with the potential to cause injury or damage. The most serious of which was related to a fire in the boiler room with potential to cause injury to persons and significant damage to the building.

Once again, can I ask that you let me know if you have seen anything that you consider to be a hazard or an unsafe event occur. There are forms available in the vestry and these are checked regularly.

All of the above incidents have resulted in recommendations being made to the PCC or the persons involved. The list of recommendations is available if required.

Policies and Risk Assessments

All H&S policies and risk assessments are up to date but are reviewed following reported incidents to confirm their adequacy and updated if necessary. Weekly monitoring of the defibrillator and condition of the carpets is undertaken and recorded in the H&S File.

4.11 Northwich & District Churches Together (NDCT)

NDCT meet quarterly when we plan for the year ahead. There were Lent courses at the Methodist Outreach Centre, St Wilfrid's, Holy Trinity Castle and our own Jesus Shaped People course, so plenty of choice for all our congregations. Good Friday Walk of Witness met at the Salvation Army Citadel at 11.00am followed by a walk through town highlighting the Easter message, finishing at the Salvation Army for refreshments. The songs of Praise afternoon held at Winnington Rec in July was well attended and enjoyed by all. Christmas cards were distributed in November at the Switching on of the Christmas Lights and also at the December Artisan Market where we had a stall. The cards gave the times and dates of all the NDCT Christmas services and events. Once again NDCT lit up their churches during Advent. In January a Bring & Share lunch was held at Holy Trinity followed by the service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Joy Montgomery

4.12 CAMEO

We have had a good attendance this year in spite of some bad weather. Everyone meets together for the monthly Midday Communion Service with an enjoyable Bring & Share lunch to follow. As usual we went out for a summer lunch and also at the beginning of December. During Lent we have a Bread and Cheese lunch. We would welcome anyone who is of retirement age to join us. May I stress that the Midweek Communion service is for everyone and not just CAMEO members.

Joy Montgomery

5.Financial Review

The financial statement of the PCC has been prepared in accordance with the Charity Commission requirements for England and Wales and is shown in tabular form at the end of this report.

Unrestricted funds

The bedrock of our income is the regular offerings made by standing order and these have increased by about 6%. Some of our other giving, although smaller in total, has increased by a greater percentage. Our income was greatly boosted by the sale of the Sexton's House and this money has been set aside for further development of facilities in church. A consequence of that sale is that we have a reduced income from rental property, although this has been offset for 2024 by increased interest on money in the bank. It is also of note that in 2024, we have benefitted from a legacy of £17,963, refund of VAT of £3,265 and grants of £1,820.

Our expenses have also risen, due to inflation. We continued to make our contribution towards the vicar's salary, and this remains our largest single cost. Encouragingly, our heating costs fell markedly. We had no major building projects but we spent about double on maintenance and minor repairs. We have also been able to continue to support local & national charities through Saturday's 4C's and Tea at the Tower.

Restricted funds

In 2024 we received grants towards Place of Welcome of £7060. Donations and fund-raising for the organ totalled £3708. We had a legacy of £500 for work on the roof. Expenditure has been primarily on the organ (£25,928) a final payment on the clock (£2275) and on Place of Welcome (£3034).

The organ fund stands at £3,7741, which is sufficient to complete the installation but an additional amount of perhaps £2500 will be required for cosmetic work on the console and surround.

The trustees' policy on reserves:

As a PCC, we are well aware of the forthcoming challenges in terms of repair and maintenance of the church building and of meeting our aspirations to develop the growth and ministry of the church. Equally, we do currently hold significant assets (cash, investments and buildings) which we need to manage effectively for the best outcome for St Helen's Church. Our saleable property portfolio as at Dec 2024 is valued at approximately £535,200. A reserve policy clearly will help with our future funding strategy. In the light of the foregoing background, the PCC agreed a revised reserve policy as follows:-

Reserves Policy for St Helen's (Witton) Northwich

What:

The following risks are addressed

1. Loss of three months income from residential properties, say £6,000.
2. Decline in planned giving and collections (annual), say £18,000.
3. Unforeseen eventuality (say building or services failure), say £36,000.

TOTAL CASH RESERVE £60,000

Why:

These reserves are held to cover significant unexpected reduction in income or unexpected and unplanned urgent expenditure. However, the PCC will also need to take action to remedy deficits in its funding over the longer term and to rebuild the reserve whenever it is called upon.

When can these reserves be used:

Money held in reserve can only be allocated by the Parochial Church Council. If an urgent response is required an emergency PCC will be called.

Review:

The PCC will review the reserves policy annually, as recommended by the Charity Commission, in sufficient time to present the revised policy to the Annual Parish Church Meeting.

6. Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Andrew Jeapes	Andrew Ridley
Position	Secretary of PCC	Chairman
Date	26-3-25	26-3-25

Receipt and Payments Account from 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
A1 Receipts	To the nearest £				
Voluntary income	61,545	3,002		64,547	61,689
Tax Receipt	12,055			12,055	18,513
Income from events & activities	12,784	1,207		13,990	11,685
Income from investments	9,893			9,893	7,414
Income from rental properties	29,449			29,449	32,311
Grants	1,820	7,060		8,880	13,990
Other Income	4,067			4,067	50,557
Sub-total (Gross income for A1)	131,614	11,268		142,882	196,160
A2 Asset & Investment Sales (see table)					
Sale of Sexton's House	153,424			153,424	
Total Receipts	285,038	11,268		296,306	196,160

A3 Payments

Missionary & charitable grants	5,263			5,263	3,724
Church-related:					
Ministry & worship	49,861	680		50,540	46,971
Events	4,305	1,785		6,090	2,263
Building running costs	22,077	281		22,358	27,478
Minor repairs & maintenance	16,121	1,368		17,489	8,529
Costs of rental properties	2,716			2,716	7,449
Admin & IT	2,617	101		2,718	2,807
Sub total church-related	97,697	4,214		101,911	95,857
Major works & repairs	10,078	27,703		37,781	88,201
Sub-total A3 Payments	113,038	31,916		144,954	187,783

A4 Asset & investment Purchases

Costs of sale of Sexton's House	713			713	
Sub-total A4	713			713	
Total Payments	113,751	31,916		145,667	187,783
Nett of receipts/(payments)	171,287	-20,648		150,639	8,378
A5 Transfer between funds					
A6 Cash funds 31 st December 2023	96,512	70,886		167,397	159,019
Cash funds at 31st December 2024	267,798	50,237		318,036	167,397

Section B Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the Year End

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	
B1 Cash Funds					
Cash at bank		267,798	50,237		
Total cash funds		267,798	50,237		
B2 Other Monetary Assets		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	
CBF Institute		Unrestricted		42,060	
CBF Witton Sunday School Fund		Restricted		24,884	
Total				66,944	
B3 Investment assets					
Cornerstones (Sexton's House)		Unrestricted	Sold		
8 St Chads Fields		Unrestricted	115,200		
17 Hollybank Close		Unrestricted	150,000		
16, St Chads Fields		Unrestricted	130,000		
1 Scholars Rise		Unrestricted	140,000		
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	
B4 Assets retained for charity's own use					
		Fund to which liability belongs	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)	
B5 Liabilities	Organ refurbishment	Restricted	40,000	31/07/25	
	Outstanding fees	Unrestricted	275	31/03/25	

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of St Helen's Witton, Parochial Church Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the **St Helen's Witton, Parochial Church Council** (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

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 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect: 1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or 2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or 3. the accounts do 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.

I see that my previous recommendation that formal expenses claim form is introduced which details the claimants name, the item of each expenditure in terms of description, date and cost and the date of the claim has been mostly implemented and I would like to see this continue.

Signed:



Name: Frank Strange

Address Westerhow, Waste Lane, Cuddington, Northwich Cheshire CW8 2TD

Date: 25th April 2025

NORTHWICH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ST HELEN,WITTON.

England & Wales - Charity number 1179543

Accounts

**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council
of
St Helen's Witton**
(also known as Northwich PCC)

for the year ended 31 December 2023

Incumbent:

Rev Andrew Ridley

Readers

Mrs Berenice Kirwan

Mr David Drinkwater

Bank:

HSBC Bank plc, Northwich

Independent Examiner:

Mr Frank Strange

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1. Reference and administration details

Charity name: Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Helen's Witton

Also known as: St Helen's, Northwich

Registered charity number: 1179543

Principal address: The Vicarage, 61 Church Road, Northwich, CW9 5PB

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
Andrew Ridley	Chairman		Chester Diocese
Mr Gordon Atkinson	Church warden		APCM
Mr Kenneth Moth	Church warden		APCM
Mrs Berenice Kirwan	Deanery Synod Rep		APCM
Mrs Barbara Spencer	Deanery Synod Rep		APCM
Mr Andrew Cannon	Deanery Synod Rep		APCM
Mrs Louise Begent-Piers		Until 22 nd April 2023	APCM
Mrs Rachel Clarke			APCM
Mrs Joy Montgomery			APCM
Mrs Amelia Visscher			APCM
Mrs Jennifer Thomas			APCM
Mr Andrew Cannon	Deanery Synod Rep		APCM
Mr Tim Finlay		From 23 rd April 2023	APCM
Mr Andrew Jeapes	Secretary & Treasurer		APCM
Mr Michael Roberts		From 23 rd April 2023 to 21 st February 2024	APCM
Mr Paul Tott			APCM

APCM = Annual Parochial Church Meeting

2. Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document:	Act of Parliament Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended)
How the charity is constituted:	Parish Church Council
Trustee selection methods:	Members of the PCC are either ex-officio due to an office or appointment they hold from Chester Diocese or are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church

The parish consists of one church: St Helen's. The vicar also has responsibility for St John's, Lostock Gralam.

3. Aims and Objectives

Aims and purposes

The PCC of St Helen's, Witton (also known as St Helen's Northwich) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Helen's Church, the Sexton's House and 4 houses which are rented to produce income.

Objectives and activities

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We aim to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community. We have adopted the overall objectives of being:

“ Serving Christ, Serving the Community”

The primary object of St Helen's Parochial Church Council is the promotion of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrine and practices of the Church of England within the ecclesiastical parish.

Reference: “The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit”, Crown Copyright 2008

To this end we undertake activities in the following 4 areas:

- To maintain, develop and renew public acts of worship held regularly within our church building.
- To provide pastorally-relevant religious ceremonies open to all parishioners for baptisms, weddings and funerals.
- To extend the knowledge of and education in Christian teaching to both church members and members of the parish, within our acts of worship and through specific teaching opportunities, such as, confirmation groups and Sunday schools
- To provide pastoral care to members of the church and any parishioners in need of spiritual, social or practical support.
- The PCC acts to underpin all these activities by provision of well maintained buildings.

4. Performance & Achievements

4.1 Vicar's Report

Our Parish Church is dedicated to St Helen, Protector of the Holy Places. A photograph of a statue of her can be found, together with a short introduction to her remarkable life, in the entrance porch and on the display board at the back of church. Her special day is 21st May. No one knows how or why Helen came to be our church's patron saint. What we do know is that shortly after her son, Constantine, became the first Christian Roman Emperor, he gave her unlimited access to the Imperial Treasury to locate Christian relics and build churches at Bethlehem, the Mount of Olives, where Jesus was crucified on Good Friday and where he was raised from the dead on Easter Day. I like the idea of our holy place being under the protection of Helen, Protector of Holy Places.

St Helen's Church is first and foremost a place of worship, where we gather to meet the Living, Loving and Forgiving Christ in Word and Sacrament. The age and size of our church are a help to worship and visitors often comment on the peace they encounter on entering through the glass doors Bishop Mark dedicated on St Helen's Day two years ago. Of course, St Helen's is more than

a building: it is a worshipping community that cares for the visitor and the enquirer, offering generous hospitality without strings but always hoping that the service we offer speaks of the love God has for everyone.

2023 was memorable in all kinds of ways. Numbers attending Sunday worship increased and scarcely a week went by when there wasn't someone new to welcome. There were 84 Easter communicants (55 in 2022), 123 in total (compared with 77 in 2022). Christmas communicants were 91 (66), total attendance 314 (251). Usual Sunday attendance (averaged across the year) was 50 Adults (48) and 4 children (4), and the 'Worshipping Community' stood at 128, which is 14 up on 2022. All these figures are derived from careful recording keeping - in the Register of Services and a People Register - and numbers have been submitted to the Church of England's 'Statistics for Mission' database.

We have live-streamed and recorded on YouTube virtually every Sunday morning service. There is a small, faithful following of parishioners who watch online.

Bishop Sam celebrated and preached on the last Sunday in July and was back in the Autumn to visit and lead Collective Worship at Witton Church Walk School.

The number of weddings was up (from 1 to 5) and we invited the couples to a Valentine's Day Service. The number of funerals in church was up (from 21 to 29) and 14 (18) funerals were conducted at crematoria. Early in April we celebrated the life and commended to God's keeping Dave Hodgkinson and at the end of May, Marjorie Jobber. Grieving families were invited to a Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving in the Autumn and to the Christmas Carol Service. After a post-Covid high of 36 in 2022 there were 22 baptisms in 2023. I have continued to invite baptism families to the following month's Worship Together Communion to pick up their child's baptism certificate and a Hannah Dunnitt print for their child's bedroom wall, a gift from their church family at St Helen's.

Witton Church Walk School pupils and staff have continued to attend St Helen's for Collective Worship every fortnight during School Term. WCWS had its Harvest Service, Christmas Christingle Service, Easter Service and Leavers' Service in St Helen's. Victoria Road School and Rudheath Senior Academy held their Christmas Performances in church, too.

In May Bishops Julie and Sam took a walk down Witton Street as part of a Deanery Visit and stayed for a Place of Welcome lunch. May was also the month King Charles was crowned and St Helen's celebrated his Coronation in style, with a Big Screen, lavish refreshments and bells rung on the Saturday and a Special Service on the Sunday. In October Bernice Kirwan was licensed as a Parish Reader in Chester Cathedral. Welcome to the Worship Leaders' Team, Berenice! With me to share in leading the Service at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday was Fr. Paul from St Wilfrid's.

The third Wednesday in the month Communion Service in the Holy Cross Chapel continued, followed by CAMEO lunch. 'Praise and Play' met weekly during term time. Seasonal occasions such as Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and Ascension Day were observed. St Helen's was well represented on Good Friday at the Churches Together Service at the Salvation Army, followed by an Open Air Service in Baron's Square.

Just before Christmas and on behalf of St Helen's I expressed an interest in the Jesus Shaped People Project. This is a national initiative by the Church of England and I am sure St Helen's will benefit from it in 2024. JSP is described as a 'Whole Church Discipleship Adventure' that: recognises five priorities that Jesus modelled in his three year ministry; helps churches explore these priorities in enjoyable and practical ways; inspires churches to reshape themselves in response to this in practical ministry; has a special focus on including children and young people; helps churches evaluate their progress and maintain their Jesus Shaped focus. I am hoping that St Helen's JSP discipleship adventure will see us grow in confidence, vision and in engaging with the local community. That our discipleship deepens and is more purposeful. And new members are added.

Thank you, everyone who has contributed to the worshipping, serving life of St Helen's in 2023. 2024 promises to be an exciting, challenging and enjoyable year!

Andrew Ridley

4.2 Churchwardens' Report

The Church Wardens have continued to carry out their primary responsibility of supporting the Vicar throughout the year. Regular meetings, mainly two weekly, have been held in order to help develop the mission of the Church and to progress administrative and maintenance matters.

In terms of the Church building and facilities the last 12 months has again been a busy period.

Inventory

We are grateful for the work that Ann and Frank have carried out to update the Church inventory records. The previous document was hand written some years ago and has been annotated many times to the point where it was difficult to follow. Ann and Frank have re typed the majority of the detailed records to create a modern useable document. We hope for a visit by the Archdeacon to check our inventory at some time.

Roof - Repair already complete and future plans

The re-roofing of the north aisle and vestry was finally completed on 20th September. During the work the contractor had observed problems on the nave roof due to slipped and delaminating slates. In late October during exceptionally heavy rain there was a leak at the junction of the nave roof and tower on the north side caused by a couple of slipped slates which were put back. Following this the wardens asked the architect to submit a service and fee proposal to carry out a scoping study on addressing the nave roof issues to include the nature and extent of the problems and the options for their remedy including phasing, timescale (including securing necessary consents), materials, temporary protection and cost. A proposal was received and the PCC has instructed the study to be carried out.

Tower room

Following consultations with the DAC some minor amendments have been made to the design of the Tower Room. In addition the DAC advised that a Heritage Impact Assessment of the new room on the heritage of the building be prepared by an appropriate consultant. Accordingly Kathryn Sather & Associates of Altrincham who are Heritage Conservation Consultants have been briefed and we await their proposal.

Food Hygiene

It has been brought to our attention that because St Helen's hold regular weekly event where food is provided then we must register as a "food business". This is true even though no food is sold. This registration is likely to result in an unannounced inspection by the Cheshire West and Chester regulatory team. We are checking all our ways of working and procedures to ensure we can continue to provide these important outreach services and be compliant with regulations.

Clock

The clock refurbishment was completed in December but unfortunately the mechanism failed to keep accurate time. At the time of writing this report we are waiting further work by Cumbria Clock Company. We have an outstanding invoice that will not be paid until we are satisfied the clock is working correctly. An update can be given at the time of the annual meeting.

Organ

Work on removing the organ from Dorset and making good the building it was dismantled from was completed on time and on budget. The various pieces of this complex instrument are currently being checked and refurbished in the organ builders' workshops. This is taking longer than originally anticipated but remains within the cost budget plans. The estimate is that work in St Helen's to dismantle the current organ and rebuild the replacement will commence in early summer.

Grounds

Work to maintain the Church grounds continues with help by volunteer teams. There have been a number of positive comments from both Church members and members of the public about the improved condition of our Church grounds.

Sextons House

At the time of writing all known permissions to allow for the sale of the Sexton's House are in place and the property is being marketed in readiness for it to go to auction at the end of March.

An update can be given at the time of the annual meeting.

Gordon Atkinson, Ken Moth, February 2024

4.3 Place of welcome (& All Friends Together) and Four C's

Rachel Clarke offers her views on Place of Welcome: I have been regularly attending the Place of Welcome group on a Thursday lunchtime over the last year. It continues to grow in numbers between 30 and 40 attending most weeks all different age groups. Many people who attend come through the bereavement group, through Facebook, the local Guardian newspaper or even referred by occupational health, feeling lonely, isolated in need of a friendly chat or advise. The volunteers who serve in the kitchen often have no way of knowing how many people will turn up from week to week but there is always enough food for everyone no matter their circumstances at a place of welcome there is no charge for a meal and hot drink. Some weeks there may be new people who come along they are given a great welcome with a hot drink by either Gordon, Angela or Pat and Keith who are reassuring to someone who is unsure. Before we all sit down for our bowl of homemade soup and bread, we will say grace and have a moment to think about other people who may not be as fortunate as ourselves who may not be able to enjoy a hot meal together in company. Many Thanks must go to the volunteers that continue to help behind the scenes including Bob, Christine and Keith who help set up and prepare the tables along with Barbara, Berenice, Andrew J, Gordon and Angela providing the delicious soup and homemade cake

4Cs: Coffee, Cake, Company, Conversation

Every Saturday morning, between 10am and 12noon, hospitality is provided by regulars, Dorothy Bostock, Barbara Jones, Paul and Lesley Tott. A regular group of about 20 gather plus some who drop in occasionally. Good coffee and home made cake is provided every week as well as a warm welcome. The atmosphere is further enhanced by the three talented flower arrangers and the equally talented knit and natter group! From April 2023 until the end of February 2024 approximately £1890 has been raised for both local and national charities.

Paul & Lesley Tott

4.4 Praise & Play

Praise and Play meets on a Friday morning between 9.30am and 11.00am and is slowly growing in numbers. We are in regular contact with 15 families.

The morning is specially prepared for pre-school children and their parents or carers and starts with a short service lasting about 10 minutes, during which we sing a couple of simple worship songs with actions, listen to a story and say a short prayer. Worship time ends by everyone, including the children, saying the Lord's Prayer with actions. After the service there is a craft activity linked to the theme of the worship for the children and a chance to have a drink and a snack, usually toasted teacakes, and for parents to enjoy a chat whilst the children play. There is no charge for "Praise and Play".

Topics explored this year during the worship session include;

- Stories Jesus told – a selection of parables written and illustrated by Mick Inkpen and Nick Butterworth
- God is always with me.
- Thank you, God for days out and about.
- God made a wonderful world.
- Getting Ready for Christmas.

We have been able to display the craft activities the children have taken part in on the notice board at the back of church.

We would like to thank Angela Atkinson, Jennifer Thomas and Barbara Spencer for all their help

and support in welcoming and chatting to parents and providing the refreshments. We are looking for more Church members to help and support this outreach initiative. Anyone is welcome to come along to join in with the worship and find out how you could help.

4.5 Sunday Club

Sunday Club has continued over the last year on the second and third Sunday of every month in term time. We regularly have 4 children attend who range in age 6-11 years. We continue to use Godly Play stories during the time in the upper vestry. The children will listen to the story and can ask questions related to the story then they are able to choose a craft activity to complete based on the story they have heard. Sometimes they choose Lego to build or complete a drawing or make something in clay they can choose from all the craft equipment available. The children return to the service at the end for a blessing. We have been recently looking at the Jesus Shaped People resources. We began a small trial of the materials available online during Lent. They are easy to use and give ideas in age groups from 5 – 7 years and 7- 11 years with Games, prayers, and craft activities to make. We would like to continue to try the new resources with the children that attend Sunday Club when the next course of JSP begins later in the year. Thank you to Ruth, Amelia and Carol this last year with the help and support they have given to maintain a Sunday club for the children who attend St Helen's Church. Rachel Clark

4.6 Choir

Did you know that the choir meets every Thursday evening in the church vestry between 7.15 and 8.15pm? Apart from practicing the hymns for the following Sunday, we enjoy the opportunity to sing some choral anthems from our collection. If you like to practise some sight-reading, David Nangreave can always find something new to try. We are all supportive of each other and enjoy the fellowship. If you would like to join us, we would love to welcome you. No matter if you haven't sung for a while, David is always encouraging and helpful. No audition is necessary. Occasionally we have to cancel the practice, so should you wish to come along, please mention to David, our choirmaster or one of the choir who will confirm if we are meeting. Singing is beneficial to physical and mental well-being, which is a very good reason to practise it!

4.7 Bell ringers

We are an active group of ringers who ring regularly for Sunday services and practice on Monday evening. It was with great sadness that we rang half muffled for the funeral of our previous tower captain Dave Hodgkinson on the 3rd of April 2023. On the 6th of May we rang for the coronation of King Charles III. We will once again be ringing with demonstrations for the tower tours which begin on the 5th of May. We are grateful for the support of visiting ringers from local towers who have been a great help.

4.8 Parish Recorder's Report

The planned giving in the Parish continued with a Weekly Thanksgiving Envelope scheme, Yellow Envelopes, individual Standing Orders arranged through the bank, Contactless Payments, Open Plate donations and Annual Gifts.

Our Annual review for 2023 was distributed in May 2023 together with a Letter of Thanks from Rev. Andrew Ridley to all regular givers and a renewal of pledge forms for 2023. A full set of Thanksgiving envelopes was issued in Dec 2023 for the period Jan 2024 to Dec 2024.

The following shows the profile of giving and donations received for 2023 (Jan to Dec) compared to January to December of 2022.

	2023		2022	
Weekly Donation Value	No of donors	% of total	No of donors	% of total
less than £5	18	37%	24	47%
£5 - £10	7	15%	7	14%
£10 - £20	12	25%	10	20%
£20 - £30	3	6%	1	2%
£30 - £100	7	15%	9	18%
over £100	1	2%	0	0%
Total	48		51	
		Total Donations		Total Donations
Weekly Envelopes	7	£2213	11	£3295.44
Standing Orders	36	£28,667	35	£29254
Annual Gifts	5	£1,035	1	£100
Yellow Envelopes	13	£11,498	14	£2455
		£43,413		£35104
SCDS (including contactless)		£7567		£6192
Grand Total		£50980		£41296

Special Projects -Figures show that members of the congregation, (plus other donors NOT included here) have been very generous in giving for special projects such as the church clock, stained glass cleaning and the new church organ in the last 12 months. This is tremendous and greatly appreciated.

Contactless & Open Plate - The amount given has increased from £6192 to £7567. Thank you to everyone who gives in this way.

Regular Giving- Once annual gifts and yellow envelopes have been excluded (As these are primarily special project donations) overall regular giving has decreased by approx. 6 %.

Comparison of donor giving in 2022 and 2023

(This excludes donations to special projects).

%	Of donors
36%	are giving more in 2023
18%	are giving less in 2023
30%	no change in regular giving amount from 2022-2023
16%	of donors are no longer giving

For the tax year purposes

In the tax year 2022/23-

During the tax year 2022/23, Regular Gift Aid Giving and Giving for Special Projects, totalled £33294 enabling us to claim £8323.50 for the parish on this sum.

A further £1791.25 was claimed on donations made through the Small Cash Donations scheme, (those donations made via contactless, open plate and other donations), plus £99.84 in interest, so a total of £10,214.59 for the parish.

In the tax year 2021/22

In the tax year 2021/22, we claimed £6,760.73 Gift Aid on £27,043 of Regular gifts and Weekly Gift Aid giving.

A further £1452 was claimed on donations made through the SCDS, plus £85.57 in interest, so a total of £8298.59 for the parish.

Hilary Ritchie

4.9 Safeguarding Report

There were no safeguarding incidents in 2023. The PCC has reviewed our safeguarding policy and has implemented the diocesan requirement to obtain DBS checks on all PCC members. Where necessary, new and refresher on-line training requirements have been completed. Our safeguarding officer resigned in Feb 2024, due to ill-health and a replacement is being sought.

4.10 Health & Safety Report

Summary

During the year 2023-24 the following UNOR reportable incidents have occurred:

Level 1	1
Level 2	1
Level 3	3

Level 3) Near miss incident/Observed Hazard: This is an incident or observed hazard/behaviour that could have resulted in an injury or damage to property if nothing was done about it. An example could be a damaged electrical socket or a spill of water that is not cleared up.

Level 2) Incident that caused damage to property or a minor injury requiring first aid: This is an incident that would have caused injury had there been a person in the wrong place at the wrong time or a minor injury not requiring professional medical attention. An example of this could be an overloaded electrical socket or a minor lighting fire. Level 1) Incident that led to a more severe injury requiring first aid/emergency services call out/RIDDOR report: Any incident that requires an emergency services call out is the highest level of UNOR.

Incidents

Incidents are rated according to the severity or potential for harm that could arise from the incident. Following each reported incident or near miss, an evaluation of the incident and the events leading up to the incident are undertaken by the H&S Officer and other members of the PCC if required. The investigation will result in a number of recommendations being made to the PCC.

Of the above incidents, one was rated as a level 1 and resulted in injuries being sustained by a parishioner that required medical help.

The level 2 and 3 incidents were near misses, with the potential to cause injury or damage. The most serious of which was related to anti-social behaviour being observed in the churchyard, of which the police have been made aware.

Once again, can I ask that you let me know if you have seen anything that you consider to be a hazard or an unsafe event occur. There are forms available in the vestry and these are checked regularly.

All of the above incidents have resulted in recommendations being made to the PCC or the persons involved. The list of recommendations is available if required.

Policies and Risk Assessments

All policies and Risk Assessments are currently under review.

Andrew Cannon

4.11 Deanery Synod Report

Deanery Synod met on 7th February 2023 at Sandiway Church Hall.

The meeting clashed with Debbie Dalby's induction at Christ Church, Barnton meaning St Helen's representation was split.

Harriet Roberts, Diocesan Director of Development (Vision and Strategy) led an Open Meeting of Synod. She encouraged participants to try their hand at a variety of hands on activities to articulate their feelings/concerns about the diocese, how well or otherwise their parishes were doing, what things needed to improve and did they have a vision going forward? Harriet explained that what our deanery said would be fed into her Vision Report, soon to be submitted to the Bishops and a small Working Party which would then be published. A Strategy Document for the Diocese would follow in about a year's time. This document's thinking would underpin the diocese's use of resources, including those which can be bid for from the National Church's Strategic Development Fund.

Deanery Synod met on 20th June at Sandiway Church Hall.

The speaker was the Archdeacon of Macclesfield, the Venerable Ian Bishop, a previous Vicar and Rural Dean of Middlewich and soon to become the Bishop of Thetford in Norwich Diocese. He asked Synod to consider the church's response to Net Carbon Zero. , while noting that Care of Creation is the 5th Mark of Mission and our link diocese, Melanesia, is gradually disappearing under the waves as a result of climate change and rising sea levels. The Church of England has agreed a Route-map to Net Zero (available on its website). Points to consider are: technology is developing fast; church buildings generally have a fairly low carbon footprint (about 5% of the C of E's footprint); clergy housing is responsible for 25% and church schools the rest. The Archdeacon urged PCCs to put Net Zero on the agenda; keep up with maintenance; install draught-proofing where possible, complete the C of E's energy footprint tool; consider more efficient ways of heating church buildings. The diocese is appointing a Net Zero Carbon Officer (if a grant is made available). The Church Commissioners are making £150m available to dioceses from reserves to boost Net Zero implementation.

Deanery Synod met on 17th October 2023 at Holy Trinity, Church, Castle.

The speaker was Bishop Sam who turned the tables by inviting Synod members to talk to one another about what they were praying for and what they were most thankful for. He continued by speaking very personally about his time at Leeds Parish Church and the need to face change expectantly and hopefully. His message seemed to be that we must be prepared to face the soon-to-be-released Diocesan Strategy, hopefully and expectantly. Members were promised that the next meeting of Synod - on Tuesday 6th February 2024 at St Luke's Church, Winnington - would be an Open Meeting when we would be briefed on the Diocesan Strategy by Rev Peter Froggatt, Director of Outreach.

Andrew Ridley

4.12 Northwich & District Churches Together

NDCT meet quarterly when we exchange news from each church and plan how we might effectively work together for the year ahead. This year the production of hundreds of Christmas cards containing details of the various churches' Christmas services were handed out at the switching on of the Christmas lights along with hot chocolate from the Salvation Army which were gratefully received by passers by. More cards were then distributed at the December Artisan market. Another Songs of Praise will hopefully be held during the summer when The Condote Singers will lead the singing, details will follow later. Good Friday Walk of Witness this year will be slightly different. It will begin at the Salvation Army at 11.15am then walking down Witton Street and Leicester Street for an Open Air Service in Baron's Square.

Joy Montgomery

4.13 CAMEO

We continue to meet on the third Wednesday of each month after the midday Communion service. Twice a year we go out for Lunch, in the summer and in December. Two of our long standing ladies can no longer attend due to ill health but recently we have welcomed a few new members. During Lent we are happy for others who have attended the Communion service also join us afterwards for a Bread and Cheese lunch. Anyone who is of retirement age will be made very welcome to join us each month.

5.Financial Review

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Charity Commission requirements for England and Wales, and are shown in tabular form at the end of this report.

We entered 2023 knowing that there would be a major challenge from greatly increased electricity and gas cost but the reality has proved to be less severe. In terms of day-to-day income and expenditure we managed to break even over the year. Setting aside the funds we raised for projects like the clock and organ, our total income was £9000 more than in 2022. However this difference was entirely due to exceptional factors: additional gift aid tax refund, refund of VAT, grants to support Welcoming Place, increased interest from savings and a legacy.

Our giving income was actually about lower than in 2022, as noted by the Parish Recorder. Our other major income, from rental properties, has held steady.

In terms of expenditure, the biggest difference from 2022 was the large increase in utilities costs, of nearly £12,000. Reassuringly, this was about £4000 lower than predicted at the start of the year due to careful control of the heating system. Expenditure on major building works has been lower than 2022. Some costs were due to completion of the disabled WC and S Porch but about £40,000 has been spent on repair of the N Aisle roof.

With the exception of major building projects, other costs are roughly in-line with the previous year's spending. Charitable giving has matched that from 2022.

As well as funds for our day to day operations, we also sought monies to fund 3 projects. These were cleaning of two stained glass windows, refurbishment of the clock and replacement of the organ. Two donors generously paid for the entire costs of cleaning the stained glass windows. Grants and donations have provided for the full cost of the clock refurbishment (excluding VAT). Replacement of the organ is funded in part by an insurance claim for water damage to the current organ. Grants and donations towards the organ project have accumulated during the year have now reached £19,000 which is 2/3 of the target (of £31,000) that we set.

The trustees' policy on reserves:

As a PCC, we are well aware of the forthcoming challenges in terms of repair and maintenance of the church building and of meeting our aspirations to develop the growth and ministry of the church. Equally, we do currently hold significant assets (cash, investments and buildings) which we need to manage effectively for the best outcome for St Helen's Church. Our saleable property portfolio as at Dec 2021 is valued at approximately £660,000.

A reserve policy clearly will help with our future funding strategy.

In the light of the foregoing background, the PCC agreed a revised reserve policy as follows:-

Reserves Policy for St Helen's (Witton) Northwich

What:

The following risks should be addressed

1. Loss of three months income from residential properties, say £6,000.
2. Decline in planned giving and collections (annual), say £18,000.
3. Unforeseen eventuality (say building or services failure), say £36,000.

TOTAL CASH RESERVE £60,000

Why:

These reserves are held to cover significant unexpected reduction in income or unexpected and unplanned urgent expenditure. However, the PCC will also need to take action to remedy deficits in its funding over the longer term and to rebuild the reserve whenever it is called upon.

When can these reserves be used:

Money held in reserve can only be allocated by the Parochial Church Council. If an urgent response is required an emergency PCC will be called.

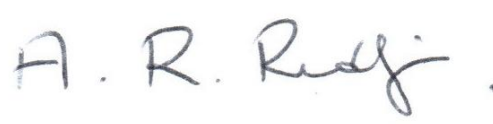
Review:

The PCC will review the reserves policy annually, as recommended by the Charity Commission, in sufficient time to present the revised policy to the Annual Parish Church Meeting.

6. Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Andrew Jeapes	Andrew Ridley
Position	Secretary of PCC	Chairman
Date	22/3/24	22/3/24

Receipt and Payments Account from 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
A1 Receipts	To the nearest £				
Voluntary income	40,523	21,167		61,689	44,067
Tax Receipt	18,513			18,513	8,820
Income from events & activities	11,685			11,685	8,630
Income from investments	7,414			7,414	3,607
Income from rental properties	32,311			32,311	31,794
Grants	2,840	11,150		13,990	10,680
Other Income	9,377	41,180		50,557	17,389
Sub-total (Gross income for A1)	122,663	73,497		196,160	124,987
A2 Asset & Investment Sales (see table)					
Total Receipts	122,663	73,497		196,160	124,987

A3 Payments

Missionary & charitable grants	3,724			3,724	3,807
Church-related:					
Ministry & worship	46,461	511		46,971	45,212
Events	2,623			2,263	1,157
Building running costs	27,478			27,478	16,790
Minor repairs & maintenance	8,529			8,529	4,350
Costs of rental properties	7,449			7,449	10,429
Admin & IT	2,807			2,807	3,226
Sub total church-related	95,347	511		95,857	81,164
Major works & repairs	72,712	15,489		88,201	124,508
Professional fees					
Sub-total A3 Payments	171,783	16,000		187,783	209,479

A4 Asset & investment Purchases

Sub-total A4		61,200		61,200	
Total Payments	171,783	77,200		248,983	209,479
Nett of receipts/(payments)	-49,120	57,498		8,378	(84,479)
A5 Transfer between funds	-101	101			
A6 Cash funds 31 st December 2022	145,788	13,231		159,019	243,512
Cash funds at 31st December 2023	96,568	70,829		167,397	159,019

Section B Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the Year End

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	
B1 Cash Funds					
Cash at bank		96,568	70,829		
Total cash funds		96,568	70,829		
B2 Other Monetary Assets		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	
CBF Institute		Unrestricted		41,119	
CBF Witton Sunday School Fund		Restricted		24,278	
Total				65,397	
B3 Investment assets					
Cornerstones (Sexton's House)		Unrestricted	125,000		
8 St Chads Fields		Unrestricted	115,200		
17 Hollybank Close		Unrestricted	150,000		
16, St Chads Fields		Unrestricted	130,000		
1 Scholars Rise		Unrestricted	140,000		
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	
B4 Assets retained for charity's own use					
		Fund to which liability belongs	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)	
B5 Liabilities	Organ refurbishment	Restricted	60,600	31/10/24	

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of St Helen's Witton, Parochial Church Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the **St Helen's Witton, Parochial Church Council** (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

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

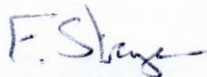
Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect: 1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or 2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or 3. the accounts do 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.

I see that my previous recommendation that formal expenses claim form is introduced which details the claimants name, the item of each expenditure in terms of description, date and cost and the date of the claim has been mostly implemented and I would like to see this continue.

I noted that detail of Rev Andrew Ridley's expenses claim in March were not available, but I accept that the value was inline with previous and subsequent claims and so I am not registering this as a concern.

Signed:



Name: Frank Strange

Address Westerhow, Waste Lane, Cuddington, Northwich Cheshire CW8 2TD

Date: 17th July 2024

NORTHWICH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ST HELEN,WITTON.

England & Wales - Charity number 1179543

Accounts

**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council
of
St Helen's Witton**
(also known as Northwich PCC)

for the year ended 31 December 2022

Incumbent:

Rev Andrew Ridley

Lay Reader Emeritus:

Mr David Drinkwater

Pastoral Worker:

Mrs Berenice Kirwan

Bank:

HSBC Bank plc, Northwich

Independent Examiner:

Frank Strange

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1. Reference and administration details

Charity name: Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Helen's Witton

Also known as: St Helen's, Northwich

Registered charity number: 1179543

Principal address: The Vicarage, 61 Church Road, Northwich, CW9 5PB

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
Andrew Ridley	Chairman		Chester Diocese
Mr Gordon Atkinson	Church warden		APCM
Mr Kenneth Moth	Church warden		APCM
Mrs Berenice Kirwan	Deanery Synod Rep		APCM
Mrs Barbara Spencer	Deanery Synod Rep	From 24 th April 2022	APCM
Mr David Hodgkinson	Deanery Synod Rep	Until 1 st December 2022	APCM
Mrs Louise Begent-Piers			APCM
Mrs Rachel Clarke		From 24 th April 2022	APCM
Mrs Joy Montgomery			APCM
Mrs Amelia Visscher			APCM
Mrs Jennifer Thomas		From 24 th April 2022	APCM
Mr Andrew Cannon			APCM
Mr Andrew Jeapes	Secretary & Treasurer		APCM
Mr Paul Tott			APCM
Mr Julian Williams		Until 11 th July 2022	APCM

APCM = Annual Parochial Church Meeting

2. Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document:	Act of Parliament Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended)
How the charity is constituted:	Parish Church Council
Trustee selection methods:	Members of the PCC are either ex-officio due to an office or appointment they hold from Chester Diocese or are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The parish consists of one church: St Helen's. The vicar also has responsibility for St John's, Lostock Gralam.

3. Aims and Objectives

Aims and purposes

The PCC of St Helen's, Witton (also known as St Helen's Northwich) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Helen's Church, the Sexton's House and 4 houses which are rented to produce income.

Objectives and activities

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We aim to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community. We have adopted the overall objectives of being:

“ Serving Christ, Serving the Community”

The primary object of St Helen's Parochial Church Council is the promotion of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrine and practices of the Church of England within the ecclesiastical parish.

Reference: “The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit”, Crown Copyright 2008

To this end we undertake activities in the following 4 areas:

- To maintain, develop and renew public acts of worship held regularly within our church building.
- To provide pastorally-relevant religious ceremonies open to all parishioners for baptisms, weddings and funerals.
- To extend the knowledge of and education in Christian teaching to both church members and members of the parish, within our acts of worship and through specific teaching opportunities, such as, confirmation groups and Sunday schools
- To provide pastoral care to members of the church and any parishioners in need of spiritual, social or practical support.
- The PCC acts to underpin all these activities by provision of well maintained buildings.

4. Performance & Achievements

4.1 Vicar's Report

There is a very good reason for holding our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in April, on the 23rd, just a couple of weeks after Easter. It is because we are God's Easter people, who.... *'By his great mercy have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead'* 1st Letter of Peter 1.3

This year's Annual Meeting is an opportunity to look back on, and to celebrate, what God has done for us, His Easter people, in the last year. To see His hand at work in individuals' lives and to ponder how slowly, carefully, painstakingly, with our help and cooperation, He offers to mend our relations with Him and each other. And to hope that we will be sensitive and open to His call to follow Jesus more nearly and dearly into the future.

One of my favourite Easter resurrection appearances is Jesus suddenly standing among his disciples in John's Gospel chapter 20: “Then they were glad to see the Lord.” Yes, they were! They were deliriously happy to see Jesus again. A man they had come to love, on the journey from Galilee to Jerusalem, but hadn't they seen him die on a cross? How could he be here, in front of them? Could it really be him? But it must be him, bearing the marks of crucifixion in his hands, feet and side. They were convinced and a week later so

was Doubting Thomas. In every generation since then Christ's living presence has been revealed to those who love and follow him. The 40 days of Easter and every Sunday after that are occasions for us to worship the Risen Christ and to be "...born anew to a living hope..."

Numbers attending worship have stayed remarkably stable during 2022 and even increased. New members are joining the Sunday morning congregation and more often than not on a Sunday morning there will be a visitor 'passing through' and appreciative of our open welcome. There were 55 Easter communicants (56 in 2021), 77 total attendance (62 in 2021). Christmas communicants were 66 (59) and total attendance 251 (178). Usual Sunday attendance (averaged across the year) was 48 Adults and 4 children and the 'Worshipping Community' stood at 114, which is 10 up on 2021. All these figures are derived from careful recording keeping - in the Register of Services and a People Register - and numbers have been submitted to the Church of England's 'Statistics for Mission' database.

We have live-streamed and recorded on YouTube virtually every Sunday morning service. There is a small, faithful following of parishioners who watch online.

Special Services have included a Confirmation in May, when 7 Adults and a teenager were confirmed by Bishop Geoff Pearson, and the dedication of the new glass porch doors by the Bishop of Chester.

The number of weddings was down (from 4 to 1) but the number of funerals was up: 21 in church (20) and 18 (16) at the crematorium/cemetery. There was a well-attended Remembrance and Thanksgiving Service on All Saints' Sunday. Baptisms were up: 36 (23), and it is interesting to note that far more children were presented for baptism between the ages of 1 and 10. It has been a challenge to catch some toddlers, more intent on playing in the Children's Corner than being ready to be splashed with water. Baptism families have been invited back to the following month's Worship Together Communion to pick up their child's baptism certificate and a Hannah Dunnott print for their child's bedroom wall.

Witton Church Walk School continued to attend St Helen's for Collective Worship every fortnight during School Term. The School had its Harvest Service, Christmas Christingle Service, Easter Service and Leavers' Service in St Helen's, too. Victoria Road School and Rudheath Senior Academy held their Christmas Services/Performances in church, too. St Helen's Advent Sunday Christingle Service is growing and the Children's Society benefits from the collections taken at both Christingles.

In September St Helen's was open for several days so Northwich residents could remember with thanksgiving the life and service of Queen Elizabeth. On the day before the funeral a Service of Reflection concluded in the National One Minute Silence. Remembrance Sunday in November was back in church for the first time since 2019.

Mid-week Services such as the CAMEO Communion on the third Wednesday in the month have continued, as well as the observance of seasonal occasions such as Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and Ascension Day. The Holy Cross Chapel is ideal for small, intimate services and the prayer cards, prayer tree and votive candles available to be lit are obviously appreciated. Four weekly 'Advent Reflections' in the lead up to Christmas were an experiment which deserve to be repeated.

Thank you, everyone who contributed to the worship of St Helen's Church during 2022. We are a worshipping congregation in good heart, "...born anew to a living hope..."

Andrew Ridley

4.2 Churchwardens' Report

The Church Wardens have carried out their primary responsibility of supporting the Vicar throughout the year. Regular meetings, mainly two weekly, have been held in order to help develop the mission of the Church and to progress administrative and maintenance work. In terms of the Church building and facilities the last 12 months has been a busy period with several projects completed or under way.

- The CCTV and live streaming installation is complete.
- The refitting of the toilets to provide a fully accessible disabled wc, baby change facilities and a standard toilet is complete.
- The construction of new cupboards to house the cleaners' sink, flower arrangers' equipment, electrical boards and other storage is complete.
- The refurbishment of the south porch including new stained glass windows, new unobtrusive window guards, new glass inner doors, new oak benches and noticeboards is complete.
- A new lock has been fitted to the vestry door.
- The provision of new churchyard noticeboards by the east gate and west gate is complete.
- Areas of the north aisle roof have been re-laid following water ingress.
- Registering title of the Sexton's House to permit its sale is under way.
- Cleaning of two south aisle windows together with the fitting of new unobtrusive window guards has been carried out.
- Provision of a 'new' organ to replace the unsatisfactory and water-damaged existing organ is in process.
- Estimates for the repair of faulty leadwork over north aisle and vestry gutter have been provided.
- Proposals for the creation of a meeting room in the base of the tower including the re-siting or disposal of the Victorian font have been produced.
- Repairs to the clock are in progress.
- Planning permission for improved access at the east gate has been granted.
- Work to clear the grounds of excessive vegetation, mainly holly growth and ivy, has been completed.

G Atkinson, K Moth, Churchwardens.

4.3 Place of welcome (& All Friends Together) and Four C's

During the last six months, Place of Welcome has run each Thursday morning through 2022 from 10:00 am to 12 noon. Numbers were generally low. A small number of people have been regular throughout the year. Others have attended for a few weeks and then stopped. There have been a small number of Church volunteers who have faithfully supported these openings and on occasions the helpers have outnumbered the visitors.

In November a complementary lunch time activity started from 12 noon to 2:0 pm which is a further period of time for friendship, talk and a simple lunch. This activity is St Helen's support for the local and national "Places of Warmth" initiative. During November and December 2022 numbers attending were in the teens but during January and February 2023 numbers have increased and

averaging in the 20's. We have noticed a slightly wider age range and more men attending. Those who can, help with waiting on and clearing up at the end. All appreciate the effort that goes into making the Church a very welcoming venue. A decision has been taken to integrate the two sessions and St Helen's will now open on Thursdays from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm with hot drinks available to about 11:45 and lunch at around 12:15. This will meet the aspiration of those currently attending to beyond the end of March although we will need volunteers to run it.

Barbara Spencer, Angela and Gordon Atkinson

4Cs: Coffee, Cake, Company, Conversation

We meet each Saturday from 10-12 noon and welcome any members of our church and local community. We aim to offer coffee, tea & a variety of home-made cakes, but, more importantly, a happy place for company and conversation. Since our beginning in May 2022 we have a group of regulars and not so regulars who enjoy the atmosphere and beauty of St Helen's, not to mention the good coffee & even better cake! There is no charge for refreshments but people are invited to make a donation to one of our nominated charities. As a result in 2022 we raised over £2100 which was shared between Christian Aid, Motor Neurone Disease Association and Making Space. Now in the 1st 4 months of 2023 we are raising funds for Christian Aid. The nominated charities for the remainder of 2023 will be decided shortly.

Paul & Lesley Tott

4.4 Choir

St Helen's choir now consists of 7 regular members plus three or four occasional singers who help out for more important services. The choir supports the singing at the 9:15 service on Sundays and when sufficient members are available will also sing a motet during communion. The choir would love to have more members, so if you would like to join please speak to David Nangreave or Frank Strange

4.5 Bell ringers

We are an active group of ringers who ring regularly for the Sunday communion services. Further, we have made efforts to ring for special civic occasions, in 2022 for events connected to our monarchy:-

3rd June The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

9th September – tolling half muffled in memory of HM Queen Elizabeth II

10th September – national proclamation of HM King Charles III

19th September – tolling half muffled prior to the state funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II

We are grateful for the support we receive from Witton band and visitors from other towers.

4.6 Praise & Play

Praise and Play continues to meet on a Friday morning between 9.30am and 11.00am and is slowly growing in numbers. We are in regular contact with 12 families. The morning is specially prepared for pre-school children and their parents or carers and starts with a short service lasting about 10 minutes, during which we sing a couple of songs, listen to a story and say a short prayer. After the service there is a craft activity linked to the theme of the worship for the children and a chance to have a drink and a snack, recently toast or toasted teacakes, and for parents to enjoy a chat whilst the children play. There is no charge for "Praise and Play".

Topics explored this year during the worship session include;

- Finding out about God with Teddy Horsley when we learned about and celebrated Easter, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday.
- God made a colourful world
- Getting ready for and celebrating Christmas and Epiphany
- God gives us – all about our senses

We have been able to display the craft activities the children have taken part in on the notice board at the back of church.

We would like to thank Angela Atkinson and Irene Robinson for all their help and support in welcoming and chatting to parents and providing the refreshments. We are looking for more Church members to help and support this outreach initiative. Anyone is welcome to come along to join in with the worship and find out how you could help.

4.7 Parish Recorder's Report

The planned giving in the Parish continued with a Weekly Thanksgiving Envelope scheme, Yellow Envelopes, individual Standing Orders arranged through the bank, Contactless Payments, Open Plate donations and Annual Gifts.

Our Annual review for 2022 was distributed in December 2022 together with a Letter of Thanks from Rev. Andrew Ridley to all regular givers. A renewal of pledge forms for 2023 was distributed at the same time.

A full set of Thanksgiving envelopes was issued for the period Jan 2023 to Dec 2023.

The following shows the profile of giving and donations received for 2022 (Jan to Dec) compared to January to December of 2021.

Even though the number of donors for 2022 appears to have reduced, contributions by contactless & open plate increased (where specific donor information is unavailable).

	2022		2021	
Weekly Donation Value	No of donors	% of total	No of donors	% of total
less than £5	24	47%	25	43%
£5 - £10	7	14%	16	28%
£10 - £20	10	20%	8	14%
£20 - £30	1	2%	3	5%
£30 - £100	9	18%	5	9%
over £100	0	0%	1	2%
Total	51		58	
		Total Donations		Total Donations
Weekly Envelopes	11	£3295.44	15	£3,732
Standing Orders	35	£29,254	40	£29,690
Annual Gifts	1	£100	4	£319
Yellow Envelopes	14	£2,455	7	£451
		£35,104		£34,191
SCDS (including contactless)		£6,192		£4,256
Grand Total		£41,296		£38,447

For the tax year purposes

During the tax year 2021/22, Regular Gift Aid Giving and Weekly Gift Aid giving, totalled £27,043 enabling us to claim £6760 for the parish on this sum.

In the tax year 2020/21, we claimed £6,040.39 Gift Aid on £24,161.40 of Regular gifts. We were also able to claim further Gift Aid on Servedy donations under the Promising Future Fund, so in 2020/21, the total actual gift aid we were able to claim was £8359.12, plus £63.34 in repayment interest.

During the tax year 2021/22, we were able claim gift aid of £1452 on donations made through the Small Cash Donations scheme, (those donations made via contactless, open plate and other donations). In 2020/21 we claimed £397.53 through the SCDS scheme.

In 2021/2022 we were able to claim a total Gift Aid repayment for the year of £8213.

4.8 Safeguarding Report

At St Helen's Church we take our responsibilities for safeguarding seriously, particularly as regards children and vulnerable adults. We comply entirely with the guidelines for safeguarding laid down by the Church of England. We have reviewed and published our policy statement and have maintained records of training and DBS clearances. During the year our long-standing safeguarding officer resigned but we have been fortunate to find a capable volunteer for this important role - Mr Michael Roberts. We are able to report that during 2022 we had no safeguarding incidents and no matters of safeguarding concern were reported to the safeguarding officer. Already we are planning to implement DBS clearances for our new PCC which will be elected at the APCM.

4.9 Health & Safety Report

The PCC has declared its Health & Safety policy and carries out risk assessments on all activities. A plan is in place to review these risk assessments on a regular basis. We also have a system to report accidents and near misses, which are then investigated and reported to the PCC. Where necessary remedial measures are established.

During 2022, we had no incidents that could have led to serious injury or damage to property. We did have 13 incidents that either caused minor injury/damage or were deemed to be near misses with some risk of injury. All these have been appropriately reported and dealt with by the PCC.

The PCC encourages all church users to report anything they consider might present a risk of an accident to our Health & Safety Officer – Andrew Cannon.

4.10 Deanery Synod Report

Middlewich Deanery Synod met three times in 2022, on 1st February at St John's, Hartford, on 14th June at St Chad's, Over and on 12th October at Weaverham Community Centre. Rev Simon Drew chaired the first two as Rural Dean and following the end of his second five year term in the post, Rev Ruth Mock as newly-appointed Rural Dean chaired the October meeting. Clergy numbers attending varied from 6 to 14 and lay people from 19 to 24. During 2022 St Helen's was represented by the Vicar, Berenice Kirwan, Dave Hodgkinson and Barbara Spencer. Reports were received from General Synod, as well as Reports from Parishes.

On February 1st Bishop Julie was the Speaker. She spoke of her family connections to mid-Cheshire with relatives in Hartford and Acton Bridge. She grew up, went to school and to church in Ormskirk. Opportunities to preach and lead services as well as reading Biblical Studies at Sheffield University led to discussion with the Archbishop of York about women's ordination. But work in the Probation Service in London preceded +Julie's ordination. She was married with her second child when she was a deacon. Ordained ministry had been in the dioceses of Southwark and Rochester before her appointment as Archdeacon of Tonbridge. As Bishop of Birkenhead, +Julie has particular responsibility for Safeguarding and Outreach. Our three bishops are no longer area based. +Sam has particular responsibility for vocations and education.

+Julie sees a number of challenges: safeguarding, poverty (noting an 11-year life expectancy gap across Wirral), funding for ministry, relatively few ministers in highly populated poor parishes and the low proportion of young people in our churches in the diocese. Diocesan strengths are prayer and the warmth of the people. Our link with Melanesia is a good opportunity to listen to them especially in regard to eco-challenges and how they perceive God. The Synod wished +Julie well in her ministry in the diocese.

On June 14th Synod met at St Chad's, Over. Rev Callum Boothroyd had been inducted the previous month and was warmly welcomed. The Lay Chairman reminded the meeting that this would be Simon Drew's last meeting as Rural Dean and to much applause he thanked Simon for all his hard work on behalf of the Deanery during the previous ten years.

The Speaker was Rev Peter Froggatt Diocesan Director of Outreach. Peter said it was his intention to visit every deanery to introduce the new department he had been appointed to lead. The Outreach Department had been formed two years ago with the amalgamation of the former Mission and Social Responsibility Departments. He outlined the structure of the Department and stressed their enabling role. The department's focus is on helping parishes do Outreach, rather than doing it for them! He acknowledged that there would always be a tussle between the work of the Church as Institution and as Worshipping and Spiritual Community. Peter mentioned the role of Discernment Panels in seeking candidates who are missionally motivated for authorised lay leadership and ordained ministry.

On October 12th Synod met at Weaverham Community Centre when the Speaker was Rev Simon Chesters, the recently appointed Diocesan Director of Ministry. Newly appointed Rural Dean, Rev Ruth Mock led opening prayers and began proceedings with a reference to the Diocese's Vision Process being led by Harriet Roberts. There will be a meeting on Zoom for deanery clergy in early November and a Vision Café event for a supplemented meeting of Deanery Synod in February 2023 in Sandiway Church Hall. Members were encouraged to offer their vision for the Church at these occasions or via the online link on the Diocesan Website, and to involve their parishes in the process, too, as all contributions are welcome as we seek to discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us.

Simon explained his Department's remit: "Supporting and resourcing people to find and live out their calling." Canon Sarah Fenby is Director of Vocations to Ordained ministry. The one year 'Foundations for Ministry' Course is the Diocese's first stepping stone for those exploring their vocation. Readers and Pastoral Workers undergo a further two years study. The Department includes a Dean of Women's Ministry, a Bishop's Officer for Self-Supporting Ordained Ministry, and oversees Ministerial Development Review (MDR) and Continuing Ministerial Development (CMD). The Department makes use of the Diocesan Conference Centre at Foxhill, near Helsby, for half day, whole day and residential training on every aspect of Christian discipleship and ministry, including 'Everyday Faith'. Many of the half day and whole day courses are open to interested church members for a small fee and are advertised on the Diocesan website.

4.11 Northwich & District Churches Together

NDCT meet quarterly in order to exchange ideas and to work out how we may work together more efficiently to spread the gospel in our area. We are now working towards resuming a "full service" after the problems we have had due to Covid. We look forward to restarting study groups and also more events later on this year. The Songs of Praise held in March was excellent and well attended. Good feedback was received which was encouraging. The Walk of Witness this year had a new format, beginning at the Salvation Army with reflection, then walking to Asda sharing more reflections and finishing back at the Salvation Army.

Joy Montgomery

4.12 CAMEO

The attendance at CAMEO has been consistent throughout this year. We are now in our 10th year. Our Christmas meal at the Woodpecker was enjoyed by all and we look forward to our summer outing in July. One of our original members died this year and will be greatly missed. We have just gained a new member and would like to welcome more to come along and join us for a shared lunch and fellowship. If you are retired or retired and live on your own you would be made most welcome.

Joy Montgomery

5.Financial Review

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Charity Commission requirements for England and Wales, and are shown in tabular form at the end of this report.

On reflection, 2022 was a positive year financially: we completed our planned projects, we were able to finance our regular activities and we managed to raise significant funds for chosen charities.

Our routine income comprised two main sources: all offerings and donations (£41,900) and income from renting of houses (£31,800). Our various events, such as Tea at the Tower raised £3000 for specified charities. We also had some one-off receipts (£18,700): VAT refund, grant towards heating costs, an insurance claim.

Our expenditure had two components – our routine expenditure to ensure the successful running of the church and spending on major projects (S Porch, disabled WC and roof alarm). Our routine expenditure was dominated by the costs of ministry (£44,700) and running of our buildings (£21,100). Expenditure on major projects (£106,000) was a large sum but this was funded from savings we accumulated when we sold the curate's house and field in 2019.

Setting aside the major projects, we had a small surplus of income over expenditure. However, 2023 is expected to be more challenging financially, principally because of greatly increased energy costs. We continue to appeal for additional giving if we are to avoid using our savings to underwrite our day-to-day activities.

The trustees' policy on reserves:

As a PCC, we are well aware of the forthcoming challenges in terms of repair and maintenance of the church building and of meeting our aspirations to develop the growth and ministry of the church. Equally, we do currently hold significant assets (cash, investments and buildings) which we need to manage effectively for the best outcome for St Helen's Church. Our saleable property portfolio as at Dec 2021 is valued at approximately £660,000.

A reserve policy clearly will help with our future funding strategy.

In the light of the foregoing background, the PCC agreed a revised reserve policy as follows:-

Reserves Policy for St Helen's (Witton) Northwich

What:

The following risks should be addressed

1. Loss of three months income from residential properties, say £6,000.
2. Decline in planned giving and collections (annual), say £18,000.
3. Unforeseen eventuality (say building or services failure), say £36,000.

TOTAL CASH RESERVE £60,000

Why:

These reserves are held to cover significant unexpected reduction in income or unexpected and unplanned urgent expenditure. However, the PCC will also need to take action to remedy deficits in its funding over the longer term and to rebuild the reserve whenever it is called upon.

When can these reserves be used:

Money held in reserve can only be allocated by the Parochial Church Council. If an urgent response is required an emergency PCC will be called.

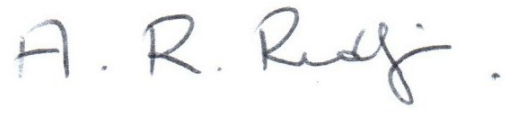
Review:

The PCC will review the reserves policy annually, as recommended by the Charity Commission, in sufficient time to present the revised policy to the Annual Parish Church Meeting.

6. Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Andrew Jeapes	Andrew Ridley
Position	Secretary of PCC	Chairman
Date	22/3/23	22/3/23

Receipt and Payments Account from 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
A1 Receipts	To the nearest £				
Voluntary income	41,991	2,076		44,067	41,456
Tax Receipt	8,820			8,820	
Income from events & activities	8,630			8,630	6,195
Income from investments	3,607			3,607	1,911
Income from rental properties	31,794			31,794	22,120
Grants	1,380	9,300		10,680	20,977
Other Income	17,389			17,389	
Sub-total (Gross income for A1)	113,611	11,376		124,987	92,659
A2 Asset & Investment Sales (see table)					
Sub total					
Total Receipts	113,611	11,376		124,987	92,659

A3 Payments

Missionary & charitable grants	3,807			3,807	240
Church-related:					
Ministry & worship	44,750	462			
Events	1,157				
Building running costs	16,790				
Minor repairs & maintenance	4,350				
Costs of rental properties	10,429				
Admin & IT	3,226				
Sub total church-related	80,702	462		81,164	79,092
Major works & repairs	106,008	18,500		124,508	143,718
Professional fees					6,240
Sub-total A3 Payments	190,517	18,962		209,479	229,290

A4 Asset & investment Purchases

1 Scholars Row Winsford					142,555
Sub-total A4					142,555
Total Payments	190,517	18,962		209,479	371,845
Nett of receipts/(payments)	(76,906)	(7,586)		(84,479)	(279,186)
A5 Transfer between funds					
A6 Cash funds 31 st December 2021	222,694	20,817		243,512	522,697
Cash funds at 31st December 2022	145,788	13,231		159,019	243,511

Section B Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the Year End

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	
B1 Cash Funds					
Cash at bank		145,788	13,231		
Total cash funds		145,788	13,231		
B2 Other Monetary Assets		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	
CBF Institute		Unrestricted		37,555	
CBF Witton Sunday School Fund		Restricted		22,190	
Total					
B3 Investment assets					
Cornerstones (Sexton's House)		Unrestricted	125,000		
8 St Chads Fields		Unrestricted	115,200		
17 Hollybank Close		Unrestricted	150,000		
16, St Chads Fields		Unrestricted	130,000		
1 Scholars Rise		Unrestricted	140,000		

		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	
B4 Assets retained for charity's own use					

		Fund to which liability belongs	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)	
B5 Liabilities	Retention S Porch	Unrestricted	1,500	1/1/23	

Independent Examiner's Report

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of St Helen's Witton, Parochial Church Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the **St Helen's Witton, Parochial Church Council** (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2022.

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 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect: 1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or 2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or 3. the accounts do 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.

I would recommend that formal expenses claim form is introduced which details the claimants name, the item of each expenditure in terms of description, date and cost and the date of the claim.

Signed:



Name: Frank Strange

Address Westerhow, Waste lane Cuddington, Northwich Cheshire CW8 2TD

Date: 11th March 2023

NORTHWICH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ST HELEN,WITTON.

England & Wales - Charity number 1179543

Accounts

**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council
of
St Helen's Witton**
(also known as Northwich PCC)

for the year ended 31 December 2021

Incumbent:

Rev Andrew Ridley

Lay Reader:

Mr David Drinkwater

Pastoral Worker:

Mrs Berenice Kirwan

Bank:

HSBC Bank plc, Northwich

Independent Examiner:

Frank Strange

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1. Reference and administration details

Charity name: Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Helen's Witton

Also known as: St Helen's, Northwich

Registered charity number: 1179543

Principal address: The Vicarage, 61 Church Road, Northwich, CW9 5PB

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
Andrew Ridley	Chairman		Chester Diocese
Mr Gordon Atkinson	Church warden	From 18 th April 2021	APCM
Mr Kenneth Moth	Church warden	From 18 th April 2021	APCM
Mrs Sue Williams	Church warden	Until 18 th April 2021	APCM
Mr George Miller	Church warden, Deanery Synod Rep & Treasurer	Until 18 th April 2021	APCM
Mrs Berenice Kirwan	Deanery Synod Rep		APCM
Mr David Hodgkinson	Deanery Synod Rep		APCM
Mr David Drinkwater	Lay-reader		APCM
Mrs Louise Begent-Piers			APCM
Mrs Sallie Birtwisle		Until 18 th April 2021	APCM
Mrs Joy Montgomery			APCM
Mrs Amelia Visscher			APCM
Mr Andrew Cannon			APCM
Mr Andrew Jeapes	Secretary & Treasurer		APCM
Mr Paul Tott			APCM
Mr Eric Walker		Until 18 th April 2021	APCM
Mr Julian Williams		From 18 th April 2021	APCM
Mrs Jennifer Thomas		Co-opted on 19 th May	PCC
Miss Molly McCall		Co-opted on 19 th May	PCC

APCM = Annual Parochial Church Meeting

2. Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document:	Act of Parliament Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended)
How the charity is constituted:	Parish Church Council
Trustee selection methods:	Members of the PCC are either ex-officio due to an office or appointment they hold from Chester Diocese or are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The parish consists of one church: St Helen's. The vicar also has responsibility for St John's, Lostock Gralam.

3. Aims and Objectives

Aims and purposes

The PCC of St Helen's, Witton (also known as St Helen's Northwich) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Helen's Church, the Sexton's House and 4 houses which are rented to produce income.

Objectives and activities

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We aim to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community. We have adopted the overall objectives of being:

“ Serving Christ, Serving the Community”

The primary object of St Helen's Parochial Church Council is the promotion of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrine and practices of the Church of England within the ecclesiastical parish.

Reference: “The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit”, Crown Copyright 2008

To this end we undertake activities in the following 4 areas:

- To maintain, develop and renew public acts of worship held regularly within our church building.
- To provide pastorally-relevant religious ceremonies open to all parishioners for baptisms, weddings and funerals.
- To extend the knowledge of and education in Christian teaching to both church members and members of the parish, within our acts of worship and through specific teaching opportunities, such as, confirmation groups and Sunday schools
- To provide pastoral care to members of the church and any parishioners in need of spiritual, social or practical support.
- The PCC acts to underpin all these activities by provision of well maintained buildings.

4. Performance & Achievements

4.1 Vicar's Report

Looking back to 2021, COVID-19 was as disruptive of church life last year as the previous year, 2020. At the beginning of 2021, and shortly after celebrating Epiphany, Lockdown 2 began and we were back to services via video call until Palm Sunday. No Holy Week or Maundy Thursday service but Good Friday was observed and there were two services on Easter Day. At the beginning of May we had a Christian Aid Service and the new regional representative, Christel Langdon-Griffiths, came and preached. Later that week we had an outdoor Ascension Day Service so we could sing! On Pentecost Sunday Churches Together in Northwich organised a video call service for 'Thy Kingdom Come'.

For the rest of the year, variants of the virus and the restrictions required to slow the spread of infection meant that for a time we could not sing, or had to sing through our face coverings, receive holy communion in one kind in our places and remain very socially distanced in church. Conversations before and after church frequently included reference to vaccinations, where, when and with what? We began to offer tea and coffee after the morning service, together with individually wrapped biscuits. The Servedy came into its own but we were not able to use it fully due to restrictions, first mandatory and later advisory. There were more weddings than the previous year and far more baptisms: individual family baptisms through the spring and summer at 1pm and 3pm every Sunday afternoon. Sunday Club twice a month was re-started and Praise & Play was re-launched weekly in term time on a Friday morning. Thursday morning became the designated 'Place of Welcome' slot. The enterprise and commitment shown by a few dedicated individuals to reach out and welcome some people back and to welcome others for the first time was remarkable.

Witton Church Walk School resumed collective worship in church on a Wednesday morning. When it came to harvest, gifts from church members and school parents were collected and sent to the Food Hub/Bank/Shop on Manchester Road. Later the same week there was a fish and chip supper and quiz and a fortnight later a long delayed civic service took place, attended by the Mayor and councillors and other distinguished guests including our member of parliament, Mike Amesbury. The Remembrance Sunday Service took place at the war memorial, following the usual parade. There was a Christingle Service on the evening of Advent Sunday when the collection was donated to the Children's Society. Towards Christmas there was a Christmas Tree Festival including a sing-along concert. Church Walk School, Victoria Road School and Rudheath Senior Academy held their Christmas services/performances in church and on the Sunday evening before Christmas there was the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols Service. On Christmas Eve at the Crib Service we sang 'Away in a manger' by candlelight and much later celebrated the First communion of Christmas. On Christmas morning there were two services and the following day, Boxing Day being a Sunday, a few of us turned out again.

Thank you, everyone who contributed to the mission and ministry of St Helen's during 2021, in worship and service in church and online. Thank you for keeping in touch with one another and reaching out in small but significant ways to help neighbours and friends. It has been a challenge to know how best to share and live the good news of Jesus in such a topsy-turvy year, but at the end of 2021 St Helen's continued to have a worshipping congregation, in good heart and ready to welcome whatever 2022 had in store.

During 2021 a small group of us studied Margaret Pritchard Houston's book, 'Beyond the Children's Corner : Creating a Culture of Welcome for All Ages'. She is Children's Mission Enabler Adviser for the Diocese of St Albans: a fancy title but one which means she is well experienced in what it is that attracts adults and children to want to know God better through an association with a Christian community or church. It turns out that we who are already members are the ones who will often make or break this potential connection. The blurb on the back cover of the book says: 'However warm the greeting at the door or the friendliness of the congregation, each individual church has its own culture — its unspoken understanding of how things are done and its established ideas which can be barriers to those unfamiliar with them. This pastoral, practical,

realistic and comprehensive guide will equip churches to take a fresh look at every aspect of their life together. It includes helpful reflection on the changing needs of modern families and building sustainable relationships with them. It identifies the signals that indicate it is time to do things differently and provides guidance on introducing and managing change. It considers how children can engage in nourishing worship and develop spiritually.'

'Beyond the Children's Corner' is not a difficult read but the implications for how we 'do' or 'are' church in 2022 and beyond are challenging. St Helen's is attracting new members and there are adult candidates for confirmation on Sunday 22nd May. There are new children - with their parents - in the Children's Corner. As a church we have weekly contact with adults and children and the opportunity to share the love we know God has for us with others, so that they can experience it, too. How good are we at saying and living these words: 'Yes, I go to church. You can see that it does me good. I believe it will do you good, too, so why not dip your toe in the water?' All this demands a certain level of confidence on our part and a care and concern for the other, which respects who they are and where they are coming from. It needs to be said: going to church is voluntary and if it does not appear to be doing us any good why should an outsider bother? Ask yourself: what attracts you to worship every week? Has it ever occurred to you that there may be a discrepancy between our aspirations, expressed in worship, and the reality of the way we welcome and encourage others?

As Bishop Mark told Middlewich Deanery Synod last year: coronavirus has given us pause for thought, to consider what it is that church can offer now, rather than looking back to what used to work in the past. To quote Margaret Houston Pritchard again "Authenticity, community, relationships and acceptance are what count and church needs to be a place where you are not assessed and tested but can simply be. Where your identity comes not from your marks, or your likes on Instagram, but from being a beloved child of God." Of course, we cannot leave the past behind, any more than we can ignore the cost of Good Friday when we celebrate Jesus' resurrection: the marks of the nails and the spear thrust are still there for Thomas to see and feel in Jesus' resurrection body a week after Easter Day. But Jesus is no longer defined by death but by life: 'We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him... So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Jesus Christ.' Romans 6.9 & 11. We are Easter people, living in the light of the good news of Jesus' resurrection, and this must make a difference to how we view the future. Some things we hold dear may have to be closely examined and given a decent burial before moving on in faith and hope and above all, love. What united the followers of Jesus after the resurrection and their initial shock at what had happened, was their joy and hope for the future. I would like us to be the same. We have heard the Good News. We know it in our hearts. With God's help we will find ways to share it, so others know His love, too.

4.2 Secretary's Report

The PCC met throughout the year, initially by video conference (up to April) and thereafter in person, with appropriate social distancing. After the APCM, we decided to broaden our representation by co-opting 2 members who had not served previously. From July onward we decided to meet monthly to ensure that we could address the varied issues before us without requiring excessively long meetings.

We have sought to define our aims this year by restating our Aims and Ambitions, which we have publicised to the whole church. Under this remit, significant effort was devoted to revitalising work with children and young people, to renewing our efforts at communication and to promoting the vital role that volunteers contribute to our church life.

Throughout the year we gave attention to measures required to protect our congregations and visitors from the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Discussions were held and decisions made on major expenditure: purchase of a 4th rental property, completion of the servery, and repair of the vestry roof. Approval was given to proceed with plans for new disabled toilets and improvements to the South Porch.

The relaxation of government requirements on Covid-19, enabled us to agree to running more social events and a sub-committee was established to plan, approve and manage the details of social events.

In our role as trustees, we routinely scrutinised our finances, our safeguarding practices and our health and safety performance.

4.3 Churchwardens' Report

Gordon Atkinson and Ken Moth were elected as churchwardens at the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting. One of the primary responsibilities set out in a Church Warden's "job description" is to support the incumbent. We have informally met with Vicar Andrew on a two weekly basis to help move forward various parish and church matters. Where possible we arrange for at least one of us to be in church each Sunday morning.

During the year repair and maintenance of the building and contents have been ongoing. The vestry roof has been renewed and repairs carried out to external masonry at the west end. A survey of the windows has been completed and repair works are being considered. A report on the condition of the organ has been commissioned. The new kitchen and servery are complete and functioning and the contractor retention payment has been released. At the time of writing, work on the fully accessible washroom and storage facilities is on schedule and should have been completed by the time of the Annual Church Meeting. Preparation work has been carried out with the church architect and contractor regarding refurbishment of the South Porch and this work is expected to be completed by late April or early May. A proposal for the creation of a car park within the church grounds has been developed but this is currently held up by conservation objections.

All regular checks of gas and electrical installations and fire extinguishers have been completed. The alarm installation has been renewed. Volunteers have undertaken extensive clearing and tidying of the churchyard vegetation. One new noticeboard has been installed close to the east gate and a second noticeboard has been ordered to be sited by the west gate. The diocese has been contacted regarding our intention to sell the Sexton's House.

4.4 Place of welcome

The regular Thursday morning "Places of Welcome" began in September with a few visitors, some have become regular attenders. The words most often spoken by the visitors are peace, welcome and friendliness. Conversations are instigated by the visitors with St Helens "Listeners" joining in as appropriate. Numbers have been increasing but more of both groups would be welcome. Representatives from other organisations have called in, adding to the topics of conversation. We stress that while the sessions are held in a church they are not religious, although once inside some appreciate the calmness of their surroundings. I have attended most weeks for the latter part of the morning and have enjoyed the chats with the visitors.

Barbara Spencer

4.5 Praise & Play

Praise and Play started again, after the pandemic restrictions were eased, in September 2021 and, after some research, it was decided to move Praise and Play to a Friday morning between 9.30am and 11.00am.

The morning is specially prepared for pre-school children and their parents or carers and starts with a short service lasting about 10 minutes, during which we sing a couple of songs, listen to a story and say a short prayer. After the service there is a craft activity linked to the theme of the worship for the children and a chance to have a drink and a snack and for parents to enjoy a chat whilst the children play. There is no charge for "Praise and Play".

Topics explored this year during the worship session included "God made a wonderful world", "Getting ready and Christmas", "God gives us...", and "God makes it grow"

4.6 Parish Recorder's Report

The planned giving in the Parish continued with a weekly Thanksgiving Envelope scheme, individual Standing Orders arranged through the bank, and Annual Gifts. Pledges were made in November 2020 for the calendar year 2021. The table below shows the profile of pledges made and fulfilment of those pledges. This is compared to the pledges made in May 2019 for the period June 2019 to May 2020.

Pledges	2021		2019	
Weekly Donation Value	No of donors	% of total	No of donors	% of total
less than £5	6	29%	8	25%
£5 - £10	10	48%	13	41%
£10 - £20	2	10%	4	13%
£20 - £30	1	5%	2	6%
£30 - £100	2	10%	4	13%
over £100	0	0%	1	3%
Total	21		32	
Fulfilment of Pledges	No of donors	% of total	No of donors	% of total
Met in full, or exceeded	14	67%	15	47%
Fulfilled by 97% or above	14	67%	18	56%

The following shows the profile of giving for 2021 and 2020

Regular Giving				
	2021		2020	
Weekly Donation Value	No of donors	% of total	No of donors	% of total
less than £5	25	43%	24	45%
£5 - £10	16	28%	14	26%
£10 - £20	8	14%	6	11%
£20 - £30	3	5%	5	9%
£30 - £100	5	9%	3	6%
over £100	1	2%	1	2%
Total	58		53	
		Total Donations		Total Donations
Weekly Envelopes	15	£3,732	25	£5,280
Standing Orders	40	£29,690	38	£25,899
Annual Gifts	4	£319	1	£60
Yellow Envelopes	7	£451	5	£916
	Total	£34,191	Total	£32,154
(Some donors may have used multiple donation methods in the year)				
Other Donations - Yellow Envelopes	5	69.3	1	50

In the tax year 2020/21, 57 Gift Aid declarations for regular giving were in operation. During that period, this giving together with single Gift Aid envelopes totalled £24,161.40, enabling us to claim £6,040.39 for the parish on this sum. In tax year 2019/20 we claimed £7,194.34 Gift Aid on £28,777.18 of gifts.

We also claimed £397.53 through the Small Cash Donations scheme, giving a total Gift Aid repayment for the year of £6,437.91. In 2019/20 we claimed £1,698.08 through the SCDS scheme, and a total Gift Aid repayment of £8,892.41.

4.7 Safeguarding Report

The PCC continues to abide by the Church of England safeguarding policy which the PCC at that time adopted in 2019 and will be reviewed at a PCC meeting in March 2022. The PCC along with other roles within the church has a duty to be trained in safeguarding. Each current member on the PCC has now undertaken the training online. The face to face training that the Diocese provides has been postponed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. This training is only required to certain roles within the church and is also online.

It is mandatory that any new members to the PCC are trained in a basic awareness of safe guarding in the church. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic no new DBS checks have been required. The safeguarding officer has a list of people who have DBS checks made and when they expire. There have been no safeguarding concerns raised in 2021 as the church and services have been restricted due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Church of England from 4 January 2022, states that all new appointments and those whose enhanced DBS is due a recheck from that point onwards should have their DBS recheck carried out and then be put on the new 3 year recheck cycle, the cycle before was 5 years.

Therefore by 4 January 2022, Church Bodies must have assessed all other individuals who do not fall into the above, but whose DBS is more than 3 years old and put a plan in place to ensure that all those individuals have a DBS no older than 3 years by 3rd January 2024 and after that, ensure they are also on the new 3 year recheck cycle.

The safeguarding lead will review documentation held on safe guarding and make suggestions to the PCC in due course.

Sue Williams - Parish Safeguarding Officer for St Helen's Church Witton

4.8 Health & Safety Report

Summary

During the year 2021-22 the following UNOR reportable incidents have occurred:

Level 1	2
Level 2	0
Level 3	4

Level 3) Near miss incident/Observed Hazard: This is an incident or observed hazard/behaviour that could have resulted in an injury or damage to property if nothing was done about it. An example could be a damaged electrical socket or a spill of water that is not cleared up.

Level 2) Incident that caused damage to property or a minor injury requiring first aid: This is an incident that would have caused injury had there been a person in the wrong place at the wrong time or a minor injury not requiring professional medical attention. An example of this could be an overloaded electrical socket or a lighting fire.

Level 1) Incident that led to a more severe injury requiring first aid/emergency services call out/RIDDOR report: Any incident that requires an emergency services call out is the highest level of UNOR.

Incidents

The two Level 1 incidents were an illness in the bell tower and a serious injury in the vestry which resulted in a RIDDOR report to the Health & Safety Executive. Follow up enquiries from the council Regulatory Services Officer were dealt with over the phone by me.

The four Level 3 incidents were a minor splash of wax in the upper vestry due to overenthusiastic blowing out of the candles; a minor trip over an inappropriately placed radiator, trailing cables left exposed during a service and damage to the disabled parking area to the south east of the church.

Once again, can I ask that you tell the H&S Officer if you have seen anything that you consider to be a hazard or an unsafe event occur. A good example is the near-miss of the trailing cables. That wasn't an incident, but it could have been, hence it was reported.

All of the above incidents have resulted in recommendations being made to the PCC or the persons involved. A full list of recommendations is available if required.

Policies and Risk Assessments

A review of all policies and risk assessments will be undertaken within the next 3 months.

Covid-19

This was a major upset in the life of not just the church, but the nation as a whole. On the 23rd March 2020, the government announced that all activities that may involve personal interaction were stopped. This included church services and gatherings.

As of the 2nd April 2022, the situation couldn't be more different. There are no legal restrictions on meetings or infections any more and it is down to personal preference whether you mask, isolate etc. However, out of an abundance of caution, and recognising that the current rates of infection locally are higher than they have been during the pandemic, a number of recommendations remain in place. These are:

- Face coverings are encouraged when in church;
- Hand sanitiser is still available for use on entering and leaving the building, during communion and at the serving area;
- Communion is celebrated with both kinds, however, the bread will be tintured in the wine rather than sharing the common cup;
- The sharing of the peace is to remain at a distance.

Replacement Equipment

During the year the first aid kits have been replaced and the defibrillator battery has had to be replaced.

Andrew Cannon (Health & Safety Officer)

4.9 Deanery Synod Report

St Helen's church has 3 representatives on deanery synod and we ensured that we had representation at all of the meetings that were held in 2021. This is one means of the PCC gaining a wider perspective of church affairs and participating in the Church of England's governance. The 3 meetings held in 2021 focused on a) the work & life of the cathedral, b) a presentation from the newly appointed bishop and c) a discussion of environmental issues facing the church. Where appropriate we fed back issues that had been discussed to the PCC.

4.10 Northwich & District Churches Together

During lockdown in the first part of the year, a very successful Pentecost/Thy Kingdom Come Zoom service was held. Subsequently, people have been very cautious about meeting together so 2022's Lent Course will be held via Zoom. For the same reason there will be no Walk of Witness on Good Friday. Looking forward, we would like to think that in the summer we may have an open air Songs of Praise possibly in the old outdoor market place, if it is for hire. Once we are able to live more normally with Covid we are considering restarting a regularly monthly Songs of Praise on a Sunday evening.

Joy Montgomery

4.11 CAMEO

Due to restrictions we were unable to meet after Ash Wednesday last year until September when it was very pleasing to see everyone returning and attending the Midday Service and afterwards

staying for CAMEO. As usual we went out for our Christmas meal and look forward to going out again in the summer for lunch. Anyone over retirement age would be made very welcome on the third Wednesday in the month.

Joy Montgomery

5.Financial Review

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Charity Commission requirements for England and Wales, and are shown in tabular form at the end of this report.

In finance terms, 2021 has had two parts:

1. The rebuilding of regular income and donations to support the day to day work of St Helen's Church.
2. Continuation of our policy to use the proceeds from the sale of the curate's house and field.

In summary, our regular donations, occasional offerings and proceeds from events and income from rental properties have increased during the year. Regular donations are the bedrock of our financial viability, contributing over 50% to our annual income. We have received increased rental income with the purchase and letting of an additional 3 houses.

Nevertheless, our deficit of routine expenditure over income was £8330 (having discounted expenditure on major works and purchase of a rental property. The picture is less bleak if it is recognised that a tax refund is due on gift-aided donations. As a result, we are more or less breaking even although we already know that 2022 will be more expensive because of increases in inflation, notably energy costs. We can be encouraged by what we have achieved but need to commit ourselves to seeking increased donations and other sources of income.

Expenditure on major projects has been substantial during 2021 comprising:-

- Purchase of a 4th rental property
- Final payment on the servery
- Repair of the vestry and aisle roofs.

The servery was 75% funded by grants and donations but the remainder of the major projects have been funded from reserves, notably the proceeds from sale the Curate's house & field in 2019. There are sufficient funds left to enable our plans to install disabled toilets and to refurbish the South Porch.

The accounts have been restructured to include a restricted fund, which includes receipt of monies that are given/awarded for specific purposes and then shows their spend on such purposes. The restricted fund makes it easier to demonstrate to grant-awarding bodies that we have used their grants as intended.

The trustees' policy on reserves:

As a PCC, we are well aware of the forthcoming challenges in terms of repair and maintenance of the church building and of meeting our aspirations to develop the growth and ministry of the church. Equally, we do currently hold significant assets (cash, investments and buildings) which we need to manage effectively for the best outcome for St Helen's Church. Our saleable property portfolio as at Dec 2021 is valued at approximately £660,000.

A reserve policy clearly will help with our future funding strategy.

In the light of the foregoing background, the PCC agreed a revised reserve policy as follows:-

Reserves Policy for St Helen's (Witton) Northwich

What:

The following risks should be addressed

1. Loss of three months income from three residential properties, say £6,000.

2. Decline in planned giving and collections (annual), say £18,000.

3. Unforeseen eventuality (say building or services failure), say £36,000.

TOTAL CASH RESERVE £60,000

Why:

These reserves are held to cover significant unexpected reduction in income or unexpected and unplanned urgent expenditure. However, the PCC will also need to take action to remedy deficits in its funding over the longer term and to rebuild the reserve whenever it is called upon.

When can these reserves be used:

Money held in reserve can only be allocated by the Parochial Church Council. If an urgent response is required an emergency PCC will be called.

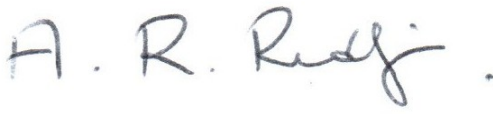
Review:

The PCC will review the reserves policy annually, as recommended by the Charity Commission, in sufficient time to present the revised policy to the Annual Parish Church Meeting.

6. Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Andrew Jeapes	Andrew Ridley
Position	Secretary of PCC	Chairman
Date	8 th April 2022	8 th April 2022

Receipt and Payments Account from 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
A1 Receipts					
To the nearest £					
Voluntary income	38,839	2,617		41,456	38,175
Tax Receipt					18,517
Income from events & activities	6,195			6,195	20,957
Income from investments	1,911			1,911	13,809
Income from rental properties	22,120			22,120	18,175
Grants		20,977		20,977	20,509
Sub-total (Gross income for A1)	69,065	23,594		92,659	130,136
A2 Asset & Investment Sales (see table)					
Sub total					
Total Receipts	69,066	23,594		92,659	130,136
A3 Payments					
Missionary & charitable grants	240			240	8,010
Church-related:					
Ministry & worship	44,513	1,178		45,691	
Building running costs	17,565			17,565	
Minor repairs & maintenance	7,908			7,908	
Costs of rental properties	4,611			4,611	
Admin & IT	3,317			3,317	
Sub total church-related	77,914	1,178		79,092	101,986
Major works & repairs	96,779	46,939		143,718	53,657
Professional fees	4,080	2,160		6,240	
Sub-total A3 Payments	179,012	50,277		229,289	163,653
Asset & investment Purchases see table					
1 Scholars Row	142,555			142,555	280,000
sub-total	142,555			142,555	280,000
Total Payments	321,568	50,277		371,845	443,653
Nett of receipts/(payments)	(252,502)	(26,683)		(279,185)	(313,517)
A5 Transfer between funds	(47,501)	47,501			
A6 Cash funds 31 st December 2020	522,697			522,697	836,215
Cash funds at 31st December 2021	222,694	20,817		243,512	522,697

Section B Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the Year End

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	
B1 Cash Funds				
Cash at bank	222,694	20,817		
Total cash funds	222,694	20,817		

B2 Other Monetary Assets	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	
CBF Institute	Unrestricted		42,540	
CBF Witton Sunday School Fund	Restricted		23,464	
Total			66,004	

B3 Investment assets				
Cornerstones (Sexton's House)	Unrestricted	125,000		
8 St Chads Fields	Unrestricted	115,200		
17 Hollybank Close	Unrestricted	150,000		
16, St Chads Fields	Unrestricted	130,000		
1 Scholars Rise	Unrestricted	140,000		

	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	
B4 Assets retained for charity's own use				

	Fund to which liability belongs	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)	
B5 Liabilities				

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of St Helen's Witton, Parochial Church Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the **St Helen's Witton, Parochial Church Council** (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 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 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect: 1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or 2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or 3. the accounts do 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.

Signed:



Name: Frank Strange

Address Westerhow, Waste lane Cuddington, Northwich Cheshire CW8 2TD

Date: 7th March 2022

NORTHWICH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ST HELEN,WITTON.

England & Wales - Charity number 1179543

Accounts

**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council
of
St Helen's Witton**
(also known as Northwich PCC)

for the year ended 31 December 2020

Incumbent:

Rev Andrew Ridley

Curate:

Rev Deborah Dalby

Lay Reader:

Mr David Drinkwater
62 Mornant Avenue, Hartford
Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 2FQ

Pastoral Worker:

Mrs Berenice Kirwan

Bank:

HSBC Bank plc, Northwich

Independent Examiner:

Howard Worth Accountants

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1. Reference and administration details

Charity name: Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Helen's Witton

Also known as: St Helen's, Northwich

Registered charity number: 1179543

Principal address: The Vicarage, 61 Church Road, Northwich, CW9 5PB

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
Andrew Ridley	Chairman		Chester Diocese
Deborah Dalby	Curate	Until 30 th September	Chester Diocese
Mrs Sue Williams	Church warden		APCM
Mr George Miller	Church warden, Deanery Synod Rep & Treasurer		APCM
Mrs Berenice Kirwan	Deanery Synod Rep		APCM
Mr David Hodgkinson	Deanery Synod Rep		APCM
Mr David Drinkwater	Lay-reader & Deanery Synod Rep	Deanery Synod Rep until 18/10/20	APCM
Mrs Louise Begent-Piers			APCM
Mrs Sallie Birtwisle			APCM
Mrs Joy Montgomery			APCM
Mrs Amelia Visscher			APCM
Mr Andrew Cannon			APCM
Mr Andrew Jeapes	Secretary	From 18/10/20	APCM
Mr Paul Tott			APCM
Mr Frank Strange	Secretary	Until 18/10/20	APCM
Mr Eric Walker			APCM
Mr Kenneth Moth		co-opted	APCM

APCM = Annual Parochial Church Meeting

2. Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document:	Act of Parliament Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended)
How the charity is constituted:	Parish Church Council
Trustee selection methods:	Members of the PCC are either ex-officio due to an office or appointment they hold from Chester Diocese or are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The parish consists of one church: St Helen's. The vicar also has responsibility for St John's, Lostock Gralam.

3. Aims and Objectives

Aims and purposes

The PCC of St Helen's, Witton (also known as St Helen's Northwich) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Helen's Church, the Sexton's House and 3 houses which are rented to produce income.

Objectives and activities

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We aim to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community. We have adopted the overall objectives of being:

“ Serving Christ, Serving the Community”

The primary object of St Helen's Parochial Church Council is the promotion of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrine and practices of the Church of England within the ecclesiastical parish.

Reference: “The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit”, Crown Copyright 2008

To this end we undertake activities in the following 4 areas:

- To maintain, develop and renew public acts of worship held regularly within our church buildings
- To provide pastorally-relevant religious ceremonies open to all parishioners for baptisms, weddings and funerals.
- To extend the knowledge of and education in Christian teaching to both church members and members of the parish, within our acts of worship and through specific teaching opportunities, such as, – confirmation groups and Sunday schools
- To provide pastoral care to members of the church and any parishioners in need of spiritual, social or practical support.
- The PCC acts to underpin all these activities by provision of well maintained buildings.

4. Performance & Achievements

Summary

The Covid-19 pandemic which has radically affected the UK and many other countries has also resulted in St Helen's being subject to government-imposed restrictions in gatherings and activities such that normal church life ceased during 2020. We began the year by formulating ambitious programmes of public events and projects to develop our church life. Obviously this had to be scaled back with the lockdown and new approaches found to holding church services and maintaining pastoral support. From March until September we held no public services of worship in the church building and while from September to the year end we did meet for worship in the church this was subjected to conditions of social distancing and no singing of hymns. Likewise ministry to the community in the form of weddings and funerals was much reduced in frequency and numbers permitted to attend.

Our response has been to express the life of the church and to maintain a proclamation of the Christian message through virtual, ie. On-line, means, described in detail below. For the final quarter of the year, when attendance in church was permitted, we launched live-streaming of our services on 'You-tube'. This was a new venture that has required investment in equipment – cameras, microphone, modem etc. and in developing the skills to produce a satisfactory output.

Involvement with our local community has also been severely reduced but we have maintained our links particularly with Northwich Town Council.

We have made a strategic decision to continue with our plans to develop our facilities to further enable our mission. Works on the new servery, improved lighting and audio have proceeded. Plans for a new disabled toilet and storage area, a new main entrance and for a new carpark have continued to be developed. Necessary maintenance on the building fabric has been undertaken, notably replacement of a high-level window in the tower. A quinquennial inspection was undertaken at the year end.

Finances have been affected by our altered circumstances, notably in the lack of opportunity for cash donations and fund-raising. Many members have responded by switching their offering to direct payment to the bank. Success was achieved in obtaining grant funding to support the new servery project and this has received a further boost from individual donations. We have continued our investment strategy and have used funds from sale of a large house and fields to purchase 3 smaller properties. Rental from these houses will provide an important income in the coming year.

4.1 Vicar's Report

Regular Sunday worship was offered in the parish church and baptisms, weddings and funerals took place there up to March 23rd and again later in the year, in September, October and December, subject to coronavirus restrictions such as no singing, communion in one kind, social distancing and wearing a face covering. Our Health and Safety officer spent many hours writing risk assessments, and it was frustrating that having attended meetings with the Town Council and the Royal British Legion so a stripped back Remembrance Sunday Service could take place in church, Lockdown 2 intervened, to the extent that Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day observances were restricted to just a few representatives at the War Memorial. Sunday Services were live streamed from September, using equipment bought with a grant from the diocese. Between March and August and again in November when the building was closed to corporate worship, a regular Sunday morning Zoom Service was shared with the Parish of Lostock Gralam. 26 Sundays out of 52 in 2020 were like this. There were 8 baptisms (15), 1 wedding (4), and the same number of church funerals – 24 - in 2020, compared with 2019 (2019 figures in brackets). There were, unusually, 9 graveside funerals in 2020.

Northwich Parochial Church Council St Helen, Witton

More extensive use of the '*achurchnearyou*' website and social media was achieved during the year, including signposting the Zoom Service. Over the Summer the building was open for private prayer on Sunday afternoons and Wednesday mornings.

As Lockdown 1 loomed, a comprehensive list of church members and their contact details was made, including those on the Church Electoral Roll, regular donors and people who while not formally members attended church or had some connexion with church. Considerable effort was expended on following up contact leads so a regular, postal distribution could begin before Easter. A fortnightly distribution continued for the rest of the year and four 'Celebration in a Bag' distributions to younger members of the congregation took place for Harvest, All Saints', Advent and Christmas. A 'Phone Team' was recruited, too, built on existing links wherever possible. Team members were supplied with a list of people to contact and keep in touch with.

The PCC supported initiatives in discipleship and vocation by helping those attending church to deepen their experience and knowledge of God through worship, preaching, 'Prayer Times', a Saturday morning Lent Book Club (abruptly halted by the first lockdown), and Zoom Bible Study. Individual prayer and study literature was distributed through the fortnightly mailing. Orders of Service were distributed fortnightly, too, so worship online could be responsorial, retaining an important element of corporate worship even though we were meeting virtually.

At the end of September we said goodbye to Rev. Debbie Dalby after 15 months as our part time deacon. St Helen's and St John's combined to present Debbie with a ceramic chalice and paten as a memento of her time with us, which should also prove useful when she takes communion to people in their homes. Debbie is now priested and a full-time curate in Runcorn.

In October the church was beautifully decorated for Harvest Festival and although we could not process our harvest gifts or sing our favourite harvest hymns, large quantities of food for Mid-Cheshire Foodbank were donated. This continued on Saturday mornings for the rest of the month and again in the first three weekends in December, when the church became a collection point for children's toys, too.

In November, with the help and support of the Town Clerk and his staff, the image of a poppy was projected onto the church tower for a week including Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day. The people of Northwich showed their approval by messaging the church's Facebook page and there was an outcry when the projector went missing (and returned shortly afterwards, following a tip off). This year's 'Service to Remember' around All Souls' Day was particularly poignant, given the restricted numbers allowed to attend funerals during the pandemic. The service was live streamed and more than 200 people watched it. The Christingle Service was moved to Advent Sunday and was online. Christingles were assembled, bagged and distributed on the Saturday morning and donations received (in total, more than that received at the 2019 Christmas Eve Christingle Service). Then on the Sunday evening an expectant crowd of adults and children gathered in front of their computers to first hear 'The Story of Christingle' before lighting their Christingles and praying for the work of the Children's Society.

The PCC having decided to project a star onto the church tower, this became a feature of the Northwich skyline from Advent Sunday to Epiphany Sunday. Unlike some of the other great Christian Festivals in 2020 (Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter Day, Ascension, Pentecost) St Helen's was open for Christmas Communion Services. On Christmas Eve the church was open all day for people to visit the Crib and collect, amongst other things, a candle to light next to their family's nativity set at 6.15pm and sing 'Away in a manger'. Every window ledge was filled with candles and lots of people wrote prayers and left them on the Christmas tree next to the Crib.

I would like to thank everyone who has volunteered in any kind of way to keep the church open (when we were allowed), contributed to worship and service in church and online, and kept us in touch with one another and reaching out in small but significant ways to help neighbours and friends. St Helen's has been restricted in its ministry to share the good news of Jesus, and in promoting the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, but at

Northwich Parochial Church Council St Helen, Witton

the end of 2020 St Helen's continued to have a worshipping congregation which was in good heart, ready to welcome whatever 2021 had in store, lovingly, faithfully and above all: hopefully.

4.2 Secretary's Report

Covid-19 notwithstanding, the necessary activities to ensure proper oversight and governance of the church's activities has continued through the PCC and its appointed officers. After the first quarter of the year, the PCC has largely met by 'Zoom' video-conference and most of the necessary business conducted on-line. Minutes have been produced of all meetings, accounts have been scrutinised and attention given to making a good response to the circumstances in which we have found ourselves. A successful APCM was held in church, after it was postponed from April to October. Thus the necessary compliance with Church of England and Charity Commission requirements was achieved.

4.3 Churchwardens' Report

George Miller & Sue Williams were elected as Church Warden at the 2020 Annual Parish meeting. They have been supported by many people during this challenging year and would like to thank people for their kindness and support it has been very much appreciated.

Fire extinguishers have been reviewed and changed in the Church and Sexton's House.

Church Fabric

The clock has also been a further challenge, however, George's dedication and the support of a qualified clockmaker the clock was now been taken away for repair. The decision was made to get the clock working and keeping to time and then re-introduce the chimes.

External lighting has been reviewed and, with help from the council, lamp posts are now working.

The organ continues to be maintained and serviced.

Maintenance still took place during 2020 this ensured that the church was maintained within health and safety requirements especially through the Coronavirus pandemic and kept clean for all to use.

Work has been going on to assess the internal electrical lights and despite our interventions is still ongoing into 2021. A faculty has been obtained from the Diocese and it was hoped that during the last quarter of 2020 we would start the works to replace all the outdated internal lighting. The Church Wardens will continue their endeavour to make sure this work is completed as soon as safely possible.

A decision to refurbish the toilet area and provide further storage was made by the PCC. A faculty has been applied for and we are awaiting the outcome from the Diocese.

The lightning conductor check was last performed in March 2019. A further check will take place as soon as the Church is re-opened after the pandemic.

The servery area was re-designed by our architect and work started on replacing the existing servery in the last quarter of this year. It is hoped that we will have a fully functioning kitchen area which will enable more people to access and serve refreshments. All relevant electrical items in the Church were PAT tested.

The heating system is now being managed under a maintenance contract, however volunteers are still making sure heating is available when required.

Church Yard

Volunteers are continuing to maintain the two small garden areas near the South porch, which enhances the welcome to church through the South doors.

Northwich Parochial Church Council St Helen, Witton

George and Sue would particularly like to thank the volunteers who very kindly worked on the external area on the south side of the Church. This work will hopefully stop the internal stones being damp and the condensation on the stone flooring.
Ongoing checks of the Church yard in respect to antisocial behaviour is ongoing.

Cornerstones/Sexton's House Fabric

This property has been rented over a number of years to Northwich Music School. Extensive remedial work is required mostly externally and work internally is now required. Maintenance on this property has been minimal during 2020 due to the Pandemic.

Finally George & Sue would like to thank the members of the PCC, Sides people and members of the congregation who attended Church when it was opened during 2020.

4.4 Parish Recorder's Report

(All figures in brackets show prior year figures for comparison).

The planned giving in the Parish continued with a weekly Thanksgiving Envelope scheme, individual Standing Orders arranged through the bank, and annual gifts.

It was decided during 2020 to bring the Thanksgiving Year in line with the Church's Financial Year, running from January to December.

There was no official Thanksgiving Sunday in May 2020. A letter of thanks was sent from Rev. Andrew Ridley, but no renewal of pledges was made at that point. A part-year set of Thanksgiving Envelopes was issued for the period June 2020 to December 2020.

In December 2020, a letter of thanks from Rev. Andrew Ridley was sent to regular givers, along with a pledge card for 2021. A full year set of Thanksgiving Envelopes was issued for the period January 2021 to December 2021

The following shows the profile of giving for 2020 and 2019.

Regular Giving	2020		2019	
Weekly Donation Value	No of donors	% of total	No of donors	% of total
less than £5	23	45%	31	49%
£5 - £10	14	27%	17	27%
£10 - £20	6	12%	7	11%
£20 - £30	4	8%	4	6%
£30 - £100	3	6%	2	3%
over £100	1	2%	2	3%
Total	51		63	
	Total Donations		Total Donations	
Weekly Envelopes	25	£5,280	30	£11,771
Standing Orders	37	£25,779	27	£24,182
Annual Gifts	1	£60	4	£199
Yellow Envelopes	2	£728	12	£631
		£31,847		£36,783

(Some donors used multiple donation methods in the year)

Other Donations - Yellow Envelopes	1	50	38	838.7
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In the tax year 2019/20, 49 (66) Gift Aid declarations for regular giving were in operation. During that period, this giving together with single Gift Aid envelopes totalled £28,777.18 (£32,731.90), enabling us to claim £7,194.32 (£8,182.98) for the parish on this sum. We also claimed £1,698 (£1,379) through the Small Cash Donations scheme, giving a total Gift Aid repayment for the year of £8,892 (£9,562).

4.5 Safeguarding Report

The PCC continue to abide by the Church of England safeguarding policy which the PCC adopted in 2019 and which will be reviewed at a PCC meeting in March 2021.

The PCC along with other roles within the church has a duty to be trained in safe guarding. Each current member on the PCC has now undertaken the training online. The face to face training that the Diocese provide has been postponed due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. This training is only required to certain roles within the church. It is mandatory that any new members to the PCC are also trained in a basic awareness of safe guarding in the church.

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic no new DBS checks have been required. The safe guarding officer has a list of people who have DBS checks made and when they expire. The current Church Wardens having completed Foundation Training are now qualified at level two.

There have been no safe guarding concerns raised in 2020 as the church and services have been restricted due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

The safe guarding lead will review documentation held on safe guarding and make suggestions to the PCC in due course.

Sue Williams - Lead Safeguarding Officer for St Helen's Church Witton

4.6 Health & Safety Report

Incidents

During the year 2020-21 only one UNOR reportable incidents occurred; it was a level 3 which was a near miss incident/observed hazard. A lit candle fell off a table in the vestry during Sunday Club in March 2020. Since it was due to the temporary nature of Sunday Club's location in the Lower Vestry rather than the Upper Vestry. Recommendations have been made to avoid a similar incident in the Upper Vestry once Sunday Club restarts.

Policies and Risk Assessments

A review of all policies and Risk Assessments is scheduled during the 1st half of 2021.

Covid-19

Following government guidance, appropriate risk assessment was made for worship gatherings during the final quarter of 2020. The assessment enabled the church to make proper 'Covid-secure' arrangements for seating, cleaning and record of attendance. Thanks are due to the vicar and his wife, who invested considerable efforts in the arrangements, and to those members of the church who supported them.

Andrew Cannon

4.7 Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod met infrequently (due to Covid-19 restrictions) and their proceedings for 2020 were reported to the APCM held in October 2020.

4.8 Mid Cheshire Food Bank

2020 began very much as we finished in 2019. Every session at the Northwich Outreach Foodbank distribution centre was busy with up to 8 – 12 vouchers being presented every Thursday. Sometimes this meant we would be near to running out of food in the stock cupboard because those vouchers could be for as many as 28 people including children. We knew though that the shelves would be replenished with stock from the warehouse in Winsford ready for the next session, so no one would go without. Those stocks of tins, cartons, bottles, and extras had been added to by donations from individuals, shops, supermarkets, and churches as well as other sources. St. Helen's giving was no exception – a record amount of food had been donated in 2019

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and we looked forward in 2020 to doing the same again. Little did we know that events taking place in the Far East at the beginning of 2020, would have such devastating consequences on the Mid Cheshire Food Bank and all foodbanks in this country.

These events meant that in March all distribution centres in the Mid Cheshire Food Bank had to close due to Covid 19 and the national lockdown. Eventually a process was put in place which meant that food parcels could only be collected from the warehouse in Winsford and by appointment only. Gradually as time went on, more and more distribution centres were opened, and all referrers sent their requirements (via email) to a central hub where the food parcels were packed and then delivered to each distribution centre. Because of the restrictions people are no longer allowed to enter the centres for a drink, biscuit, and a chat while their parcels are packed. Sadly, this has meant that the fellowship between the volunteers and those using the foodbank has been reduced. It has also meant that several volunteers have reluctantly finished helping at the foodbank, many being at the foodbank since it was first founded in 2012, including myself. As well as being a volunteer I was also a member of the foodbank representing St. Helen's Church along with Andrew Mallin Jones, which again I stood down from in October 2020.

Due to the demand on its services the MCFB has increased its warehouse capacity by obtaining a further warehouse in Manchester Road, Lower Lostock, and a medium size van kindly donated anonymously, which means that the needs of those who use the foodbank will be looked after into the future. Donations are still required and although we are unable to use St. Helen's as a drop-off point at present, many of the local supermarkets have boxes which are emptied on a regular basis, for you to place items in on your visit to purchase food for yourselves. On a personal note I would like to thank everyone who has donated to the foodbank since it was first formed and particularly to the Rev. Andrew Ridley who has reminded us throughout the Pandemic in his fortnightly envelope drops of the words of St. Matthew Ch. 25 v. 35 :- 'When I was hungry, you gave me something to eat, and when I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink. When I was a stranger you welcomed me.'

David Drinkwater

5.Financial Review

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, and are shown in tabular form at the end of this report.

ACCOUNT DETAILS

The Parish / Cheques Accounts are held with HSBC Bank in Northwich. All Deposit Accounts are held with the Church of England, Central Board of Finance, Deposit Fund. There are two "Equity" based accounts CBF Investment Fund (Witton) and CBF Investment Fund (Institute)

The following Cash Accounts were held –

HSBC General Fund Current Account

HSBC Restoration Account (Income from Contactless Machine Only)

Santander Promising Futures Accountpa

CBF General Deposit

CBF Great Banks Fund

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

The Tax Refund plus Gift Aid (plus interest) was collected for a two year period. The Pandemic has created disruption in church Services and activities for a period of nine months and as a consequence has had a severe effect on Income during the year with a reduction of 23% compared with 2019. Income from planned giving, envelopes and cash collections fell by £6,378 from £42,401 in 2019 to £36,027. Rental income from properties reduced by £6,378 from £15,360 in 2019 to £8,982 in 2020. A further reduction of £8,894 was also incurred between 2019 and 2020 being a combination of reduced activities, (including Changing Lives Grant, Tea at The Tower, Coffee) and a reduction in donations.

However in the Accounts, a sums are noted for donations of £17,115 and £15,600 of grants relating to the Promising Futures Project.

Total ministry-related payments were very similar at £100,638 compared to £108,347 in 2019.

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In addition to ministry-related costs additional expenditure was incurred as follows –
Major Repairs were incurred of £53,657 including Audio Sound System , Computer and Camera System. Two New Tower Windows and £17,976 (75%) towards the cost of the new lighting system.

A further expenditure was incurred in purchasing two rental properties for a total sum of £280,000. Whilst the results were not satisfactory and there continues to be a trend to receive less income I do believe that there were mitigating circumstances during the year as previously outlined , a lack of activities for nine months. The church, going in 2021, will have four rental properties tenanted where as in 2020 only two had tenants for the full year, with one paying half rent.

The two equity-based investment funds continued to perform well showing an increase in value of £3,249 (£9,719 in 2019)

The trustees' policy on reserves:

The policy is to retain sufficient reserves in deposit account to address unforeseen falls in income or unforeseen expenditure. In addition, reserves are held to cover planned major capital expenditure that exceeds any surplus from annual income.

Not included

A, Great Banks restricted bank account - £10,840.41

B, CBF Witton restricted investment fund - £22,003

C, four investment properties that provide a rental income for charitable purposes – sextons house, no 8 and no 16 St Chads Fields, 17 Hollybank Close.

D, donations for nominated purposes

Included

A, £140,000 provision for the purchase of one property that will provide a rental income of £7,000 pa

B, £25,000 Contribution to the cost of a new Served plus provision of a £28,000 repayable Loan.

C, £10,000 Final contribution to the installation of Lighting System.

D, £2,000 final contribution for the installation of additional Audio and Cameras.

E, £3,000 for the refurbishment of all External Doors.

F, £2,000 for repairs to the Church Organ.

G, £45,000 for the refurbishment of Toilets and Storage Area.

H, £30,000 for the immediate repairs to the Vestry Roof.

I, Annual Contingency Sum of £5,000 towards Rental Property Repairs and Decorating.

J, Annual Church Running Costs - £100,000 (This does not include provision for a Family / Youth Worker)

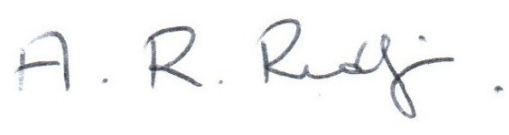
Total provision - £357,000

Retiring treasurer: George Miller

6. Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Andrew Jeapes	Andrew Ridley
Position	Secretary of PCC	Chairman
Date	18/04/21	18/04/21

Northwich Parochial Church Council St Helen, Witton



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

No (if any)
1179543

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2020	To	Period end date 31/12/2020
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Voluntary Income	38,175	-	-	38,175	53,489
Tax Receipt	18,517	-	-	18,517	-
Income From Events and Activities	20,957	-	-	20,957	20,931
Income From Investments	13,803	-	-	13,803	17,770
Grants	18,175	-	-	18,175	-
Donations	20,509	-	-	20,509	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	130,136	-	-	130,136	92,190
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Curates house	-	-	-	-	738,839
Sub total	-	-	-	-	738,839
Total receipts	130,136	-	-	130,136	831,029
A3 Payments					
Missionary and Charitable Grants	8,010	-	-	8,010	1,471
Church Related	101,986	-	-	101,986	108,347
Major Repairs	53,657	-	-	53,657	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	163,653	-	-	163,653	109,818
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
17 Holy Bank Close	150,000	-	-	150,000	-
16, St Chads Fields	130,000	-	-	130,000	-
Sub total	280,000	-	-	280,000	-
Total payments	443,653	-	-	443,653	109,818
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 313,517	-	-	- 313,517	721,211
A5 Transfers between funds					115,004
A6 Cash funds last year end	836,215			836,215	-
Cash funds this year end	522,698			522,698	836,215

Northwich Parochial Church Council St Helen, Witton

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at bank	522,698	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	522,698	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Fixed asset investments	59,196	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Cornerstones (Sextons House)	Restricted	-	223,659
	8 St Chads Fields	Unrestricted	115,250	-
	17 Holy bank close	Unrestricted	150,000	-
	16 St Chads Fields	Unrestricted	130,000	-
		-	-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B5 Liabilities	Accrual	Unrestricted	900	
		-	-	
		-	-	
		-	-	
		-	-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	E. A. Miller	E. A. MILLER	22-03-2021	

Northwich Parochial Church Council St Helen, Witton

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Northwich Parochial Church Council

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the annual accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020 which are set out on page 12 to 13.

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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.



.....
Fran Johnson BSc BFP FCA

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22 March 2021