

2022 Report and Accounts **for the Parochial Church Council of St Helen's Church, Escrick**

Aims and Objectives

St. Helen's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the Priest-in-Charge, Reverend Jackie Doyle-Brett and Assistant Minister Rev Maxine Waller, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St. Helen's Church, Escrick and its finances.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to providing a welcoming environment for all, whether they are regular worshippers or not. We strive to be open and accessible in every respect, and to make St. Helen's the heart of our village community. In order to achieve this, the PCC recognises the need to be financially sustainable and encourages generous giving. We are also committed to strengthening and further developing our relationship with the village Church of England Primary School.

When planning our activities for the year, we considered our main objectives and tried to put in place services, opportunities for worship and community engagement that would enable us to achieve these. In particular, we tried to enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of services that specifically meet the needs of members of the community who would not ordinarily attend church, particularly families.
- A varied programme of 'Heritage Activities' which engage a wide demographic.
- Regular opportunities to engage with music within the church from bell ringing to singing in our choir.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St. Helen's.

Achievements and Performance

As well as our own regular pattern of services, we have also been encouraged to attend services held across the Partnership. Several special services have been held here at Escrick, including Easter, Harvest Festival, Remembrance and Christmas Services. In general there has been an increase in attendance, most notably over the Christmas period which is very encouraging. Family Fun @4 continues to run successfully once a month and Rev Maxine has held Saturday morning Forget-Me-Not Services.

It is much appreciated that we are able to keep our church doors open every day, thanks to Nancy Mackenzie. St Helen's is home to a range of activities, such as the monthly Heritage evenings, prayer lunches, Heritage Hub, Little Hoots toddler group and Hoot's Cafe among others. There are also special events throughout the year such as poetry evenings and concerts and it is also used by local organisations for their regular meetings. Such events are not only important to the people that

attend them but also to the church as a whole for they integrate the church into the wider community and show what a welcoming place St. Helen's is.

Through our charity of the quarter, we continue to support various local charities and organisations and would like to thank all members of the community who have generously contributed to these important causes.

In September a new pattern of services was introduced across the Rivers Partnership, including a monthly U3 Holy Communion (United 3: Escrick, Naburn and Stillingfleet) and a U8 (United Eight: all the churches in the Rivers Partnership) on fifth Sundays.

Also in September the Benefice unanimously agreed to reintroduce the chalice following COVID restrictions. It was also unanimously agreed for Wedding Banns to be read in any of the three churches.

In November, the church was once again bedecked with knitted poppies for our Remembrance service. The poppies were knitted by volunteers from the community and created an impressive display for worshippers and visitors alike. The stunning Carols by Candlelight service was another memorable service as was the Christmas concert given by The Weighton Wayte.

This year as well as our popular Big Breakfast, in early December we held for the first time a Christmas Tree Festival which proved very successful.

An active relationship is maintained with Escrick Primary School and the Church/School Liaison group meet each term to seek ways of helping to teach Christian values and enhance relations to our mutual benefit. Once a month a group of volunteers present Open the Book and members of the clergy visit the school and take collective worship. In December Christingle was held in school. The service was led by Rev Maxine and each child was given a Christingle orange. In July St Helen's hosted the Leavers service when holding crosses were presented to the leavers. Children are also encouraged to participate in our special services and throughout the year they provide examples of work for our display board. Two Foundation Governors currently represent the Church on the School's Board of Governors. We look forward to continuing this positive partnership in the year ahead.

Financial Review

Total income received in 2022 was £52,343 whilst total expenditure was £46,913 meaning there was a surplus in 2022 of £5,430. This is a reasonably encouraging result, but it should be noted that on 30th December a £2,500 grant was received from the Diocese to assist with future fuel costs. Excluding this fuel related grant the surplus in 2022 would have been £2,930.

2022 benefitted from having a total of twelve weddings and a significant increase in fundraising income with, in particular, the net funds raised at the Christmas Tree Festival £2,302 and the Big Breakfast £589 being integral to delivering the surplus. It is worth noting that (and excluding the impact of the future fuel grant) without the substantial increase in fundraising income 2022 would have seen a deficit as opposed to a surplus, and this shows how important fundraising is to the financial well-being of St Helens.

In addition to the fuel related grant, St Helen's also received an extremely generous grant of £3,453 from The Friends of St Helens (FOSH) in respect of work to the floodlights and external lighting, but, in practice, this simply offset the expenditure incurred by the church.

St Helen's did not receive any large bequests, donations, or any other similarly favourable one-off events during the year.

Expenditure was generally routine, other than the work on the floodlights and external lighting, with no major unexpected costs, but it is noted that St Helen's increased its freewill offer by 20% up to £12,000. In addition, the increased number of weddings inevitably resulted in additional statutory fees being paid to the Diocese along with extra payments in respect of the likes of bellringers, organists, and vergers.

The overall surplus of £5,430 meant that at year end St Helens had £19,004 in its Barclays current account at the end of December, but with two outstanding cheques totalling £1,258 the net account balance was £17,746 compared with £12,316 at December 2021.

The value of St Helen's investment account with CCLA unfortunately decreased in value from £27,929 at December 2021 down to £25,137 at December 2022 and this £2,792 fall in value very much reflected broader global economic conditions.

With a net amount of £17,746 in the current account and £25,137 in its investment account that meant St Helen's had a total of £42,883 in funds at the end of December 2022. Excluding the £2,500 fuel grant the funds as on 31st December were £40,383 and this is very similar to the total of £40,245 funds in December 2021.

THE 2023 BUDGET

Income

Income in 2023 is expected to be £43,000 which compares unfavourably with 2022 income of £52,343. The two main reasons for this are an anticipated drop in weddings from twelve in 2022 to about eight in 2023 plus no grant monies are assumed in 2023.

In practice, a grant may well be received from the Friends of St Helen's (FOSH) in respect of some works to the church's gates, but this would simply cancel out the costs which are also not included in this budget i.e. the impact of any FOSH grant would essentially be neutral.

In 2022 the increased level of fundraising was a key reason for a reasonably strong financial result, and it is assumed fundraising will grow by about an extra 10% up to £7,200.

Expenditure

In totality expenditure is expected to fall to around £45,000 in 2023 compared with £46,913 in 2022. This is largely due to expected reductions in statutory fees, the likes of bellringer, organist, and vergers costs and this reflects the reduction in weddings.

There are three main increases compared with 2022 and they are: an assumed increase of £3,500 in electricity costs; a contribution of £1,500 by St Helen's to Rivers Partnership administration costs and a £1,000 uplift to the Freewill Offer.

Overall Financial Situation

With income at £43,000 and expenditure at £45,000 that means St Helen's expects to have a £2,000 deficit in 2023 which, in turn, would reduce the year end current account balance by £2,000 down to £15,746.

In 2022 the CCLA investments performed poorly but it is assumed about half the 2022 losses will be made good in 2023 and this would increase the value of these investments up to £26,500, an increase of £1,367.

With £15,746 in the current account and £26,500 in investments that would mean St Helen's ends 2023 with a total of £42,246 which is close to the 2022 total of £42,833.

Additional Information

Volunteers:

St Helen's is fortunate to count on a small army of volunteers who in one way or another contribute to keeping the wheels turning, be it praying, preparing for special services and events or regular activities such as cleaning, flower arranging, churchyard maintenance, distributing magazines and many other tasks. A huge thank you to everyone, we are very grateful for your help and support. Recognition of these joint efforts was recently achieved when St Helen's was shortlisted for the National Church Awards: Open for Visitors Award 2022.

This year as well as our popular Big Breakfast, in early December we held for the first time a Christmas Tree Festival which proved very successful.

Structure, Governance and Management:

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. Helen's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church.

All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The full PCC met six times during the year.

Church Council Members on 31 March 2022

Ex-Officio

Rev Jackie Doyle-Brett

Rev Maxine Waller

Caroline Wandless (Churchwarden)

Caroline Wandless (Deanery

3 years to serve

Margaret Gowthorpe

Judith Luscombe

Nigel Wood

Representative)

2 years to serve

Christine Mason

Fiona Walters

John Wilson

1 year to serve

Hilary Castle

Carolyn Skilbeck

St Helen's Church, Escrick

Accounts to 31 December 2022

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St Helen's Church: Overview of the 2022 Accounts

Total income received in 2022 was £52,343 whilst total expenditure was £46,913 meaning there was a surplus in 2022 of £5,430. This is a reasonably encouraging result, but it should be noted that on 30th December a £2,500 grant was received from the Diocese to assist with future fuel costs. Excluding this fuel related grant the surplus in 2022 would have been £2,930.

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St Helen's Church: Income

INCOME	2022	2021	2020
	£	£	£
Planned regular giving	8,457	8,297	7,419
Collections	8,653	6,653	5,435
HMRC gift aid	3,293	3,815	807
TOTAL GIVING	20,403	18,765	13,661
Weddings	10,981	4,039	2115
Funerals	4,939	6,330	3240
TOTAL STATUTORY FEES	15,920	10,369	5,355
Monies from the Benefice	570	232	3,000
Legacies and Donation	618	13,003	3,570
Listed Places of Worship VAT claim	0	0	2,552
Fundraising	6,681	3,426	4,745
100 Club Income	1,058	1,139	982
Allotments and Garages	460	377	550
Heritage Lottery Grant	0	0	0
Roof Alarm Grants	0	0	3116
Other Grants	5,953	0	500
From investment accounts	0	30	19
Miscellaneous Income	680	480	20
TOTAL INCOME	52,343	47,821	38,070

Notes:

Two grants were received during 2022:

- A £3,453 payment from FOSH in respect of work to the external lighting. This reimbursed the church for what it had spent.
- A £2,500 grant from the Diocese to help with future fuel costs.

2022 fundraising income included the following amounts:

- Christmas Tree Festival £2,302
- Big Breakfast £598
- Church Box £863
- Votive £222
- Books £289
- Refreshments £334
- Heritage £617
- Little Hoots £291
- Workshop £220

St Helen's Church: Expenditure

EXPENDITURE	2022	2021	2020
	£	£	£
Freewill to Diocese	12,000	10,000	10,000
Statutory Fees	2,274	1,475	1,600
TOTAL TO DIOCESE	14,274	11,475	11,600
PAYMENTS TO CHARITIES*	1,783	1,389	2,438
Organists	3,128	2,322	1,188
Vergers	1,121	533	276
Bellringers	1,885	658	0
Visiting clergy	1,805	580	131
Payment to Benefice Account	206	750	750
TOTAL FEES	8,145	4,843	2,347
Insurance	5,188	4,993	4,978
Oil	4,043	1,878	1,596
Electricity	1,712	1,545	1,846
Water	149	135	272
Internet	333	337	388
TOTAL UTILITIES	11,411	8,888	9,080
Repair and maintenance	5,525	4,241	5,967
Roof Alarm costs	794	393	4,288
Churchyard	1,087	948	2,224
100 Club Prizes	630	470	600
Miscellaneous (inc fundraising expenses)	2,675	3,096	2,151
Heritage related	575	50	13,793
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	46,913	35,793	54,488
Transfer to CCLA		25,000	
GROSS ADJUSTED EXPENDITURE		60,793	

Notes:

*These payments to charities are essentially collections at funerals with subsequent payment to a charity, for example Cancer Research, and services where the collection is for a specific charity, for example: Remembrance Sunday and the Royal British Legion.

The payments to the Diocese increased by almost £2,800 which reflects the £2,000 increase in the Freewill Offer but also a substantial increase in statutory fees related to the increase in weddings which totalled twelve over the year. These additional weddings also largely account for the increase in payments to organists, vergers, bellringers and visiting clergy.

The bulk of the repair and maintenance expenditure related to the expenditure on the external lighting (and which was ultimately, and very kindly, reimbursed by The Friends of St Helens) plus some remedial works to the church's guttering.

St Helen's Church: Summary of Income and Expenditure

	2022	2021	2020
	£	£	£
Total Income	52,343	47,821	38,070
Total Expenditure	46,913	35,793	54,488
Surplus or (deficit) of income over expenditure	5,430	12,028	(16,418)

Notes:

In terms of previous years it is noted that the 2021 surplus was very much due to a most generous bequest of £10,000 whilst the 2020 expenditure included a final retention payment of £13,793 related to the heritage project.

St Helen's Church: Current Account

	2022	2021	2020
	£	£	£
Opening bank balance at 01 January	12,316	25,288	41,706
Income	52,343	47,821	38,070
Sub-total of opening balance and income	64,659	73,109	79,776
Expenditure including transfers to CCLA	46,913	60,793	54,488
Bank balance at 31 December	19,004	12,316	25,288
Unpresented cheques	1,258	0	0
Net closing bank balance at 31 December	17,746	12,316	25,288

Notes:

The two unpresented cheques at 31.12.22 were:

- Cheque number 103233: £914
- Cheque number 103237: £344

St Helen's Church: Investment Account

Investment Accounts	2022	2021	2020
	£	£	£
TOTAL	25,137	27,929	1,376

St Helen's investment funds are made up of accumulation shares held in the Church of England Investment Fund which is managed by CCLA. During the year the value of these investment funds declined from £27,929 at December 2021 down to £25,137 at December 2022.

This £2,792 fall in value is obviously disappointing, but it is very much reflective of global economic conditions. These investment funds are held on a long-term basis and hopefully their value will gradually recover in coming months.

St Helen's Church: Summary of Funds

	2022	2021	2020
Funds on 31 st December	£	£	£
Current account	17,746	12,316	25,288
Investment account	25,137	27,929	1,376
Total funds	42,883	40,245	26,664

The PCC needs to be clear about which funds are restricted, and which are unrestricted and or designated.

- 'Restricted funds' are sums of money that are held on trust for particular purposes and can only be spent on those purposes.
- 'Unrestricted funds' can be spent on any of the PCC's general purposes.
- 'Designated funds' are sums of unrestricted money earmarked by the PCC for specific purposes.

All the Restricted Funds and Designated Funds were spent on the Heritage project, which ran from 2016 to 2019 so all current PCC funds are Unrestricted.

St Helen's Church Accounts: treasurer statement and audit certificate

Treasurer statement:

These accounts are an accurate, fair and full representation of the finances of St Helen's Church at 31 December 2022.

John Wilson
St Helen's Church PCC Treasurer

Audit certificate:

The income and expenditure accounts and the summary of funds are in agreement with properly maintained accounts and records maintained by the St Helen's PCC Treasurer, John Wilson.

 9/3/23
Leisa Myers
St Helen's Church Auditor