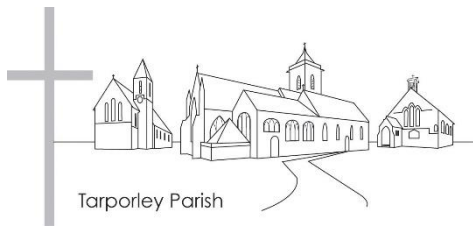




Annual Report of the Tarporley Parochial Church Council and Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2022



The three images chosen for the parish's contribution to the Pilgrim Porch at Chester Cathedral – a carved angel from the choir stalls at St Thomas', the Delamere Horn from the St Francis window at St Helen's, and 'The Petition of the Repentant Sinners' from behind the communion table at St John's.



Annual Report of the Tarporley Parochial Church Council and Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

What follows is a brief report of our Parish life in 2022. In comparison to previous years of disruption, 2022 felt relatively 'normal'. While the start of 2022 continued to see a new COVID variant and some lingering restrictions, by the end of the year, it did feel as if life was returning to pre-pandemic normality. Therefore, a lot more happened in 2022 in the life of the parish, a snapshot of which appears in this report.

While the following puts into words some of what happened in 2022, it does little to capture the full energy, joy and commitment that so many volunteers have expended in the past year. It has been a real joy to see what this parish does in 'normal' times, and it has been very pleasing to see the faith, hope and love that is displayed by so many members of the parish.

My thanks go to clergy colleagues who helped sustain and enhance ministry and mission in the parish during the year - Revd Julian Osborne, Revd Trevor Davies, Revd Jenny Bridgman and Revd Richard Tuckwell – as well as Church Wardens and officers and members of our PCC for their unstinting hard work and complete support. I hope that you will take encouragement from this report as evidence of God's love and blessing unfolding in our Parish despite the challenging year we have shared.

With the new priorities given in the parish audit in the autumn, I am felt extremely hopeful and excited about what 2023 will bring for us as parish, as we continue to find ways (both old and new) to share God's love and message in Tarporley, Eaton, Cotebrook, Rushton and Utkinton.

With every blessing

Jim

Revd. Jim Bridgman
Rector of Tarporley

**The Parochial Church Council
of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Tarporley
A Registered Charity: Number 1130496**

Aim and Purposes

St Helen's Tarporley Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the Parish's three churches: St Helen's Tarporley, St John and the Holy Cross Cotebrook and St Thomas, Eaton their attendant churchyards and The Done Room. In pursuing these aims and purposes the PCC has due regard to the Charity Commission's concern for public benefit.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches. Our services are open to all, and we are committed to making and keeping our churches, both during and outside of worship, welcoming sacred spaces where people can encounter the presence of God, sanctuary from an often-stressful world and, if they wish it, a place in a welcoming and caring community. When planning our activities for the year, both our regular worship and our extra activities, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. We are open to all and actively encourage participation in our services and activities from all sections of the community believing as we do that every person is made in the image of God. We try to help each other grow in knowledge and love of God and his son, our Lord Jesus Christ, through our worship and prayer and discipleship activities believing that the good news of the gospel enriches and gives purpose and direction to life. And we try to follow this teaching and communicate God's love for all people through our pastoral and outreach work.

Achievements and Performance

1. Worship and Prayer

In terms of services, we were able to hold a full programme of services on Sundays and throughout the liturgical year. For regular worship, the decision to reinstate the common cup at Communion was passed by PCC in June, to begin again from 1st July.



Patterns of worship continued throughout the year, with a monthly All Age service on the first Sunday, and Communion services on other weeks. After a hiatus due to the pandemic Messy Church restarted in the spring (*pictured left*) on the fourth Sunday of each month, and it has been pleasing to reconnect with families old and new through this service. The renewed links with the two church schools has also been a great advantage in publicising and connecting with families and children.

In 2022 we were able to fully engage with the year: the Lent book group returned to read Lawrence's *Practice of the Presence of God*; we services throughout Holy Week and Easter, moving vigil on Maundy Thursday evening; all churches celebrated Harvest festivals (with lunches and suppers at St Helen's and St respectively; a service for All held at St Helen's bereaved during



Remembrance Sunday continued to be well attended, with an act of Remembrance at St Thomas, followed by the full parade in Tarporley, with all uniformed organisations joining us in church, where the focus was the 40th anniversary of the Falkland's conflict; Advent saw the Advent Book group read *Freedom is Coming* by Nick Baines, based on the prophet Isaiah, as well as the Posada (a travelling nativity set) making its way throughout the parish and stopping in a different home each night in Advent; Christmas was especially busy with a full compliment of carol services, Christingle (pictured above), crib services as well as community carol singing.



Church's Brother held including a three Harvest Thomas' special Souls was for those the year;

National events surrounding the Platinum Jubilee and then the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II were reflected in worship in the parish: special services of celebration were held on the Jubilee weekend, and we joined in with many of the local community events to celebrate, and in September all three church buildings were open for prayer and reflection, with the opportunity for members of the congregation and community to sign books of condolence. The smooth running of these events at such an emotional time is testament to the good organisation put in place by the PCC and the previous Rector, Revd Georgina Watmore, as well as the willingness of volunteers to open up our buildings, all of whom deserve our thanks.



In the summer, the parish said goodbye to curate Revd Julian Osborne, who was appointed as Rector of Barrow (and licensed in November 2022). We were very thankful for Julian's presence and ministry among us, and all that he gave to the parish and its people; a final service with goodbye refreshments was held at the end of June. In the autumn, Jan Mills, who had offered secretarial assistance over a number of years also had



a change of work situation and decided to call time on her work as administrator for the parish. We are so grateful for all her hard work and efficiency over the last few years, and to Bill Holroyd for releasing Jan during that time to pick up some of the administration for the parish.

All three of the bishops visited the Deanery in June as part of their Deanery Visitation, starting with a Communion service and Deanery Chapter meeting at St Helen's, before Bishops Mark and Sam visited Tarporley High School with Revd Jim. Then later in the summer, Bishop Sam returned to the parish for a pastoral visit, preaching and presiding in all three churches followed by a social time at Cotebrook Village Hall (*pictured right*).

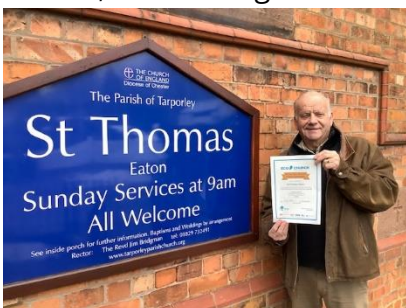


We were fortunate to hold a number of special services throughout the year, ranging from a special sung Evensong at St Helen's accompanied by *Vox Vocavit* singers in February, to a special Songs of Praise at St Thomas' with singer/songwriter Stu Larsen (*pictured below left*), the Eatonians and the St Thomas' choir in June, to a reflective service to mark Babyloss Awareness Week in October.



All three churches engaged with Chester Cathedral's 'Pilgrim Porch' project, submitting photos and information about significant parts of our buildings (the Delamere horn in the stained glass of St Helen's, the wooden carved angels at St Thomas' and 'The Petition of the Repentant Sinners' painting at St John's), which will be engraved on the new door at the cathedral and added to an interactive information panel. The door is now in situ, with the interactive panel soon to be added – do look for the three churches' submissions the next time you visit the cathedral!

Another important activity in the background this year was the beginning of the Eco-Church initiative in the parish, to assess and survey the environmental impact that the parish has on its Worship, use of Buildings and Land, in its Community and National Engagement, and in terms of Lifestyle. Through completing online questionnaires, each building was assessed to consider what we can do to become better stewards of God's creation. All three churches are well on their way to achieving the Bronze Eco Award, which is a great achievement, but only the start!



In the autumn the parish underwent an audit and evaluation to hear thoughts and ideas from church members for the future direction of the parish and its churches. It was a helpful and fruitful exercise, out of which a number of key priorities were identified:

- a. Exploring a new pattern of worship.
- b. Deepening prayer and discipleship.
- c. Improving Facilities.
- d. Engagement.
 - I. With communities.
 - II. With 'un-churched' people.
 - III. With schools.

A new pattern of worship was proposed to start in February 2023. On item b, new service booklets were produced for the Advent and Epiphany seasons (and very kindly printed and collated free of charge by Tarporley Primary School), and added to our seasonal worship from Advent Sunday 2022. These priorities will give the parish focus for the coming years.

2. Pastoral Services and Activity

The PCC recognizes that our ministry and churches offer a very important and unique resource at particular moments in people’s lives. It is a joy to be asked to baptise and marry people and share this celebration with family and friends and a privilege to be able to offer help and support to others through our funeral ministry. Rather than dictating the content of these services we work hard with all concerned to make sure that, within a Christian setting, they have a service that holds meaning for them. Such pastoral services mark important rites in everyone’s life and the Church extends the welcome and compassion of God to all people, regardless of their beliefs or background.

In addition to organizing and delivering the service itself the churches are involved in baptism and marriage preparation, helping families prepare for and organize funerals and following up with bereavement visits. Whilst the Clergy undertake most of this work they are supported and enormously helped by the Parish Pastoral Team formed of representatives from all our churches. The PCC also acknowledges the foundational importance of the informal visiting and pastoral care that takes place every day as members of our churches look out for and take care of each other and their neighbours and members of the wider community.

After the last few years of lockdowns and closures, all three churches had a full year of services.

Church	Usual Sunday Attendance*	Number of Sunday services	Baptisms	Weddings/ Renewal of Vows (RoV)	Funerals	Burial of Ashes
St Helen’s	58 adults 5 children	50	15	8	19	8
St Thomas’	18 adults 0 children	50	1	1 (RoV)	2	0
St John’s	19 adults 0 children	13	1	0	1	3

**based on average over the year. This however does not reflect the extent of the ‘worshipping community’ (those connected with each church, and whose attendance may be irregular) which is higher.*

3. Community Connections



This year saw an extension of our connections with local schools, especially our two church schools: Tarporley Primary School and St Paul's Primary in Utkinton and Cotebrook. The parish now has congregational representatives on both governing bodies, and has organised a group of volunteers to listen to pupils reading at both schools.



Throughout the year, there have been plenty of visits to St Helen's from school – for visits to a place of worship to find out about its features and uses, end of term celebrations, special all school worship for Easter, Harvest and Christmas, and Leavers' services for Year 6 pupils, at which each leaver was gifted a holding cross from the parish as an aid to prayer as they transitioned to High School and new settings. Both schools were also given an Advent wreath from the parish to aid with worship during the Advent season.

Revd Jim has also made good links with other non-Church schools locally: with Tarporley High School, arranging visits to St Helen's, and going into school to share in RE provision, as well as visiting Eaton Primary to engage in RE lessons, and share about the importance of Christmas and Easter to Christians. We have continued to support the Done Room Preschool too, and welcomed them for performance at St Helen's at Easter, end of summer term, Harvest and Christmas.

Outside of schools, 2022 saw a return to some of the social events that had to be curtailed during the pandemic – the annual St Thomas' church quiz at the Jessie Hughes hall in Eaton, the St Helen's Harvest



lunch at Rose farm and the St Thomas' harvest supper and auction at the Jessie, Afternoon teas in the Done room (*pictured below*), and the ever-popular bellringers quiz at Tarporley Community centre. In addition, there were a few one-off events, such as the Kelsborrow choir Concert at St Helen's (*pictured left*) and an extra special performance by Australian singer/songwriter Stu Larsen at the Jessie in Eaton. The parish took the opportunity to have a stall at the Tarporley Carnival in July,

offering simple crafts for kids, and taking prayer requests. It has also been very pleasing to see church going into the community, especially at Christmas, when we had parish Pub carol singing at The Alvanley Arms, and led outdoor carols on the green in Eaton and the High Street in Tarporley.

Our links with the Tarporley parish council were cemented by making connections around the proposed Tarporley Public Art Trail, the Tarporley Christmas events, and setting up St Helen's as a Warm Space on Wednesdays, as part of the Parish council's Warm Heart of Tarporley initiative.





Ecumenical links with Tarporley Chapel and St Thomas a Becket Catholic church were strengthened this year; all three ministers now meet together regularly for support and reflection, and we have held a number of joint services throughout the year, including lunchtime prayers for the Week Of Prayer For Christian Unity, a joint Good Friday service at the Chapel, Revd Mark preaching on Maundy Thursday and Remembrance Sunday at St Helen's, and a collaboration as we blessed the crib and sang carols on the High Street to mark the beginning of the Tarporley Christmas celebrations (*pictured left*).

The parish continues to support the Mid Cheshire Foodbank, with collection points in all three buildings, which are used throughout the year. We collected again for harvest, and during Advent offered a reverse Advent calendar to collect items for each day of Advent to give to the foodbank. Thank you for all your generous donations, and to those who organise delivery and collection of

our donations.

The Link continues to keep the community updated with church life, in addition to the Facebook page and weekly email, sharing weekly readings and prayers and upcoming services and events from the three churches.

The PCC offers its thanks to all who work to share the life of the Church and the love of God: all who tell and invite others to services and events, those who contribute articles, edit and put together the information we can share and ensure its successful distribution, and those who work to keep our website up to date.

4. Financial Review and Independent Examiner's Report

The Parochial Church Council St Helen's Church, Tarporley

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 31st December 2022

Introduction

Below are the accounts for the Parish of Tarporley which comprises of St Helen's Church, Tarporley, St Thomas', Eaton & St John & the Holy Cross, Cotebrook.

The accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

In 2022, we incorporated all our Ancient Endowments & Investments into our accounts which is why for the first time, we are showing fixed assets of £320k and liabilities of £83k.

The Treasurer, whilst having some financial qualifications is not a qualified Chartered or Certified Accountant and all errors and omissions are to be excepted.

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior Year total funds
Receipts						
Planned giving	40,863	—	—	—	40,863	38,293
Collections and other giving	20,922	60	150	—	21,132	19,937
Other voluntary receipts	—	—	—	—	—	12,000
Gift Aid recovered	13,156	—	—	—	13,156	12,515
Other receipts	1,922	250	250	—	2,422	107,296
Activities for generating funds	10,716	10,744	—	—	21,460	13,627
Investment Income	—	2,831	4,909	—	7,741	29,246
Receipts from church activities	10,193	300	—	—	10,493	10,992
Total income	97,774	14,186	5,309	—	117,269	243,907
Payments						
Cost of generating funds	1,127	—	—	—	1,127	462
Missionary and Charitable Giving	200	—	—	—	200	300
Parish Share	60,662	—	9,004	—	69,666	68,131
Clergy and Staffing costs	4,519	—	187	—	4,707	8,490
Church Running Expenses	18,443	203	8,908	—	27,556	18,821
Hall Running Costs	—	9,093	—	—	9,093	7,644
Church Repairs & Maintenance	—	468	—	—	468	22,809
Hall Repairs & Maintenance	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Building work	—	—	—	—	—	—
Governance Costs	—	129	—	—	129	—
Total expenditure	84,952	9,895	18,101	—	112,948	126,660
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	(6,985)	(11,984)	—	(18,970)	—
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	12,822	(2,695)	(24,776)	—	(14,649)	117,246
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	12,399	1,598	—	—	13,997	162,352
Gross transfers between funds - out	(1,598)	(12,399)	—	—	(13,997)	(162,352)
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	9,916	96,687	—	106,604	—
Net movement in funds	23,622	(3,578)	71,911	—	91,955	117,246
Total funds brought forward	56,909	142,555	45,505	—	244,970	127,723
Total funds carried forward	80,532	138,976	117,416	—	336,925	244,970
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
General fund	80,532	—	—	—	80,532	56,909
Designated						
ALTAR FRONTAL FUND	—	416	—	—	416	416
CHILDRENS SOCIETY & OTHERS	—	—	—	—	—	—
CHOIR FUND	—	2,111	—	—	2,111	1,955
Churchyard Footpath St H	—	15,166	—	—	15,166	15,350
DONE ROOM	—	16,159	—	—	16,159	14,322
General Mission Fund	—	1,064	—	—	1,064	1,064
HEARSE HOUSE	—	—	—	—	—	1,598
Rectors Leaving Fund	—	—	—	—	—	—
St Helen's Fixed Projector & Screen	—	—	—	—	—	—
St Helens Fabric	—	3,819	—	—	3,819	4,288
UNRESTRICTED ST HELENS	—	73,729	—	—	73,729	85,482
UNRESTRICTED ST JOHN	—	7,260	—	—	7,260	1,770
UNRESTRICTED ST THOMAS	—	19,247	—	—	19,247	16,306
Restricted						
Agency collection	—	—	—	—	—	—
DIVIDENDS REST ST THOMAS	—	—	7,108	—	7,108	6,415
PARISH CHURCHYARDS	—	—	79,554	—	79,554	17,578
RESTRICTED RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	—	—	18,865	—	18,865	1,816
RESTRICTED ST HELENS (FORMER CONS CHARITY)	—	—	1,625	—	1,625	1,625
RESTRICTED ST JOHN	—	—	7,618	—	7,618	14,829
St John's Churchyard	—	—	2,598	—	2,598	3,193
UNRESTRICTED ST THOMAS	—	—	46	—	46	46

Balance sheet

	Total funds	Previous year funds
Fixed assets		
Investments	320,110	—
	320,110	—
Current assets		
Investments	—	134,645
Cash at bank and in hand	100,378	110,324
	100,378	244,970
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	30	—
	30	—
Net current assets less current liabilities	100,348	244,970
Total assets less current liabilities	420,458	244,970
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	83,533	—
	83,533	—
Total net assets less liabilities	336,925	244,970
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
General fund	80,532	56,909
Designated		
ALTAR FRONTAL FUND	416	416
Rectors Leaving Fund	—	—
UNRESTRICTED ST HELENS	73,729	85,482
UNRESTRICTED ST JOHN	7,260	1,770
UNRESTRICTED ST THOMAS	19,247	16,306
CHOIR FUND	2,111	1,955
CHILDRENS SOCIETY & OTHERS	—	—
DONE ROOM	16,159	14,322
St Helen's Fixed Projector & Screen	—	—
St Helens Fabric	3,819	4,288
Churchyard Footpath St H	15,166	15,350
General Mission Fund	1,064	1,064
HEARSE HOUSE	—	1,598
Restricted		
DIVIDENDS REST ST THOMAS	7,108	6,415
PARISH CHURCHYARDS	79,554	17,578
RESTRICTED RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	18,865	1,816
RESTRICTED ST HELENS (FORMER CONS CHARITY)	1,625	1,625
RESTRICTED ST JOHN	7,618	14,829
St John's Churchyard	2,598	3,193
UNRESTRICTED ST THOMAS	46	46
Agency collection	—	—
Funds of the church	336,925	244,970

Statement of assets and liabilities

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last Year
Fixed assets - Investments						
St Helen's Footpath 69002016S -	—	7,261	—	—	7,261	—
Parish Churchyards 609002014S -	—	—	5,809	—	5,809	—
St Helen's Unrestricted 609002009S -	—	71,819	—	—	71,819	—
Unrestricted Parish Churchyard & Fabric -	—	—	20,620	—	20,620	—
Palmer/Mann Ancient Endowment	—	—	8,427	—	8,427	—
609002012S -						
J Palmer Ancient Endowment 609002002S -	—	—	32,789	—	32,789	—
Miss Lewis Ancient Endowment 609002010S -	—	—	11,570	—	11,570	—
Lady Grisell Ancient Endowment 609002011 -	—	—	5,309	—	5,309	—
Hughes Fund Ancient Endowment 10901118S	—	—	5,450	—	5,450	—
-						
Eaton Church Wardens Fund 609004001S -	—	3,760	—	—	3,760	—
Brooks Legacy 109001123S -	—	—	23,288	—	23,288	—
John Derek Davies 609002013S -	—	—	4,257	—	4,257	—
Sale of Cotebrook Church M& G 0024011783 -	—	5,250	—	—	5,250	—
Canon Hughes Ancient Endowment	—	—	60,244	—	60,244	—
109001124 -						
2014 investment (Accum Shares) St Thomas -	—	14,453	—	—	14,453	—
2014 investment (Accum Shares) General f -	26,980	—	—	—	26,980	—
2014 investment (Accum Shares) Done Room	—	98	—	—	98	—
-						
2014 investment (Accum Shares) Parish Ch -	—	—	5,402	—	5,402	—
2014 investment (Accum Shares) RRE -	—	—	4,940	—	4,940	—
2014 investment (Accum Shares) USH -	—	2,374	—	—	2,374	—
Totals	26,980	105,018	188,111	—	320,110	—
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
Bank Current Account -	52,053	33,938	12,867	—	98,859	109,019
CCLA (CBF) deposit account -	1,492	—	—	—	1,492	1,223
Petty Cash -	25	—	—	—	25	81
Totals	53,571	33,938	12,867	—	100,378	110,324
Current assets - Investments						
CBF C of E Investment - Accum Shares -	—	—	—	—	—	59,645
CBF CoE Investments - Income Shares -	—	—	—	—	—	75,000
Totals	—	—	—	—	—	134,645
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
Agency collections -	—	—	30	—	30	—
Totals	—	—	30	—	30	—
Liabilities - Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year						
Canon Hughes Ancient Endowment	—	—	60,244	—	60,244	—
109001124 -						
Brooks Legacy Ancient Endowment 10900112	—	—	23,288	—	23,288	—
-						
Totals	—	—	83,533	—	83,533	—
Grand total	80,552	138,956	117,416	—	336,925	244,970

Conclusion

2022 was another challenging year for the Parish as at the start of the year, attendances and donations etc still hadn't returned to pre pandemic levels. This led to the unfortunate decision being made in January 2022 that we were unable at the current time, to pay our Parish Share in full. We continued to have discussions with the Diocese and by 31st December 2022, we had managed to pay our full commitment of £60,662.

Throughout the year, we continued to monitor our investments with CCLA and a decision was made in November 22 to take advantage of the Small Charities provision and wind up any investments which fell into this category (capital of less than £10k and annual income <£1k). The funds released were reinvested into one investment called 'Parish Churchyard and Fabric'. We also realised investments of £20k to fund a new heating system for the Done Room.

We were very fortunate in that new fixed rate contracts for all three churches were negotiated in June 2021 although they didn't come into place until May 2022. As these are for three years, we will continue to benefit from these until mid 2025.

Our total receipts for 2022 were £117,270 which was £126, less than 2021 but 2021 had one of receipts of £136k. Therefore, excluding the one of receipts for both years, then our income was comparable in 2021 & 2022.

We undertook a Giving program in October 2022 which resulted in more people giving by standing order and some existing standing orders being increased. Hopefully, this will continue throughout 2023 and will have a positive effect on our income. Fundraising recommenced in all three Churches in 2022, with St Thomas' holding a several well attended and successful events.

Our dividend income was £2.2k higher at £7.7k in 2022. However, due to stock market fluctuations the value in our investments year on year had reduced by several thousands. As we don't have any plans at the moment to cash in these investments, then this is only a 'paper' loss.

Our expenditure for 2022 was £112,949 which was £13.7k less than 2021. Taking into account the one off expenditure in 2021 of around £30k, our expenditure in 2022 increased by £30k. This excludes the cost of replacing the Done Room heating system as the invoice wasn't received until January 2023.

Part of this increase is due to the following:

Increased grass cutting fees £3.8k

Increased utility costs £2.3k

Increased Done Room repair costs £2.5k

Increased Minor repairs across all three churches £2.5k

We have reviewed our Reserves policy and have decided that we can keep the period we need to reserve for to three months. This is due to the fact that our Standing Orders give regular income and we have decided to invest more of our income which will result in receiving more dividends. Items we reserve for are: Utilities, Parish Share, Rector & Staffing costs, Insurance, Organ and Bell Maintenance, Grass Cutting & Done Room Costs. The amount we need to reserve in 2022 is £28,475.

This report dated: 19th March 2023

Anita Langford
Treasurer



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

On accounts for the year ended **Charity no (if any)**

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2021

Responsibilities and basis of report As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: **Date:**

Name:

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

Address:

Section B**Disclosure**

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

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

5. Reports from Our Three Churches regarding Fabric

On the subject of fabric a quinquennial inspection of the church was carried out by Graham Holland in June at both St Helen's and St John's. There was a tree survey also carried out. A risk assessment and remedial works were undertaken on the section of the graveyard on the south side of the church.

The heating system in the Done Room was replaced in December while the Pre School were away for the Christmas break and the fan heaters were replaced with radiators and a conventional heating system.

No major fabric work was carried out on any of the three church buildings.

6. Structure Governance and Management

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity. As trustees of the charity 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. There is a Standing Committee comprised of the Incumbent, 2 Church Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary of the PCC and one representative from St Thomas and one from St John's. This Committee will consult only in extremis when a decision must be made between PCC meetings. The full PCC met six times during the year both in person and on Zoom.

Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of Parish Life, but all these committees report back to the PCC for decision making.

Safeguarding

The PCC considers that it has, to the best of its knowledge, taken all reasonable steps to comply with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2017. St Helens Parish Church takes its duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously. We have adopted the national Church of England's robust procedures and guidelines. You can find out more about the national policies and procedures at www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding.

If you have any safeguarding concerns or issues of a safeguarding matter then you can find useful contact information below and at www.chester.anglican.org/socialresponsibility/safeguarding

In line with the diocesan regulations on safeguarding the PCC has adopted a Policy Statement on the Safeguarding of Children and Adults in the Church. There are notices in the Church providing contact details for Childline and Family Lives and also contact details for the Rector and the Parish Safeguarding Officer should anyone wish to speak privately and in confidence on safeguarding issues.

Following ThirtyeightOne guidelines there are currently 6 volunteer leaders and assistants with clear and current DBS certificates and who have completed the Basic Awareness and Foundation courses in Safeguarding; these people coach bellringers.

Due to the pandemic, organised activities in church for children were put on hold and the majority of adult volunteers who held clear and current DBS certificates will now need to re-apply as certificates are no longer valid. However, until a new programme of children's activities requiring adult supervision or teaching is scheduled fresh applications will not be made.

The PCC thanks all the volunteers for their time and commitment given in running these activities and for their understanding in having background checks completed. We take the safeguarding of our children and vulnerable adults in church extremely seriously and DBS checks and procedures ensure all who are vulnerable as well as those who volunteer are protected. All non-church activities being run on a regular basis in the Done Room have also been checked as per diocesan guidelines to ensure that safeguarding policies are in place and that they too are covered by all necessary certificates, procedures and insurance. No safeguarding issues have arisen in the past year.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll of the church is a list of people who consider themselves to be members of one of our three churches including those who are housebound or unable to attend regularly. Everyone is welcome and forms, available in our churches or from the Electoral Roll Officer, are completed by each individual (over 16 and baptised). We are grateful to our Electoral Roll officer who oversees this work.

After the annual revision in 2022 the Electoral roll stood at 199

(2021: 190; 2020: 199 2019: 191 2018: 202 2017: 198 2016: 205, 2015: 185)

Malpas Deanery Synod Report

There were three meetings of the Malpas Deanery Synod this year. The first meeting was a joint meeting with Chester Deanery at St Mary's Handbridge Church Hall where we enjoyed a talk on 'Everyday Faith' which is asking churches to encourage people to live out their faith in everyday life.

In June Bishops Mark, Sam and Julie came to the Deanery for a three day visitation. The visit began at St Helens Church on Monday 27th for worship, a meeting and catch up with the Deanery clergy. Later that day Bishop Mark and Sam went to Tarporley High School with Jim where they met the Headteacher and Head of Humanities for a question and answer session with Yr 7 students. On Tuesday they did a walk through the Deanery starting at Hargrave via Beeston Castle to Bunbury where they had dinner and a social evening with representatives from all the parishes in Bunbury Church. We enjoyed worship and explaining the mission and things we were proud of in Tarporley, Eaton and Cotebrook churches. Their visitation ended on Wednesday with a day in Shocklach hearing about the Agricultural chaplaincy and visiting the Primary School.

At the meeting in November held in the Burley Hall in Waverton The Revd Peter Froggatt on behalf of Harriet Roberts (Director of Development, Vision and Strategy in the Diocese) gave a talk inviting us to look at the bible and consider its relevancy today and asking us what we felt was today's vision. He talked about a project being led by Bishop Mark to develop a new vision for the church in our Diocese.

Administrative Information

At the APCM on Sunday, 8th May, 2022, the following were elected to the PCC unopposed, for a period of three years:

Paul Bullen, Alistair Findlay and Walter Gibson.

No election was necessary for the remaining members.

The lay membership of the PCC currently comprises the following:

Paul Bullen	
Alistair Findlay	
Walter Gibson	
Mike Kiddle	(Electoral Roll Officer)
Rosemary Lilley	
Elaine Meredith	(Deanery Synod representative)
John Meredith	
Liz Neely	(Churchwarden)
Dianne Ouseley	(Deanery Synod representative)
Phillip Posnett	(Churchwarden and Deanery Synod representative)
Marjorie Rathbone	
Michael Scott	
Paul Emerson	(ex officio Secretary)

Anita Langford currently serves as ex officio Treasurer after resigning from the PCC during 2022.