

**AGENDA FOR VESTRY AND APCM MEETING
TO BE HELD ON 28th APRIL 2024
11.15AM AT
ST HELEN'S CHURCH, GLOUCESTER ROAD,
ALVESTON BS35 3QT
AND
ANNUAL REPORT
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

Vestry Meeting

Election of Church wardens

(All Parishioners eligible to vote.)

APCM

(All members of the Electoral Roll eligible to vote)

Approval of minutes of the APCM held on 30th April 2023.

New Electoral Roll – WV

Annual Report PCC - DM

Benefice Report - DM

Financial Affairs and Audited Statements - RK

Report on the fabric and ornaments of the church -EL

Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod - NB

Safeguarding and Reporting of Serious Incidents - CS

Appointment of the Independent Examiner

Any questions

ELECTIONS & ADVERTISEMENTS

(only Elected PCC members eligible to vote)

1. Election of parochial representatives to the laity to the PCC
2. Election of Standing Committee
3. Election of Treasurer
4. Election of PCC Secretary
5. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives – don't need this year

1. Aims and Purposes

“To promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.”

2. Administrative information.

The church is situated at the junction of the main A38 between Gloucester and Bristol just on the edge of the Village of Alveston. The Vicarage is situated just alongside the Church, approached via a driveway to the south of the Church. Contact details are:

St Helen's Vicarage, Gloucester Road, Alveston, Bristol BS35 3QT,

Tel. 01454 415190, Mob. 0789 0262 334 or email: mossds@gmail.com.

Website <http://www.sthelensalvs.co.uk>

North Severnside Facebook page.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity exempt from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served during 2022 and until the date of this report's approval are:

	Name	Role on PCC Date of Election
Priest in Charge	Rev David Moss	2 nd November 2017
Wardens	Mrs Rosemary Boere	Chair Elected 16 th May 2021 Re-elected 1 st May 2022 Re-elected 28 th April 2023
	Mrs Elaine Lee	Elected 28 th April 2023
Deanery Synod	Mr Nick Barnard	June 2023 to 26
Elected Members	Mrs Manuela King	(2016-2019, 2019-22, 2022-25)
	Mrs Clare Stephens	(2022-2025)
	Mrs Tracey Black	LLM, PCC Secretary (2019-2022, 2022-5)
	Mr Russell King	Treasurer (2019-2022, 2022-5)
	Mr W Vizard	(2021-24)
	Mr Brian Lee	(2022-25)
	Mrs G Lowe	(2022-25)
	Mr J James	(2023-26)

3. Structure and Governance

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. (for 2024 this is 12 Elected PCC members, 2 Deanery Synod Member) All attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The normal term of office is 3 years

4. Objectives and Management

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services and activities can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith in to practice through prayer, scripture, music and sacrament.

In March 2018 after considering the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit, and the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion the PCC adopted the following objective to help people to live out their faith as part of a parish community.

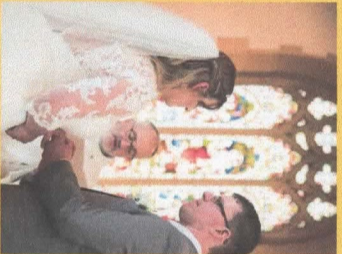
- Worshipping God
- Growing in Faith
- Serving Others

Our vision



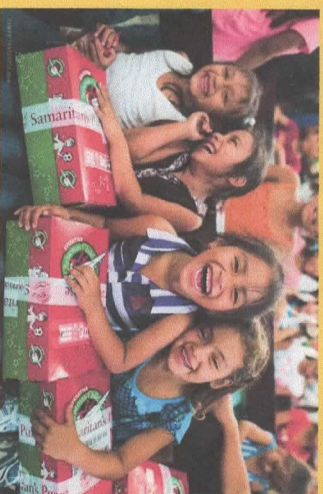
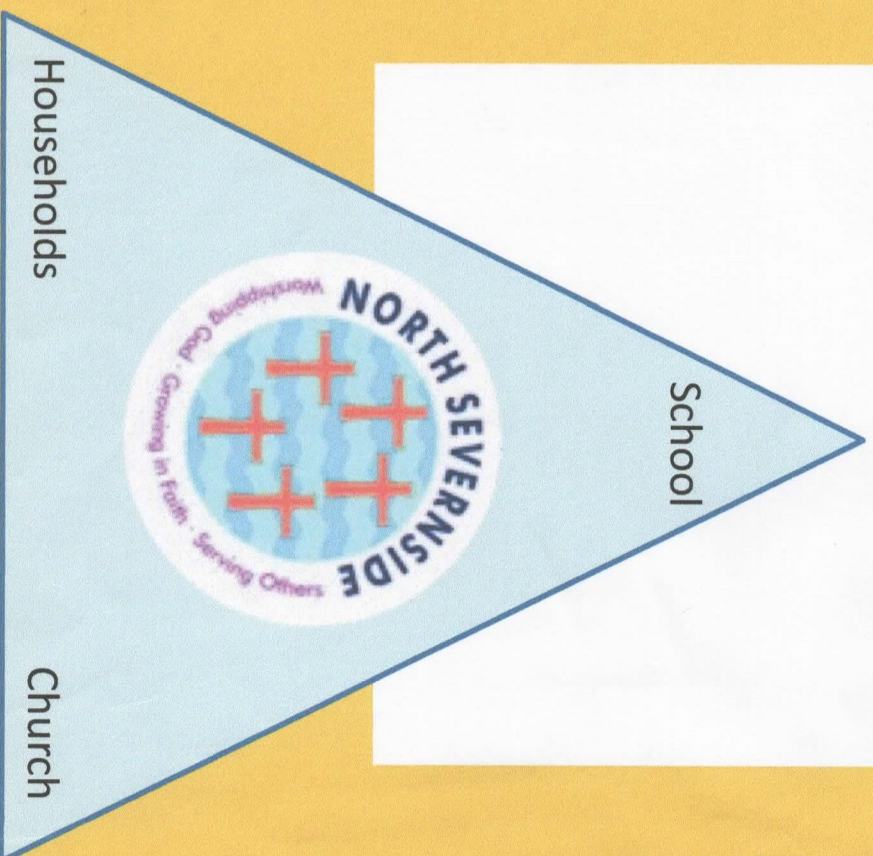
Worshipping God

We believe in a church that welcomes all people to worship in the name of Jesus Christ



Growing in Faith

As church we encourage and support everyone in our community to grow spiritually through providing worship services, places of prayer and walking alongside people through significant life events such as baptism, confirmation, weddings and funerals.



Serving Others

We support charities, both at home and abroad that are close to our hearts. We offer our buildings for use by the community and for charitable fundraising.

5. Review of the Year

The PCC met 9 times during the year.

Reports for these meetings were prepared.

During the year we endeavoured to continue to demonstrate our commitment to the community and to the Church through both electronic and printed weekly news sheets and we also distributed Church of England Lent and Advent booklets.

(i) Worshipping God

The attendance figures as recorded on Parish Returns 2021, 2022 and 2023

	2021	2022	2023
Electoral Roll	85		Elaine
Average Sunday Adult Attendance	40	41	To
Under 16 Attendance	2	4	provide
Baptisms	7 children 2 adults	7	
Confirmations	0	0	
Funerals*	7+2	12	
Weddings	1	3	

*Funeral numbers are split on Parish returns.

First funeral number includes both those which have a service and burial as well as those where only a service is held in church followed by a burial or cremation elsewhere.

Second number is a full funeral service conducted at crematorium or cemetery

Currently we are still using one element to celebrate the Eucharist.

We have used the Church of England Lectionary alongside Roots worship material selecting appropriate material for different styles of service which has helped us to grow together as a Benefice. We continue to endeavour to use a wide variety of music maintaining our tradition and are currently fund raising to repair the Organ.

We have continued to provide children's activities during our services although our numbers are low. Our Messy Church Breakfasts have continued on the second Sunday of each month at 9am with a Good Friday Messy Church also. We now have a core of regular families attending. At Christmas we once again held a Crib Service which was well attended with the proceeds going to the Children's Society in lieu of a Christingle Service. The Carols Around the Bonfire in the Vicarage Garden was successfully held in the garden and was very well attended and monies raised going to??????.DM/RK

This year we have been blessed by the presence and gifts of Rev Sue Phillipson Masters. Following her retirement she felt called to come and offer her services to St Helen's. She has been an incredible asset to both Rev David and the Church Community. Sadly, Sue has recently been diagnosed with a terminal illness and is in all our prayers.(DM please amend as you feel appropriate)

As a Benefice we employed a part time Growing Faith Chaplain to help us serve and encourage younger members within St Helen's and St Mary's Olveston. However, after six months in post a resignation was received and we are currently reviewing our strategy.

A. Growing in commitment

As a church, we are committed to growing in faith and love as a community, and to use our buildings as a resource for the people of Alveston.

Lent 2023 – House Groups within the Benefice met and used a selection of material. **As a Benefice we supported charities in Uganda and Ukraine. ????**

On 3rd March both village churches celebrated World Day of Prayer and on 16th July we were pleased to once again host the Severnside Songs of Praise.

B. Growing in Faith

The PCC is keen to hold a number of services and social events throughout the year to include the Community of Alveston and to support a selection of Charities. During 2023 we were delighted to hold the following:

The Weekly Coffee Shop and its monthly Charity Coffee Morning has now become established and we are delighted to welcome a diverse mix of people from the community. In the last twelve months we have raised £ (RK to provide) for a wide range of Charities, alternating between Secular and Christian focused charities. However, this has been at the cost of the Tuesday Communion service.

1st April Easter Tea for Senior Citizens in the village.

2nd September we were involved with the Village Fair hosting a ‘tent’ and using the church building for the display of craft and fruit and veg entries.

9th September we held our first Classic Car Meet raising funds for the Church by selling Breakfast rolls. It was a hugely successful event that we will hold again.

September saw the Church once again supported the Ride & Stride Event

21st October an Afternoon Tea with music supplied by Thornblowers was enjoyed with monies raised going to Church funds.

9th December Rock Pipes performed to a sold-out church when hot dogs and mulled wine were served. Funds raised went to Church funds.

St George’s Day was once again celebrated with the uniformed groups in the village parading to the Church and serving the refreshments.

A Not Forgotten Service was held on the 29th October at 4pm followed by Refreshments was well attended and valued.

The Art Group continues to thrive meeting weekly and hold their bi yearly Exhibitions. The Knitting Group is still very popular with numbers growing and meeting monthly. Repair Café still host their events in the Church twice a year.

This year the Christmas tea for Senior Citizens was postponed until January due to a full church calendar.

Regularly prayer meetings take place during the Tuesday Coffee Morning.

These activities demonstrate how St Helen's is committed to using the church building as a Community Space together with the regular services and events when the building has been used for both Church organised activities and private lettings purposes. It is our intention to continue to promote the Church for use by the community.

We are pleased to report that congregation numbers **have grown slightly/remained static (EL?)** over the last few years. While we have sadly had many members die, we have been encouraged by welcoming new people to our services. The 8am Communion Service continues to thrive and the 10.30am is well attended.

Regular giving enables the church to not only balance its budgets but plan more effectively

	2021	2022	2023
Loose Collections	2,619.27	4,190.18	RK TO
Planned Giving	24,975.42	26,852.79	COMPLETE
	27,594.69	31,041.97	Please

There are 4 ways to give:

by BACS to: St. Helens Church Alveston PCC, 30-12-04, 00599098

by envelope, by cash in the collection or through the use of our newly purchased electronic card machine. Envelopes for regular giving and forms to reclaim the tax on your gift if you give by BACS can be obtained from: Sandra Sawtell, gift aid Secretary.

C. Serving Others

(i) Facilities

We like to use the church buildings for the good of all in the Community. Private Lettings have included, visiting music groups, School Concerts and the Repair Café

Income from Lettings, 2021 £2,037,62, and 2022 £3,072.55

The church is really committed to maintaining a strong relationship and commitment to all the Churches within the North Severnside Benefice.

Partnerships - Through-out the year we have worked in partnership with the local Primary School where a team consisting of members from both Churches attend weekly to conduct 'Open the Book' assemblies. Prayer Spaces have also resumed and have taken place each term sometimes in the Church and others in the school premises. We have been pleased to welcome and support the school through the use of our building when necessary. This year we have also welcomed the Pre School to an Open the Book style service on a number of occasions.

The Alveston Helmet Magazine is still being produced ten times a year on behalf of the two churches to let people know what the churches and other groups in the village are getting up to. Due mainly to the reduction in revenue from adverts and increased printing costs we are still unable to afford to pay for professional editing and graphics so these, along with managing advertising and the finances, are done by 3 persons from St Helen's Church. They do an incredible job editing the Magazine and sorted and arranged ready for distribution on the last Tuesday of the month. It is delivered by a team of people in the Village who are always happy to welcome new volunteers.

WORKS DONE	2021	2022	2023
Minor repairs and maintenance	£3,589.85	£4,473.06	RK to complete
Major repairs	£718.78	£11,431.53	
Faculty charge			

(ii) Our partnership with the Loaves and Fishes Project in St Paul's continues with regular donations of food still being delivered.

(iii) Charitable Giving

One of our hopes is to serve the wider church and to help those in need.

Our charitable giving throughout the year has been:

2021			2022			2023		
Jan	Salvation Army -	£50	Jan	Crisis at Christmas	£65			
Jan	Bishop's Uganda Appeal	£50	Feb	Nebbi Girlchild	3562.70		RK TO COMPLETE	
March	Children's Society	£144.50	April	World Dy of Prayer Nebbi Girlchild DEC Ukraine Appeal	£92.50 £390.13 £61.26			
April	One25	£70	May	Christian Aid Week	£265.10			
May	Christian Aid Vaccine Justice -	£1,492.37	June	Aanandit	£80			
Nov	RBL Poppy Appeal -	£185.26	July	Parkinsons	£162.78			
Dec	Children's Society -	£180.58	Aug	Aanandit	£381.78			
		£2172.71	Sept	Aanandit	£597.20			
			Nov	McMillan Cancer	£415.22			
			Dec	Samaritans Purse	£346.36			
					£2,699.83			

Operation Christmas Child

We were once again a 'drop off' centre for 'Operation Christmas Child' and were delighted by the response of the local community and sent **170 boxes ???**

4. Thanks

We are grateful and would like to thank all those who give their valuable time to enrich our services and our Church: Sides people, readers, intercessors, flower ladies, coffee makers, gardeners, cleaners and all those who have given of themselves in some way. All your contributions have ensured that St Helen's Community and Church is well cared for and maintained to a very high standard both inside and out.

The PCC are grateful to the amazing team of people at St Helen's that are always willing to do more than is asked.

This year we particularly offer our thanks to Rev Sue Philipson Masters for her valued contribution to our church community.

5. Financial Review of the Year

Please see the attached Financial Statements

6. Reserves Policy – It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to approximately £21,000. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The cash balance of £24,555.43 held on unrestricted (including designated) funds at the year end, together with the amounts payable to and by the PCC was more than this target. The excess is allocated to the roof fund together with other restricted investment funds. Other than these investment funds shown in the annual accounts summary the Church holds no other assets or sources of regular income.

**Approved by the PCC on and signed on On their behalf by
Revd David Moss Priest in Charge.**

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