

**AGENDA FOR VESTRY AND APCM MEETING
TO BE HELD ON 27th APRIL 2025
11.15AM AT
ST HELEN'S CHURCH, GLOUCESTER ROAD,
ALVESTON BS35 3QT
AND
ANNUAL REPORT
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

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 28th April 2024.

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. Deanery Synod Representatives do not need re-election this year.

Aims and Purposes

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

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 www.revsrural.com

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

PCC members who have served during 2024 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 Elaine Lee	Chair Elected 30 th April 2023 Re-elected 28 th April 2024
Deputy Warden	Mrs G Lowe	Elected 28 th April 2024
Deanery Synod	Mr J James	Elected 28 th April 2024 (2023-26)
	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, 24-27)
	Mr Brian Lee	(2022-25)
	Mrs Rosemary Boere	(2021-24, 24-27)

3. Structure and Governance

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. (for 2025 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 into 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

5. Review of the Year

The PCC met 8 times during the year.

Reports for these meetings were prepared and made available in Church and on the web site. 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 2022, 2023 and 2024

	2022	2023	2024
Electoral Roll		89	94
Average Sunday Adult Attendance 8am and 10.30am	41	50	50
Average Sunday Messy Church Attendance		18 Adults 17 Children	
Under 16 Attendance	4	2	2
Baptisms	7	5	4
Confirmations	0	0	
Funerals*	12	6	6 (10 crem 7 ashes)
Weddings	3	0	2

We have returned to offering two elements to celebrate the Eucharist, with the option for intinction by the Servers.

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. We have now completed the renovation work on the organ and this is used most weeks during worship.

We have continued to provide children's activities during our services although our numbers are low. Messy Church Breakfasts have continued on the second Sunday of each month at 9am (see above) and a Good Friday Messy Church. While attendance numbers are similar the number of families attending has increased with many families also attending Festival Services. We continue to hold a Crib Service instead of a Christingle which has proved popular with the collections donated to the Children's Society in lieu of a Christingle Service. The third Scout 'Carols Around the Bonfire Service' in the Vicarage Garden continues to be popular with both those in the uniformed groups and our congregation.

In March of this year after six months in post our Growing Faith Chaplain resigned. As a Benefice we have decided not to recruit another Growing Faith Chaplain.

The Mum's and Babies group closed its doors at Easter due to poor attendance.

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.

During Lent 2024 – House Groups met within the Benefice using a selection of material. As a Benefice we supported Lolo in Uganda.

The introduction of services to celebrate Advent and Epiphany have been well received and attendance of the Maundy Thursday Agape Supper has grown. We have been delighted to welcome people who are not regular worshippers but who attend other churches and activities held in the church.

On 1st March both village churches celebrated World Day of Prayer and on 14th July Severnside Songs of Praise.

On 27th November the Benefice had an Away Day in Cheltenham where following opening worship we had a talk from David Lloyd based on the book "Problems church had in 1750 with the Diocese." Following an incredible 'Bring and Share Lunch' there were a selection of workshops to participate in. Archdeacon Becky Waring joined us for the day and led a Eucharist Service with Ann Lloyd to close the day.

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 2024 we were delighted to hold the following:

Weekly Coffee Shop and monthly Charity Coffee Mornings are well established and have a core of regulars and a mix of people from the community. In the last twelve months we have raised £6,195.94 for a wide range of Charities, alternating between Secular and Christian focused charities. As this was replaced the Tuesday Communion service this year we introduced a monthly Communion Service on the first Wednesday followed by a soup lunch.

13th April – Classic Car Meet was held once again and proved very popular raising funds for the Church by selling Breakfast rolls. It has been agreed that this will be a bi annual event.

22nd June Summer Tea for Senior Citizens in the village.

7th September – the church building was used to display of craft and fruit and veg entries.

28th September the second Classic Car Meet of the year took place.

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

6th December a Craft and Prosecco evening was held to raise funds for the Kitchen Project.

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

The Not Forgotten Service was held on the 27th 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.

Due to the ongoing work in the Church the Christmas tea for Senior Citizens was postponed.

Regularly prayer meetings take place during the Tuesday Coffee Morning.

As a Benefice we are in the process of recruiting a team of Bell Ringers to work across the churches.

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 increased in the last year despite having had a few members die. We have been encouraged by the new people who have joined both our 8am and 10.30am services and who take an active role in our church community.

Regular giving enables the church to not only balance its budgets but plan more effectively and has increased in the last year.

	2022	2023	2024
Loose Collections	£4,190.18	£4,374.40	£4,219.02
Planned Giving	£26,852.79	£29,342.50	£33,687.55 (includes £1,205 occasional GA)
	£31,041.97	£33,716.90	£39,111.57

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: Elaine Lee or Rosemary Boere, Churchwardens.

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, 2023 £2,945.02 and 2024 £2,511.31

This year the PCC increased the fee to £13 per hour.

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 now all from St Helen's attend weekly to conduct 'Open the Book' assemblies. Prayer Spaces have taken place most terms 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 Open the Book style services 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 4 persons from St Helen's Church. They do an incredible job preparing the Magazine for distribution on the last Tuesday of the month. Delivery is through a team of local volunteers but they are always happy to welcome new volunteers.

WORKS DONE	2022	2023	2024
Minor repairs and maintenance	£4,473.06	£2,185.85	£1,500.43
Major repairs	£11,431.53	£974.28	£27,513.23
Faculty charge		£00.00	

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

(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:

2022			2023			2024		
Jan	Crisis at Christmas	£65	Jan	Bluebell care Trust	£176	Jan	CAP	£169.81
Feb	Nebbi Girlchild	£3,562.70	Feb	Remap GB -	£202.10	Feb	SW Childrens Hospice Spencer Dayman Meningitis Research Trust Aanadit Nepal	£57.50 £194.76 £224.21
March			March	Tearfund (turkey Earthquake) In Home	£687.85 £144.87	Mar	Brain Tumour Support WD of Prayer Come and Sing Christian Aid Ga Appeal	£48.00 £251.60 £443.80
April	WWD of Prayer Nebbi Girlchildq Dec Ukrain	93.50 £390.13 £61.26	April	Aanandit World day Prayer MS Society	£81.50 £115 £170.69	April	Uganda Appeal (Lolo) GW Air Ambulance RNLI	£200.00 £154.11 £42.35
May	Chirstian A Week	£265.10	May	Christian Aid Marie Curie	£164.94 £147.83	May	Sisters of the Church Christian Aid Aanandit	£232.70 £174.00 £50.00
June	Aanandit	£80	June	Christian Aid Aanandit Made a Mark	£1,164.94 £46 £152	June	Sarcoma UK St Peter' Hospic Uganda Appeal	£55 £188.57 £50.00
July	Parkinsons	£162.78	July	Christians Against Poverty Aanandit Bristol Foodbank	£144.38 £43.75 £46.95	July	Winstons Wish	£49.00
Aug	Aanandit	£381.78	Aug	Aanandit	£170.58	Aug	Motor Neurone Disease Asthma & Lung Aanandit Cream Tea	£53.93 £122.39 £1,388
Sept	Aanandit	£597.20	Sept	Citizens Advice RNIB	£94.74 £64.50	Sept	Samaritans Uganda Appeal	£125.00 £200.00
Oct				Macmillan	£364.24	Oct	Macmillan	£308.81

				Bees Abroad	£164.66		Glos Historic Churches	£157.47
Nov	McMillan Cancer	£415.22	Nov	St. Peter's Hospice - RBL	£65	Nov	Sam's Purse	£351.45
				Poppy appeal	£179.70		Pancreatic Canc	£58.44
				Sam's Purse	£382.68		RBL	£194.25
Dec	Samaritans Purse	£346.36	Dec	Children's Society	£527.04	Dec	Children's Society	£684.62
				Lolo (Uganda)	£456.50			
				Appeal - Sisters of the Church	£50			
	Total 2022	£2,699.83		TOTAL 2023	£5,895.69		TOTAL 2024	£6,291.45

NB These are the months when the funds were transferred so one round of fund-raising might be transferred over 2 months if some of the money was delayed in getting to me or I was on holiday. They also exclude money donated in church at funerals where the family specified where the donations were to be sent.

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 ???? boxes.

Our Vision

Over the past year St. Helen's has undertaken and completed 2 major projects. The restoration of the historic organ and installation of the eco heating system. Both these have taken a huge amount of planning, application for grants and fundraising.

However, we have a vision to make St Helen's not only a place of worship but also a community space, building on what already takes place. With this in mind, we propose to have a purpose built kitchen installed with facilities to prepare and serve a wider range of food and to increase our ability to offer hospitality, cater for fund raising events and regular coffee mornings /soup lunches/ messy church etc.

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 for their time and dedication to:

Paul Bailey for his time and dedication to the Organ Refurbishment,

Rev David and Brian Lee for the heating system.

JJ James and Paul Bailey for completing jobs highlighted in the Quinquennial Report.

And Russell King our Treasurer who has overseen all these projections from a financial perspective.

5. Financial Review of the Year

Please see the attached Financial Statements

6. Reserve's 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 7th April 2025 and signed on their behalf by Rev'd David Moss, Priest in Charge.

.....

Dated: