

**AGENDA FOR VESTRY AND APCM MEETING
TO BE HELD ON 31st May 2025
11.15AM AT
ST HELEN'S CHURCH, GLOUCESTER ROAD,
ALVESTON BS35 3QT**

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 2025.

Annual Report PCC - DM

Financial Affairs and Audited Statements GL

Report on the fabric and ornaments of the church - GL

Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod - NB

Safeguarding and Reporting of Serious Incidents - CS

Appointment of the Independent Examiner DM

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

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. HELENS
ALVESTON**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
(Receipts and Payments Basis)
for the year ended 31st December 2025**

St Helen's Alveston
Report and Accounts 2025

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St Helen's Alveston PCC - Legal Information

INCUMBENT: The Reverend David Moss

PCC MEMBERS:

CHURCH WARDENS: Mrs Gail Lowe

DEANERY SYNOD MEMBERS: Mr Nick Barnard

ELECTED MEMBERS: Mrs Gail Lowe
Mr Nick Barnard
Mrs Clare Stephens
Mrs Tracey Black LLM
Mr Brian Lee
Mrs Elaine Lee
Mr J James **resigned during the year**
Dr J Eastlake
Mr W Vizard

SAFEGUARDING: Clare Stephens

PCC SECRETARY: Tracey Black

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER: Stephen Holmes

BANKS: Lloyds Bank plc – Yate, Bristol, BS37 4AT

INVESTMENTS: The Central Board of Finance for the Church of England
(CCLA) London, EC4R 3AB

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Aim and purposes

St. Helen's (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend David Moss, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

It is our aim as a PCC to make every effort to make sure that the church is a safe space. Please find a report form out safe-guarding officer Clare Stephens Appendix 4.

Objectives and Activities

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

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary 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 pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St. Helen's. A separate Churchwarden's report on the fabric and ornaments is attached.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. Over the past year we have built on our successful 9am Messy Church Sunday Service and plan to supplement this with a 9am Alpha and Café Church Service in 2026. The recent restoration work to the organ has benefitted worship greatly and it has been a delight to see our small group of singers grow week by week. We very much hope in the future to restart our children's choir. Apart from the daily 8.30am Morning Prayer Service the midweek service had not properly restarted since covid. It has been a joy to see a monthly a thriving monthly Wednesday Communion and Lunch service restart along with a Wednesday Bible Study during Lent and Advent.

Finding new ways of connecting our services with the community is very important to us. It was a great delight to see the church packed for our VE Day celebration service. We value our links with Thornbury Orchestra who meet regularly on a Tuesday. With the help of Chris Hill, the conductor of

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the Orchestra and Paul Bailey the Church Organist we have started some 4pm concerts on the 4th Sunday of each month, which has attracted a new group of people into church.

The bells at St. Helen's have remained silent for years. In 2025 we took the brave step of recruiting a new group of people who had never played the bells before and train them. It has been a joy to hear the bells ring out once again and plans are being made to ring the bells every 1st and 3rd Sunday. Plans are being put together for a major refurbishment of the bells.

One of our gardener's remarked this year that he spent more time praying behind the lawn mower than he did in church praying. We are a church that values the many ways that people come to worship God. This is reflected in how clean and tidy the church is, the beautifully kept graveyard, in the flower that adorn our worship, and in the cakes prepared for coffee mornings.

Pastoral Care

St Helen's is a caring church; we are grateful for the way that people make it a priority to build friendships with their neighbours. As a ministry team we plan visits to those who no longer are able to come to worship, and those who need help. We provide hospital visits, communion and anointing of oil to the sick. We also see our regular Tuesday Coffee Morning as an open space where people can come with their concerns and we increasingly network with other community organisation to use these times to sign post people to other statutory and voluntary agencies. This year we started a Saturday Men's Breakfast as another way of encouraging people to meet and support each other.

Mission and Evangelism

We value our links with St. Helen's school through Open the Book, Prayer Spaces, Governance, Assemblies and Festival Services.

It is important for us that the building is used for the whole community through, Knitting Group, Art Group, Repair Café, Classic Car meets, the weekly "warm spaces" Coffee Shop, and our special 4th Sunday at 4pm is important. Through our monthly Charity Coffee Mornings, 9am Breakfasts and Mid-Day Communion Lunches we have supported: Christians Against Poverty, Messy Church Organisation, Nepal Aanandit, World Day of Prayer, Dementia Support South Glos, Christian Aid, Mercy Ships, Uganda, MS Shop Thornbury, Glos Historic Churches, MacMillan, Royal British Legion, Samaritans Purse, Children's Society.

The Diocese has asked us to examine the theme of racial justice by retracing our Benefice's historical connections to slavery. To support this initiative, we met with Dr. Alice Kinghorn, who will assist us in producing a report on the history of our parishes' involvement in slave trading. As part of this project, David, our Vicar, took a sabbatical to visit our Benefice's link church on the island of Montserrat. Our connection to these villages stems from Joseph Sturge, a local Quaker who advocated for emancipation and, after freedom was granted, helped former slaves establish lime orchards in the Caribbean.

Maintaining St Helen's Church supports our mission and evangelistic work. Thanks to generous donations, we installed a Hybrid Air Source Heating System and restored the Church Organ this year. The heat pumps also reflect our commitment to reducing the church's carbon footprint, aligning with Diocesan goals.

New plans have been drawn up for a new kitchen, toilets and ringing chamber.

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Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. The focus this year has been particularly about engaging a younger congregation. We have started:

- a new School Hand Bell Ringing Group and Junior Choir,
- worked with the local Scout Group on planning new Services.

And intend to start two new Services at 9am to build on our existing Messy Church Service.

This year we have been successful in welcoming some more families into our church and we hope to expand on this work. Our Electoral Roll at last year's APCM stood at 75,

Mission Stats

	2024	2025
Average Sunday Adult Attendance 8am and 10.30am	50	55
Under 16 Attendance	2	7
Baptisms	4	6
Funerals*	6 (10 crem 7 ashes)	6 in church 6 at the crem
Weddings	2	2

Deanery Synod

One member of the PCC sits on the deanery synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. A full report on the work of Deanery Synod and Diocesan Synod can be found as appendix 2 and 3

Pastoral Care

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. Reverend David Moss has visited all church members who have requested it, to celebrate communion with them either at their homes or in hospital. A big part of our pastoral care is through our weekly coffee morning and St. Helen's friend's network.

Mission and Evangelism

The Alpha Course is our main tool Mission and Evangelism and during the year we had 3 adults come to faith and be baptised as part of the church services.

Ecumenical Relationships

There are two other churches in the community, The Methodist Church and The Plymouth Brethren.

The Plymouth Brethren were very active again this year organising the food for the Community Fair. St Helen's hosted the Fruit and Flower Show for this event.

The Community Magazine Helmet has always been part of this Church's Mission together to the Community. During the year the church took on more responsibility in running this magazine. It was a joy to host this year's World Day of Prayer maintaining our friendship with the Methodist Church.

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Financial Review

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £64,467 and income tax recovered was £11,832

The work on The Organ and the new Heating System has now been completed and the focus of our designated gifts will be towards the New Building Project

The planned giving through envelopes and banker's orders increased by 3% and it was good to see the use of Gift Aid envelopes increase. Total income, including tax recovered £111,227

The sum that the church found to contribute to the Diocesan Share was £26,700. This is below the amount the Diocese would like to receive. The formula that is based mainly on a head count of the congregations and as the size of our congregation has increased over the last year we will be expected to find more.

The net result for the year was a deficit of receipts over payments £10,585 of total funds. Adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at 31st December on unrestricted funds totalled £75,792 of which £6,969 has been set aside to meet the costs of flowers, cleaning, kitchen, music and donations to charity.

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 £11,660. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The cash balance of £82,761 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. A total of £29,099 is allocated to the roof fund together with other restricted investment funds of £2552. Other than these investment funds shown in the annual accounts summary the Church holds no other assets or sources of regular income.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all our volunteers, there are too many to name, who have worked tirelessly for both Church and PCC to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is.

Finally, I would like us to give thanks for the lives of Ann Smith and Tony Curtis who have so much of their time to the church and will be missed by all. May those who rest in peace rise in glory.

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, LLM and members elected by the congregation and those on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend St Helen's for any reason 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. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

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The full PCC met eight times during the year with an average level of attendance of 80%. The PCC deal with all aspects of parish life; worship, mission and outreach and fabric and finance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Lowe', with a long horizontal flourish extending from the end of the name.

Mrs G Lowe
PCC Chair
May 2026

AIM

The aim of this report is to give an account of my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

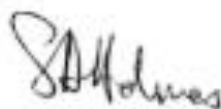
TERMS OF REFERENCE

My examination has been carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charities Commission under section 144 (2) and section 145 (5b) of the Charities Act 2011. This has involved a review of the accounting records, based on the 'Receipts and Payments' method, and comparing these with the accounts produced from them. This report does not reflect an audit of the accounts, but a review and spot-checking of the records. As Independent Examiner, I am not providing an audit opinion.

STATEMENT

In my examination of the accounts for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025, I did not find any material irregularities in the accounts. They were well presented and a pleasure to review.

May I take this opportunity to wish you every blessing in Christ Jesus during the coming year and that you may continue to know His Grace as you seek to continue your ministries in and around Alveston.



Stephen A. Holmes, BA (Hons), PGCE, FMAAT
5, Maple Avenue
Thornbury
Bristol
BS35 2JW

Independent Examiners Report

I report on the receipts and payments accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of St Helen's Alveston, for the year ended 31st December, 2025, on pages 12 to 16.

Respective responsibilities of the trustee and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

30th March 2026

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RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

INCOME	2025				2024
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
Voluntary Income:					
Planned Giving	32,647			32,647	31,716
Collections, Donations & other Giving	1,850	6,224	736	8,810	30,910
Income Tax recovered	11,832			11,832	9,260
Grants	0		39,850	39,850	0
Legacies (Designated: property)	0	0		0	0
Total Voluntary Income	46,330	6,224	40,586	93,139	71,886
Activities for Generating Funds:					
Magazine / Bookstall / Other Activities	2,884			2,884	1,598
Fundraising Events	2,687			2,687	3,891
Total Generated Funds	5,571	0	0	5,571	5,490
Investment Income					
Current account	1,060			1,060	1,042
Income from charitable activities:					
Parochial fees (funerals / weddings)	3,009	0	0	3,009	2,850
Other Incoming Resources:					
Lettings income	1,978			1,978	2,511
Other income (incl Charity specific)	5,227			5,227	13,636
Total Other Incoming Resources	7,204			7,204	16,147
TOTAL INCOME – CURRENT ACCOUNT	63,173	6,224	40,586	109,983	97,415
Investment Income – Investments					
Deposit account	2,888			2,888	3,327
CCLA Endowments (loss) Note 1	-1,594			-1,594	
TOTAL OVERALL INCOME	64,467	6,224	40,586	111,277	100,742
EXPENDITURE					
Charitable Activities:					
Parish Share	26,700			26,700	26,100
Clergy Expenses	3,000			3,000	3,000
Church Running Expenses (incl Utilities)	7,524			7,524	5,950
Cost of Raising Funds	709			709	710
Total Charitable Activities	37,933			37,933	35,760
Running Costs:					
Administration Costs (incl Staff Costs)	2,873		0	2,873	3,419
Other (incl charity)	4,151	1,194	2,360	7,706	9,831
Total Running Costs	7,024	1,194	2,360	10,579	13,250
Repairs Expenditure					
Repairs to church buildings	1,683	1,626	69,419	72,728	29,590
Total Repairs Expenditure	1,683	1,626	69,419	72,728	29,590
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	46,640	2,821	71,779	121,240	79,950
Net movement on parish fees (stipend, vergers)	-623			-623	678
Surplus / (Deficit) for Year	17,204	3,403	-31,193	-10,585	18,143
Funds brought forward:	58,587	3,566	62,844	124,997	106,854
Funds Carried Forward:	75,792	6,969	31,651	114,411	124,997

Note 1: Prior year income on Endowment funds was not included in Income / Expense.

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ASSETS and LIABILITIES as at 31st DECEMBER 2025

		Note	2025	2024
Fixed Assets:	Endowments	4	36,523	38,116
Current Assets:	Deposit account		69,185	75,546
	Cash at Bank		8,704	11,334
Total Current Assets			77,889	86,880
Creditor Liabilities:	Unpaid items		0	0
Total Net Assets:			114,412	124,997
Represented by Funds:				
Funds Brought forward			124,997	106,720
Movement in year			-10,585	18,277
			114,412	124,997
Funds Analysis:				
Unrestricted funds		5	75,792	58,587
Designated funds		5	6,969	3,566
Restricted funds		5	31,651	62,844
Funds Carried forward			114,412	124,997

Approved by St Helen's Parochial Church Council by e mail following amendments made at the PCC meeting on Monday 20th April 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

The Reverend David Moss:

Date: 21-04-26

Vicar of the Severnside Benefice
& Chair of St Helen's PCC



Mrs Gail Lowe

Date: 21-04-26

Church Warden



1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019, the Charities Act 2011, the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value.

The charity is a public benefit entity.

Funds

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC. Funds are described and explained at note 3.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value.

The charity is a public benefit entity.

Funds

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC. Funds are described and explained at note 7/8.

Restricted funds are accounted for in accordance with the particular terms of trust arising from the express or implied wishes of donors in so far as these are intended to be legally binding on the Trustees. The purpose of restricted fund is described in note 7/8.

The accounts include transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church furnishings. Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s10(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011. The church benefits from the use of such land and buildings but is not in direct possession of the freehold.

No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. Consequently, all expenditure incurred during the year on

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consecrated or beneficed buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off.

Investments

4 Endowments

c	2025	2024
Restricted		
Charibond	715	362
CBF Investment	26,069	26,776
Edward Bush Church funds	9,004	10,708
F R Cross Churchyard fund	734	771
Total Endowments	36,523	38,617

Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted Funds are income funds that are to be spent on the PCC's general purposes.

Designated Funds

Designated Funds are general funds set aside by the PCC for use in the future. Project funds are designated for particular projects for administration purposes only. Designated funds remain unrestricted and the PCC will move any surplus to other general funds.

Restricted Funds

Restricted Funds comprise:

- (a) income from endowments that is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor, and
- (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor.

Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on the pooled investment is apportioned. Details of the restrictions on these funds are shown in the notes to the accounts.

4 Endowments

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5 Movements in Funds

MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Closing Balance
Unrestricted Funds	58,587	64,467	47,263	75,792
Designated				
Flowers	- 43	100	443	-386
Kitchen	443	4,303	1,626	3,120
Projects	773	-	-	773
Music	2,393			2,393
Charity	-	1,821	751	1,070
	3,566	6,224	2,821	6,969
Restricted				
School	661	9		670
Projects	23249	40,883	62,434	1,699
Garden	2248	15	862	1,400
W/E	0		-	0
Music	391		-	391
Roof	31530	733.09	3164	29,099
Sacristy	358		0	358
Charity	395.82	2417.6	2360	453
Organ	4010.34	283.05	6713	-2,420
	62,844	44,340	75,533	31,651
Total FUNDS	124,997	115,031	125,617	114,411

APPENDIX 1 Church Wardens FABRIC AND ORNAMENTS report

The heating project and the organ refurbishment were both completed during the first half of 2025. Both are working well although we have yet to analyse the additional costs of electricity to run the heating.

Our Director of music is happy with the organ and its potential. New microphones have been installed in the chancel to enable better acoustics for the singers during services and the concerts that take place,

Early in May 2025 we had the overdue Triennial inspection. We have not received an official report as yet Elaine, JJ and I were there and Archdeacon Becky Waring and her PA Rachel arrived at precisely 10 am. David came in as well in between meetings, and was able to answer some questions

Thanks to the amazing work carried out by Elaine, which meant she had spent hours and hours preparing all the material, books and property for inspection, the actual physical side was seamless. Everything they asked for was produced immediately. Elaine had completed the pre meeting form (7 A4 pages) with lots of background information as well as answering a multitude of questions. Clare had provided comprehensive information about our Safeguarding status. There were a couple of small issues they picked up which are easily resolved. The Silver and Ornaments held agreed with the records held in the terrier and had in fact had acquired couple of new pieces. We then had a tour of the church yard where Richard was busy and discussed the new Heat Source pumps and working towards net zero. They were very interested in the grave of the slave and the general churchyard.

A tour of the slightly crowded vestry concluded with a discussion about the general lack of storage in the building. Becky said it was obvious we are an active and working church. I explained that our vision is to be a community space (obviously we are but extending hospitality even further.) Elaine gave her an up to date view of all things that happen already, they were very happy Becky was extremely positive about the new kitchen project. JJ explained the tower work to be done and the time frame They were happy that the damp etc raised in the quinquennial had been resolved. And were very positive about the general upkeep of the church. We discussed the various activities, services that take place at St. Helens which makes it abroad, welcoming and responsive church. They were impressed by the 2 very expensive projects undertaken recently, The organ restoration and the heating. Having asked us how we felt about our finances, we said that all was well but it was quite a stressful time but David stepped out in Faith and was convinced that all will be well, and it is. What struck me was although they needed to tick box many things,

Becky was insistent that the main reason is to support us as a PCC, Church Wardens and David, our Vicar. I honestly believe that and will draw on it for my future tenure as CW. We are about to launch another major project which will improve the facilities in the church update existing and facilitate the hoped for expansion of our ability to host and outreach in the community. This will require extensive fund raising, prayer and vision. It will be decided into 3 separate sections

1. The combustible sawdust soundproofing {highlighted in a fire risk assessment) will be removed. The ringing chamber moved to the mezzanine. At the moments the plan is to move the spiral staircase to the side and the font to its original site. We are considering erecting a traditional staircase instead which would be safer and user friendly. Also, it would provide storage space beneath the treads. The spiral staircase is a valuable item.

2. An outside block of 2 lavatories connected by an entrance on the Northside at the back of the church would give up to date facilities and extra storage.

3. The disabled lavatory to be demolished and a modern high spec kitchen built in the space with the west door reopened.

There are sketch plans available if anyone would like to see.

Obviously, this is a long term plan and the exact order is yet to be finalised.

The roses along the drive were removed as they were passed their best and had become unsightly. This enables more parking which is permitted on the grass as long as there has not been heavy rain.

The asbestos in the cellar has been removed so this space is safe, secure and dry and can be used for storage.

The leak at the west end was found to be caused by blocked guttering and other blockages have been identified. This is in hand and will be resolved in the near future.

The damp/broken lead roofing in the tower (noted at the Quinquennial) was resolved

The vestry door and all other external doors need a coat of varnish, this will be done in the near future.

A new mower was purchased. The church yard is superbly maintained our thanks go to the team.

The Future

Apart from the building project ! the PCC intends to put in 2 new notice boards and to sort out the pot holes /general condition of the drive.

Bristol West Deanery Synod Annual Report 2025

Introduction

Three Deanery Synods took place. In 2025 and the key themes were:

- **'Creating a Culture of Safety'**
- **'Ministry to the Mature and Faith in Later Life'**
- **'An Outward Looking Church'**

March Deanery Synod:

'Creating a Culture of Safety'

Deanery Synod on 12 March 2025 the meeting was held in at Christ Church, Clifton

Synod commenced with a summary of three items:

Diocesan Synod

The Area Dean listed the Members of both Houses of Diocesan Synod and provided an account of the Synod Members Breakfast. Three written questions were articulated for Diocesan Synod, they concerned:

1. **Diocese of Bristol Re-Branding**
2. **Christian Funerals**
3. **Creation Care and TC.T Partnerships**

Vacancy in See Committee

- The Vacancy in See Committee requested that Synod should address four questions:
 1. What fills you with joy and hope about the ministry and mission of the Church in the Diocese of Bristol?
 2. What are the challenges and frustrations, and what would you like to change?
 3. What gifts, qualities and experience do you think are needed in an incoming Bishop?
 4. Do you have any names that you feel the CNC should consider?
- These were discussed and output collected and communicated to the Vacancy Committee.

- **General Synod**

- Revd Paul Langham, General Synod Member House of Clergy, provided an introduction to the Safeguarding Option selected at General Synod. This was a very fitting introduction to the main Synod topic.

■ **The Main Theme: 'Creating a Culture of Safety'**

Introduced by Caroline Jowett Ive, previously Director of People and Safeguarding for the Diocese of Bristol.

The Church of England is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of its ministry and mission, promoting a safer culture and the welfare of every child, young person and adult. As such, the Church has robust policies, procedures and guidelines in place, to ensure good practice throughout the central organisation, its 42 dioceses and other Church bodies.

The Church of England will:

- Promote a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruit and support all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults within the Church
- Respond promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Care pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons
- Care pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Respond to those that may pose a present risk to others

How do we enable this culture to live in our parishes, ministry and mission?

Output from Round-table Discussions – these have been communicated to the Safeguarding Team:

- Acknowledge the importance of training
- Ensuring safe recruitment is essential
- Role of all in the pews to keep their eyes open
- Good visibility is important Increase profile of PSOs - standing up front/at PCC meetings, not just a name on a notice board
- Acknowledge can be hard to recruit PSOs – need streamlined systems and more pooled arrangements (e.g. DBS checks)
- Undefended leadership - knowing who to speak to and when to escalate
- Ensure there is a National Church, Diocesan and Parish whistleblowing policy
- Promote Safeguarding Sunday (can be any time of year!) to raise awareness
- Awareness of different groups meeting with different vulnerabilities e.g. special needs, elderly
- Ensuring if a visiting speaker has had a DBS check
- Ecumenical situations, ensuring that appropriate reciprocal safeguarding protocols in place

May Deanery Synod:

'Ministry to the Mature and Faith in Later Life'

Deanery Synod on Tuesday 20 May 2025 focused upon Ministry to the Mature and Faith in Later Life. The Meeting was held at St Peter's Church, Henleaze.

Following the welcome Synod commenced with the report from Diocesan Synod on 22 March at which the primary focus had been Living in Love and Faith (LLF).

The Main Theme: 'Ministry to the Mature and Faith in Later Life'

In a world obsessed with youth, it can be easy for churches to overlook the gifts, experience and wisdom of older people. The simple fact is that people are living longer and there are increasing numbers of older people in society who sometimes feel overlooked. Churches can work together to encourage and bless older people, as well as drawing on their wisdom and helping them avoid loneliness and isolation.

Here's a more detailed look at the various aspects of church ministry to older adults:

1. Spiritual Growth:

- **Bible study groups:** Facilitating discussions on scripture, encouraging personal reflection, and fostering a deeper understanding of faith.
- **Prayer groups:** Providing opportunities for intercessory prayer and spiritual support.
- **Life review classes:** Helping older adults process their life experiences and find meaning in their past.
- **Spiritual retreats:** Offering a quiet space for reflection and spiritual renewal.
- **Worship participation:** Ensuring that worship services are accessible and engaging for older adults, potentially offering modified worship formats.

2. Social Connection:

- **Intergenerational programs:**
 - Encouraging interaction between older adults and younger church members, fostering a sense of community and belonging.
- **Small groups:**
 - Providing opportunities for fellowship and support within a smaller, more intimate setting.
- **Outreach and evangelism:**
 - Inviting older adults to reach out to other seniors who may not be part of the church, potentially starting an adult day-care ministry.
- **Recreation and leisure activities:**
 - Offering activities such as games, crafts, or outings that promote socialization and well-being.

3. Physical and Mental Well-being:

- **Health and wellness programs:**
 - Promoting physical fitness, nutrition, and overall health through classes, workshops, and health fairs.
- **Cognitive stimulation:**
 - Offering activities that challenge the mind and keep older adults engaged, such as memory games or puzzles.
- **Transportation assistance:**
 - Providing transportation to church services and other activities for those who may have mobility limitations.

4. Service and Outreach:

- **Involvement in church ministries:**
 - Encouraging older adults to participate in various church ministries, such as greeting, ushering, or serving in a church committee.
- **Outreach to the community:**
 - Helping older adults connect with their communities, potentially through programs like adult day care, respite care, or meals on wheels.
- **Service opportunities:**
 - Involving older adults in service projects within the church or the wider community.

5. Adapting to Changing Needs:

- **Accessibility:**
 - Ensuring that church buildings and facilities are accessible to older adults with mobility limitations.
- **Communication:**
 - Using various communication methods, such as newsletters, email, or social media, to keep older adults informed about church activities and events.
- **Individualized support:**
 - Recognizing that older adults have diverse needs and providing individualized support to meet those needs.

Diocesan Synod Report

See attachment.

APPENDIX 4 Safeguarding Report

PSO Report for St Helen's APCM 27th April 2025

Parish Dashboard

At Present the Parish Dashboard is 92% compliant. Below is a copy of the Summary on 24/04/2025.

The full version of the safeguarding Action Plan, paper copy is available today for information and for those who would like to read it, will be put before the next PCC for approval

Alveston

Safeguarding Action Summary - Level 3

This is **NOT** the full Safeguarding Action Plan that must be discussed and approved each year.
Instead, this is a shorter summary that only mentions outstanding actions.

Training for Key Roles

	Status	Notes
Churchwardens The PCC must ensure that all Churchwardens undertake the required safeguarding training.	Urgent A question needs to be reviewed.	
PCC Members The PCC must ensure that all their members undertake the required safeguarding training.	A question needs to be reviewed before 14/05/2025.	

Safer Recruitment and People Management

	Status	Notes
Safer Recruitment and People Management The PCC must comply with the Church of England's Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance.	The PCC needs to comply with the requirements of the House of Bishops.	
Safer Recruitment Survey This survey relates to the new Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance.	The survey needs to be reviewed.	

Reviews and Reports

	Status	Notes
Promoting a Healthy and Safe Culture The PCC must consider how they can better promote a healthy and safe church culture.	Action is required.	

By the end of May when booked safeguarding training has been completed the single Red status will be resolved.

The remaining Amber status's will be addressed at the next PCC meeting in May.

Benefice Safeguarding Training

St Helen's Alveston
Report and Accounts 2025

The training in the rolling programme for Safeguarding was C1/Foundation, held in January 2025 in the vicarage due to organ work being carried out in the church, thanks Sue and David. 14 attended from the Benefice, helping us with mandatory training as well as keeping officers and required church members with certain roles updated.

Triennial Safeguarding Report

Triennial Safeguarding Report information was completed and returned to Elaine ready for St Helen's report on 1st May 2025.

Many thanks to David, Tracey, church wardens and PCC members for their continued support and acknowledgement of the importance of safeguarding as part of our church and Christian care and responsibility.

I have been PSO for quite a while now. If anyone would like to take over I would be very happy to stand down.