

Northwich Parochial Church Council  
St Helen, Witton

**Annual Report  
and  
Financial Statements  
of the  
Parochial Church Council**  
for the year ended 31 December 2017

**Incumbent:**

Rev Alison Harris

**Associate Minister:**

Rev Jane Millinchip

**Curate:**

Rev Mark Green

**Lay Readers:**

Mr Andrew Mallin-Jones  
41 Landswood Park, Hartford  
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62 Mornant Avenue, Hartford  
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**Pastoral Worker:**

Berenice Kirwan

**Bank:**

HSBC Bank plc, Northwich

**Independent Examiner:**

Howard Worth Accountants

## Contents

|                                           |    |
|-------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Vicar's Report .....                   | 3  |
| 2. Worship For All. ....                  | 5  |
| 3. Secretary's Report .....               | 6  |
| 4. Church Wardens and Fabric Report ..... | 6  |
| 5. Deanery Synod Report.....              | 7  |
| 6. Parish Recorder's Report .....         | 10 |
| 7. Electoral Roll .....                   | 10 |
| 8. Safe Guarding .....                    | 11 |
| 9. Treasurer's Report .....               | 11 |
| 10. Annual Accounts .....                 | 13 |
| 11. Miscellaneous Reports .....           | 21 |
| CAMEO .....                               | 21 |
| Christian Aid 2017 .....                  | 21 |
| The Clean Team.....                       | 22 |
| Community Coffee Pot .....                | 22 |
| Messy Church.....                         | 23 |
| Mid-Cheshire Food Bank .....              | 23 |
| The Mothers' Union .....                  | 24 |
| Social Committee .....                    | 24 |
| Bell ringers.....                         | 24 |
| Children's Society .....                  | 25 |

# 1. Vicar's Report

## Vision and Aim

Vision Statement: *Serving Christ, Serving the Community.*

Aim: we seek to be a faithful and vibrant church, embracing the love of God in Christ, sharing that with others, and giving life to the wider community, both locally and globally.

Within that wider aim, we are called:

### **1. To be a community which gathers together to offer worship to God.**

During 2017, worship continued to be at the heart of the life of our church. We continue with the *Worship For All* approach, recognising the importance of offering opportunities for different styles of worship to try and meet the varying needs and circumstances of people today. The Worship Leaders' (Clergy and Readers) meet quarterly to review our worship provision. This year it was decided that offering Messy Church on a weekly basis was not sustainable in the long term, because of the workload it placed on the leaders and because numbers attending had declined over the year. It was decided, therefore, that from September we would offer Messy Church once a half term. As *Cafe Church* was not drawing in "new" people that we had hoped, we also decided to suspend that, pending further review, with the possibility of setting up a new, alternative service in 2018. Praise and Play continues to be an important opportunity for helping baptism families, and other young families, into the church community. We were delighted that two mums from Praise and Play were confirmed in 2017 and now also worship regularly at our Sung Communion service.

In addition to our regular pattern of Sunday and midweek services, we continue to offer special services at particularly important times of the Church Year.

### **2. To be a community in which our regular members are encouraged to develop as disciples of Christ, growing in faith, and living in love and fellowship with one another.**

Encouraging discipleship: once again, we encouraged all church members to take part in the Lent Challenge and this year – following the initiative of Rev. Jane - we produced our own Lent Booklet of favourite Bible Passages from members of our congregations. During Lent, members of our church joined with the church at Lostock Gralam for a Lent Discussion group based on reflections from the film *Les Miserables*. The Tuesday evening discussion group continued with a regular attendance of 8-10 people.

Encouraging fellowship: we have many teams now who work together on different projects and tasks within the life of the church, and, the Social Committee continued to organise a number of opportunities during the year when the church community can meet together socially, including the second, and very popular, "Great Northwich Bake-off" and the, also popular, Harvest Quiz and Fish and Chip Supper. These events are not just for the church community and bring church and the local community together. We also organised another families' Christmas party following on from the successful venture the year before, and, once again, this brought together families from Sunday Club, Praise and Play and Messy Church.

### **3. To be a community which cares for and serves those beyond our regular members.**

We continued to take Holy Communion to our local residential homes on a monthly basis, and we continue to serve those in our parish through the occasional offices. (Weddings: 10; Funerals: 59). Berenice Kirwan, our Pastoral Worker, organised two training evenings

to better equip people when visiting those who are sick at home or in hospital, and when visiting people who have been bereaved. We have also set up a group with the aim of trying to understand better our local community so we are better able to respond to some of its needs. We have been helped in this by Debbie Dalby, the Diocesan Director of Social Responsibility. We continued our ministry in and with local schools, particularly Witton Church Walk School.

Locally, we continued to support the Mid Cheshire Foodbank and we continued to be a collection point for donations of food. The monthly Community Coffee Pot continues to partner local charities and good causes. Once again, we hosted the annual Civic Sunday Service in June and Remembrance Sunday service in November. The Cheshire Branch of the Royal British Legion now hold their annual thanksgiving service at St. Helen's Church. We welcomed Turning Point, the local Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation Service into church again for their Peer Mentoring Graduation ceremonies, and, we continue to have a close supportive relationship with Victoria House, and in particular with some of its residents who come into church, especially during Saturday Opening. One resident, in particular, is now a great asset when we have the quarterly Church Cleaning mornings. Further afield, we continue to support Christian Aid, (through collecting during Christian Aid week, twice weekly Lent Lunches and the Big Brekkie) and the Children's Society.

We have continued in our aim of making the church available for varied community use. The church is open every Saturday for visitors and the church has been used once again for a number of concerts during the year and for a venture organised by the local community group, Rudheath and Witton Together. At an individual level, members of our congregation are also involved in work in the community: the Food bank, a local Credit Union, local schools and the local Scout group.

The increasing use of the church is very much to be welcomed, though brings with it increasing pressure points in the building, particularly noticeable is the limited toilet and catering facilities, and the lack of any other self-contained meeting space which means that only one event/service can take place at a time and small gatherings have to take place in the church which then necessitates heating the whole church.

**4. To be a community of witness, proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ that others might come to believe.**

Baptisms: in 2017 we baptised 37 people (16 <1year old; 15 1-4 year old; 5 5-12 years old and 1 adult). Those being baptised, or the parents of children being baptised come to 2 preparation sessions prior to the Baptism.

Confirmations: 6 children from year 6 at Witton Church Walk School were confirmed and 2 adults.

***Promising Future: The Vision Project***

The Vision Project has progressed and draft plans for the development of the church building and the churchyard were submitted for consultation to the Statutory agencies. Their advice prompted the Vision Group to review plans with the architects and some adjustments were made. The Vision Group have continued to meet and are working with the architects to further the project.

The PCC decided that it would like to proceed with some initial parts of the project and begin to deliver visible results. Accordingly, proposals have been prepared and consent received to carry out tree thinning along the northern side of the churchyard, this to make St Helens more visible from the town. Designs have been agreed for improvements to the South Porch including new fully glazed inner doors, and a faculty application will be submitted shortly. Designs have been agreed for a new permanent servery in the north

aisle, and again a faculty application will be submitted shortly. A detailed survey of the external masonry has been carried out. Positive discussions with the Heritage Lottery Fund are ongoing and an application for funds for the South Porch work will be submitted in the near future.

### **Staffing**

Jane (Millinchip) completed her training in our parish, and we are delighted that she is continuing here as associate Minister. Mark (Green) was ordained Deacon in July and is serving his Curacy with us.

### **Concluding comments**

This has not been an easy year as I have been undergoing treatment for much of the year, and so, even more than usual, we are indebted to all those who have contributed to the life of this church over the past year. A church cannot survive, let alone thrive, without the prayer, commitment, time, and energy, of its members, and we are very fortunate to have so many people who serve God and God's Church in so many ways, and without whom, little of the above could happen. It is indeed a great tribute to this church community that so much of the above has continued even though I have not been in full health or around and available as much as usual. May God continue to bless us and guide us as we move forward.

Rev Alison Harris

## **2. Worship For All.**

As a church, we continue to be mindful of the diverse needs of people as we plan and organise our provision for worship. We continue to offer a weekly Sung Communion service which takes place alongside Sunday Club for children aged 3-11; we also have a mid-week time of Praise and Play for babies, pre-school children and "whoever is looking after them", and that includes parents, grandparents, childminders). We offer monthly services of Prayer Book Communion and a Midweek Communion, and a half-termly Messy Church, particularly with families of primary school aged children in mind. We have been reviewing the monthly Café Church, which had been held for the previous two years, as it was not building a new congregation as we had hoped, and we plan a different kind of provision for the coming year.

### **Pattern of services in 2017.**

#### **Weekly**

#### **Sung Communion and Sunday Club on Sunday at 9.30am.**

This is a service of Holy Communion with organ (and sometimes an instrument group) and robed choir, hymns and sung responses. The congregation has increased over the last year and now averages 70. The Children's area is available for families who have pre-school children and older children can go to Sunday Club. In Sunday Club the group now follow "Godly Play", an approach that enables children to encounter Biblical and Sacred stories using three dimensional materials and gives them the freedom to respond to the stories in their own way. Everyone gathers for refreshments after the service.

#### **Praise and Play on Tuesday at 2.00pm**

This is a service for babies, pre-school children and their carers. The service lasts about 30 minutes and includes action songs, songs with bells and instruments, a story and prayers. After the service there is a craft activity and a time for refreshments and free play. During 2016, our numbers rose and we had a regular attendance of 15-20 children,

though we lost some of them to school in July, and since then we have had a regular attendance of about 10-14 children.

**Messy Church on Wednesday at 3.15pm**

In September, Messy Church was reduced from weekly to half-termly. Families arrive after school and engage in the various activities laid out around church crafts, Lego, puzzles, games, modelling) and then these are brought together in our informal celebration service at the end.

**Monthly**

**Prayer Book Communion, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in the month at 8.00am**

This is a service of Holy Communion following the Book of Common Prayer. It takes place in the choir stalls and an average of 15 people attend.

**Midweek Communion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in the month at 12.00**

This service of Holy Communion takes place in the Chapel of the Holy Cross and an average of 15 people attend. During Lent this takes place every week.

In addition, we continue to take Holy Communion to the residential homes in our parish, and to individuals who are housebound.

Rev Alison Harris

### **3. Secretary's Report**

During the reporting period the Parochial Church Council had met 6 times, with an average attendance of 69.9%. All the meetings were held on a Wednesday, which has meant that some people have struggled to get there but this will be case whichever evening is chosen. The attendance is down on last year due to the long term sickness of several members, work and holiday commitments of others.

Unfortunately due to work and family commitments both Liz Hoy and Rosie Poulter, who were co-opted after the Annual Meeting, resigned. The PCC has had fewer members than is ideal this year.

At the April AGM there were 39 attendees from the electoral roll and 6 apologies. There was only one nomination for Church Warden so Sue Williams was elected as the only church warden.

At the April meeting of the Council following the AGM Mr Ken Moth was elected as Vice-Chair, Mr George Miller as Treasurer, Mrs Ann Mallin-Jones as Secretary, Mr Paul Clarke Safeguarding Officer, and Mrs Sallie Birtwisle, Electoral Roll Officer.

Secretary: Ann Mallin-Jones

### **4. Church Wardens and Fabric Report**

**Church Warden's Report**

Sue Williams was elected as church warden at the 2017 Annual Parish meeting.

Sue has been supported by many people during the year as she was the only Church Warden elected, Sue would like to thank people for their kindness and support it has been very much appreciated.

Fire Extinguishers have been reviewed across all properties.

### **Church Fabric**

The clock has also been serviced during the year but due to a high quotation to repair the chimes and strike on the clock remains without them.

Infestation of Pigeons in the roof void was a health & safety issue and work to remove the pigeons took place.

External lighting has been reviewed and all lights are now in working order.

The organ continues to be maintained and serviced.

The altar cross and candlesticks have been refurbished with the support of donations from congregations.

The drain connected to the toilets was unblocked.

Quarterly working parties took place during 2017 this ensured that the Church was maintained within health and safety requirements and kept clean for all to use.

### **St John's Rooms Fabric**

Due to a car crashing into the fence at the front of the property the fence had to be repaired.

Various maintenance issues were identified and remedied throughout 2017. Gas Safety Certificates have been purchased.

### **Cornerstones/Sexton's House Fabric**

Gas Safety Certificates have been purchased.

This property has had extensive maintenance work completed. Drains have been unblocked and a new window has been installed at the side of the building.

### **Curate's House Fabric**

Various maintenance work had to be completed when the previous tenants were asked to leave the property by the PCC.

New tenants have taken over the tenancy and continue to be good tenants.

Gas Safety certificates have been purchased.

During the year Sue Williams has been representing and acting as Landlord with local estate agent. She was instructed by the PCC to undertake this work.

Finally Sue would like to thank the members of the PCC, Sides people and members of the congregation for all their help and hard work throughout 2017.

Sue Williams, Church Warden

## **5. Deanery Synod Report**

Middlewich Deanery Synod met three times in 2017.

### **Meeting held on 13th June 2017 at St Luke's Church, Winnington**

Chairman's Notices

Moulton Vacancy - Rev. Mark Pickles has now been appointed.

Winnington / Holy Trinity – At the end of August 2017 Winnington will become joint with Barnton, whilst Holy Trinity will remain with Rev. Carol Seddon.

Mission Pastoral Committee – Volunteers to be recruited to form a formal group that discusses vacancies and policies / proposals (currently this is the standing committee).

#### Committee for Social Responsibility

Rev. Thia Hughes reported that the following new groups have been set up : a disability forum, a mental health working group, a pension group and 'Transforming Life' which she reported as going from strength to strength.  
A group for older people and a dementia group was being formed.

#### Melanesian Link

A visit to the Diocese had been arranged for 12th Sept to 6th Oct and asked members for ideas for school links.

#### The Children's Society

Hannah Noble, the regional fundraising manager, spoke at length about the work of the society. Tackling child poverty, working with those with mental health problems and taking action against sexual exploitation are at the forefront of The Children's Society campaigns. The Children's Society were helping Greater Manchester police with supporting runaway children and also assisting in the settlement of refugee children.

The Children's Society findings reveal that the most important thing to children in our society today is love, family and friends, these come before material goods and money.

Hannah praised Middlewich deanery for its £36,000 given in contributions in the last 5 years. Collection boxes and donations via Christingle services nationally bring in £2m a year.

### **Report to Deanery Synod on the Diocesan Finance Committee**

The Finance & Scrutiny Committee met on 4th September 2017.

One of the main items on the Agenda was a report on the selling and purchasing of parsonage houses (vicarages). No vicarages in Middlewich Deanery were affected.

The other main item was the 2018 Diocesan Budget.

The main assumptions are:-

- Clergy and Lay staff will receive a 2% stipend /salary increase from April 2018.
- Clergy vacancies will be kept as short as possible.
- The number of stipendiary curates offered training places will be 14 – a higher than usual number due to an increase in ordinands.

The result of these assumptions is that Parish Share will rise by 2.5%

The budget was presented to Bishop's Council on 25 September who agreed to submit it to Diocesan Synod on 11 November.

The Committee also discussed the arrears of parish share, and the reasons why some parishes are struggling to meet their obligation.

### **Meeting held at St.Peter's Delamere: 12th October 2017**

Revd. Simon Drew reported on the terms of reference for the newly formed Deanery Mission & Pastoral Group.

The aim of the group is – ‘Encouraging a mission focus across the deanery’.

It is an advisory group, answerable to the Deanery Standing Committee with three main areas of activity:

- Being a catalyst that facilitates discussion, review and vision for mission across the deanery.
- Providing a forum to looking at the existing structures across the deanery and asking - Is this the best way to build the kingdom of God?
- To offer a listening ear and appropriate support to parishes in vacancy who ask for the group’s assistance.

Who will make up the group? Six people plus the Rural Dean, 3 laity and 3 clergy who represent as far as possible all churchmanships and parishes within the deanery. The final decision rests with the Rural Dean after consultation with the wider deanery.

For clarity, this group does not constitute a legal Mission and Pastoral Committee, and those functions where required by the Diocese remain the responsibility of the Deanery Standing Committee.

#### Chairman’s remarks

On 31st August 2017 The Holy Trinity Winnington benefice was dissolved.

#### Melanesian Link

John reported that the visit to the Diocese from 12th Sept. to 6th Oct. had gone well including preaching in Chester Cathedral, meetings with Diocesan secretary and Father Abraham doing more work on making school links.

#### Treasurer’s Report

The treasurer stated that the Middlewich deanery synod account is currently in a sound condition so there will be no subscription fee levied this year (2018)

Speaker: Debbie Dalby (Chester Diocese – Director of Social Responsibility). (Debbie is currently on placement to St.Helen’s).

Social responsibility lies at the heart of Church and the community. There is work going on all over the Diocese in the form of counselling, support for those with dementia, support for criminal justice, rural & urban ministry, support for victims of modern slavery and help for those with mental health problems. As parishes, we can draw on the experience of others.

Debbie spoke at length on the subject of child poverty, which is on the increase, and discussion followed as to how as churches we can facilitate support for families who are struggling financially. It is often these poorer families who are not able to access the latest technology via smart phones and internet. She also cited the problems of isolation and loneliness. How can churches engage with people who are experiencing these feelings ? The CDSR is able to lend support to parishes.

### **Meeting held at St.Michael’s Parish Centre, Middlewich. 31st January 2018**

#### Chairman’s Remarks

Forthcoming vacancies – Weaverham, Whitegate & Little Budworth

Speaker: Jonathon Masters (Chester Diocese: Youth, Children & Families Missioner)

Scripture compels us to reach out to the young and inspire them. See : Psalm78, Matt.19.v.14 John:10.10.

What is youth work? It recognises that participation is voluntary. It is about relationship building. It is friendly, accessible and responsive. It is concerned with education and welfare. We are encouraged to take an individual interest in the young people in our church.

Berenice Kirwan

## 6. Parish Recorder's Report

All figures in brackets show prior year figures for comparison).

The planned giving in the Parish continued with, a weekly Thanksgiving Envelope scheme, individual Standing Orders arranged through the bank, and annual gifts.

In May 2017, 28 (26) sets of envelopes were requested through the pledges, however 35 (37) sets have been issued and used. The total amount given in 2017 was £15,250.20 (£13,399.30).

There were 10 (17) pledges for standing orders, although 30 (31) Standing Orders were in operation during 2017. Standing orders realised a total of £27,269 (£23,843).

There were 3 (4) pledges for annual gifts, which realised £150 (£320).

The pledged weekly profile for planned giving in 2016/17 was as follows:-

|       |     |                      |
|-------|-----|----------------------|
| (26%) | 23% | less than £5         |
| (36%) | 35% | between £5 and £10   |
| (13%) | 16% | between £10 and £20  |
| (17%) | 12% | between £20 and £30  |
| ( 6%) | 9%  | between £30 and £100 |
| ( 2%) | 5%  | over £100            |

During the period June to December 2017 36%, or 10 out of 28 (38% or 10 out of 26 Jun to May 17) of Thanksgiving Envelope pledges were met in full or exceeded the promise made. 50% or 14 out of 28 (62% or 16 out of 28) were fulfilled by 97% or above. 7 (11) took part in the scheme without making any pledge.

Of the Standing Order pledges, 70% (76%) were exceeded or met in full, and 70% (76%) were fulfilled by 97% or above. 20 (14) donors took part without making a pledge.

During the year to December 2017 single Gift Aid envelopes (yellow) were available in the Church. 110 (193) were used, donating a total of £4,472.13 (£2,953.12).

In the tax year 2016/17, 58 (59) Gift Aid declarations for regular giving were in operation. During that period, this giving together with single Gift Aid envelopes totalled £34,515.04 (£32,355.93), enabling us to claim £8,628.81 (£8,089.03) of tax for the parish on this sum.

Parish Recorder: Gail McCall

## 7. Electoral Roll

It has been a very encouraging year. We have enrolled 14 new members and have 5 names to be added before the Annual General Meeting.

The number on the Electoral Roll is 123, this shows an increase from last year, which is very pleasing.

|                                      |    |                    |
|--------------------------------------|----|--------------------|
| Number of residents on the roll:     | 78 | (previous year 76) |
| Number of non-residents on the roll: | 45 | (previous year 42) |

Looking forward to next year when we have to have a New Electoral Roll, I would ask all members of the Congregation to seriously consider becoming members of the Electoral Roll, it would make them eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting (should they wish to do so).

There are enrolment forms at the back of Church.

Electoral Roll Officer: Sallie Birtwisle

## **8. Safe Guarding**

The parish continues to use the diocesan safe guarding policy. All DBS checks are up to date and stored in the vicarage and no new ones have been required during the year. There have been no reportable incidents.

## **9. Treasurer's Report**

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997. The Accounts shown in this report are those under the control of the PCC as defined in "The Charities Act Guidance and Regulations" booklet issued by the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England August 1997.

### **Account Details**

The Parish Current / Cheque Accounts are held with HSBC bank in Northwich. All Deposit Accounts are held with the Church Of England, Central Board of Finance, Deposit Fund. There are two "equity" based accounts remaining, these are the Institute and Sunday School Funds both held as Investment Funds with the Church of England Central Board of Finance.

The following "cash" accounts were held

HSBC General Fund Current Account  
Restoration Fund High Interest Cheque Account  
Children's Church Current Account  
CBF Choir Fund (CLOSED OCTOBER 1st 2017)  
Rewiring Fund (CLOSED OCTOBER 1st 2017 )  
General Deposit  
Greatbanks Fund.

## Income and Expenditure

Income in the Parish from Planned Giving (Including Thanksgiving Envelopes and Bankers Orders) was at a slightly higher level than in 2016 with £43,461 received compared with £39,361 last year.

The tax refund (plus interest) on covenanted giving plus collections was slightly higher at £8,659 for the Tax Year 2016/2017 as compared to £8,117 for the Tax Year 2015/2016.

As ever Gail McCall deserves great praise for her work in working through all the donations and giving to enable our tax refund to be maximised. I would encourage all parishioners who give on a regular basis and have not signed a gift aid form to do so.

I would advise that these accounts contain an exceptional item. Our Power supplier took in error a sum of £8,440 from the Account and then repaid the same sum. ( This has had the effect of increasing both Income and expenditure by £8,440 )

The Ordinary cash collections at £5,845 were lower than the level of those in 2016 however specific donations and donations for the Vision Fund increased by just under £3,000.

Other Income in the form of rental income, just over £18,000 from property rentals and income from Weddings and Funerals remained similar at over £22,000.

Total Income excluding £8,440 amounted to £111.7K compared to £107.5k in 2016.

Total Expenses amounted to £111.2K compared to £111.5K in 2016 which resulted in a net loss (before any adjustment for gains/losses to the value of investments) of £862.00. This compares to a net loss of almost £4K IN 2016.

The main reason that for this years result is the costs incurred for repairs to the rental properties of £9,605.

The results are generally satisfactory but a number of items need to be mentioned.

1. The Church's overall finances continued to be underwritten by a rental income of Circa £19,000. Clearly the continued smooth running of these rental properties supports our Church allowing it to maintain its overall ministry without the need to deplete any reserves. However if in the future any of the rental properties were to be sold then a sum of money from the sale value will need to be made available to cover the loss of income. Sue Williams deserves special mention for her careful stewardship of the properties and rental agreements.

2. The Annual Parish Share was £44.8K compared to £43.7 in 2016.

3. The two Equity based investment funds performed well during the year showing a gain of £3.8k but over the year interest rates continue to be low.

4. During the year the income in the CBF Rewiring Fund of £42.80 and the CBF Choir Fund with an income of £350.99 was transferred to the HSBC General Fund and both funds were then closed.

Church finances, whilst certainly not robust, are still running on or about break-even as mentioned above, the letting of the three properties is of vital importance in subsidising our ministries.

Treasurer: George Miller

## 10. Annual Accounts

### **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Northwich Parochial Church Council St Helen, Witton**

I report to the Church trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 December 2017.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the Church Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Church are not required to be audited and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your Church's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Church Trustees under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. Accounting records were kept in respect of the Church;
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Howard Worth  
Drake House  
Gadbrook Park  
Northwich  
Cheshire  
CW9 7RA

Date: .....

**Northwich Parochial Church Council St Helen, Witton**

| Incoming Resources                                    | Note | Unrestricted Fund | Restricted Funds  | Total Funds         |                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                                                       |      |                   |                   | 2017                | 2016                |
|                                                       |      | £                 | £                 | £                   | £                   |
| Voluntary income                                      | (2a) | 64,941.69         | -                 | 64,941.69           | 59,646.00           |
| Other voluntary income                                | (2b) | 100.66            | -                 | 100.66              | 456.00              |
| Goods income from events and activities               | (2c) | 54,662.52         | -                 | 54,662.52           | 45,740.00           |
| Income from investments                               | 2(d) | 499.02            | 331.92            | 830.94              | 1,698.00            |
| <b>Total Incoming Resources</b>                       |      | <b>120,203.89</b> | <b>331.92</b>     | <b>120,535.81</b>   | <b>107,540.00</b>   |
| <b>Resources Used</b>                                 |      |                   |                   |                     |                     |
| Missionary & Charitable grants                        | (3a) | 1,468.58          | -                 | 1,468.58            | 739.00              |
| Support costs                                         | (3b) | 6,853.07          | -                 | 6,853.07            | 6,807.00            |
| Directly church related                               | (3c) | 107,677.60        | -                 | 107,677.60          | 99,210.00           |
| Church management and administration                  | (3d) | 3,674.60          | -                 | 3,674.60            | 4,747.00            |
| <b>Total Resources Used</b>                           |      | <b>119,673.85</b> | <b>-</b>          | <b>119,673.85</b>   | <b>111,503.00</b>   |
| <b>Net Incoming /Outgoing Resources</b>               |      | <b>530.04</b>     | <b>331.92</b>     | <b>861.96</b>       | <b>(3,963.00)</b>   |
| Gains and Losses on Investments                       |      |                   |                   |                     |                     |
| Unrealised Gains / (Losses)                           |      | 2,587.00          | 1,459.00          | 4,046.00            | -                   |
| Realised Gains / (Losses)                             |      | -                 | -                 | -                   | 17,017.58           |
| <b>Net Movement in Funds</b>                          |      | <b>3,117.04</b>   | <b>1,790.92</b>   | <b>4,907.96</b>     | <b>13,054.58</b>    |
| <b>Balance brought forward as at 1 January 2017</b>   |      | <b>371,178.58</b> | <b>674,727.00</b> | <b>1,045,905.58</b> | <b>1,032,851.00</b> |
| <b>Balance carried forward as at 31 December 2017</b> |      | <b>374,295.62</b> | <b>676,517.92</b> | <b>1,050,813.54</b> | <b>1,045,905.58</b> |

**Notes to Statement of Financial Activity**

**1 Accounting Policies**

These are described in the Treasury's Report in the Review of The Year Section of the Annual Report

| <b>2 Incoming Resources</b>                       | Unrestricted<br>Funds | Restricted<br>Funds | Total Funds       |                   |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                                   | £                     | £                   | 2017<br>£         | 2016<br>£         |
| <b>2a Voluntary Income – Direct Giving</b>        |                       |                     |                   |                   |
| Planned Giving – CSS (envelopes)                  | 16,209.81             | -                   | 16,209.81         | 15,534.00         |
| Planned Giving – Standing Orders                  | 27,253.00             | -                   | 27,253.00         | 23,827.00         |
| Income tax recovered                              | 8,659.03              | -                   | 8,659.03          | 8,117.00          |
| Collections                                       | 5,845.82              | -                   | 5,845.82          | 8,020.00          |
| Vision Fund                                       | 2,434.98              | -                   | 2,434.98          | 661.00            |
| Bell ringers                                      | 58.45                 | -                   | 58.45             | 74.00             |
| Specific Donations                                | 4,480.60              | -                   | 4,480.60          | 3,413.00          |
|                                                   | <b>64,941.69</b>      | <b>-</b>            | <b>64,941.69</b>  | <b>59,646.00</b>  |
| <b>2b Other Voluntary Income</b>                  |                       |                     |                   |                   |
| Charity donations (restricted)                    | -                     | -                   | -                 | 456.00            |
| Other voluntary donations (unrestricted)          | <b>100.66</b>         | <b>-</b>            | <b>100.66</b>     | <b>456.00</b>     |
| <b>2c Gross income from events and activities</b> |                       |                     |                   |                   |
| Fund raising                                      | 346.00                | -                   | 346.00            | 2,864.00          |
| Magazines                                         | 376.00                | -                   | 376.00            | 912.00            |
| Hall lettings, Rent                               | 18,382.20             | -                   | 18,382.20         | 18,947.00         |
| Fees (PCC fees)                                   | 23,109.06             | -                   | 23,109.06         | 22,775.00         |
| Misc other income                                 | 12,449.26             | -                   | 12,449.26         | 242.00            |
|                                                   | <b>54,662.52</b>      | <b>-</b>            | <b>54,662.52</b>  | <b>45,740.00</b>  |
| <b>2d Income from investments</b>                 |                       |                     |                   |                   |
| Dividends and interest                            | 499.02                | 331.92              | 830.94            | 1,698.00          |
| <b>Total Incoming Resources</b>                   | <b>120,203.89</b>     | <b>331.92</b>       | <b>120,535.81</b> | <b>107,540.00</b> |

**Northwich Parochial Church Council St Helen, Witton**

| 3  | Resources Used                            | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Total Funds       |                  |
|----|-------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
|    |                                           | £                  | £                | 2017<br>£         | 2016<br>£        |
| 3a | Missionary & Charitable giving            |                    |                  |                   |                  |
|    | Relief and development agencies           | 1,468.58           | -                | 1,468.58          | -                |
|    | Other charities                           |                    |                  |                   | 739.00           |
|    |                                           | <b>1,468.58</b>    | <b>-</b>         | <b>1,468.58</b>   | <b>739.00</b>    |
| 3b | Support Costs                             |                    | -                |                   |                  |
|    | Organists Fees / Bell ringers             | 6,728.09           | -                | 6,728.09          | 6,171.00         |
|    | Sunday School, Choir and resources        | 124.98             | -                | 124.98            | 636.00           |
|    |                                           | <b>6,853.07</b>    | <b>-</b>         | <b>6,853.07</b>   | <b>6,807.00</b>  |
| 3c | Directly Church Related                   |                    |                  |                   |                  |
|    | Parish Share & Deanery                    | 44,854.20          | -                | 44,854.20         | 43,760.00        |
|    | Clergy expenses                           | 3,266.91           | -                | 3,266.91          | 4,036.00         |
|    | Clergy housing                            | 2,058.58           | -                | 2,058.58          | 2,155.00         |
|    | Church running expenses                   | 29,440.53          | -                | 29,440.53         | 19,693.00        |
|    | Upkeep of Services                        | 944.43             | -                | 944.43            | 2,301.00         |
|    | Church maintenance                        | 334.80             | -                | 334.80            | 426.00           |
|    | Major maintenance & repair                | 3,776.05           | -                | 3,776.05          | 4,599.00         |
|    | Magazine, printing & website              | 2,831.89           | -                | 2,831.89          | 3,321.00         |
|    | Vision works                              | 250.80             | -                | 250.80            | 10,612.00        |
|    | St John's Room                            | 1,505.93           | -                | 1,505.93          | -                |
|    | Curates House                             | 4,651.50           | -                | 4,651.50          | -                |
|    | CWS Sexton's House                        | 3,447.78           | -                | 3,447.78          | -                |
|    | DBF Fees                                  | 8,094.20           | -                | 8,094.20          | 7,807.00         |
|    | Accountancy / Legal                       | 2,220.00           | -                | 2,220.00          | 500.00           |
|    |                                           | <b>107,677.60</b>  | <b>-</b>         | <b>107,677.60</b> | <b>99,210.00</b> |
| 3d | Church management and administration      | 3,674.60           |                  | 3,674.60          | 4,747.00         |
|    |                                           | 3,674.60           | -                | 3,674.60          | 4,747.00         |
|    | <b>Total Resources Used</b>               | 119,673.85         | -                | 119,673.85        | 111,503.00       |
|    | <b>Net Incoming / (Outgoing)Resources</b> | <b>530.04</b>      | <b>331.92</b>    | <b>861.96</b>     | <b>3,963.00</b>  |

**Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2017**

| <b>FIXED ASSETS</b>                                                   | 2017                | 2016                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Tangible fixed assets: Properties</b>                              |                     |                     |
| Cornerstones – formerly Sexton’s House (insured value)                | 223,659.00          | 223,659.00          |
| Curate’s House (insured value)                                        | 241,257.00          | 241,257.00          |
| St John’s Room (insured value)                                        | 424,288.00          | 424,288.00          |
|                                                                       | <b>889,204.00</b>   | <b>889,204.00</b>   |
| <b>Investments Held by Chester Diocesan Board of Finance</b>          |                     |                     |
| CBF – Institute (1,819 shares)                                        | 30,083.00           | 27,496.00           |
| CBF – Witton Sunday School Fund (1,074 shares)                        | 17,608.00           | 16,149.00           |
|                                                                       | <b>47,691.00</b>    | <b>43,645.00</b>    |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                                                 |                     |                     |
| Bell-Ringers Account (in general Account)                             | 2,909.00            | 2,909.00            |
| General Account (balance)                                             | 9,376.23            | 9,151.00            |
| Restoration Account                                                   | 2,504.05            | 1,904.00            |
| Children’s Church Accounts                                            | 7,846.10            | 7,727.00            |
| Choir CBF Deposit Fund                                                |                     | 350.00              |
| General Deposit                                                       | 81,522.10           | 81,293.00           |
| Re-writing CBF Deposit Fund                                           |                     | 43.00               |
| Great Banks CBF Deposit Fund                                          | 10,661.05           | 10,631.00           |
|                                                                       | <b>114,818.54</b>   | <b>113,555.00</b>   |
| <b>Total (Fixed and Current) Assets</b>                               | <b>1,051,713.54</b> | <b>1,046,404.00</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES: Amounts falling due within one year – Accountancy</b> | 900.00              | 500.00              |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                                                     | <b>1,050,813.54</b> | <b>1,045,904.00</b> |
| <b>REPRESENTED AS:</b>                                                |                     |                     |
| Unrestricted Funds                                                    | 374,295.62          | 371,177.00          |
| Restricted Funds                                                      | 676,517.92          | 674,727.00          |
|                                                                       | <b>1,050,813.54</b> | <b>1,045,904.00</b> |

Notes to the Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2017

**1: Properties**

Property valuations were taken from 2016 insurance valuations with the exception of The Curate's House. In this instance a 2015 valuation has been used.

| <b>2: FUNDS</b>               | 2017                | 2016                |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Unrestricted:                 | £                   | £                   |
| Curate's House                | 241,257.00          | 241,257.00          |
| DBF 'Institute' Investment    | 30,083.00           | 27,496.00           |
| Other Net Current Assets      | 104,157.48          | 102,424.00          |
|                               | <hr/>               | <hr/>               |
|                               | <b>375,497.48</b>   | <b>371,177.00</b>   |
| Restricted:                   |                     |                     |
| Sexton's House                | 223,659.00          | 223,659.00          |
| St John's Room                | 424,288.00          | 424,288.00          |
| Greatbanks CBF Deposit Fund   | 10,661.06           | 10,631.00           |
| DBF Witton Sunday School Fund | 17,608.00           | 16,149.00           |
|                               | <hr/>               | <hr/>               |
|                               | <b>676,216.06</b>   | <b>674,727.00</b>   |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <hr/>               | <hr/>               |
|                               | <b>1,051,713.54</b> | <b>1,045,904.00</b> |

| <b>Accounts Summary as at 31 December 2017</b> |                                    |                       |                 |                   |                   |                                         |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>(Including movements between funds)</b>     |                                    |                       |                 |                   |                   |                                         |
|                                                | Balance as<br>at 1 January<br>2017 | Incoming<br>Resources | Transfers<br>In | Resources<br>Used | Transfer<br>s Out | Balance as<br>at 31<br>December<br>2017 |
|                                                | £                                  | £                     | £               | £                 | £                 | £                                       |
| General Account                                | 120,600.35                         | 120,203.89            | 392.95          | 119,872.94        | -499.02           | 12,285.13                               |
| High Interest                                  | 1,904.05                           | 600.00                | -               | -                 | -                 | 2,504.05                                |
| Choir CBF<br>Deposit Fund                      | 350.25                             | -                     | -               | -                 | 350.25            | 7,846.10                                |
| Children's Church<br>Account                   | 7,274.73                           | 571.37                | -               | -                 | -                 | 10,661.06                               |
| Greatbanks CBF<br>Fund                         | 10,631.15                          | 29.91                 | -               | -                 | -                 | 81,522.10                               |
| General Deposit                                | 81,293.35                          | 228.75                | -               | -                 | -                 | -                                       |
| CBF Re-wiring<br>Fund                          | 42.70                              | -                     | -               | -                 | 42.70             | -                                       |
| <b>Total</b>                                   | <b>113,556.58</b>                  | <b>121,633.92</b>     | <b>392.95</b>   | <b>119,872.94</b> | <b>891.97</b>     | <b>114,818.54</b>                       |

**Note**

The opening and closing balances for the General Account reflect balances at bank plus / minus  
Adjustments for cheques and deposits not cleared

## 11. Miscellaneous Reports

### **CAMEO**

CAMEO met for the first time in June 2013 so we are now approaching our fifth year. Over the past year we have had between fifteen and twenty folk meeting on the third Wednesday of each month, first of all for Communion then lunch and fellowship. We all enjoyed our usual Christmas lunch at the beginning of December. It was good to welcome two new ladies this year.

Joy Montgomery

### **Christian Aid 2017**

During the year we continued to raise awareness of the work of Christian Aid by using their online and printed resources for prayer, advocacy and fund raising and having input from Christian Aid volunteers.

During Lent lunches were held on Saturdays and Wednesday's which raised £330, with gifts from Christian Aid's 'Count your Blessings' raising an additional £47.60.

In May we started Christian Aid week with the Big Brekkie enjoyed by over 40 people. Letters to local supermarkets asking for donations to support the breakfast generated one response – from Tesco - enabling us to purchase some of the breakfast food, the rest being provided by donations from church members. Linda Tiongo preached at our morning service and showed a short video telling the story of Theodore Davidovic, a former Serbian refugee who fled his country and was in a camp much like the current refugee camps in Lebanon and Syria. While there he received parcels of aid from Christians, a kindness he never forgot. He is an active supporter of Christian Aid and urged viewers to put their beliefs into action and help others.

John Griffith, a volunteer with Christian Aid, does just that and during Christian Aid Week went into local schools – Rudheath Primary, Witton Church Walk, Lostock Primary and UCAN – to speak about situations in parts of the world where Christian Aid works with local partners.

Our Christian Aid week donation was £215.

Harvest donations at Community Coffee Pot amounted to £50, and Church Walk gave £90 to the Harvest appeal. The Rohingya Appeal raised £106.

There have been articles in the church magazine about Christian Aid and information at the back of church is regularly updated.

Barbara Moth

### **The Clean Team**

The 3 teams of between 2 and 4 people have continued to clean for between 2 and 4 hours every four weeks. This, with the help of vergers at funerals and weddings, church

sitters on Saturdays and those who organise other events in church, just about keep the church dusted, hoovered and the kitchen and service areas hygienic.

In the same way that we thoroughly turn out our homes, we “spring clean” the church several times a year. This happens on Saturday mornings and we are extremely grateful for extra help from parishioners and friends who either energetically move the chairs, climb ladders to chase cobwebs from higher levels, tidy neglected areas of the building or help with more leisurely tidying and cleaning tasks.

The PCC’s thanks go to all those who give generously of their time and energy to keep our Church looking attractive to all who have visited St Helen’s in the past year.

Ann Mallin-Jones

### ***Community Coffee Pot***

The monthly Community Coffee Pot continues to flourish and already 2018 dates are fully committed.

Community coffee pot was an initiative started in May 2014 by the Church Outreach Group and is now seen as a permanent feature of Church activity.

This was in response to the twin drivers of feedback from the consultation questionnaires which said that local people would like to see the Church open more frequently and the desire by St. Helen’s to increase its outreach to the local community.

This monthly event has made and continues to make a useful contribution to both of these aspects of Church life. In addition, by inviting local charities to partner many of the mornings, the Church has introduced a much wider cohort of people to its community engagement ambitions.

Some charities have asked for repeat ‘bookings’ and, in general, these are the groups who make most effort in engaging with their own supporters thereby increasing footfall. Whilst community coffee pot was never set up as a fund-raising initiative it has made a useful contribution to Church income and has also facilitated the ability of local charities to raise funds as well as allowing them an opportunity to show a wider audience who they are and what they do.

After four and a half years of active involvement Angela and Gordon are stepping down from the day to day activities of planning, co-ordinating and hosting community coffee pot and this has been recorded elsewhere in PCC minutes.

Gordon Atkinson

### ***Messy Church***

Since September 2017, the pattern for Messy Church has changed. We are now doing one Messy Church per half term on the last Wednesday. This change was made because of reduced numbers attending the weekly sessions and because of the work load on the small band of regular helpers. The format of the sessions remains the same: refreshments, activities and then worship. We have so far had three of the new Messy Church sessions on the theme of God's World linking to harvest and Christian Aid in October, the Christmas one in December, and Love Life, Live Lent on Ash Wednesday.

We have an average attendance of around 12 families, many of whom are now Messy Church regulars. Messy Church is an important way of building on our relationship with Church Walk School and extending our contacts with local families, following on from Praise and Play.

Rev Jane Millinchip

### ***Mid-Cheshire Food Bank***

In the year 2017 donations from St Helen's church to the Mid-Cheshire Food Bank totalled 605.9 Kilograms. 186.3 Kg of this was our harvest collection. We are the fourteenth on the list of donors by total given. This position does not sound very impressive, but ahead of us on the list are six supermarkets. In these supermarkets either the food bank ran a campaign asking for donations, or there is a collections box available every day. Of course the footfall of people entering supermarkets and either encountering food bank volunteers or seeing the collection boxes in these shops is considerable. In terms of giving from churches we are third, which is reasonable given that we are one of the larger churches and congregations in the mid Cheshire area.

More people are being fed by the food bank than ever before. In 2017 by the end of September we had already fed as many people as we did in the whole of 2016. In December 2017 we fed over 300 adults whereas in December 2016 we fed 250 adults. The picture is much the same if we look at the numbers of children fed. Not surprisingly this means we are generally busier overall. A year ago we were running at about three tons of food going out each month, but the average over 2017 was four tons each month going out to people in need.

David Drinkwater has put a list of the current needs for food in church. Tinned fruit, tinned vegetables, coffee, meat and puddings are always welcome. We currently have lots of baked beans, breakfast cereal and pasta – so if you have a choice of what to donate then other things from our list would be of most use. Please make sure there is plenty of time before the Best Before date expires – preferably at least six months.

Andrew Mallin-Jones

### ***The Mothers' Union***

Although we are still small in numbers we continue to meet at 10:30 on the second Wednesday of each month at 23 Carlton Road. We start each meeting with the service from the Mothers' Union book, which includes a bible reading, prayers and a hymn. We have a plan for the programme for 2018 which includes speakers and a quiz.

Joan Roberts

### ***Social Committee***

Last year we had a variety of events, enjoyed by all who attended.

On the 17th June, we had a coach trip to Lichfield, with the option of touring the Cathedral. In the afternoon we went onto the National Memorial Arboretum. We had glorious weather and the trip was a great success, thanks to Eric Walker, who did all the organising.

On the 30th June we had an evening talk in church by Ken Moth, "The Past, Present and Future of the church building". This was followed by cheese and wine and a chance for informal questions.

Sunday 16th July, a small group met at Marbury Park for a picnic lunch.

The Harvest fish & chip quiz was held in church on the evening of 29th September, fifty eight people enjoyed a general knowledge quiz, with thanks to Julian Williams for being our quiz master. The Cod Father did an excellent supper of fish & chips for us.

Bake Off was held on the afternoon of Sunday 15th October. This was a good community event supported by local businesses.

The Christmas meal saw a return to The Watermead, on the 3rd December.

The Social committee also provided refreshments after the Confirmation Service, All Souls and Nine Lessons and Carols. We also helped with the Christian Aid Big Brekkie.

Louise Begent Peers

### ***Bell ringers***

Ringling continues to thrive at St. Helen's with regular change ringling on Sunday mornings in addition to call changes.

In July we welcomed over 50 ringers from across the county to St. Helen's for the Cheshire 8 Bell Striking Competition. It was a real honour to be asked to host this event. The Witton band provided refreshments and assistance throughout the afternoon whilst each team performed a short piece of ringling. This was marked by two judges locked away in the upper vestry and the team with the fewest number of faults was declared the winner. Much to our satisfaction the Mid Cheshire team won the trophy.

Our ringers continue to play a large part in the life of the Mid Cheshire branch. The annual 6 Bell Striking Competition gave some ringers their first taste of this rather nerve-racking event and we also enjoyed social gatherings and ringling meetings at local towers.

Notable rings have included half muffled ringling for Maundy Thursday and Remembrance Sunday, the Archdeacon's visitation, Confirmation, the Civic Service, a good number of weddings and two quarter peals. In March a peal of Jervaulx Abbey Surprise Major was beautifully rung by a band of visiting ringers, groups of ringers have joined us from Devon and Tarporley as part of their ringling tours and classes of Year 4 pupils from Victoria Road Primary School practised their chiming skills during a visit to St. Helen's.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the band and our regular visitors for their loyalty in keeping the bells ringling out at St. Helen's. In particular I would like to pay tribute to our senior members; Ashley Pugh, Lynne Sawyer, Frank Horrocks and Ray Poole for their dedication and support. My thanks also to John McGowan for his lovely photograph of the Witton ringers now hanging in the ringling chamber.

Bell ringling is a fantastic activity which always needs new recruits. It requires both physical and mental skill, but not necessarily strength. If you can climb the steps to the ringling chamber you could become a successful ringer.

Nick Harris

***Children's Society***

The Society continues to flourish and we recruit new members on a regular basis.

Last year 2017, we were able to send over £300 to the Society Head Quarters. It was an incredible amount of money and thanks must be extended to all members who contributed to this total.

The boxes for 2018 will be opened between May and September.

Sallie Birtwisle