

February Dates For Your Diary

Sunday 1 st	9.15am – Worship Together Communion
Thursday 5 th	11.00am-1.30pm – Place of Welcome
Friday 6 th	9.30am-11.00am – Praise & Play
Saturday 7 th	10.00am-12noon – 4Cs – Coffee, Cake, Company & Conversation
Sunday 8 th	9.15am – Holy Communion Service with Sunday Club
Thursday 12 th	11.00am-1.30pm – Place of Welcome
Friday 13 th	9.30am-11.00am – Praise & Play
Saturday 14 th	10.00am-12noon – 4Cs – Coffee, Cake, Company & Conversation
Sunday 15 th	9.15am – Holy Communion Service with Sunday Club
Wednesday 18 th	Ash Wednesday 12noon – Holy Communion 7.30pm – Holy Communion
Thursday 19 th	11.00am-1.30pm – Place of Welcome
Saturday 21 st	10.00am-12noon – 4Cs – Coffee, Cake, Company & Conversation
Sunday 22 nd	9.15am – Holy Communion
Thursday 26 th	11.00am-1.30pm – Place of Welcome
Friday 27 th	9.30am-11.00am – Praise & Play
Saturday 28 th	10.00am-12noon – 4Cs – Coffee, Cake, Company & Conversation

Who To Speak To

Just a reminder that, while we are still in vacancy, services are being taken by our own retired clergy, Diane Cookson and Barbara Jeapes, with support from our Reader Emeritus, David Drinkwater. If you have any queries regarding the services, please speak to one of the worship team.

We will have visiting clergy occasionally, just to give Diane, Barbara and David some respite. Please feel free to provide any feedback on the visiting clergy should you wish.

For any other questions, particularly if they involve questions around the church building, rotas, events, volunteering etc, please speak to Andrew or Francis, our friendly churchwardens.

Don't forget our weekly activities, CAMEO, Place of Welcome, Praise and Play etc, which all need out support and help.

Please continue to pray for our parish during our Vacancy.

St Helen's Church Witton Northwich

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2026



'Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.' James 4.8

This year The Church of England's theme for Lent is Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent. Draw Near focuses on helping us develop habits and practices that bring us closer to God. And as we do, we discover that God draws closer to us. Developing these habits and practices helps us grow as disciples of Christ every day as we head towards Easter and celebrating the great mystery of God's saving love. Our calling as disciples involves: Worshipping together, Praying, Exploring the Bible, Sharing Communion, Offering service to one another and Sharing the good news with others.

Lent begins on Wednesday 17th February – Ash Wednesday. On this day there will be 2 Communion Services. 12noon and 7.30pm. Draw Near booklets will be available in Church as we approach the beginning of Lent.

Finding a New Vicar – the story continued

Andrew and Francis (Churchwardens) are the St Helen's parish representatives playing a crucial role in the process of finding a new vicar. That isn't to say that they will decide what we want. This is a decision that will involve the entire church as much as possible. Therefore, they want your views. What do you want from a vicar? Which direction do you want the vicar to take St Helens? What style of worship do you want? How involved do you want the congregation to be in the service?

They will aim to take any and all views into account and appoint the right person for St Helen's.

The Parish Profile has been submitted to the Archdeacon and revisions have been made following on from comments received.

Likely timeline for the recruitment process:

- The parish representatives along with the Archdeacon will agree a formal timeline for the process, including the closing dates for applications, interview dates and timeline for appointment.
- The parish representatives will undergo "Safer Recruitment" training.
- Applications will be received by the diocese and time will be spent reviewing and, hopefully, making a shortlist of likely candidates.
- The interview date will probably be just after Easter, purely down to timelines and how busy vicars get during Lent.
- Once a decision has been made, an offer will be submitted to the successful candidates.
- If accepted the successful candidate would need to give 3 months' notice to their current church.
- Ideally a new incumbent will arrive sometime in August ready for a September start.

The timeline may move a little and the post will only be offered to the right candidate. The parish representatives will keep us all as informed as they can during the process and if you have any questions or suggestions please speak to Andrew or Francis.

Organ Update

A great deal of work has been done by Philip Cartwright and his team on the organ. However, there is no definitive end date in sight and the organ will not be ready for Easter services. We remain hopeful and continue to maintain close communication with Philip regarding progress.

Update From The PCC

Finances

The accounts for 2025 are now complete and will in due course be submitted to the church's annual meeting. It is, however, timely to share how 2025 compared to the previous year.

In 2025, our total income increased by a small amount - 2%, compared to 2024. More importantly, our giving in all forms increased slightly more, by 4%.

On the other hand, our expenditure decreased by 6% (not including major projects) compared to 2024. Our overall balance between income and expenditure was a small surplus of £3180.

It is good news that we are holding our own financially but obviously there is a challenge if we are to build reserves for the future.

Electoral Roll

In the Church of England, the Electoral Roll is the list of names of lay persons who wish to be regarded formally as members of the church. This means that they are eligible to vote in church meetings and to be elected to the PCC and/or deanery synod. Every year the roll is revised so that new members can join and those who have died or left the church are removed. This year's revision of the roll will begin later this month and will be well advertised. Please consider if you would like to join the roll.

Church Flowers

As always thank you to our wonderful team of flower arrangers for the beautiful displays. If anyone would like to donate to the Easter flowers please see Pat Wilson in church or telephone her on 01606 44091 to make a donation towards flowers.

YouTube

St Helen's Sunday morning services can be watched live or at a convenient time for you on YouTube at 'St Helen's Church, Northwich'.

Keeping In Touch

The March Newsletter will be available on Sunday 1st March. Please email any news items / newsletter feedback on what you would like to see in upcoming newsletters to: sthelenscomms@gmail.com by 23rd February.