

## Simon is our new Bishop

The Very Rev Simon Robinson was appointed our Bishop of Warrington just as the last issue of our magazine was being printed.



He was consecrated by the Archbishop of York, the Most Rev Stephen Cottrell, at York Minster on April 30 and he will be officially welcomed to our diocese at our Cathedral on May 23. Simon has succeeded the Rt Rev Beverley Mason whose position had remained on hold since 2023 when allegations of misconduct still under investigation were directed against our previous bishop of Liverpool which he denies. He retired last year.

Ordained in 2012, Simon has served as Dean of Truro since January 2024. Before to moving to Truro Simon was the Vicar of Minehead. He served his curacy in three small village churches near Bath.

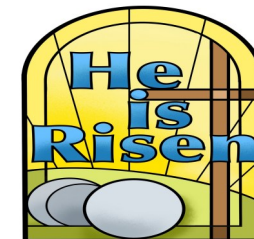
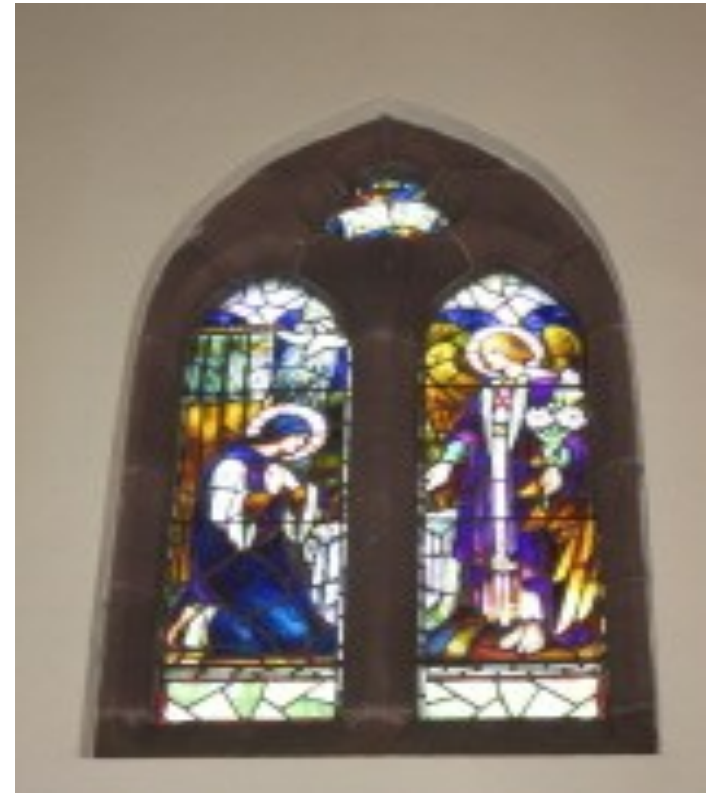
Before ordination Simon spent 24 years in academia. He served as a headteacher in London before leading the amalgamation of three schools into a single entity in Bristol. He demonstrated a deep commitment to supporting children with special needs and those excluded from other schools.

He is also a keen advocate for safeguarding; Simon himself is a survivor.

# HOLLINFARE

## St HELEN

May 2026



## St Helen Hollinfare

School Lane, Hollins Green WA3 6LJ  
sthelenhollinfare@gmail.com  
www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15313

### Priest in charge

Rev Canon Bob Lewis  
Tel 07789 402954



**Churchwardens:** Alan Domville Tel 0161 775 9360 and Veronia Prowting Tel 01925 763353  
Warden Emeritus: Ray Shaw

**PCC Members:** Rev Canon Bob Lewis (Chair), Alan Domville (Vice Chair), Roy Evans (Secretary), Veronia Prowting (Treasurer), Virginia Baglee, Janet Barcroft, Sheila Breese, Irene Collins, Jim Hall. Ex-officio: Colin Lowndes, Catherine McDonald and Ray Shaw

**Day School: Headteacher** Catherine McDonald  
**Editor:** Alan Domville

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T u i t i o n

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## 50 years ago in May 1976

Anne Corble, wife of our vicar Tony, organised a collection of ladies, men's and children's "posh" clothing gathered from what she called "classy places" - Winwick, Altrincham and Knutsford - and filled one of the vicarage bedrooms to the ceiling with what she received.

These "Good and New" items were then made available to parishioners, the proceeds going towards church. Tape measures were provided!

She also launched her next fundraiser, a sponsored knit, to aid the Church of England Childrens' Society.

Mrs Corble also unearthed in the vicarage several documents relating to the early years of our Sunday School which remain in our files or are framed in our former Sunday School room.

Grace Hindley also contributed to the collection several Holy Bibles and stamp books for attendance that had been kept in her family for many years.

Confirmation classes were begun in the vicarage each Sunday after our morning service.

A party of year six children at our day school were taken for a week's holiday in the Isle of Man during the Whitsuntide break and by the headteacher, Albert Slack, and several teachers.

Mynah Smith succeeded Trudy Mosedale as Enrolling Member of our Mothers' Union. Trudy was guest of honour at a get-together in Church House and she was given a number of presents. She was unable to express her thanks because her speech had been affected by illness.

## Progress report

While our wardens are ultimately responsible for the fabric of our church Jim Hall and his team have kindly taken on the role of actioning various tasks in recent months.

Runners have been acquired from the Church Carpet company for our pews at a cost of £2,806. This was made possible thanks to the substantial donations made in memory of Ken Baglee (thanks to Virginia) and Cliff Herridge (thanks to his sons and daughter).

Jim also arranged for a decorator to make good one of the walls in Church House and another in the corridor leading to church, both of which had deteriorated despite work carried out in recent years. Jim has also varnished the stairway hand rail and repainted our west door and the windowsills, tasks which were recommended for the second year following our Quinquennial inspection. Paul Rainford has repainted the radiator behind our prayer desk. An exterior light has also been fitted and new plaques are to be provided for our garden of rest.

Thanks also to the ladies who spent many hours making sure our church looked at its best for Easter Day. The next major task is for the refurbishment of our cupola and estimates are being sought. Jim has also agreed to become our representative on the Community Hall committee.

## Bob announces his retirement

We were simply "showered" with news and events in April, not least the decision of Bob to retire from his house for duty post this summer; his last service "in post" at Hollinfare will be on July 19. Naturally, we hope we shall welcome him back in the years ahead.

Leading up to and during Eastertide we have enjoyed greeting Norma who has been taking part in our services as part of her journey towards becoming a deacon.

We were also glad to share another service of Holy Communion at All Saints; hopefully this initiative of Bob will be continued long after his departure.

The Very Rev Simon Robinson was consecrated the Bishop of Warrington at York Minster on the last day of the month (more of this on page 12) and, looking ahead, our diocese have invited all of us to express our thoughts on the appointment of our next Bishop of Liverpool on line on May 7 from 6.0 to 7.30 pm; book via Eventbrite. There have been several Fit for Mission meetings and Roy has compiled an update for us on pages 6 and 7.



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## Diary dates for May

- 3 Holy Communion 9.30
- 7 Thursday service and lunch Noon
- 10 Holy Communion 9.30
- 14 Ascension Day service
- 17 Holy Communion 9.30  
Patronal Festival
- 24 Holy Communion 9.30 Pentecost
- 31 Holy Communion 9.30 Trinity Sunday



### Readers

- 3 ROY: Acts 7 55-end, John 14 1-14
- 10 MIKE: Acts 17 22-31, John 14 15-21
- 17 RAINFORDS: Acts 1 6-14, John 17 1-11
- 24 ROY: Acts 2 1-21, John 20 19-23
- 31: ALAN: 2 Corinthians 13 11-end, Matthew 28 16-end

### Cleaning rota

- 3 SHEILA, VIRGINIA, IRENE C
- 10 to 31 VACANT

### Annual and PCC meetings

11 2.0

### Coffee morning

23 10.0



### Prayers

- 3 ROY
- 10 ROY
- 17 ROY
- 24 ROY
- 31 ROY

Churchwardens, PCC members or anyone involved with children, young people or vulnerable adults will have to complete the Foundation Course which goes into a little more detail.

These courses, which are not difficult, can be completed online or if preferred can be done face to face.

In addition, for some roles Disclosure and Barring (DBS) checks may also be needed.

It is important to note that if you have completed these courses or had a DBS check in the last three years it is not necessary to do them again until the three years has elapsed.

As Parish Safeguarding Officer I will be coming to have a word with all volunteers to find out where they are up to and what they need to do and to help to achieve the required standard.

Traditionally, parishes have said that there is no need for safeguarding to apply because the risk is minimal but unfortunately too many times this has been shown not to be the case.

As Safeguarding Officer I can advise that no safeguarding issues were reported in 2025.

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## Safeguarding

*Roy Evans is now our Safeguarding Officer and here he explains his role and how all of us can play our part in keeping everyone safe here at St Helen's.*

Safeguarding is the duty and obligation to protect everyone and the Church of England and our diocese takes these responsibilities seriously. Historically, to the church's shame, this has not always been the case and the church has been seen to be protecting its own reputation rather than protecting people in its care. To try to ensure that this never happens again the C of E is looking at every aspect of safeguarding and is in the process of updating its policies and procedures.

The Diocese of Liverpool aims to:

§ Promote the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk of harm.

§ Prevent abuse occurring.

§ Protect those at risk of abuse.

§ Respond well to those who have been abused.

If anyone becomes aware of a safeguarding issue and you do not think there is a risk of immediate harm, please speak to a safeguarding professional as soon as possible. If you have significant concerns please report to children's social service or adult's social services without delay. Contact numbers are displayed on the safeguarding posters on our noticeboards and on the diocesan website under safeguarding. The diocesan safeguarding team have issued job descriptions for all the tasks and roles done in church. For each of these the team have given the level of training that must be undertaken to start and continue in these roles. This includes volunteers helping in church. Most people need only take the Basic Awareness course which outlines the types of abuse, how to recognise them and what to do if you become aware of possible abuse or if someone says they are being subject to abuse.

## Farewell Bethan

Our PCSO for quite a number of years, Bethan Roberts, decided to leave the force on March 31 and in an email she expressed a fond farewell to all of us at St Helen's.

She assisted, often on a voluntary basis, at our annual Remembrance service around the war memorial, and was a regular visitor to our coffee mornings. She did not disclose her future plans. Government policy insists that every community should have a named PCSO and at the time of going to press we were awaiting her successor to be appointed.

### Cheese and wine evening raises £385

Jim Hall organised yet another of his popular Cheese and Wine evenings on April 17 and it raised £385 for our funds. Thanks to Jim, Sarah and Henry and also our Social Committee for their efforts on the night.

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## Fit for Mission: the update

The Church of England has been aware for decades of numbers declining for both congregations and clergy. This was made worse by the covid pandemic. Few if any churches were able to restore their congregation to pre-covid levels. This allied to ageing congregations and buildings seemed to show a bleak future.

To try to change this, the Church, and Liverpool diocese in particular, decided to start an initiative called Fit For Mission. This involves providing support for parishes to engage in mission work, to help us look at all aspects of our church, to broaden its appeal to the non-church going community and so increase our congregation.

It was also realised that church officers, PCC members and all who help out in church are volunteers and already have heavy commitments in the day to day running of the church and so would find it difficult to take on extra tasks. To help with this, Liverpool diocese decided to make each deanery into a 'Large Single Parish' (LSP) comprising all parishes who wanted to opt in. This would have its own PCC taken from the clergy and PCCs of the individual parishes and would take over most of the day to day operations of individual parishes including accounts, safeguarding, building maintenance etc.. They would have paid employees to look after these functions on behalf of the individual parish and (hopefully) be able to reduce costs due to economies of scale.

It is important to state that although the LSP would have one bank account each individual parish would have its own subaccount which would be ring fenced and all monies raised by the individual parish will go into that subaccount and cannot be used by anyone else. Within any agreed budget the individual parish will have autonomy to spend its own funds as it wishes.

Hollinfare St Helen is part of the Winwick Deanery which is in the 3rd Cohort (unit). Our PCC voted unanimously (with some reservations due to lack of detail) to start on the FFM journey. Twelve of the 14 parishes in the deanery agreed to this, the other two voting to remain as they are. There is a two years' transition period which started on February 1 to prepare for the start of the Large Single Parish. There will be one PCC for the LSP but each individual parish will continue to have its own officers. The LSP will be in an 'Acting As If' phase until it legally comes into being on the February 1 2028. Until then each church PCC will remain legally responsible for the church and its activities.

Many details remain to be decided and various committees etc are working on this. There is a Fit for Mission noticeboard at the back of church for information and the Deanery have set up their own Winwick Deanery website to give updates on FFM. There is also information on the Diocesan website.

It is important to understand that the changes are being funded by the Church Commissioners and so no parish funds are being used. While the PCC has voted to start the FFM journey until the LSP legally comes into being in February 2028 this is not binding and the PCC can vote at any time to leave the 'Acting as If' phase and continue as it is now.

I have agreed to be the St Helens FFM "champion," to act as the focal point for the sharing of information. Please look at the noticeboard and websites and ask me or any PCC member if you require any further information or have any questions.

Roy Evans  
FFM Champion