

St John the Baptist Church, Bishopsteignton Reports to the APCM, Sunday 24th May 2026

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) Administrative Information:

St John the Baptist Church is part of the Haldon Team Ministry, Kenn Deanery in the Diocese of Exeter. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, 3, Moors Park, Bishopsteignton, TQ14 9RH.

PCC Membership:

Team Rector: The Rev'd Carol Green

Team Vicar: The Rev'd Dave Wilkie

Church Wardens: Mr Keith Hutchings (who also has responsibility for *Safeguarding*) and Sir Andrew Ridgway

PCC Treasurer: Mr John Plumb

PCC Secretary: Mrs Helen Boyd

Elected Members: Mrs Rosemary Plumb, Mr Ian Boyd, Mrs Hilary Corlett, Mr Jeff Gibson, Ms Anne Whitaker, Mrs Patricia Morris. Mrs Liz McNamara, Mrs Belinda Wollen, Mr John Stevenson

Deanery Synod Representatives of the PCC: Mrs Liz McNamara and Ms Anne Whitaker

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC comprises ex-officio and elected members (there are currently no co-opted members) in accordance with The Church Representation Rules and operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. It is a *body corporate* established by the Church of England. A three year term of office applies to elected members. It is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Church Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Safeguarding

The Parochial Church Council has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). A copy of the church's Safeguarding Policy is displayed on the Notice Board. DBS and training records of all those involved in the church are held on the Parish Dashboard.

Committees

The Fabric Committee, chaired by Mrs Hilary Corlett, with The Church Architects, Benjamin and Beauchamp, manage the major works required to the church. This committee reports directly to the PCC.

Objectives and activities

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible for co-operating with the Team Rector and the Team Vicar in promoting, within the ecclesiastical Parish, the mission of the Church, pastoral and ecumenical.

Achievements and performance

Church Membership: As at 30th April 2026 the Church Electoral Roll stood at 51.

Report of the Church Electoral Roll Officer

The number currently recorded on the **Electoral Roll is 51**

This is one less than last year, when the Roll was fully reviewed, due to the death of a member of the congregation. There have been no additions.

Anne Whitaker, Electoral Roll Officer

Churchwardens' Report of Church Fabrics, Goods and Ornaments

There have been two main objectives to focus on this year. The removal of the pews and replacing the boiler which is beginning to cost us money to repair. Several of us met with two members of the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) and the Archdeacon at the end of February to discuss why we want to remove the pews and replace them with chairs.

In 2024 we undertook a survey asking all the people involved in the wide-ranging number of activities which go on in the village if the church space became available would they be interested in using it. 90% of those asked said that they would welcome the extra space. The church is the largest space in the village. There is a need to spread out for coffee mornings. Concerts and musical events are held in the church. The pews restrict the number of musicians who are able to play together at any one time and it limits the size of a choir. We need the extra space for the local school. Regular meetings of the various church committees are held in the church and there is a need to be able to make the meetings more comfortable. There is an important need for the vicar to develop imaginative and creative services to encourage children and families into the church.

After much discussion the archdeacon gave us a temporary licence for two years to remove the pews and to prove the importance of the building in developing the use by the community. We have removed the pews and replaced them with 50 wooden chairs. This makes the church available for private hire to try and raise some extra income to help keep us going.

Once the church became available the space has been used twice by the Bishopsteignton Players, being able to build scenery to enhance their dramatic performances. The Art group held a week's exhibition filling the area with paintings.

In September, for the Heritage Day, the church was used for a talk about Nelson's heroes, a coffee morning and a Knit&tink session in the afternoon. We can now move the chairs for musicians, a projector and screen and tables and stools for the children during Create Church and baptisms.

In August we again met with the DAC to discuss the need for a new boiler as the present one has been failing and giving us some very cold services. The Church of England Synod has set a net zero carbon target for 2030. This means we are being encouraged to look at making our heating more efficient and less carbon intensive. This requires making a decision on the best system for our church. At the moment an air heat pump seems the way forward so we are researching the most appropriate system and looking at costs. The cost of such a system will be considerably more than replacing with a gas boiler.

We now have a company called West Access who are coming twice a year to carry out a survey of the condition of the fabric. They clear out the guttering and pipes etc. and report back if they find any structural defects.

Following a survey by Audio Visual Direct we had a completely new sound system installed in September. This involved replacing all amplifier equipment and microphones. The system is controlled by a tablet so that volumes can be altered as necessary during a service or concert.

In completing the Statistics for Mission survey our worshipping community is 53 of whom 77% are age 70+ !! Not many people to finance the running of the church. We had an excellent attendance over Christmas with 176 people attending the special Christmas services.

Our Harvest Festival took place in October and the churchwardens sent out the Harvest Appeal letter which raised an amazing £9859.

Remembrance was better attended this year with a church service before going up to the war memorial. We extend our grateful thanks to Rosy Plumb and Helen Boyd, and their team, for all they do to make the All Souls remembrance service a special and moving occasion.

The churchwardens owe a debt of gratitude to all those groups of people who keep the church alive - the members of the PCC – the Sacristy ladies who have everything ready for the Holy Communion services and who keep the linen and silverware in pristine condition – Fran Edwards who continues to deliver plants and flowers to those who are unwell in the village – the Duty Wardens who help us run the church every Sunday – the wonderful tea ladies – the flower ladies who make the church look so bright and inspiring - the bellringers who make such a joyful sound on a Sunday morning - and especially Nick Gardiner who is always there to provide music and of course Rev Dave who has brought a breath of fresh air into our church life.

Inventory and Terrier report: All the contents of the church are recorded in the NADFAS document. We are not aware of losing anything this year!

Keith Hutchings and Andrew Ridgway Church Wardens

Reports from Church Organisations

Bellringing

Bellringing has continued to be successful (although sadly we do not have any younger ringers in training) and it has been only occasionally that we have had to cancel service ringing or practices for lack of numbers. There are 13 people who ring more-or-less regularly under the guidance of our Ringing Master Peter Brown. There have been 8 visits from ringing bands from other churches – two of them rang “quarter peals” - and several from individual bellringers who have been on holiday in the area. As an experiment, the Mid-Devon Branch of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers held a practice here on a Friday morning and this was so successful it has become a regular bi-monthly event. The annual inspection and maintenance showed that the bells and associated frames, wheels and ropes are in good condition.

A number of spare wooden “stays” have gone missing: does anyone know where they are?

Roger Avery, Tower Captain

Choir

Throughout the year the choir continued to sing at all of the traditional sung services. This amounted to two or three services every month, with occasional extra services such as the Maundy Thursday evening service when the Stripping of the Altar is accompanied by beautiful Taize chants.

Once or twice the church was converted into a theatrical performance space, with the chancel hidden by a screen. Undeterred, we perched ourselves wherever we could amidst stage sets and carried on with piano accompaniment.

In January we sang at the funeral of Iris Miller, who is fondly remembered for having been the organist for many years. Iris was a remarkable lady: she had to learn and play all of the music from memory because of sight difficulties. At the beginning of May we sang at a Memorial Service for Dennis Knapp, who had been our crucifier for many years. The service started poignantly with one of our current members, Peter Cahill carrying in the cross. As the year went on we sang at the funeral of two other choir members Gordon Thorton and Jean Bell.

The build up to Christmas saw some enjoyable extra activities and services. First, we had a happy morning singing carols at Bishopsteignton House then going on to the Old Commercial Inn for coffee and cakes.

The Carol Service was a good musical success. We sang a beautiful choir anthem: the old Normandy tune version of Away in a Manger. One extra singer a lady from Dawlish Choral Society joined us for this and thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

We are a small, friendly group. Together we all strive to enhance the musical life of our church and its services.

Nicholas Gardiner, Organist and Choir Master

Church Flower Arrangers

Church flower arrangers are a small group of women who work tirelessly to make sure as far as possible, when permitted, there are always flowers in place for the pleasure of those attending services or visitors just popping in to admire our lovely church.

As far as possible we use garden flowers and greenery and when necessary, bought British flowers. This is in keeping with the wishes of the Church of England.

Margaret Rawlings

Bishopsteignton Parish Chronicle

The Chronicle has maintained its popularity with an increasing number of articles from different organisations in the village. The number of pages is now regularly 44. The introduction of the directory helps to keep you all in touch with what is going on in the village and who to contact.

We have 625 copies printed each month. The subscription for 2025-2026 remained at a cost of £10 for 12 months, as it will be for 2026-2027. It works out at 83p per month. Excellent value!!

Our printers - Black Swan printers in Dawlish - provide great support in putting the Chronicle together and I am grateful for them delivering them to the church each month.

Many thanks are due to everyone who sends in articles each month and to my wonderful team of 30 distributors who go out in all weathers to deliver between them 614 copies each month. And to Carol Kingman and Pam Tate for giving up their time every month to help batch them up. Also grateful thanks to Avril Avery for many years of support.

Keith Hutchings

Review of the Year 2025

The PCC held 6 full meetings in 2025, together with a shorter meeting following the APCM. Average attendance for the full meetings was 86%.

The PCC have met the full Common Fund request of £39,381 in 2025. Social & Fund Raising events have continued to be held.

The Rev'd Carol Green (Team Rector) The Rev'd Dave Wilkie (Team Vicar) Keith Hutchings (Churchwarden) Sir Andrew Ridgeway (Churchwarden)

