

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST
MIDSOMER NORTON**

**ANNUAL REPORT
and
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
of the
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

for the year ending 31st December 2023

Incumbent:

Rev Guy C Scott

Bank:

National Westminster PLC
3 High Street
Midsomer Norton
Radstock
BA3 2LE

Independent Examiner:

Mr Paul Justin

The PCC has adopted the safeguarding policies and procedures of The Church of England

Registered Charity 1143117

Background

St John's Church, Midsomer Norton has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, Guy Scott, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Membership

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. Members of the PCC are either *ex officio* or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent:	Rev Guy Scott	Chairman
Assistant Curate	Rev Philip Hopper	
Churchwardens: up to APCM 2023	Mrs Beth Davies Mrs Hilary Denning	Vice-chairman Vice-chairman
Churchwardens: after APCM 2023	Mrs Hilary Denning Mrs Pat Clynes	Vice-chairman Vice-chairman
Deanery Synod Representatives: up to APCM 2023	Beth Davies, Hilary Denning, Carol Moore	
Deanery Synod Representatives: after APCM 2023	Hilary Denning, Carol Moore	
Elected members: up to APCM 2023	Linda Broadhurst, Robert Broughton, Pat Clynes, Sally Curtis, Heather Hill, Margaret Marshall, David Moore, John Shears	
Elected members: after APCM 2023	Linda Broadhurst, Robert Broughton, Sally Curtis, Lesley Garvey, Kay Harvey, Heather Hill, Margaret Marshall, David Moore, Ann Munton	
Treasurer	Kay Harvey	
Secretary	Margaret Marshall	
Safeguarding Officer	Ann Munton	

The PCC has adopted the safeguarding policies and procedures of the Church of England

Committees

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. There has to be a minimum of five members, the incumbent and church wardens being *ex officio*. It is usual to have the PCC treasurer and secretary on the Standing Committee. The committee has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

Standing Committee members
up to APCM 2023

Rev Guy Scott, Rev Philip Hopper,
Beth Davies, Hilary Denning,
John Shears, Margaret Marshall

Standing Committee members
after APCM 2023

Rev Guy Scott, Rev Philip Hopper,
Pat Clynes, Hilary Denning,
Kay Harvey, Margaret Marshall

Electoral Roll and Church Attendance

There are 91 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, of whom 19 are not resident in the parish. The Churchwardens are asked to count their congregations annually and also assess the number of regular attenders. In 2023 the number of regular churchgoers was assessed at 84. These figures partially establish the Parish Share to the Diocesan Common Fund. The other factor is self-assessed ability to pay. When the new rating system was introduced in 2012 with categories ranging from A to G, Midsomer Norton was in category E. A document from the Head of Finance and Operations at the Diocese in June 2023 asked the PCC to consider into which Socio-Economic Category St John's should be placed. It was agreed that we should be in Category D. (Evenly placed – mid point)

Safeguarding

A review of safeguarding activity in the last year.

DBS Checks

DBS checks carried out this year	6
DBS checks due but not yet carried out	1

Safeguarding Training

Training Course	No. of people completed training
Safeguarding Basic Awareness	2
Safeguarding Foundation	3
Domestic Abuse	2

One volunteer has yet to complete Safeguarding Leadership training.

A face to face Basic Awareness session was offered to church volunteers however there were no attendees.

Safeguarding news

We have been using an online tool called the Parish Dashboard to demonstrate our compliance with safeguarding policy and practice for some time now. Now use of the dashboard is to be made mandatory. This year the dashboard has had additional features added called a safeguarding hub. This tool allows the parish to:

- Keep track of DBS checks and safeguarding training
- Create role descriptors and person specifications
- Track the safe recruitment of volunteers.

The PCC has complied with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance as evidenced by the Parish Dashboard (Level 3).

Review of the Year

The full PCC met 6 times during the year. The average attendance was 89%. The Standing Committee met on 6 occasions (one being extraordinary), between PCC meetings, and minutes of these meetings were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary.

Business matters covered, Finance, Parish Share, Church Hall, Open & Closed Churchyards, the Parish Safeguarding Policy, Health and Safety, St John's School, Parish Office, Parish Giving Scheme, Church Clock Repair and the Launchpad Initiative.

Quiz Night, Lent Lunches, St Georges Day Lunch, Coronation Service, Coronation Tea, Lunchtime Concerts, Bishop Michael's Visit, Gift Day, Concert for CHSW, Cheese & Wine Evening with Silent Auction, Summer Evensong, Tower Tours, Pulpit Swop, Harvest Lunch, Choral Evensong with Midsomer Choral Society and Christmas Tree Festival all took place during the year.

Financial Statements (see separate sheets)

Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments (Churchwardens)

Last year we completed our usual maintenance tasks to safe and legal requirements.

Fire extinguishers were found to be satisfactory although some may need replacing in 2024.

PAT testing was completed and new smoke alarms were fitted in the choir vestry and church hall.

The organ and pianos, here and in the church hall, have been tuned.

The door which gives access to the tower roof finally gave in to the spring gales and collapsed so a sturdy new door and frame are being made.

The clock is still in need of repair but it is an extensive job and will need a faculty from the diocese before work can begin. This is in hand.

The boiler had a small repair in January after failing during a cold spell. It was serviced in the summer.

The gutters have been regularly cleared of fallen leaves and debris.

Work was undertaken in the church hall which is beginning to show its age. The rotten weatherboarding was falling off and allowing water ingress. The rotten battens behind the boarding have all been replaced and modern insulation installed. Sturdier wooden cladding has replaced the old cladding and the wall is sound outside now.

There has been some unauthorised hedge felling in the open churchyard which although it hasn't damaged anything as far as we can see, will need to be cleared away from graves which have been covered with the debris.

All else is in good order.

Deanery Synod Report

There were three meetings during the year, all held in cafe style in church halls rather than in churches. This seems to work well as members find it easier to meet with those in other Benefices.

In March the meeting was held at St John's church hall, MSN. Hilary gave a short account about St John's and its activities.

It was reported that it was the tenth anniversary of the Somer Valley Foodbank, and the introduction of the Fuelbank Foundation. The Foodbank this year is being supported by Thatcher and Hallam. At the beginning of the year the Foodbank was going well, with stock levels, finance and volunteer support.

Deployment of Resources. It was reported that the Diocese was struggling financially and was exploring ways to help the situation. The Deanery needs to lose an additional half post in the next 5 years which may necessitate further reorganisation of Benefices. It was also reported that there was potential joining of Frome and MSN Deaneries.

In June the meeting was held at St John's Church, Peasedown St John. Paulton Benefice shared a little about what it had been doing. Adam Pitt, Vicar, was attempting to introduce a new style of worship to adapt and become a family-friendly church. St Vigor's Church, Stratton on the Fosse would be closing and members will be encouraged to join Chilcompton.

The Foodbank was busier than ever. The first Fuelbank voucher had been issued.

The October meeting was held in St John's Church hall, Chilcompton. The Waterside Benefice reported that the new Benefice had been together for 18 months and was now working even closer. They have a new Curate.

The main item on the Agenda was Ministry to Children and Young People. Stephen Miles, Chilcompton's Curate and a former youth leader working in Yeovil, shared experiences of encouraging churches to work together to support youth work.

The Foodbank had a huge increase in the numbers of vouchers being issued, mainly for reasons of mental health and the cost of living. Volunteers were needed to help in the warehouse.

The 2023 Annual Report was approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by

Rev G C Scott

Date