
St. Eustace Church Trustees Annual Report and Financial Report

of

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St
Eustace Church, Ibberton Blandford, Dorset DT11 0EN**

For the year ended 31st December 2023

Registered Charity no. 634175



Website: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/9314/>

Incumbent: Priest In Charge-Position Vacant

Independent examiner: Mr R Allingham MA ACIB

Bankers: Lloyds Bank PLC,

6 Market Pl,

Blandford Forum

DT11 7EE

St Eustace Church

Trustees Annual Report for 2023

Aim and purposes

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Benefice Ministry Team while the Hazelbury Bryan and the Hillside Parishes is in interregnum (The house of Duty Minister retired at the end on 2021) The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St. Eustace Church, Ibberton.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St. Eustace. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve all the community. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work in the community including the provision of the village fete, offering food and fun at Easter with a Children's service, Special Kid's service at Easter, Harvest & Christmas, with a Family Service now on the third Sunday of the Month, Carol Singing, a Community Christmas Event and refreshments now following all services. Some special fabric fund events have occurred: a Quiz Night, a Summer Concert in the Church organised by a local choir that some of the PCC sing with and a September Soirée in the Treasurers home preformed by the Church Organist and her cousin. All have been well supported by the local and wider community. Also, a member of the community organised a Safari Supper the money raised being sent to two local Charities that the church supports.
- Maintaining the fabric of the church building as a historic centre and focus of life in the village.

A Fabric Fund is now established for people in our community who value the church building and wish to help with its ongoing maintenance. The funds will also be used to contribute towards a project to stabilise the North Aisle and repair a window where matched funding is required when the church applies for grants in Spring 2024

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

The services for the main festivals have had the bonus of encouraging families from outside the benefice to attend church. This has led to lively services and a feeling of the wider community making the most of our beautiful Church. We have established pattern of morning services with Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month and a family service on the third Sunday. We have been experimenting with the format of the Family Service and now include light refreshments following both services.

The average regular weekly attendance, counted during October was 13 attendies, the total number attending on Harvest Sunday was 15 (8 adults & 8 children). Over the course of the year we have seen a steady rise in service attendance and it has been a great encouragement to welcome new families to St. Eustace.

Christmas is a very special time of celebration where many sections of the community come together to join in the services. A Christmas Gathering was planned but unfortunately many people in the village surcomed to COVID so the celebration was cancelled. The Christmas Day Service was well attended by 48 people, including adults and families.

Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers

It was with great delight that the Church enjoyed two Baptismal and one Wedding Service during in 2023

There were no church funerals burials of ashes; or candidates confirmed during 2023.

Mission and Evangelism

The year had many community highlights a King Charles III Coronation BBQ organised by 'The Ibberton' and a Bring and Share Tea in the Village Hall. Many members of the Church community were involved with the arrangements. The first Saturday in August the Three Villages Fete at the Village Hall bringing the Churches of Belchalwell, Ibberton and Woolland together, not only to raise money for our respective churches but to bring the communities together, renewing friendships and welcoming new members of our small rural parishes. Fortunately, the rain held off in the two hours the fete occurred!

Missionary and outreach work in the community includes the provision of the village fete, offering food and fun at Easter with a Children's service, Special Kid's service at Easter, Harvest & Christmas, with a Family Service now on the third Sunday of the Month, Carol Singing, a Community Christmas Event organised (cancelled due to COVID) and refreshments now following all services. A Lent lunch was organised in aid of a local Woman's Refuge and the Benefice organised an Ascension Day service followed by breakfast both occurred in the Village Hall and where very well attended. Some special fabric fund events have occurred: a Quiz Night, a Summer Concert in the Church organised by a local choir including some PCC

singers and a September Soirée performed by the Church Organist and her cousin in Treasurers home. All have been well supported by the local and wider community. A member of the community organised a Safari Supper the money raised being sent to two local Charities that the church supports, the Weldmar Hospice care and the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance. The Church hosted a tea, cake and produce stall to greet the Riders and Striders taking part in the Dorset Historic Churches Trust Sponsored event. Members of the community visited to cheer them on as well as catching up with local news.

Provision of the church building for people to enjoy

We celebrated 2 baptisms in our church during the year and 1 wedding. Our Church continues to be appreciated by our parishioners and many others, as a space where life events are celebrated with joy and thanksgiving. Being able to offer refreshments following the service, following the donation of a caravan water barrel and drink making equipment that are stored in the church, has meant that the church services have become a more social able event.

During the year the Church has hosted a beautiful Summer Concert to a packed church of members from the local and wider community and special Kid's services for Easter, Harvest and Christmas occurred in which the grow-ups helped out.

As the year drew to a close, we are continuing exploring and widening the use of the church building by considering the installation of a composting toilet. Concerts, retreats, overnight stays especially as our location is close to the Dorset Ridgeway.

It is important to us that the church is available for private prayer not just to the church family but to the wider visiting community. To this end the church building is always open and the many entries in the Visitors' Book testify to this.

'Lovely church very tranquil, beautiful and peaceful place' Alex Burns

'On a walk and what a wonderful space' Sue Irwin & Rick Porrp

'A pleasure to find open, thank you' Lawrence Hunt

'Beautiful and peaceful place' Simon Benfield

'Timeless! Beautiful!' Celeste and Neil Young

'We sat looking at the lovely view many times, beautiful!' C. Spackman

Deanery Synod

St Eustace Church has two representatives who attend the Deanery Synod meetings. One of them is on the Deanery Committee and has the role of Deanery Information Officer.

Spatial reordering of the church building and future projects

To encourage families to feel comfortable to bring young children to services, especially kids' worship, a small area in the North Aisle continues to be used. It is arranged with soft matting, a large wooden box, containing toys and books and a small table with children's height chairs. As the local children grow up a little craft activity will be experimented with

during the Holy Communion service. During and after the service the area is well used bringing young and old together. Display tables have been added that can also be used to distribute refreshments. These tables are also used to display Jam and Preserves that have been donated by members of the church community. Visitors are encouraged to place a donation in the box in exchange for the produce.

Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish

In such a small community of 56 homes, people are acquainted and supportive of each other.

Provision of tangible support to the poor and needy

The Harvest produce was collected on behalf of The Vale Pantry and Carol singing donations supported the local charity 'The Friends of Blandford Hospital'. Unfortunately, due to an outbreak of COVID in the village, the Carol Singing was unable to take place. Instead, the community kindly donated monies.

Other charitable giving

A bi-monthly digital Ibberton, Belchalwell & Woolland Newsletter has been revived enabling the local news of our three communities to be communicated in. This collated news, comment, advertised events and features from the three communities. Paper copies are printed for members of the community who prefer to read their news in this format. It is delivered via email and What's app and a copy is available on the Village Hall Website. This was a free publication compiled on behalf of the Church to maintain links between the church family and those who have not yet felt the need to take part in what we do.

Two members of the congregation took part in the annual 'Ride & Stride' event organised by the Dorset Historic Churches Trust in September. One person visited churches on horseback and the other on foot.

Ecumenical Relationships

St Eustace Church, Ibberton is one of six churches in the benefice of Hazelbury Bryan and The Hillside Parishes. Opportunities to come together are through Lent Lunches, Benefice Services, fund raising events and bible study groups.

Optional Information

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is. In particular we want to mention our churchwarden Mrs Alice Church and the Lay-Chairman Mr Derek Old who have worked so tirelessly on our behalf and Mr Christopher McCann who has helped us all to understand the church's accounts and its finances. The PCC would especially like to thank Mr Andy Old, under his father's direction,

has become the legs and hands of his father Mr Derek Old over the year maintaining the church and its grounds.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. Eustace the membership of the PCC consists of a clergy / lay team, we are currently in interregnum, a churchwarden, and members elected by 30 members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The full PCC met eight times during the year with an average level of attendance of 75%

Administrative information

We have enjoyed an improved year of fundraising which is encouraging in the light of the renovation work needed for the Church. We understand that there is reluctance on the part of some non-church goers to give money directly to the Church of England. In view of this, the PCC has set up a Fabric Fund which can only be spent on maintaining the fabric of St. Eustace.

We are now starting to encourage, first the PCC and then the community, to sign up to the Parish Giving Scheme which will help greatly with our collection of gift aid.

Looking Forward

In 2024 we are focusing our efforts as a community on the renovation of the Church and ensuring we have the finances to support this.

We look forward to the appointment of a house for duty Rector, hopefully in place by Easter, we are sure this will be a great help to St. Eustace in moving forward and making the most of our Church. Our Benefice will have then been without a leader for two and a half years. I am sure this leadership will help us grow the church community.

Financial Review

Total income for the year improved, compared to 2022, by around 38%. The net position resulted in a Surplus of £1,546 compared to a deficit last year of £1,557. Both Fees and Fundraising activities showed a combined increase totalling £3,807. We paid our full Church share in 2023 of £4947, whereas in 2022 we paid £6532.

We have had an ongoing complaint against our electricity supplier for overcharging. This has now been resolved and we should receive a credit of £1,442.00.

We have created a separate bank account for the Fabric Fund. Funds in this account may only be spent on the Fabric of the building. This is intended to assist our fund-raising efforts.

The other factor which we have to face is a substantial repair cost owing to maintenance issues which have become urgent. Plans have been drawn up to deal with the structural problems which have been identified. However, we will be heavily dependent on grants to fund this work over the next twelve months.

We increased our charitable donations which amounted to £1061 for the year

Repairs to the fabric of the church building

Context

On 1 October, 2021 Marcus Chantrey from Benjamin & Beauchamp Architects, Wedmore, Somerset visited St Eustace and conducted the Quinquennial Survey. During 2022 Derek Old has been kindly working through the list of regular maintenance required.

‘Structurally, the church has been subject to movement in the past and whilst a number of the walls lean, the architect’s report especially related to ongoing moment to the north aisle. The advice of a structural engineer now promptly needs to be sought as the church has some serious structural issues that need to be addressed.’

A Structural Engineer visited on 1st December, 2022 and again with a builder on 3rd December. They also examined a window in the North Wall of the nave. The Salisbury Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches (DAC) have been informed and will visit in early 2023.

2023

On 9th January, 2023 DAC committee visited the church along with the Structural Engineer to discuss the stability of the building. It was decided to that an Interim Facility would be applied for to enable two test pits to be dug externally at either end of the North Aisle at the location of the downpipes drains.

On 22nd February, 2023 the two pits were dug and it appeared that two downpipe traps where visible, one on top of the other at the North Western end of the North Aisle, the lower appeared to be broken and a void existed. A report with recommendations for remedial work structural work to be under taken was created.

On 24th April, 2023 the DAC provided advice which recommended that the PCC, working with the Structural Engineer and Inspecting Architect, devise a plan to fill the void under the drain and monitor. Unfortunately, the Structural engineer did not agree with this plan and felt that because his total recommendations were not being adopted his operating insurance would be invalidated if the scheme failed meaning he would then be personally liable.

It was decided to explore the condition of the drains and their termination. On 18th August, 2023 the drains were examined with a camera and flushed out with water. The three drains on the North side of the Church join and terminate behind the yew tree and then discharge to the side of the Church over a bank and into a field. Their condition was as new probably installed in the 1930/1950’s or perhaps when the church was refurbished in 1907.

Unfortunately, the Structural Engineer felt that as his total scheme was not adopted, he was unable to continue working with the Church. At the same time the Inspecting Architect started his own company. It was decided to explore other Inspecting Architects and Structural Engineers, located in the immediate locality, who the PCC felt they would be able to work with and who fully understood the brief.

Early in 2024 a meeting has been arranged in the Church where DAC, the Inspecting Architect and the Structural Engineer will meet and discuss the way forward.

The PCC will continue to work with the DAC towards a faculty application, once the full extent of the works that are required to stabilise the North Aisle are known a Specification and the Schedule of Works will be devised. Possible grants to assist with the works have begun to be explored, some are 100%, others 50% of the total costs. Any works of this nature will involve substantial costs which for a small rural community is going to involve major fund raising.

Structure, governance and management of the charity

The PCC is a charity, but is excepted from registering with the Charity Commission within the meaning of the section 30 of the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Ex Officio members

Incumbent:	Interregnum	Chairman
Warden:	Mrs Alice Church	
	Mr Derek Old (retired 2022)	Vice Chairman

Elected Members

Mrs C Old – Sidesman
Mr C McCann - Hon. Treasurer
Mrs L Fraser
Mr C Church
Mrs J Hill c/o
Mr T Hill c/o
Mrs H Sinkinson

Deanery Synod

Mrs M Newman – Hon. Secretary & Electoral Role Officer
Mrs C Doran

Observer

Mrs J Waker

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists 5 of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent/priest-in-charge, curate, lay readers licensed to officiate in the church), the churchwardens and members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods and members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

The PCC met eight times during the year.

This Trustees' Annual Report was **approved** by the PCC

signed on their behalf by Mrs Alice Church, Churchwarden

.....*A. Church*.....

Date.....*12/04/24*.....

It is with sadness that Ibberton and the wider community said goodbye to Derek Walter Old B.E.M. on 8th March, 2024. He was a long-term resident of our small community, who devoted his life to service of others with titles of Churchwarden, PCC Vice - Chairman, Trustee of the Village Hall and Chairman of Ibberton Parish Council. These were just not titles but roles he fulfilled by unstinting quite service; practical and theoretical. A true gentleman with a very kind soul who always had time to pass the time of day and nothing was too much trouble.

St. Eustace Church

St. Eustace Church, Ibberton, Blandford, Dorset DT11 0EN

Registered Charity no. 634175

SUMMARY OF ST. EUSTACE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2023

	<u>£</u>
<u>DONORS</u>	5,991.66
<u>FEES & Grants</u>	
Weddings	697.00
Christenings	270.75
Memorial	88.00
Warm Spaces Grant	<u>335.00</u>
	1,390.75
<u>FUND RAISING</u>	
Concerts	1,515.00
Fete	558.00
Safari Supper	895.00
Quiz	873.00
Other	<u>484.50</u>
	4,325.50
<u>INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS</u>	<u>1,061.47</u>
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>£12,769.38</u>
<u>TOTAL NET ASSETS AT 01/01/23</u>	<u>£21829.62</u>
<u>RECEIPTS AND CREDIT BALANCES</u>	<u>£34,599.00</u>

St. Eustace Church

St. Eustace Church, Ibberton, Blandford, Dorset DT11 0EN

Registered Charity no. 634175

<u>RUNNING COSTS</u>	£
Heating and lighting	1,100.26
Insurance	1,587.18
Maintenance	2,052.00
Church Share	4,947.00
Charitable donations	1,061.00
Sundry Expenses	<u>475.50</u>
<u>TOTAL COSTS</u>	<u>£11,222.94</u>

SURPLUS OF RECEIPTS OVER COSTS **£ 1,546.44**

<u>TOTAL NET ASSETS AT 31/12/23</u>	£
Cash in hand	108.45
Lloyds Treasurers Account	311.10
Lloyds Instant Access Account	7,484.03
Lloyds Fabric Fund Account	2,625.52
Bath Building Society	<u>12,846.96</u>
<u>TOTAL NET ASSETS AT 31/12/23</u>	<u>£23,376.06</u>

PAYMENTS AND CREDIT BALANCES **£34,599.00**

Note In addition to the assets listed above, the Salisbury Diocese controls the Curfew Trust Fund on behalf of the Ibberton PCC. The value of this fund at 31/12/23 was £23,848.59. Dividends from this fund are paid to the PCC.

St. Eustace Church

St. Eustace Church, Ibberton, Blandford, Dorset DT11 0EN

Registered Charity no. 634175

DONORS 2023

	<u>£</u>
Collections	833.72
Offertory Box	46.90
Standing order non-tax paying donors	480.00
Standing Order Gift Aid Donors	3,626.00
Parish Giving Scheme	785.04
Sundry donation	<u>220.00</u>
<u>TOTAL DONATIONS</u>	<u>£ 5,991.66</u>

INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS

	<u>£</u>
Bank Interest	93.94
Bath Building Society	315.65
CBF Investment Dividend	<u>651.88</u>
<u>TOTAL INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS</u>	<u>£1,061.47</u>

St. Eustace Church

St. Eustace Church, Ibberton, Blandford, Dorset DT11 0EN

Registered Charity no. 634175

INCOME 2023

Month	Collections	Off Box	Bank GA	Parish Giving	Bank non GA	Interest	CBF Div
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
January	47.00	-	748.00	6.17	40.00	4.79	-
February	72.00	-	198.00	-	40.00	4.41	164.79
March	30.00	-	198.00	-	40.00	4.22	-
April	167.12	-	248.00	-	40.00	5.90	-
May	45.00	-	243.00	-	40.00	5.45	161.20
June	101.55	10.00	213.00	30.87	40.00	6.16	-
July	13.00	30.40	203.00	271.25	40.00	6.95	-
August	32.00	6.50	403.00	21.25	40.00	8.02	161.20
September	76.05	-	253.00	17.00	40.00	10.65	-
October	53.00	-	263.00	396.00	40.00	11.69	-
November	24.50	-	153.00	21.25	40.00	14.83	164.69
December	172.50	-	503.00	21.25	40.00	10.77	-
Total	£833.72	£46.90	£3,626.00	£785.04	£480.00	£93.94	£651.88

This Financial Report for the year ended 31st December 2023, including the notes following, was approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by the Churchwarden.

A. Church
.....

Date *12/04/24*
.....

Reserves Policy: it is the policy of this PCC to keep three months running costs in the unrestricted reserves to cover unforeseen emergencies. In view of the state of the building the PCC are keeping the current restricted reserves of approximately £35,000 and with the aim to increase these eventually to £50,000. This policy will be reviewed in twelve months' time. March, 2024

**Independent Examiner's Report to members/trustees of St. Eustace Church,
Ibberton Parochial Church Council.**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for St. Eustace, Ibberton PCC (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2023

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act)

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
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.

Signed:



Roy Allingham, MA. ACIB

Primrose Cottage, Belchalwell

1st April 2024