
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 2025

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 2025

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. It 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, the Family Service now on the third Sunday of the Month offers particular focus on Easter, Harvest and the Christmas service, a Benefice Mother's Day service, Carol Singing and a Community Christmas Event. Refreshments now following all the services. Some special fabric fund events have occurred to use as seed money when applying for grants towards the reroofing of the North Chapel, North Aisle, the South side of the nave and the porch including a concert and a Bridge and Tea afternoon. All have been well supported by the local and wider community. Blank cards showing the church have been purchased to sell and use as appeal 'Thank You' cards.
- Maintaining the fabric of the church building as a historic centre and focus of life in the village.

A Fabric Fund is now well established for people in our community who value the church building and wish to help with its ongoing maintenance. The funds have been used to contribute towards projects to stabilise the North Aisle, repair a window, restore access to the bell tower roof, undertake maintenance and repairs to the roof and drainage, replacing of a frayed bell rope, new key made for the North Chapel door, main door was serviced along with the 1st World War memorial clock. Three yew trees have been trimmed and an ash tree removed. Two PCC members kindly donated and gift aided the funds to pay for this work.

Funds are now required to repair and relay the North Chapel, North Aisle, the South side of the nave roofs and the porch. When applying for grants towards these projects the fabric fund is used as seed / match funding money.

The church received a 75% grant to survey the windows and monuments from the Pilgrim Trust.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

The services for the main festivals have seen families from inside and outside of the benefice attending church. They are lively and create the feeling of the wider community making the most of our beautiful Church. We have established a pattern of morning services with Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month and a family service on the third Sunday. Both services are followed by light refreshments. At Easter we have attracted families with an Easter Egg hunt in church yard. The PCC have registered with ECO Church and completed an initial assessment towards the bronze award. Some progress has been made hopefully in 2026 will see us working towards completing the award.

The average regular weekly attendance, counted during October was 9 adult attendees and 3 children, the total number attending on Harvest Sunday was 9 adults. Over the course of the year we have seen a steady decline in service attendance with people dying, too infirm to attend services, moving away or joined the congregation of the local town that has a Rector. Recently some houses in the village have changed hands with families moving in hopefully they may join the congregation in 2026. This would be helped by having a Rector appointed for Hazelbury Bryan and the Hillside Parishes during 2026, after a 4 year wait!

Christmas is a very special time of celebration where many sections of the community come together to join in the services. This year the carol singing was held in the village pub garden 'The Ibberton' and attracted adults and children from the immediate community as well as others who were having meals in the pub the proceeds went to 'The Friends of Blandford Hospital' and 'Dorset and Wiltshire Air Ambulance'. The Christmas Day Family Service was well attended by 37 adults and 12 children with the collection going to the Roof Project.

Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers

It was with great delight that the Church enjoyed one Baptismal service during 2025.

No weddings or confirmations occurred during the year.

Mission and Evangelism

On the first Saturday in August the Three Villages Fete occurred 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. The reintroduction of competitions linked to flowers and vegetables has continued to be a great success.

A special service celebrating St Eustace occurred on 21st September (St Eustace Day 20th September) Bishop Stephen – Bishop of Salisbury led the service followed by a tea served in the village hall. Contractors and granting bodies along with the local community were all invited to this thanksgiving service to celebrate the successful completion of the £100,000 North Aisle Stabilization project.

Missionary and outreach work in the community includes the provision of the village fete, offering food and fun at Easter, Harvest and Christmas following the Family Service on the third Sunday of the Month and Carol Singing. Refreshments now follow all services. A Lent lunch was organised by Ibberton assisted by Belchalwell in aid of the Dorset Historic Churches Trust, a family Mothers' Day Service and a Benefice Ascension Day service followed by breakfast all occurred in Ibberton, Belchalwell & Woolland Village Hall and were very well attended. A Summer Concert in the Church organised by a local choir, including some members of the PCC, and a Bridge Afternoon with tea and a raffle occurred in the Village Hall. The Bridge event was very well attended with thirteen tables of four! All events have been well supported by the local and wider community. Two members of the Parish took part as Riders and Striders in the Dorset Historic Churches Trust Sponsored event.

Maintenance of the Church Building

North Aisle Stabilisation Project

Working with Jon Avent, Structural Engineer Mann William & Falcon Structural Repairs a plan of works was created, on 22nd May, 2024 St Eustace Church was granted a faculty.

Following this the PCC were able to begin applying for grant funding, £52,250.00 was achieved by December 2024!

The contract with Falcon was signed on 18th December 2024 – work began on 29th January 2025.

Item	Before VAT	VAT 20%	Total
Structural Works	£59,534.00	£11,906.80	£71,440.80
Contingency Sum	£1,500.00	£300.00	£1,800.00
Structural Engineers fee paid	£2,038.00	£408.00	£2,446.00
Estimate of future professional fees	£10,283.00	£2,057.00	£12,340.00
Grand Total	£73,355.00	£14,671.80	£88,026.80
VAT reclaimable		Total without VAT	£73,355.00

Funds

Income Stream	Description	Unsecured	Secured
PCC Reserves	Present reserves		1,400.00
Congregation	PCC bank account		2,000.00
Fabric Fund	Fabric Fund Account		2,600.00
Fund Raising	Events Planned 2024		4,296.08
Curfew Fund	Invested Fund only for building maintenance		10,000.00
Major donor pledges	Six donors gift aid included		17,410.00
Community Appeal	Local donations gift aid included	7,900.00	3378.90
Erskine Muton Fund Grant	Grant		11,000.00
Benefact Trust	Grant		3,250.00
Garfield Weston	Grant		10,000.00
Dorset Historic Churches Trust	Grant		5,000.00
National Churches Trust	Grant		14,000.00
Buildings For Mission Minor Repairs and Improvements Grant Fund	Grant		9,000.00
Total		7,900.00	93,334.98

The works lasted for 3 months and was very successful.

Tower Project

The three wooden top steps of the tower had rotted with others in the tower eroded by water, the door frame access on to the tower roof needed remedial work along with some roof lead repairs. A visit by Philip Hughes, IA & Jon Avent, Structural engineer along with a stone mason in December 2024 created a plan, the faculty was granted on 6th February. The initial quote was for £10,000 and grant money was secured from Erskine Muton Fund, Dorset Historic Churches Trust and Buildings for Mission Minor Repairs and Improvements Grant Fund. Fortunately, we asked Nigel Jaggard, stone mason, to quote following the faculty application he began work on 28th March 2025 for the initial price of £1,500. He also tidied up the roof replacing broken tiles, pointed the wall following the stabilisation work and undertook work on some drainage problems concerning the downpipe from the tower roof and underground around the North Chapel. Only the Erskine Muton Fund grant was claimed.

At the end of August 2025, a 75% grant were awarded from the Pilgrim Trust to survey the windows and monuments producing a document that can be used to apply for grants in the future.

Yew Trees

Three of the yew trees have been trimmed in the church yard as they had grown too close to the building and hung down too close to the ground. Some branches and bows had died. The large pieces of wood are stacked ready for wood turners to collect for a donation to the church. Two of the PCC donated the funds for this project; gift aid was claimed.

Service of the 1st World War clock, new replacement key for the North Chapel door and refurbished lock for both the North Chapel and main door and replacement bell rope

During the autumn the clock was serviced, and it happened that the gentleman also repaired locks, makes replacement keys and would supply and fit a new bell rope. The North Chapel door now locks, and the bells have been refurbished. The main door's lock has been refurbished.

Reroofing the North Chapel, North Aisle, the South side of the nave roofs and the porch

A list B application was submitted in November 2025 to reroofing the North Chapel, North Aisle, the South side of the nave roofs and the porch. Once the DAC grant the list B application the tendering project will be conducted under direction of Philip Hughes & Samuel Wheeler, IA's. The church has been granted in advance £10,000 from the Dorset Historic Churches Trust towards this project.

Provision of the church building for people to enjoy

We celebrated 1 baptism in our church during the year. 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, 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 services for Easter, including an Easter egg hunt, Harvest and Christmas.

As the year ended, we are continuing exploring and widening the use of the church building by considering the installation of a composting toilet in the bell tower. This would make it possible to hold more 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.

'Visit: from getting married here in August 2011 and our children's christenings – Beautiful church'
Tiffany & Matthew Read Charlton Marshall

'Thank you for being open God Bless' Caroline Barnes Wimborne St Giles

'One of our favourite churches' Lisa & Graham Poole

'Very peaceful resting place' Michael Stewart Northumberland

'Thank you for being open and being so helpful – I love this church in a wood' Ann Fowfar Beaminster

'What a fabulous location!' Lynne Humphries Crewkerne, Somerset

'Beautiful church so lovely to find it open' Susan Rock Australia

'It's good to hear the clock ticking' Williw Wimblington

Deanery Synod

St Eustace Church has one representative who attends the Deanery Synod meetings who also serves 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 to hold the display boards informing visitors of the

restoration projects. An entry table with notices also has jam and preserves donated by members of the church community and visitors are encouraged to place a donation in the box in exchange for the produce. Cards printed of the church are also on display for purchase.

A red velvet curtain has been hung behind the wooden screen beside the altar. A further set of red velvet curtains is planned to hang between the next arch behind the choir stall. The red velvet curtains that at present hang between the North Chapel and Aisle will be used once the new larger curtains have been made by the PCC Chair. A carpenter is quoting to construct a frame to be considered at the January 2026 meeting. These repurposed curtains will shield the nave and chancel from the mass of electric heater wires.

The same carpenter is quoting to create a timber cubical in the bell tower to contain a composting toilet; repurposing the timber from the clock shaft that is not required for the weights since the clock had been electrically automated.

The 5 yearly electrical check is due by 15th March 2026 with the regular fire extinguisher check is booked for 7th January 2026.

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 charities 'The Friends of Blandford Hospital' and the 'Dorset Air Ambulance'.

Other charitable giving

Designated collects were made to the Weldmar Hospice Care Trust and the Mosaic Trust. A lent lunch was held on behalf of the Dorset Historic Churches Trust who have kindly granted money to our recent maintenance projects.

A bi-monthly digital Ibberton, Belchalwell & Woolland Newsletter is collated with 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 rode their horse and the other walked.

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 Mrs Caroline Doran 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 for 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 for 4 years, a churchwarden, and members elected by 14 members of the community 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 seven 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 continuing 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. Some previous regular donators unfortunately have moved away, died or circumstances have changed. Newcomers to the village have not yet become involved.

Share for 2025 was £6,091.00 rise of £748.23 from 2024!! This will be reduced in 2026 to £3,390 (£3,288.30 with early payment) because the church will receive a long-term vacancy relief of £2,521- no vicar for 4 years.

Looking Forward

In 2026 we are focusing our efforts on refurbishing the roofs, porch and rainwater capture, refixing the hopper attached to the tower, repairing the tower louvers, making good cracks and some window and monument repairs as indicated by the recent window and monument reports. The installation of a composing toilet in the bell tower may be possible using a grant from the Pilgrim Trust. This will enable overnight accommodation to be possible. A form of generating further involvement with the church building and an income stream for the church.

In the future the bell tower roof will require relaying with lead and any timber work repaired. It would be lovely to be able to replaster the inside when this work can be afforded. Obviously, this work is dependant on fund raising and grants and when we have the finances to support this work. In March 2026 the Quinquennial report will be undertaken so this will indicate the maintenance needs during the following 5 years. In the same month the church electricity system will require a regular 5-year inspection.

We look forward to the appointment of a house for duty Rector, hopefully in place by the Autumn, 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 four and a half years. I am sure this leadership will help us grow the church community.

Financial Review

Running costs were greatly inflated by Maintenance cost of £68,794. These were funded by a combination of Grants which tolled £42,385, fundraising and utilizing cash balances accumulated in the prior year. Other running cost were well controlled and not out of line with past experience.

However, donations were significantly down. In part this reflects the considerable efforts in the past year to raise funds for the major works which were carried out in 2025 / However, the number of regular donors has reduced, and this appears to be a continuing trend. Total liquid funds available at the year end amounted to a total of £46,823

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	

Elected Members

Mrs C Old – Sidesman
Mr C McCann - Hon. Treasurer
Mrs L Fraser
Mr C Church
Mrs C McCann

Deanery Synod

Mrs M Newman –
Hon. Secretary & Electoral Role Officer, Sidesman
Mrs C Doran – Vice-chairman

Observer

Mrs J Waker

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists 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 seven times during the year.

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

signed on their behalf by Mrs Alice Church, Churchwarden


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Date 19.04.26

St. Eustace Church

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

Registered Charity no. 634175

<u>RUNNING COSTS</u>	£
Heating and lighting	265.27
Insurance	2031.61
Maintenance	93,855.86
Church Share	6091.00
Charitable donations	352.50
Sundry Expenses	<u>239.90</u>
<u>TOTAL COSTS</u>	<u>£102,836.14</u>

<u>TOTAL NET ASSETS AT 31/12/24</u>	£
Cash in hand	287.00
Lloyds Current Accounts	13,150.21
Lloyds Deposit Account	10,222.79
Bath Building Society	<u>13,513.46</u>
<u>TOTAL NET ASSETS AT 31/12/25</u>	£37,173.46

PAYMENTS AND CREDIT BALANCES **£140,009.60**

Note In addition to the assets listed above, the Salisbury Diocese controls the Curfew Trust Fund on behalf of the Ibberton PCC. Dividends from this fund are paid to the PCC. The value of this investment at 31/12/25 was £9,686.41

St. Eustace Church

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

Registered Charity no. 634175

DONORS

	£	£
Collections	1049.66	
Offertory Box	200.11	
Standing order non-tax paying donors	480.00	
Standing Order Gift Aid Donors	3,116.00	
Parish Giving Scheme	1,576.16	
Tax Rebate	3,510.78	
		9,932.71

FEES & Grants

Headstone	172.00	
Grants for repairs	<u>42,385.45</u>	
		42,557.45

FUND RAISING

Concerts	251.00	
Fete	828.47	
Bridge	1,255.01	
Carol Singing	276.24	
Other	<u>190.00</u>	
		2,800.72

St. Eustace Church

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

Registered Charity no. 634175

	£
<u>INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS</u>	
Bank Interest	393.06
Bath Building Society	297.45
CBF Investment Dividend	<u>269.16</u>
	959.67
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>£56,250.55</u>
<u>DEFICIT OF COSTS OVER RECEIPTS</u>	<u>£46,583.59</u>
<u>TOTAL NET ASSETS AT 01/01/26</u>	<u>£83,759.05</u>
RECEIPTS AND CREDIT BALANCES	<u>£140,009.60</u>

Reserves Policy: it is the policy of this PCC to keep 9 - 12 months running costs (£11,465.80 Accounts 2024) 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 raised from specific fundraising events and donations for the Fabric Fund. This policy will be reviewed in prior to the AGM 2026.

**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 2025

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

17th April 2026