

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH
HATCH BEAUCHAMP**

**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

Rector:
Revd Joanna Porter

The Rectory
Stoke St Mary
TA3 5BX

Bank:
National Westminster

49 North Street
Taunton TA1 1NB

Independent Examiner:

Mrs Alison Horsey

Fairways
West Hatch
Taunton TA3 5RS

ANNUAL REPORT and ACCOUNTS 2024

TRUSTEES REPORT

Administrative information

St John the Baptist Church is part of the Seven Sowers Benefice, comprising the parishes of Beercrocombe with Curry Mallet, Hatch Beauchamp, Orchard Portman, Staple Fitzpaine, Stoke St Mary (with Thurlbear) and West Hatch. The parish is part of the Deanery of Somerset South, which in turn is part of the Diocese of Bath and Wells within the Church of England. The church is situated in the grounds of Hatch Court, to the rear of the main house, in the village of Hatch Beauchamp, in the county of Somerset.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commissioners.

The Revd Joanna Porter was Rector of the Seven Sowers Benefice throughout the year.

During 2024 the PCC continued to support the Ministry Team in promoting the whole mission of the church – pastoral, social, evangelistic and ecumenical – within the ecclesiastical parish. Sue McKen, a licensed lay reader, served throughout the year; Brian Crudge, having retired from licensed lay readership in earlier years, now holds the title of Reader Emeritus. Holly Stevens served throughout the year as the Children's, Schools and Families Worker, employed by the PCC but funded by all the parishes in the Benefice. Sarah Hampson also served throughout the year as the Benefice Administrator.

PCC members who have served from 1 January 2024 until the date this report was approved are:

<i>Rector</i>	Revd Joanna Porter	<i>Retired 9 March 2025</i>
<i>Churchwardens</i>	Mrs Susan McKen	
<i>Representatives on the Deanery Synod</i>	David Derbyshire	<i>(Lay Chairman)</i>
<i>Elected Members</i>	Mr Peter Hounsell Mrs Janet James Mrs Christine Williams Mrs Karen Lockyer Ms Chloe Mountford	<i>(Treasurer)</i> <i>(Secretary)</i>

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. Members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and Activities

St John the Baptist PCC has the responsibility of supporting the Ministry Team in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St John the Baptist Church and grounds.

Achievements and Performance

Church Attendance

There are 29 parishioners on the new Church Electoral Roll. 6 new names were added and 4 were removed. The average Sunday attendance at all services during 2024 was 26. (2023: 25).

ANNUAL REPORT and ACCOUNTS 2023

Review of the year

The PCC is responsible for the care and maintenance of the Grade 1 listed church building in Hatch Beauchamp and the surrounding churchyard. Although St John's is fairly isolated from the village, standing as it does behind Hatch Court; it is a focal point for Christian worship. It is included in various tourist guides for the area for its historic bench ends and the grave of Colonel John Chard VC. The Church is well-used for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals and some of those involved attend church. There is a goodly band of workers who support the Church in various ways. St John's has a growing choir.

In December we were greatly saddened to learn that our Rector, Joanna Porter, had decided to resign her position. Everyone who had been so invigorated by her energy and enthusiasm was so sorry to hear the news; but the burden of office is heavy and the resources available few. We sent her off with our very best wishes after her final service on Second March 2025.

The service pattern introduced in August 2022 continued throughout 2023 with the ten o'clock communion service rotating around the Benefice and hence a service in each of the churches once every seven weeks. The service rota currently in operation provides for a service in St John's as follows: 10.00am Morning Worship on the first Sunday: an 8.30am BCP Communion on the fourth Sunday: and a 10.00 am Parish Communion every seventh Sunday, as it rotates around the Benefice..

The congregation is loyal, supportive and enthusiastic and although fund-raising events were limited we were able to pay our parish share in full, and make donations to local charities. The Church supports the village Primary School, the churchwarden is a Foundation Governor, and the School regularly holds services in the Church. Messy Church was also active throughout the year, operating from the Village Hall on one Saturday a month and is run as a Benefice activity reaching out to a good number of families.

St John's continues to witness to the Christian faith by playing a central part in the life of the community. It has strong links to the village hall, which is used by the Church for social events and some services for the benefit of the wider community. The link with the Local Association of Royal Engineers is strong with visits from the RE's from Tidworth and Swansea for the annual Rorkes Drift service held at St Johns.

Financial Review

Total receipts on general unrestricted funds were £16,029 and are detailed in the Financial Statements. Receipts were supplemented by fund raising activities by Church members, collections at special services and distributions from the magazine account of £1,211. A further £2,835 (2023 £2,483) was raised from tax refund on Gift Aided giving, which was distributed between the General, Fabric and Churchyard Funds.

Total payments on general unrestricted funds in the year were £16,109. The largest items of expenditure were £8,977 for the Parish Share, which is a payment to the Bath and Wells Diocesan Board of Finance to enable it to provide the parish with clergy and support services, and insurance costs of £2,013.

The net result for the year was a deficit of receipts over payments on general account of £80 (2023 surplus £1,070). There was a deficit on Fabric fund of £3,298, and deficit of £127 on the Organ fund and £581 on Churchyard fund. The balance on the fabric fund account will go towards future major repairs to the church.

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (if possible) which equates to between four to six months' unrestricted payments, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. The PCC acknowledges that at present this has reduced to 2.0 months and fundraising is being planned to correct.

Approved by the PCC on 00 April 2025 and signed on their behalf by

David Derbyshire (Chairman)

Susan McKen (PCC Church Warden)

Peter Hounsell (PCC Treasurer)

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, HATCH BEAUCHAMP,
On the ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

I report to the PCC on my examination of the accounts of the PCC (the Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 5 to 8.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity's trustees (i.e. the members of the PCC) 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 Charity'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 Charity 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.

Mrs Alison Horsey
Fairways
West Hatch
Taunton
TA3 5RS

Date 00 April 2025

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, HATCH BEAUCHAMP

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

		<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>		
		<u>General</u>	<u>Fabric and</u>	<u>Churchyd</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
		<u>Fund</u>	<u>Organ Fund</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<u>NOTE</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<u>RECEIPTS</u>						
<u>Receipts from donors</u>						
Planned Giving - Gift Aided via bank		4,900	1,970	1,050	7,920	7,720
Gift Aided by envelope		783			783	1,516
Loose collections		1,304			1,304	955
Donations - Sundry	3	2,159		50	2,209	2,185
Alms Box		75			75	132
Other Receipts		0			0	
Income Tax recovered	4	2,061	512	263	2,836	2,483
Fund Raising Events	5	2,296			2,296	1,862
Parish Magazine Surplus		1,211			1,211	1,252
C of E Energy Grant		0	0		0	0
LPW Scheme VAT reclaimed	10	244	78		322	374
Burial Ground Grant - Parish Council		0		250	250	250
Fees (Weddings, Funerals, etc)	6	927		284	1,211	673
Interest		69	1,147	57	1,273	820
Total Receipts		£16,029	£3,707	£1,954	£21,690	£20,222
<u>PAYMENTS</u>						
Parish Share		8,977			8,977	7,806
Clergy/Readers Expenses	7	318			318	56
Insurance		2,013			2,013	1,897
Heating Fuel		1,210			1,210	761
Electricity		207			207	136
Donations to other Charities	8	1,090			1,090	1,224
Children's Youth Worker		419			419	419
Admin Assistant		615			615	0
CCLI - copyright Licence		148			148	0
Repairs & Renewals	9	873	234		1,107	1,692
Major Repairs	10		6,898		6,898	0
Quinquennial Report/Architect Fees					0	0
Grass cutting/mower				2,535	2,535	2,165
New Audio System and Fees	10		0		0	5,629
Organists Fees					0	25
Sundry Expenses	11	239			239	144
Total Payments		£16,109	£7,132	£2,535	£25,776	£21,954
Excess of Receipts over Payments		(£80)	(£3,425)	(£581)	(£4,086)	(£1,732)
Balances at 1 January 2024		2,826	44,338	1,468	48,632	50,364
Balances at 31 December 2024		£2,746	£40,913	£887	£44,546	£48,632

The balance of the Restricted Fund consists of £39,753 in The Fabric Fund and £1,160 restricted to be used for repairs to the organ.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH , HATCH BEAUCHAMP
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES at 31st DECEMBER 2024

		<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>		
		<u>General</u>	<u>Fabric and</u>	<u>Churchyd</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
		<u>Fund</u>	<u>Organ Fund</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<u>NOTE</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>						
<u>CASH FUNDS</u>						
Nat West Bank Current Account		2,496	36,783	887	40,166	44,460
CBF Deposit Account			4,130		4,130	3,922
Joint Benefice Account	7	250			250	250
		£2,746	£40,913	£887	£44,546	£48,632

OTHER MONETARY ASSETS

Income Tax Recoverable	4	2,023	493	262	2,778	2,778
VAT Recoverable (LPOW Scheme)	9,10	0	1,121	0	1,121	138
		£2,023	£1,614	£262	-	£2,916

TANGIBLE ASSETS

Movable church furnishings as listed in the inventory (held by Church Wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal).

LIABILITIES

CREDITORS & ACCRUALS

Clergy Expenses		134			134	413
Admin Assistant		149			149	0
Electricity		0			0	0
		£283	-	-	£283	£413

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on April 2025 and signed on their behalf by

David Derbyshire (Chairman)

Susan McKen (PCC Church Warden)

Peter Hounsell (PCC Treasurer)

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, HATCH BEAUCHAMP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

1. Presentation of financial information

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2. Accounting policies

The financial statements include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Receipts are included as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid.

Restricted funds must be used for the purpose for which the money was given or donated.

General funds represent unrestricted money that can be used for the general charitable purposes of the PCC.

Designated funds represent unrestricted money that has been earmarked for a specific purpose by the PCC.

This money may be undesignated at any time.

3. Sundry Donations Received

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>General</u> <u>Fund</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Fabric</u> <u>Fund</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Churchyd</u> <u>Fund</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2023</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
John Durman Decd					277
Michael Humphrey Decd	485			485	
Other Donations	1,674	0	50	1,724	1,908
	<u>£2,159</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£50</u>	<u>£2,209</u>	<u>£2,185</u>

4. Income tax recovered

Income tax recovered included in the 'receipts and payments account' represents the claim for the calendar year 2023.

The claim for 2024 will be made during 2025, but an estimate of the amount of tax recoverable on planned giving included in the 'receipts and payments account' is shown in the "Statement of Assets and Liabilities".

5. Fundraising

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>General</u> <u>Fund</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Fabric</u> <u>Fund</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2023</u>
	£	£	£	£
Words & music	451		451	722
Strawberry & Wine	745		745	655
Car Boot	0		0	125
Farmers Market	400		400	360
Beetle Drive	500		500	0
Talk - J Townson	200		200	0
	<u>£2,296</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£2,296</u>	<u>£1,862</u>

6. Service Fees

The PCC received parochial fees totalling £1,211 in the year (2023 £673) which was made up of statutory fees due to the PCC, as prepared by the Archbishops' Council under Ecclesiastical Fees Measure 1986.

The PCC also received statutory fees of £1,133 (2023 £504) payable towards the stipend of the incumbent, which was passed on to the Bath and Wells Diocesan Board of Finance. These fees are not included in the figures shown in the Receipts and Payments Account, as the money came into our account and then went straight out again.

7. Clergy Expenses

It is the policy of the PCC to reimburse all out of pocket expenses in full. Travelling expenses were reimbursed at the recommended Diocesan rate. A £250 deposit is held by the Benefice Treasurer who pays the Clergy Expenses on behalf of the seven churches within our Benefice.

The recharging to PCC's fell behind in 2023, so the £56 paid in 2023's accounts is for Q/e December 2022 and £318 paid in 2024 was for the whole of 2023 and 3 qtrs of 2024.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, HATCH BEAUCHAMP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 20 (cont'd)

8. Donations to Other Charities

	<u>General Unrestricted Fund</u>	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
DEC Turkey-Syria Earthquake	0	208
Bibles for Hatch Beauchamp School Leavers	114	91
RBL Remembrance Service	456	300
Ilminster Food Bank	520	625
	<u>£1,090</u>	<u>£1,224</u>

9. Repairs and Renewals

	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Inv date</u>	<u>General Unrestricted Fund</u>	
	<u>reclaimable</u>		<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<u>£</u>		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Lightning Conductor service	0.00		72	66
Fire extinguisher service	0.00		232	213
Electrical Inspection (5 yearly)	0.00		0	828
Taunton Audio - Casio Keyboard repairs	0.00		238	0
Service of heating equipment	0.00		331	351
	<u>£0.00</u>		<u>£873</u>	<u>£1,458</u>
			<u>Restricted Fabric Fund</u>	
Repairs to Path			0	0
			<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>
			<u>Restricted Organ Fund</u>	
Organ Repairs	0.00		234	234
			<u>£234</u>	<u>£234</u>

10. Major Expenses

	<u>VAT</u>		<u>Restricted Fabric Fund</u>	
	<u>reclaimed</u>		<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<u>£</u>		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
New Audio System incl Architect Fees	0.00		0	5,629
Architect Fees re Porch	0.00		175	0
Guttering	252.00	29/10/24	1,512	0
South Porch	868.58	28/8/24	5,211	0
	<u>£1,120.58</u>		<u>£6,898</u>	<u>£5,629</u>

VAT of £322 was reclaimed under the Listed Places Of Worship Grant Scheme in 2024. (£374 2023).

At 31 December 2024 there was a potential LPOW scheme debtor of £1,120.58 which will be claimed in 2025.

Claims have to be on a min of £1,000 net (one claim per 12 month period allowed of £500 min)

and the invoices have to be claimed on within one year of invoice date.

11. Sundry Expenses

	<u>General Unrestricted Fund</u>	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Bath & Wells Change Ringers Association	30	15
Somerset Churches Trust (formerly Friends of Som Church & Chapels)	50	50
Repairs to Nativity scene	0	16
Repairs to Lectern	30	0
Gift Aid Envelopes	12	12
Church Flower	9	0
Collectin	33	0
HBVH Hire - Harvest	50	0
Deanrery cost	25	0
Carol Service Mulled Wine	0	30
Caligraphy Baptism/Wedding Records	0	21
	<u>£239</u>	<u>£144</u>

