



Supporting Barnet to walk in God's footsteps

THE ANNUAL DISTRICT CHURCH MEETING
of
St JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH
Chipping Barnet

(Part of the Chipping Barnet Team Ministry)
Registered Charity no 1130743

held in the Parish Church on Sunday 22nd March 2026

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer.
2. Minutes of the ADCM held on Sunday 16th March 2025 at 10.45 am.
3. Apologies for Absence.
4. Report on the Electoral Roll.
5. Memory of the Departed.
6. ELECTIONS & NOMINATIONS:

It is important that those allowing their name(s) to go forward as candidates for election nomination should be aware of the dates of future meetings. Those nominated for election to the Deanery Synod, PCC and the Safeguarding Officer are automatically ex-officio members of the DCC.

- i) **Churchwardens:** Nominate 2 Churchwardens for election at the APCM on Wednesday 6th May 2026 at 7.30pm at St Peter's Church, Arkley.
- ii) **1 x Deputy Churchwarden**
- iii) **Building Manager**
- iv) **PCC:** Elect 1 person, to serve for one year, from the 6th of May 2026
- vi) **DCC:** We need to elect **two** people to serve for three years,

The composition of the DCC is: The Clergy, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Diocesan and Deanery Synod Members, PCC, CTfCB, Secretary, 2 lay leaders of worship (all ex-officio members) and 6 council members:

Two Council members with 2 years to serve Joshua Lindsey and Ben Nicholson
Two Council members with 1 year to serve Bruce Stringer and Preethi Daniel
Two Council member with 0 years to serve Donna Reed and Andrew Hutchings

7. **Churches Together for Chipping Barnet** – 1 Representative
8. **Appointment of the Independent Examiner** Independent Examiner, Alf Del Basso of Jones, Hunt and Keelings, Hatfield.
9. **Ratification of appointment** of Tower Keeper
10. **Reports** – To receive reports on the mission and ministry of the Church as set out in the ADCM booklet
11. **Communications**
12. **AOB**
13. **Closing Prayers**

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL DISTRICT CHURCH MEETING of St JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Annual District Church Meeting
Held in St John the Baptist Church on Sunday March 16th 2025
Minutes

Item	Minutes
	Father Sam welcomed everyone attending the ADCM. He reminded all that only those on the electoral role are allowed to vote.
1	Fr Sam began the meeting with a prayer
2	Minutes of the ADCM held Sunday 17th March 2024 were approved and signed. Proposed by: Anna Watkins Seconded by: Laurie Little Vote- carried
3	Apologies were accepted from Bob Burstow, Judy Burstow, Lynn Baker, Ruth Lewis and Ruggi Pullenayegum
4	Report on the Electoral role. 2023 – 106 2024 – 101 Fr Sam reminded the congregation that they can join the electoral role at any time, just send a request the Parish Office. The electoral role is renewed every 6 years.
5	Remember the departed. Fr Sam spoke of the commitment across time and space of the church to remember those who had gone forward. Thanking God for their legacy to help us all to go forward as Christians. A moment of silence was held. Fr Sam said a prayer
6	Elections Candidates' names were read out with proposer and seconder names. A vote was held by a show of hands
6i	Churchwarden elections. Churchwardens have to be nominated at the SJB ADCM then formally elected by the PCC in May 2025 at the APCM. All other posts will be elected by a show of hands i)Churchwardens: Nominated:- Elaine Nicholson Proposed : Mike West Seconded : Laurie Little Vote – carried Nominated: Averill Lovatt Proposed: Ben Nicholson Seconded: Vivien Stringer

Vote –carried

ii) Deputy Churchwarden

Nominated: **Helen Barber**

Proposed: Mike West

Seconded: Geoff Nicholson

Vote –carried

Fr Sam thanks the Churchwarden team for their work and their willingness to commit to another year.

iii) Building Manager Election

Nominated: **Mike West**

Proposed: Helen Barber

Seconded: Elaine Nicholson

Vote-carried

iv) PCC Representative election

Nominated: **Geoff Nicholson**

Proposed: Laurie Little

Seconded: Jackie Peacock

Vote – carried

v) DCC Members

Nominated: **Josh Lindsay**

Proposed: Helen Barber

Seconded: Cyril Aware

Vote –carried

Nominated: **Ben Nicholson**

Proposed: Helen Barber

Seconded: Averill Lovatt

Vote – carried

vi) Safeguarding Officer

Fr Sam proposed a massive vote of thanks to Anna Watkins, who is standing down as Safeguarding Officer. Fr Sam and all thanked Anna for all her hard work and her invaluable assistance in supporting Tony Long, Parish Administrator, in the changes instigated by the Diocese to the C of E safeguarding portal.

Safeguarding Officer

Nominated: Cosima Rodriquez-Broadbent

Proposed: Helen Barber

Seconded: Elaine Nicholson

Vote-carried

Fr Sam thanked Cosima Rodriquez-Broadbent for taking on the Safeguarding role.

Churches together for Chipping Barnet- 1 Representative.

	Jacob Kurien – this is 3-year post and an election was not required. vii) DCC Secretary Fr Sam thanked Helen Barber for her years of service as DCC Secretary DCC Secretary Nominated: Barney Medland Proposed: Bruce Stringer Seconded: Vivien Stringer Vote – carried Fr Sam thanked Barney for taking on the role. Fr Sam thanked everyone for taking on/continuing their roles and thanked the congregation for voting. viii) CTfCB, Deanery Synod, Diocesan Synod. Fr Sam confirmed and thanked Jacob Kurien as representative for the CTfCB, Deanery Synod, Diocesan Synod. A new representative for the CTfCB is required. The post involves 3-4 meetings per year, involvement in the Good Friday walk of witness, August joint services and Christmas preparation. If anyone is interested, please approach Fr Sam or Jacob Kurien. They will then be voted on by the DCC.
7	Ratification of the appointment of the Tower Keeper Nancy Surman Nancy has been elected by the Bell ringers. It is the ADCM's role to ratify this by a show of hands. Fr Sam praised Nancy as a superb Tower keeper and all the bell ringers for their wonderful contribution to the church and bell ringing. Vote carried
8	Appointment of the Independent Examiner Alf del Basso of Keelings and Jones Vote carried
9	Reports All reports are in the ADCM Meeting report, published and available in church 2 weeks before the ADCM and at the meeting. Fr Sam assumed that the reports had been read. Fr Sam gave his huge thanks to the huge number of people that give their time, love, energy and expertise.
	Churchwardens' report Fr Sam asked if the churchwardens had anything to add. No additions. Questions were invited – No questions.
	DCC Report Fr Sam asked if the DCC Secretary, Helen Barber, had anything to add. No additions. Questions were invited – No questions.

	Director of Music Report. Fr Sam asked if the Director of Music, Patryk Korczak ,had anything to add. No additions. Questions were invited – No questions Fr Sam praised Patryk for his work as D of M and actualising the vision of the music mission of the church and engaging the choristers.
	Church Vergers Reports -Jackie Peacock, Juliet Hedges-Robinson, Maureen Hedges, Fr Sam asked if the Vergers had anything to add. No additions. Questions were invited – No questions Fr Sam thanked the Vergers for all their work.
	Family Work Report– Laurie Little Fr Sam asked if Laurie Little had anything to add. No additions. Questions were invited – No questions. Fr Sam was delighted at the number of small people attending the toddler group and the family service Fr Sam thanked all those involved for a great piece of pastoral work. A round of appreciative applause was given for the work of the family work.
	Safeguarding Report– Anna Watkins Fr Sam asked if Anna Watkins had anything to add. No additions. Questions were invited – No questions. A round of appreciative applause was given for Anna’s work, commitment and contribution.
	THE SUPPORT SERVICES Bell Ringers Report -Nancy Surman -Tower Captain Questions were invited – No questions.
	Altar Guild Report -Laurie Little Laurie spoke to say that more people are required on the guild. He thanked all those who currently give their time and service. Questions were invited – No questions.
	Crucifer and Servers Report – Elaine Nicholson Elaine Nicholson spoke to say that more people are required and welcome to join the serving team. Questions were invited – No questions.
	Sides People, Readers, Intercessions Report – Elaine Nicholson Questions were invited – No questions.
	Flower Arrangers Report – Averill Lovatt Fr Sam asked if Averill had anything to add. No additions. Questions were invited – No questions. Fr Sam gave a huge thanks to all those involved with the flowers. The flower arrangers had a lot of extra work this year and had risen to the challenge.
	Sound Engineers and Video streaming Report – Tony Long Fr Sam asked if Tony had anything to add. No additions.

	Questions were invited – No questions. Fr Sam thanked Tony Long and Sue Yates and all those who do the sound at services.
	Church Watch Report – Carol Pellowe Fr Sam asked if Carol had anything to add. No additions. Questions were invited – No questions Fr Sam gave thanks to all those involved in church watch who give their time doing a very valuable job to keep the church open on a Saturday.
	Deanery Synod and Diocesan Synod Reports - Jacob Kurien Fr Sam asked if Jacob had anything to add. Jacob reminded the congregation that everyone is welcome to attend the Deanery Synod and Deanery Diocesan meetings. Questions were invited – No questions.
	CHURCH FINANCE Parish Giving Scheme -Sue Yates Fr Sam said that Stewardship is the lifeblood of the church and thanked Sue for her work on the gift aid. Fr Sam recommended that members join the PGS for their giving . The PGS allows Gift Aid to be claimed monthly, rather than yearly. As an online system it is much easier for the Gift Aid to be claimed and also improves the church's cash flow. The giver can change, increase amount when they want to. For reference the SJB postcode is: EN5 4BW
	Treasurers Report – Lynn Baker The report is in the ADCM Meeting report, published and available 2 weeks before the ADCM and at the meeting. Lynn Baker sent her apologies. Fr Sam expressed his huge thanks for all the work Lynn continues to do for SJB on the accounts. He spoke for all the congregation in sending her our good wishes. Fr Sam wished it to be minuted that we all wished to send our love and wishes for a speedy recovery. Should anyone have questions relating to the accounts please call the Parish office who will contact Lynn. It is a big responsibility to run a church with costs constantly increasing. For example just considering the choir, funds are required for new chorister robes, music, folders etc... This is actually good as the choir is flourishing and full of hope with children who enjoy and are excited to sing. Fr Sam heartily recommended the Parish Giving Scheme to support the mission of the Church. A large round of appreciative applause was requested and given for Lynn.
	Safeguarding The Church of England policy is required to be adopted at the ADCM every year. Fr Sam explained that Safeguarding is never just another job but part of the air we breathe. We all have to make sure that church is a place that is safe for all, vulnerable children and adults, abuse victims. If they are not safe in SJB then we are not a church.

	Fr Sam explained that this was the first time we have been required to adopt the Domestic Abuse policy. Domestic abuse is very difficult and complex. There is a domestic abuse advisory flowchart in the kitchen and contact number Safe Spaces is a confidential organisation which provides safe spaces for those who have suffered abuse within the church. Their number will be in the church toilets. Historic cases of abuse are as urgent as current abuse, we are all aware of the awful news this year. Speak to Cosima and Fr Sam if you have concerns, Everyone needs to be safe. If you are unsure, still speak to Cosima, trust your instincts. Everyone is responsible for safeguarding. Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse policies are on the notice board and full policies can be found in a red folder as well as in the Parish office and online. Fr Sam read the ADOPTION OF SAFEGUARDING POLICY out. Proposed: Laurie Little Seconded: Anna Watkins Vote: carried Fr Sam read out the Domestic Abuse policy Questions: Jenny Remfry requested that the numbers for DA help and Safer spaces go on the web. This will be done. Fr Sam read the ADOPTION OF DOMESTIC ABUSE POLICY out. Proposed: Preethi Daniels Seconded: Josh Lindsay Vote: carried
	AOB QUESTIONS Submitted before the meeting 1) Andrew Hutchings: The current Parish Share payable by our church is £77,405, slightly down on the previous year. As I understand, this sum is directly proportional to the size of the Electoral Roll, so one is tempted to ask why we would wish to increase the number on the roll, since we appear to be being financially penalised by the increase in the number on the Roll. Is this indeed the case and if so should we not be encouraging church incumbents to join the Roll? Fr Sam's reply: This is a fair point, however several other conditions are taken into account when calculating Parish Share, such as the income of the area. While a lower electoral role equates with a lower Parish Share, it is important to remember that the PS pays for clergy and archdeacon and bishop salaries and the diocesan safeguarding team. All which we cannot continue with our mission without! It supports churches in income areas who can't pay. 2) Andrew Hutchings: The St Albans diocese, in line with other diocese, collects this money from Parishes such as ours, yet on average only about 15% of this income

	comes back to the Parishes. What does the diocese 'do' with the remaining 86% of this money? Clergy staff seem to be cut, with parishes being told they can only have the priests they can afford, Is this a Christian attitude, when the Diocese swallows up 86% of the funds donated by individual parishes? Fr Sam's reply: Much of the answer to this questions is covered by the previous answer. The Diocese is in fact doing a lot of cost cutting. 3) Ruth Lewis: Concerning Food allergies, especially regarding nuts, cheese and chocolate when dealing with refreshments We are all aware how dangerous nuts can be, but there are others, most notably chocolate and cheese. I feel very strongly that anything to do with nuts should be isolated in their own special containers and obviously labelled. The same should apply to cheese and chocolate. I am sorry I can't be at the meeting ... 3a) Anto Mortimer – relates to Ruth Lewis question We are an Inclusive Church can we extend this to the food at functions? Without stifling anyone's kindness can we try to get more of the dishes labelled. It only needs be fish, meat, veg & nut. Fr Sam reply: The utmost is done to label food, and those supplying food are asked to label their contributions. It is very difficult to maintain as strict a kitchen as for example a food business/sandwich shop. Allergy signs are displayed at all events involving foods. We do not have control on what kind member of the congregation give, however we often are given gluten free cakes for our events.
	Elaine Nicholson, Churchwarden stood to say that on behalf of the Churchwardens to thank Fr Sam for all his work and support of the wardens. We are a good team, but there is a great amount of work to be done and we would struggle without the support and help of Fr Sam.
	Sue Yates wished to thank the ladies of the choir who after just one year have added so much to our Sunday worship.
	Fr Sam ended the meeting with a prayer

REPORTS



1. TEAM VICAR

Fr Sam Rossiter

Dear Friends,

As we gather for this ADCM, we do so with gratitude and clarity of purpose. Over the past five years we have worked steadily through our Mission Action Plan, and many of the goals we set have now been achieved. That reflects commitment, resilience and shared faith. Much is healthy in our life together.

Our musical life continues to grow. We have welcomed many new choristers, boys and girls, whose presence brings energy and hope. The choir has developed in confidence and leadership. Our chorister programme with QE Girls is established, our organ scholarship with QE Girls and QE Boys continues, and we have welcomed choral scholars from QE Boys. With the organ work now almost complete, we are preparing to relaunch a recital series and widen access to excellent music in this building. Warm thanks go to Patryk, Jonathan and Cosima, to every choir member, to our choristers, and to the parents whose commitment sustains this ministry.

The replacement of the West Doors will begin in early summer. This will improve security, safety, accessibility and energy efficiency. We are deeply grateful to the City Surplus Fund and the Chancel Estate for their generous support of this project. Thanks also go to Paul Jackson, our architect, for his guidance and expertise. Our Church Wardens, Elaine, Averill and Helen, have provided outstanding oversight: managing fundraising, controlling costs, supervising the project and carrying responsibility for many other aspects of church life. Quite simply, I could not do my role without them. We are also grateful to Mike, our Building Manager, for his careful oversight of this and his faithfulness across the many ways he supports the church, and to Steve for his faithful care of the church through helping with cleaning, tidying, gardening and making wonderful tea!

Our outreach to children and families has strengthened. Messy Church has been re-established as Krafty Kids@SJB. The Friday drop in provides a valued space for parents and carers. Little Saints continues to grow, and our Family Service has deepened in confidence. Baptisms are again part of our main services, strengthening bonds between families and congregation. We thank Laurie, Jackie and the many volunteers who make this work possible.

Attendance at services has risen, with Christmas seeing our highest numbers in years. A new Lent group will lead, we hope, to a regular monthly Bible study. In worship, music, outreach and fellowship, we are seeing encouraging growth.

It is precisely because things are good in the immediate term that we must speak honestly about the longer term.



By the end of 2026 our short term savings will be gone. In that same year we will have to draw on our long term reserves simply to pay our ordinary bills and commitments.

For more than a decade we have spent more than we received. That is why our savings have reduced. We have made ends meet by using savings: now they're beginning to run out.

During that same period, the costs of ministry, staffing, mission and parish share have risen steadily, while giving has not increased at the same pace. Many have given faithfully for years, and that faithfulness is deeply valued. Yet if giving does not keep step with the real cost of sustaining ministry, the gap must be filled from reserves. That is the pattern we have been living with, and it is not sustainable.

As part of reflecting carefully on our resources and the needs of the community, we have made the difficult decision to make the verger post redundant. This has not been a decision about individuals, but about sustainability. We give heartfelt thanks to all who have served in this role, most recently Juliet, Maureen and Jackie. They remain deeply valued members of our church family. Where they continue in voluntary roles, those contributions remain unchanged. There is mutual goodwill and gratitude. This decision reflects the reality of our challenges and needs as a community, not the commitment or faithfulness of those who have served.

Some remember when this church ran at a surplus and was able to give money away. I've heard it said, 'They always say this, and it's always been ok.' Our memory of financial abundance real, but it belongs to a different time, with a far different economic climate: it is no longer true. We have to be honest with ourselves: the memory of who we once were cannot be the basis upon which we determine who we are now, or how we operate. In both joy and challenge, St. John the Baptist is changed.

Others rightly point to the generosity of our charity partners. We are deeply grateful for their support, including in helping us explore the development of a Community Outreach Worker. Conversations with partners and supporters are ongoing, and developments may occur between the publication of this report and the ADCM itself.

We are so grateful to our charity partners. But charity support always ought to complement, rather than replace, our responsibility to sustain our core commitments as a worshipping community. Reliance on external support for our basic obligations is like relying on a friend to pay the mortgage. It's a kindness, not a foundation.

Still others point out that we're fortunate to have long term reserves, once held in property and now invested. These will indeed provide stability and income, especially in the coming years. But we're now beginning to borrow against long term savings to cover recurring costs. If we continue in this pattern, they will not last forever.

This church stands because previous generations handed on buildings, resources, faith and commitment. Stewardship means receiving those gifts and adding our own before passing them on. We must ask ourselves, calmly and honestly, whether we are willing to be the last or penultimate generation of St John the Baptist, Barnet. None of us desires that, but without change, it is our eventual direction of travel.

This is not a call to fear or guilt. Some genuinely cannot give more, and there is no shame in that. But as a community we must ask whether our giving reflects our means and our mission. If we are growing in people, in discipleship, in music and in outreach, then our financial support must grow also. Otherwise our present health will not be sustainable.

We are grateful to Lynn and Louise, our co-treasurers, for their careful stewardship and clear reporting, and to our charity partners for their trust. We are not in crisis. But we are at a point where we need to decide who we are and where we're going. I believe we have a great and Godly future, if we can work together to resource it.

I am daily reminded of the priesthood of all believers. The work of this church belongs to all who, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, give themselves to it. It is my privilege to guide where I can, but we follow Christ together. I thank the many volunteers, officers and members whose faithful service sustains SJB. With clarity, responsibility and shared commitment, we can ensure that what we have inherited is strengthened and securely handed on to those who come after us.

In Christ,

Father Sam

2. CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

Elaine Nicholson, Averill Lovatt and Helen Barber

This past year has been the second year of the current team of Churchwardens. Our first year was very much one of learning: St. John the Baptist, whilst being an historic, beautiful building is a sizeable, old building requiring considerable maintenance and repair on a regular basis.

Events

Over the past year the Church has hosted several concerts run by the Lumos company. These provide a substantial income for the church in hire fees and the sale of refreshments. They do, however, require a number of volunteers to run these events and we are most grateful to our willing band of regular helpers for their help.

Our Director of Music and Musical Mission, Patryk Korczak, has worked hard to develop and train the boys and girls and ladies for the mixed choirs, the gentlemen's choir and also to build links with both Queen Elizabeth's Schools and develop the schemes to support choral and organ scholars from both schools. Cosima Rodriguez, assists Patryk and continues to bring her beautiful voice to the back row of the choir. We are most grateful for their continued enthusiasm and talents which they bring to the worship in our church and thank them for their valued contribution. During the year we have enjoyed shared events with choir parents and family members.

There was just one wedding during the year of a church family which was a particular joy. Families have been welcomed at baptisms at various times during the year.

Major Projects and Repairs

- Refurbishment of the Organ. Work on this has been ongoing and is now complete. The temporary organ has continued to provide the music during the refurbishment and will be removed soon when all snagging work has been completed.
- New doors at the West End. The gap between the existing doors gives substantial heat loss and is dangerous. On-going meetings between Churchwardens, Mike West and the architects have continued; a faculty was applied for and has now been agreed. Work on the new doors is planned to begin in July.
- Repairs to the wall bordering the garden at the east end: The wall had been hit 3 times by vehicles using the slip road between Wood Street and the High Street. The wall was made safe each time and was finally repaired in October at considerable expense which was paid by Ecclesiastical Insurance Co.
- Damage to the wall in the Chancel following the storm in early December 2025. Currently we still await costings for the work.

We must thank our Buildings Manager, Mike West, for all his knowledge and expertise and carrying out so many day-to-day repairs. We could not have carried out our duties without him.

Other events during the year

- Welcome Table held twice monthly
- Da Capo and Choirs 'R Us concerts
- School Visit and Scout Group Visit
- Borehamwood Brass Concert
- Hymns and Pimm's
- Harvest Lunch
- Hosting the AGM of the National Church of England Flower Arrangers' Association
- School Commemorative and Carol Services
- Little Saints Toddler Group
- Party on the Green
- Hosting Barnet Street Fayre visiting choirs and visitors
- Lumos light and music concerts
- HABS School Evensong Services

Appreciation

We offer an enormous thank you to everyone who gives so generously of their time and talents, all of which contribute to the smooth running of our church. We are truly indebted to you for all that you do, be it preparing for, or assisting at services, cleaning silver, preparing and serving refreshments, providing and arranging flowers, gardening, keeping the church open, running a group or doing one of the unseen jobs, we are most grateful and offer our sincere thanks.

Averill, Elaine and Helen

3. DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCIL

Barnaby Medland - DCC Secretary

Six full meetings of the District Church Council took place during 2025 (January, March, May, July, September, and November).

I would like to say thank you to all DCC members for their commitment in attending meetings and contributions to the discussions and running of the church.

Below is a summary of the DCC councilmembers, as of this ADCM (March 2025):

- Two Council members with 2 years to serve Joshua Lindsey and Ben Nicholson
- Two Council members with 1 year to serve Bruce Stringer and Preethi Daniel
- Two Council member with 0 years to serve Donna Reed and Andrew Hutchings

We would like to thank retiring DCC members Donna Reed and Andrew Hutchings for their valuable service to the Church through their membership of the DCC.

Items which the DCC Agenda covered during 2025 not included in other reports:

- In 2025, St John the Baptist Church launched a new website. The new website is easier to navigate, contains improved information, and generally has a more modern appearance. The total cost of the new website was £900 + VAT (fees to web designers).
- Evening festal services have moved one hour earlier, from 7.30pm to 6.30pm. The main reason for this change was the later finish was difficult for younger members of the choir.
- The flagpole at the top of the tower is broken and it is not safe to fly a flag from it. A temporary, ground-level, telescopic flagpole is now in use, for e.g. at the Remembrance Sunday service. The main flagpole will be fixed when funding allows.

Barnaby Medland

4. DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Patryk Korczac

The Organ

In January 2026, the organ works were substantially completed by Jonathan Wallace and his team from Henry Groves & Sons. Two significant and unforeseen delays postponed the intended completion date of summer 2025.

The first delay occurred during the summer and concerned the new computer control system linking the console to the pipework. This is a powerful system that introduces significant enhancements, most notably an extensive memory bank capable of storing several thousand registration combinations. It also enables the recording and playback of live performances, greatly expanding both practice and performance possibilities.

The second delay arose over the Christmas period, when Jonathan identified that the soundboards for the Great manual were historically flawed and unfit for purpose. These defects compromised the gravitas of the larger stops and made it impossible to eliminate the phenomenon of “wind robbing”, whereby higher-pitched pipes became unusable when lower-pitched stops were drawn. Approval was granted to replace



this work, and the completion of the Great stops has now restored depth, stability, and foundational weight to the instrument.

As outlined in my previous ADCM report, a programme of major reconfiguration and improvement was undertaken and has now been completed as planned. In summary:

Structural and Mechanical Works

- The swell box has been brought forward, with a new swell mechanism installed.
- Fully operational tremulants have been installed for both the Swell and Choir divisions.
- A new pedalboard has been installed.
- A new adjustable organ bench has been provided, offering improved support and accessibility, particularly for younger players.
- The original console has been improved through full regulation of the action and the fitting of new electrical contacts.

Reconfiguration of Existing Pipework

- Ranks have been reorganised to allow easier access for tuning and improved tonal balance.
- The 16' Bourdon has been laid flat in previously unused space.
- The 16' Swell reeds have been repositioned toward the rear of the box.
- The Great Trumpet has been moved toward the north aisle.
- The former 16' Bourdon from the Swell has been transferred and re-pitched as an 8' stop on the Choir.
- The former 8' Choir stop has been reconfigured as a 4' stop.

New and Extended Tonal Resources

- A replacement 16' reed has been installed in the Swell.
- An 8' Clarinet has been added to the Choir (from tenor C).
- The welcome reinstatement of the large Open Diapason pipes facing the chancel side of the case has been completed, including sourcing missing pipes from the original instrument.
- A new 16' stop has been introduced on the Great using the "pipe-within-a-pipe" (Haskelled) construction, allowing 16' tone within limited space.
- Harmonics at 32' pitch have been derived from the 16' Bombarde, strengthening the pedal department.
- A drawable Cornet has been provided on the Great (derived from Choir pipework).
- The Great Trumpet has been made drawable on the Choir manual.
- A Fagotto stop has been provided on the Pedal.

Tonal Refinement

- The 2' stop on the Great has been revoiced to reduce excessive brightness and allow a more coherent transition into the three- and four-rank Great mixtures.

Finishing Works

- The casework has been cleaned and polished.

New drawstops have been installed in a historically appropriate style, alongside an LCD display providing access to the memory system. A tablet interface also allows remote playback functionality.

This is, of course, not an exhaustive catalogue of works undertaken, but it illustrates the breadth and depth of the transformation that has taken place.

My sincere thanks and congratulations go to Jonathan and his team for their dedication and craftsmanship. The instrument will continue to receive maintenance as the new pipework settles into the acoustic of St John the Baptist. At the time of writing, some pedal toe pistons are awaiting labels. Their ordering was determined following consultation with Paul Hale, reflecting both developing usage patterns and the increased reliance on the stepper system, which renders some historical functions redundant. We also await Paul's final inspection to confirm satisfactory completion of the works.

Potential Future Organ Works

While the transformation has been significant, some longer-term considerations remain.

The Swell soundboards are original and exhibit similar wind supply limitations to those previously found in the Great. The issue is most noticeable when full Swell is drawn with octave couplers. Although additional wind channels have been installed to mitigate this, some instability remains at the extremities of the compass. In practice, this is largely masked when used in combination with the Great and is unlikely to present immediate problems. However, replacement soundboards would provide improved stability and greater "breathing space" between pipes.

A further consideration is the two-rank Swell Mixture, retained from the original Hill organ and historically unpopular. It was initially proposed that this be expanded to a three-rank mixture, but physical space constraints prevented this. Replacement soundboards could potentially allow an additional harmonic to be generated electronically by playing more than one pipe from a rank simultaneously. This may be an option worth exploring in the future.

The Piano

Investigation into the parish piano has recently been undertaken. Based on its serial number, the instrument dates from 1905 and was manufactured by Blüthner. Records indicate that repairs were last carried out in July 1962 in Great Ormond Street. Beyond this, little documented history survives, although it is known that the piano was gifted to St John's during the period of shared use with the Methodist Church.

Initial inspection confirms that the piano remains in working condition. A full-day service is scheduled for March 2026 to address minor issues and improve its overall condition. Refurbishment was not recommended at this stage.

During the 2025 Christmas period, the casework sustained noticeable scratches and cosmetic damage. This will be assessed separately and reported in due course.

The Choral Foundation

There has been encouraging growth in children's participation in choral music at St John the Baptist. This development coincides with renewed Musical Mission funding and increasing interest.

In November 2025, we formally extended our choral provision to Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School. Following an audition process involving 30 applicants, six Year 7 girls were appointed. These choristers receive structured formation in choral music as part of the St John's programme. They are settling well into the musical life of the church, and we hope that this partnership will continue to flourish.

In addition to the QE Girls' School choristers, there are currently 11 choristers, including four Year 8 boys. These boys are in their strongest years as trebles, and we look forward to their progression into the back rows in due course.

The music department was generously awarded £6,000 from the Hyde Foundation for the maintenance and development of our children's provision. We are deeply grateful for this support. To date, funds have been used to purchase new music folders and replace damaged repertoire. The next priority is the acquisition of new cassocks, as several have become worn and no longer fit the children adequately.

Since the last report, the vocal coach has continued to provide individual tuition to choristers. We are grateful to Cosima Rodriguez-Broadbent for her continued work on this. As numbers grow and service repertoire becomes more demanding, this provision will require careful review to ensure sustainability.

Organ and Choral Scholarships

The organ scholarship programme remains one of the most rewarding initiatives at St John the Baptist Church. In January, two new organ scholars were appointed, bringing the total to four, drawn equally from the boys' and girls' schools.

Our senior organ scholars (currently in Year 12) have developed significant musical and technical aptitude. We are grateful for Jonathan Gregory's continued guidance in their pupillage.

Scholars receive organ tuition as part of their award and gain practical experience accompanying choirs and preparing evensong repertoire. This offers a rare and valuable opportunity for young organists. We wish them every success as they apply for university and further education organ scholarships.

A choral scholarship scheme was introduced last year as an extension of the organ scholarship programme. While initially well received and supporting two scholars during the past calendar year, this scheme has now been deprioritised. We were delighted that last year one of our organ scholars took up a place at Trinity College, Cambridge, to read Computer Science as a Choral Scholar. We have also received encouraging news from our choral scholars and wish them every success as they apply for further scholarships and secure their academic places.

Patryk Korczac



OUR MISSION

5. CHURCH VERGERS' REPORTS

Jackie Peacock, Juliet Hedges, and Maureen Hedges

It has been another busy and exciting year at St John the Baptist.

Friendship group is still busy on Monday mornings with many enjoying their time to meet with friends and enjoy refreshments. Thank you to Bruce & Vivian for helping with this group in so many ways.

After so much rain last summer we were blessed to be able to open the tower 3 times in 2025. The first occasion was May 8th - VE Day. We celebrated with Pimm's, tea & cake a raffle, music playing and a wonderful party was had by all.



The next time was on July 12th when we held Party on the green. We had a wonderful day with a BBQ, raffle, tombola and beer from the Mitre.

Our final tower opening was on October 11th with a wonderful recital provided by our organ scholars and the choir team serving delicious refreshments.

September 13th we all enjoyed a great afternoon of Hymns & Pimm's a very enjoyable annual event. The final fund raiser for the year was the amazing and so enjoyable Christmas Fayre which seems to get busier every year.

All the above events have provided a lot of fun but also much needed funds for our church.

Little Saints is flourishing with an average of 23 children every Thursday morning. We ended another successful year with our Christmas party and visit from Santa Claus. (thank you Rod)

We started a new venture in October called Family Hub - a drop in for families and friends to meet, the children to enjoy play and refreshments served. This happens every Friday between 10-4pm and is already proving worthwhile and much needed.

Lastly, I want to thank Steve Cording for his loyalty; friendship and help with everything we do at church. Thanks Steve you are incredible.

Jackie Peacock

6. FAMILY WORK

Fr. Sam, Laurie Little & Linda Sanders

Last Christmas we combined Messy Church and our Christingle Service to create Messy Christingle which seems to have been well received with 27 children and 36 adults present.

We have this year attempted to reintroduce Messy Church on a regular basis and held sessions in October, November and January. Unfortunately take up has been low and we have encountered problems in advertising it in local schools. It has been decided therefore to no longer run Messy Church in its current form but to introduce a new children and parents' activity under the banner "Krafty Kids @ SJB". Krafty Kids will be constituted as a craft club, to promote a sense of belonging to attendees. The first session will be in March 2026.

Little Saints, our toddler group on a Thursday morning under the direction of Jackie Peacock, continues to be well attended with around 20 children a week. We have also introduced the children and families drop-in on a Friday and this has proved hugely successful attracting a steady flow of children and parent/carers throughout the day.

We are continuing to look for volunteers for a baptism follow up group which will continue to be a high priority as it is a Mission Action Plan goal.

Baptism anniversary cards for the first three years following baptism continue to be sent out.

The Children's chapel continues to be a welcome space for families and children to gather and play during services and is well used during the Friday drop-in.

We are extremely grateful to our regular band of volunteers for without them all of these activities would simply not function.

Laurie Little

7. SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Cosima Rodriguez-Broadbent -Safeguarding Officer

I am pleased to report that safeguarding arrangements within the parish are running smoothly. We continue to work closely with the Diocese following their explicit safeguarding guidance.

During the year:

- Tony has kindly assisted in ensuring that our Parish Safeguarding Dashboard is fully up to date. This enables both the parish and the Diocese to monitor safeguarding training requirements and compliance effectively.
- Thank you to everyone who has completed their required safeguarding training and remains up to date.
- A reminder has been issued (6 February) to those whose training is still outstanding. Please ensure this is completed by the end of February. If any assistance is needed, please contact either myself or Tony.
- We have strengthened digital safeguarding measures by securing online access on the donation tablets.
- Initial discussions have begun regarding safeguarding considerations connected to parish Wi-Fi access, and this work will continue over the coming year.

Safeguarding remains a shared responsibility, and I am grateful for the cooperation and commitment shown across the parish.

Cosima Rodriguez-Broadbent



8. CHIPPING BARNET GUILD OF BELLRINGERS

Nancy Surman- Ringing Master

It has been another active year up the bell tower.

As well as general Sunday service ringing and Monday night practices we rang for -
Easter

- For the Confirmation service
- For Barnet and Southgate College graduation
- For two weddings
- As part of the Barnet Christmas Fair
- We rang twice on Christmas Eve
- And, for the first time in several years, on Christmas morning

We welcomed three visiting bands this year.

As usual we had lots of quarter peal attempts this year, mostly on a Sunday for Evensong.

We rang a quarter peal before a special Thanksgiving Choral Evensong for Terence Atkins to thank him for his 48 years distinguished service to St John the Baptist as Organist and Choirmaster.

Also, a quarter to mark the 80th anniversary the VE Day.

There were no peal attempts this year.

The two boards recording our ringing around the death of Queen Elizabeth II and the Accension and Coronation of King Charles III have arrived and are ready to be installed.

The bells are in good order. The clock has been serviced.

Practice is every Monday evening from 7.30-9.00PM. As always, we would like to extend a warm invitation to everyone to come and to see what we do.

Nancy Surman

9. ALTAR GUILD

Laurie Little -Lay Leader

Do you ever wonder how the altar linens and silver communion vessels turn up on the alter every Sunday looking gleaming and prepared ready for use? That is down to the dedicated commitment of the small band of Altar guild volunteers, Stewart Cracknell, Vivien Stringer, Catherine Lui, Sue Yates, Lynn Oldham, Jackie Peacock. On a weekly basis they take it in turn to launder the linens, polish the brasses including the communion rail and clean the silver communion vessels, and load them up for use on Sunday and for services in the week

Laurie Little

10. CRUCIFERS AND SERVERS

Laurie Little -Lay Leader

As I reported last year our numbers have diminished in recent times, and we have only one regular crucifer at 9.30am Stuart Richardson and at 6.30 Mike West. Lyn Oldham regularly stands in when Stuart is unavailable. I have been pleased to welcome Ho Siu to our team this year. Ho acted as crucifer on Christmas day and has now recently trained to be one of our team of acolytes. We can always do with more volunteers, training is available.

Thanks to the regulars for the time they give.

Laurie Little

11. SIDES PEOPLE, READERS, INTERCESSIONS

Elaine Nicholson -Churchwarden

Thank you to everyone who helps with these tasks and there are many of you who volunteer to help at the three services held every Sunday, but I still need more. I am desperately short of sides people that hand out the books and do the collection. Equally I do not have enough helpers for the Evensong Service at 6.30pm. Please can I make an appeal for more people to volunteer, training will be given, where needed.

Helping to cover these tasks ensures that the services run smoothly and that with a lot of helpers' people will not be asked to cover them very often.

Elaine Nicholson

12. FLOWER ARRANGERS.

Averill Lovatt - DCC St John the Baptist

As we approach Easter, we look forward to seeing flowers once again in church. A small but faithful group create arrangements in church throughout the year, except during the seasons of Lent and Advent. Many of our arrangers are members of the Church of England Flower Arrangers' Association and we continue to welcome members from other churches to our monthly meetings during the year.

My thanks go to those members of the congregation who have so generously sponsored weekly flowers, Easter and Christmas flowers and also to the arrangers who have given so willingly of their time and talents to decorate our church. We are always pleased to encourage and welcome anyone who would like to join the flower group.

Averill Lovatt

13. SOUND ENGINEERS AND VIDEO STREAMING *Tony Long – Parish Administrator*

A big thank you to the people who helped operate the sound desk during 2025. These included Sue, Geoff, Elaine, Jacob, Paul, Nigel and Helen. We are always delighted to recruit more volunteers. If you would like to learn a new skill, training and support is provided. Please contact me at the Parish Office if you're interested on 020 8447 0350 or parishoffice@barnetparishchurch.org.uk

We also continue to receive requests to stream and record funerals enabling the families and friends around the world to be part of the service. We also stream selected events including the Barnet and Southgate College Graduation Ceremony which was held in May.

Tony Long

14. CHURCH WATCH

Carol Pellowe

At present we are able to open the church on Saturdays from 11-1pm. This enables visitors to use the church for prayer or a quiet space. We are a group of volunteers, who in pairs welcome and greet those calling in. Every first Saturday in the month we can also offer a guided tour of the building.

If we had more volunteers we could extend the open hours until 3pm so if you feel like you'd like to join us please talk to Carol Pellowe

Carol Pellowe

15. DIOCESAN SYNOD REPORT

Jacob Kurien – DCC Synod Representative

In 2025, the Diocesan Synod met 3 times as usual. Both the in-person meetings on 8th March and 11th October were held at Putteridge Bury Conference Centre near Luton and the summer Synod met online on the 14th of June.

After 16 years of service in the Diocese of St Albans, Bishop Alan retired on the 31st of May 2025. Bishop Richard of Bedford who was duly appointed as the Acting Bishop, will continue to lead the Diocese until the new Bishop of St Albans is formally appointed and installed. The Crown Nominations Committee's interview panel held interviews for the bishop very recently, but we must continue to wait for the formal announcement of an appointment by the Crown. It is envisaged that the new bishop may commence in the summer of 2026 or perhaps later this year.

2025 was the year of 'spiritual well-being and renewal'. Many opportunities for retreats and conversations on these matters were offered and there was a reasonable uptake.

The Synod of 8th March 2025.

Bishop Alan's delivered his last presidential address (which may still be found on the Diocesan website) followed by the announcement of the Appointment of Mr Duncan Gauld as the new Diocesan Director of Education starting on the 1st of June 2025.

Four supplementary questions and responses were received relating to finance matters including SMMIB grant money to fund parish ministry, reasons for reduction in stipendiary clergy & vacancy rates, actions taken to make good past financial deficits and clergy housing.

Three presentations were received:

1. **Growing Younger and More Diverse.** The bishop of Hertford and the Diocesan Secretary delivered this presentation. Due to uncertainty around the amount of funding which was going to be available for the Diocesan Investment Programme, the diocese had been advised not to submit an application to the June meeting of the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board. This was later submitted and we have been allocated some funding!
2. **Updates on General Synod Sessions of 10 to 14 February.** The Revd Tim Bull presented an update on General Synod's discussions on Living in Love and Faith/Prayers of Love and Faith. No questions were asked.
3. **Safeguarding Arrangements in the Church of England.** The diocesan secretary gave this presentation followed by a brief discussion.

An update on the Vacancy in See Process was received followed by the synod breaking out into small groups to consider 3 questions on the discernment process. Their comments would be considered in the discernment process.

The Synod of 14th June 2025.

Bishop Richard delivered the presidential address followed by consideration of the following matters:

1. An update was received from the Chair of the Vacancy in See's committee on the progress made so far.
2. Annual reports for 2024 from the various committees were received and accepted without any additional questions including:
 - a. the DBF Annual Report and consolidated financial statements for 2024.
 - b. Annual Safeguarding report from the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer & Chair of the Diocesan Safeguarding advisory panel and
 - c. The Alban Way project by the Asst Director of Mission & Ministry

The Synod of 11th October 2025.

I was unable to attend this Synod as I was away on holiday, and neither could I access the minutes of that meeting.

However, from the minutes of a subsequent Deanery Synod meeting on October 14, (DBF budget and Stipends for 2026 and Diocesan Finances Review) there is relevant information that would be of interest to our DCC and PCC.

Most consequential of these was the adoption of the 2026 budget, which has now received approval at this weekend's Diocesan Synod to put in force a 3.5% reduction in Parish Share requests from next year, together with an increase in the clergy stipend of 6.8%.

Topics discussed at the October 11 meeting included the following:

- Good News Stories from around the Diocese
- DBF Budget and Stipends for 2026 and Diocesan Finances Review
- Fees for SSM and Readers
- Report from the Diocesan Board of Education

- Funding Application to the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board
- Ministry Strategy Consultation and
- LLF Update

Jacob Kurien

20 May 2025 Synod was held at St Marks Church, Barnet Vale.

The Revd. Stephan Chrysostomou (Vicar of St Mary the Virgin and All Saints, Potters Bar and Rural Dean) chaired this meeting having been appointed Rural Dean at the last synod. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Revd Tristan Chapman for hosting this meeting at Barnet Vale and invited him to give an update on the life and mission of St Marks Barnet Vale.

Fr. Tristan outlined the birth and history of the church and its place within the changing community in this part of Barnet, drawing particular attention to the recent move of a local Boys Brigade group to St Mark's and the vital mission this is enabling; firstly as a bridge to reaching children of all ages from the wider community, and then, through the grounding of the Boys Brigade association as Christian movement - as a means of spreading the seed of the Gospel to the next generation.

Guest Speaker

Mr Richard Jackson (Local Church Income Generation Support Officer at the Diocese of St. Albans) gave a very helpful and informative presentation on reviewing, generating and managing Church income and church finances locally.

A new focus on income generation as a concept, encouraging and enabling parishes to make better use of their assets, facilities and people without having to do to make expensive alteration to buildings. Separating the 'streams' of income such as Giving, Grants, Investments and Fees, and the remainder defined properly as "Commercially generated income from trading activities" citing examples for each.

Considering doing an Income Health check and acting on the findings including productivity, upgrading technologies to support and streamline processes and pathways, marketing etc. Details on his presentation may be obtained from the minutes and slides of his presentation. If I am not misinformed there may still be the possibility of using his help in assessing the health of your church thorough the Diocese.

Update on the Vacance in See.

Canon Richard Osborn who is a member of the Vacancy in See committee and an elected member of the Crown Nominations Committee updated the synod on the process of discerning and appointing the new Bishop of St Albans. Richard also explained that realistically we would need to wait until September 2026 or later for this appointment.

Update on the upcoming Parish Share Factor Review

Following notice from the Diocese of its 3-yearly review of the Parish Share Factor, Roger Melling outlined the process and timelines for a consultation across deaneries and the ability for parishes to engage with this. He confirmed that it is only the Share Factor itself that is under review, not the whole Parish Share system itself. With no change to overall mechanism, it will still be the case that if a Share Factor for one parish in the Deanery is to be reviewed down then the rest of the Deanery's share would have to go up to preserve the total.

Roger invited questions from the meeting and made himself available to be contacted afterwards, with the deadline for receiving a case for a review being June 30th - when the Deanery Standing & Pastoral Committee will meet to consider any such requests before they submit any recommendations to the Diocese by July 31st.

14 Oct 2025 Synod was hosted by St Mary the Virgin church in East Barnet.

Revd Stefan Chrysostomou who chaired the meeting after his recent sabbatical welcomed Revd Emma-Jane Wilkinson to Synod following her installation in September.

Revd Alec Corio the Rector of St Mary's church and host for this meeting welcomed the synod with a brief overview of the church. St Mary's is the oldest (over a thousand years old) and the 'newest' with their Community Hall completed in 2022.

As the guest speaker (in his capacity as the recently appointed Diocesan Inter-Faith Advisor) his talk offered essential information on the framework and context for Inter-Faith working, with some inspiring examples of successful Inter-Faith projects from across the diocese ending with a reflection on how you can explore Inter-Faith work in your own parish to grow the mission and ministry of your church.

What Interfaith **IS** and what it **is NOT**:

- He argued that interfaith work is not about trying to reduce differences between faiths down to things which are easy for us to process. It is not an exercise in religious syncretism; nor is it about proselytising.
- Awareness of historic inter faith power imbalances make it all the more important to take the role of an ally.
- Interfaith dialogue has the potential to speak as one voice in the civic square, demonstrating both to government and to the general population that we are trustworthy and caring communities.
- If we are genuinely listening to other faiths, then we will learn not just about theirs but about our own; there is also nothing that strengthens the security of one's own faith more than to explain it to others.

The meeting also received updates from the Diocesan Synod and the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) from Mary Butcher.

She drew attention to the report circulated in advance of Synod and its principal decisions:

- Most consequential of these was the adoption of the 2026 budget, which has now received approval at this weekend's Diocesan Synod to put in force a 3.5% reduction in Parish Share requests from next year (2026), together with an increase in the clergy stipend of 6.8%.
- Canon Richard Osborn reported on the ongoing Diocesan processes to appoint a new Bishop of St Albans as proceeding to the interview stage.

Jacob Kurien

17. CHURCHES TOGETHER FOR CHIPPING BARNET

Jacob Kurien – DCC CTfCB Representative

Churches together in Barnet has been functioning well with a nearly complete set of office bearers including Revd Cindy Kent in her role as the vice Chair during 2025. She has now retired and we are looking to fill this vacancy.

The year began with the week of prayer for Christian Unity was held between 18 and 25 January. The theme was Jesus' provocative question to Martha "Do you believe this?"

The Good Friday walk of Witness starting at Monken Hadley Church via Joslin's pond on Hadley to the service on St John the Baptist's church yard well this year with a good turnout for the walk at the service on the green, the service led by St John the Baptist church. The Easter Sunrise Service on King George's field followed by a lovely breakfast at Christchurch (St Albans Road) was again a success this year. Our sincere thanks to all the clergy and volunteers involved in supporting this wonderful activity of Christian witness.

All five August Sunday late afternoon (5:30pm) services were very well attended with participation by a core of regulars at each of these services including 2 or 3 from SJB. The average attendance was around 30. *Perhaps SJB might consider hosting a service in August 2026?*

Churches Together would like to thank all our eleven member churches for their generous contributions in 2025. All donations were received in good time without the need to chase anyone. **We particularly want to thank the DCC and SJB parishioners for the generosity of their contribution** which helps in supporting the work done by Hope Corner to the tune of £3000 annually. The small (5%) increase was very necessary to balance our budget and continue our support for Hope Corner.

The Christmas Fayre on Sunday 7th December went well but it looks like we may not have one in 2026 due to the council's financial constraints. Fr. Tristan hosted the Carols at the Olde Mitre on the 17th of December which was again a successful event.

A small number of Christmas service leaflets were produced this year (very economically, in house) as a support for people during the Christmas time looking for a place to visit and to participate in Christmas services.

Jacob Kurien

CHURCH FINANCE

18. STEWARDSHIP and the PARISH GIVING SCHEME

Sue Yates Stewardship Recorder and Gift Aid Officer

We are thankful to everyone who regularly supports us financially whether it be through the Parish Giving Scheme, by standing order or online donation devices or using gift aid envelopes. Your generosity sustains the worship, care and mission here at St John the Baptist for which we are deeply grateful.

Please consider becoming a regular donor if not already and help us ensure our ministry will continue long into the future.

Thank you. Sue

For further information please email:

sue.yates@barnetparishchurch.org.uk or phone 020 8449 4824

19. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Lynn Baker -Treasurer

The following report highlights the main items of the Church's financial position at the end of 2025.

Income

Stewardship receipts for 2025 amounted to £11,922 and £25,169 via the Parish Giving Scheme. This is a total of £37,091, overall, a £2,000 decrease on last year. The Income Tax recovered on Gift Aid was £5,997 and £6,687 on the Parish Giving Scheme. We have 29 contributors on the Parish Giving Scheme, so a big thank you to all those parishioners who have joined this scheme. Gift Aid refunds, on these pledges, are sent to our bank in the same month as the donations. This reduces the workload for the Stewardship Recorder and gives us extra income immediately. The SumUp card reader at the back of church is used regularly and £5,567 was given in this way, The Organ Refurbishment Fund raised £876. Cash collections at services amounted to £7,867. The candle stand has always had a good income; this amounted to £527.



The Chancel Estate contributed £24,130. This grant covers the church running costs, electricity, gas, water rates, insurance, and cleaning throughout the year. There has been no organ tuning while the refurbishment has been taking place but this will resume once the work on the organ has been completed. We would like to thank the Trustees of the Chancel Estate for this very large grant.

We also had a grant of £2,500 from the Bells Hill Fund for general mission. The Hyde Foundation gave a grant of £6,000 to the Music to cover the cost of new folders, music and cassocks for the choir.

We wish to thank the Hadley Trust for their grants of £16,000 for the Church Vergers' salaries, £10,000 towards the Director of Music's salary and £2,700 towards the cost of refurbishing the Quiet Room.

We also received £2,700 from the Jesus Hospital Charity towards the cost of refurbishing the Quiet Room. The City Church Fund administered by the Diocese has given us £5,000 toward the Music Director's salary and £5,855 towards the preliminary work on the replacement of the west doors. As always, we are extremely grateful for these very generous grants.

The final £7,002 for the Organ Refurbishment Fund was received, in April, from the North Council Infrastructure Levy (The NCIL is a tax on businesses and developers put aside to be used for wider community enrichment).

Fundraising at the Party on the Green, the event in the church during the Barnet Street Fayre and various sales of refreshments at concerts and tower openings raised £4,441.

Hiring out of the church for concerts, school services and meetings amounted to around £10,000 after expenses.

Income from the telecoms mast in the Tower amounted to £12,725 although the mast has yet to be installed.

A VAT Refund of £13,777 was claimed after the invoices for the Organ Refurbishment had been paid.

Our thanks also go to Statons Estate Agents for their two donations of £500 for sponsorship of Party on the Green and the Christmas tree.

Expenditure

Our Parish Share paid to the Diocese of St Albans was £75,000.

The total of the vergers' salaries, which includes pension contributions, was £25,812. St John the Baptist's share of the Administrator's salary amounted to £3,380 the other 50% being paid by the PCC.

Church Maintenance and repairs amounted to £11,689. This includes regular servicing and maintenance of fire extinguishers, lightning conductor, church clock, PA Testing, the alarm system and boilers. The sump pump cost £4,163.

Church utilities amounted to £17,338 and insurance a total of £6,985 all of these are included in our clam from the Chancel Estate.

The Organ Refurbishment £83,317 with a further £30,000 for the final invoice to be paid in 2026.

Honoraria to the organists, organ scholars, extra singers and choristers amounted to £11,959. The Director of Music's salary and pension amounted to £20,600.

Year 2026 Budget

As usual our main item of expenditure for 2026 will be our Parish Share allocation, this is £75,000. This is the same as last year as the Diocese decided not to increase it as they have made savings elsewhere. The Team Parish Share covers the costs of the clergy stipends, their housing, pensions and training. The rest of the Parish Share goes towards the Ministry Support Contribution.

Finally

I would like to thank Louise Skinner, our co treasurer who has been a huge help in preparing this year's accounts. Also, Sue Yates, the Stewardship Recorder and Gift Aid Officer, for recording the pledges and claiming the Gift Aid refund from the Inland Revenue. Thanks also to the Church Wardens for their valued support. Finally, I would like to thank our Independent Examiner, Alf del Basso of Jones Hunt Keelings, Hatfield, for examining our accounts and Larysa Byrne for her assistance.

Lynn Baker

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*	2021*	2022	2023	2024	2025
Baptisms	8	16	14	12	11	1	4	17	11	9	4
Adult Confirmations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	9
Youngster Confirmations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Weddings	3	4	6	4	3	3	1	4	2	3	2
Funerals & Memorial Services	7	6	6	11	11	6	4	10	4	1	3
Communicants	5653	6005	5157	4732	4252	1208	1624	2983	3596	3638	3933
8 AM Averaged Sunday BCP Eucharist	5	5	5	5	5	3	4	4	4	5	4
9:30 AM Averaged Sunday Sung Eucharist	91	93	79	71	71	40	52	58	57	61	63
11:30 AM Averaged Family Service	32	20	18	13	11	16	6	10	15	16	12
Messy Church (started 2011)	5	9	6	0	0	12	not held	not held	not held	not held	3
4/ 6:30 PM Averaged Choral Evensong	36	47	41	38	40	34	25	31	28	33	35
Averaged Silent Prayer attendance (Tues. & Thurs. Started 2019)					3	3	not held	not held	not held	not held	Not held
EASTER DAY Attendance	156	167	132	100	129	0	68	134	132	123	150
Community Carol Service attendance (started 2016)		97	54	76	not held	not held	not held	198	105	149	260
Nine Lessons & Carol Service	326	303	311	316	262**	online	91	214	218	293	221
Christmas Crib Service	420	435	428	390	413	not held	133	332	308	344	344
Midnight Eucharist	126	110	?	121	100	not held	39	113	75	83	56
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day combined	113								122	129	102
CHRISTMAS DAY Service Attendance (2016)		98	76	98	81	41	57	63	47	46	80
Annual Visitors to Church - Mon. to Sat. (Started Oct 2017)				10,737	14,415	3,332	2,381	9,374		13,550	9,540
Friendship Group - averaged attendees per session					9	8	not held	12	12	12	13
Toddler Group - averaged attendees per session					17	28	not held	7	0	23	32
Electoral Roll (updated annually)	164	145	145	138***	116	112	108	95	99	106	100
Parish Population					23,234	23,234	23,234	23,234	23,234	23,234	23,234

KEY & INFORMATION

* INTERREGNUMS

(1) November 2013 to 31st August 2014

(2) January 2020 to 08 November 2021

§ Coronavirus Pandemic with lockdowns

** Estimated figures

*** Electoral Roll REVISED every 6 years.

DATA SOURCES

Census 2021 figures awaited. Parish Demography from Church Urban Fund <https://cuf.org.uk/parish/320019>

Attendance stats: from Church Registers.

Visitor numbers: from the Verger's records

Electoral roll data: from Parish Office records

