

St John the Evangelist

Reports & Accounts
Financial Year Ending 31/12/2025

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Legal & Administrative Details

Charity Name: St John the Evangelist

Charity Number: 601196

Charity Address: Benefice Office
Church House
Bathwell Lane
Milborne Port
Sherborne
Dorset DT9 5AN

Trustees:

Anne Salkeld

Anthony Higgins

David Johnston

Graham Sharpless

Harold Clarke

Linda Mumford (Resigned 01/04/2025)

Louisa Hughes

Mary Clothier

Nicola Edwards

David Grant (Appointed 01/04/2025)

Richard Redman

Susan Wales

Trevor John

Roger Cowley (Appointed 01/06/2025)

Trudy West (Appointed 01/06/2025)

Independent Examiner: Alison Cooper
Charltons Accountancy
The Offices, Middle Farm
Charlton Horethorne
Sherborne
Dorset

Trustees Report

Objects of the charity

For the whole of the year 2025 we were responsible for the upkeep of St John's Church, St John's Cottage, Church House and Milborne Wick Mission Church. During 2025 the parish of St Peter's Goathill was merged with this parish. The responsibility for the day to day running of Church House has been delegated to the Church House Management Committee. The Receipts and Payment accounts for Church House are not incorporated into this report and have been separately independently examined and are reported to the Charity Commissioners under Charity Number 1060785.

St. John's cottage is no longer occupied by Vergers. It is now let to private tenants via a management company.

Summary of the charity's main activities and achievements

To further the above objects and vision, the charity's main activities and achievements were as follows:

St John the Evangelist Milborne Port with Milborne Wick Mission Church are part of a benefice that at the beginning of 2025 comprised St Peter's, Goathill and St Peter and St Paul, Charlton Horethorne with St Mary Magdalene, Stowell. During the year the benefice was expanded to include St Mary's Compton Pauncefoot, St Michael's Blackford, and St Peter and St Paul Maperton. In May 2025 St Peter's Goathill was incorporated into this parish. The accounts for St Peter's for this year are published separately.

Our vision for the Benefice is that we are united:- • in bringing the light of Christ to our communities; • in reaching out to those who feel excluded; • in caring for the lonely and distressed; • in encouraging those of all ages who want to grow in their faith.

We do all this, safe in the knowledge that the love of God surrounds us all. The Christian community here in Milborne Port, Milborne Wick and Goathill is dedicated to worshipping God and responding to God's story by serving our communities. In practical terms this means paying our share of costs to the diocese, supporting charitable work, maintaining the upkeep of our buildings and using all of our resources to support the local community.

In 2025 our congregation continued to pull together and to be both cohesive and inclusive. We hope that visitors and new members always receive a warm welcome. Numbers attending our services have stayed at pre-pandemic levels and in some cases have grown which is very much against the national trend.

Please see the accompanying booklets for additional information on the activities of the sub-committees of the PCC and our various groups with all they have achieved this year.

Worship and Prayer The church of St John the Evangelist in Milborne Port is the largest in a Benefice of eight churches in five parishes.

Our average weekly attendance is around 65 at the Sunday 10:30 service for communion services, with fewer attending Matins. Wednesday mid-week communion has an average attendance of 8. Morning prayer is held each weekday at 9am with an average congregation of 4. The newly established 'Julian Group' meets on a Tuesday afternoon for an hour of quiet prayer. Our 'Memory Lane' service on the 3rd Saturday of each month is designed to support those suffering with dementia and their families.

Holy Saturday saw a very successful service at Milborne Wick. Holy Week and Easter services at St John's were well attended.

Our Harvest Service and Open Day in the early Autumn were very successful and as always our Remembrance Service was well attended and appreciated by the village community. The All Souls' Service provided much needed support to recently bereaved families.

Over Christmas we were able to provide our special "longest night service" for those who have been recently bereaved (attended by 25 people). The usual Christmas services including a Carol Service, Crib Service and Christmas Morning were well attended, although numbers for the latter two were slightly down on last year.

Home communions continued to be provided throughout the year by a member of the retired clergy. Monthly communion services are also provided at the Gainsborough Retirement community in the parish.

Festival Attendance Easter Sunday 113 Harvest 51 Remembrance Sunday 129 Christmas Services: Carol Service 110; Crib Service 76; Christmas Day 86

Occasional Offices during the year Weddings 2 Baptisms 9 Funerals: held in church 12; held solely at crematorium 4

The Mission Church at Milborne Wick Festival Attendance: Harvest 21

Community Outreach and Pastoral Care A children's activity morning was held on Holy Saturday in partnership with 'The Spirit of Milborne Port' and a Crib Service on Christmas Eve. Links with the local primary schools have continued. Visits by the 'Open the Book' team are much appreciated by both schools. Members of the church community continue to serve on the governing board of Charlton Horethorne school. In September we established 'Little Jays' playgroup which meets in Church House on a Friday morning. This provision is much appreciated by young families in the village.

The magazine continues to be published monthly and has been an excellent resource for the community to gather and distribute information. A successful fete was held in July including a summer raffle. The village "Light Up Night" was held in the church building, Church House and the surrounding grounds, it was very well attended.

Please see the accompanying booklet for all the charities we have supported this year.

Church Fabric

At the end of July our dedicated and faithful vergers decided to retire. Ronnie and June Goodman had served the church for over 40 years. We are very grateful for their service and commitment and wish them well in their retirement.

Following the Quinquennial Report (dated May 2023, received Spring 2024), the PCC has begun to carry out its recommendations. Daniel Kempf, Stonemason, who has previously carried out works on the church building, began repairs to the external stonework. These repairs will be completed during 2026. The roof has developed several areas where there is evidence of rainwater ingress. Our architect, Tom Griffin, was commissioned by the PCC to generate a specification for repairs to the roof and to invite tenders for the necessary work. It is hoped that the tendering process will be completed in early 2026 to allow the repairs to happen in the early spring. Due to water ingress, the lights in the north aisle are inoperable and the switch on the main panel has been taped up by the church's electrician.

Thanks to Tony Thorp who continues to ensure that the sound system is fit for purpose, and the microphones remain operational.

St John's Cottage is receiving income from regular tenants and is managed by Dorset Lettings. The arrangement continues to work well.

Routine maintenance has continued as usual with the clearing of all gutters and downpipes, servicing of the roof alarm, boiler and fire extinguishers. In the absence of a verger, the church has lost its regular cleaner. Some members of the congregation have offered to dust and vacuum so that the building remains a welcoming place. The boiler's ignition circuit board had to be replaced in November, following its annual service and its failure to work after the summer. At the time of writing, it is functioning well however we are aware that it is an ageing machine and will need to be replaced at some point. Several alternatives to using a gas boiler are being explored but are all extremely costly compared with a like for like replacement. There are ongoing discussions with the Diocese about this situation centred around the Diocesan drive for a 'net-zero' environment. Michael Farley, Organ Builder, visited in the summer. The organ was tuned and regulated throughout, and several suspect action adjustments dealt with and various buttons tightened. Whilst they considered it was not perfect, the team hoped that it would be sufficient for the organ recital that was to take place the following week. In time the instrument will need a major overhaul with new leather action buttons throughout. The seats on the Lady Chapel chairs were in a poor state of repair and these have all been repaired by David Gay, carpenter/joiner. The malfunctioning drawers in the Vicars' vestry were also repaired. The lamp post on western lawn was rubbed down and repainted by Mark Andrews, Property Maintenance, and is now a decorative rather than a functioning feature of the churchyard.

The churchyard continues to be ably maintained by "The Grasshoppers". We continue to use a "no mow/minimum mow" approach. This has enabled a wider species of plant to develop, that in turn enables a wider variety of invertebrates to flourish, providing a food source for the bats, swifts and other birds that proliferate the churchyard.

In planning the activities, the trustees have applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

Financial Review

2025 ends on a positive note as far as the finances go. In total across all the funds we have seen a small increase in value of some £1650.10. This is quite an achievement considering that during the year we have been doing the repairs and maintenance as highlighted in the quinquennial. The costs increased above the quotation by the involvement of the DAC being over zealous in their power. The problems with the roof became more evident and further inspection lead to extensive investigations and highlighted the need for loads of work. 'Project St John's' was set up and donations which have been announced in church have been directed into this project. In 2025 £10,348.63 has been entered into this fund with expenses totalling £5033.34 being spent on architects and surveying. This leaves us with a figure of circa £5315.29, roughly 10% of the repair's quotation. We have been extremely lucky with many generous donations which is a great comfort but more importantly that it shows just how much St John's is loved. As per usual the fund-raising committee have done a sterling job and raised the wonderful sum of £6177.55. The sad but inevitable retirement of June and Ronnie Goodman has seen a reduction in wage costs which has helped the balance, but put more pressure on the churchwardens to help deliver services. We managed to pay the parish share of some £48,813.00 for the year. Going forward it was agreed that the amount St John's would pay in 2026 would be less than the requested £53186 and a figure was accepted by the finance department of £50668 being an increase inline with inflation. The outlook is fairly optimistic as more people sign up to the Parish Giving Scheme and index link their monthly donations and all the other methods of donation continue to flourish. Thank you all so much. The repairs to the roof will take a large slice of reserves, but with the skilful input of invaluable time and knowledge from David Grant we are in a much better place to go forward and do the repairs. We managed this year to have claimed back some £553.80 VAT in the Listed Place of Worship Scheme. Hope in next year before the scheme is closed we might be able to claim a large chunk of the material costs. Thank you all for your help and support during the year. At the very end of the accounts I attach the complete breakdown of income and receipts for your information.

Reserves Policy

The charity aims to hold a minimum of 10% as unrestricted cash, so that the charity could continue to operate should income and / or expenditure vary adversely. The accounts for the end of this year show unrestricted funds amount to over £80,000.

Signature

This report was approved by the trustees, and is signed on their behalf by:

Name

Signature

Date

Independent Examiners Report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St John the Evangelist ('the charity') for the year ended 31/12/2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 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 2011 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 accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiner's Details

Name: Alison Cooper
Address: Charltons Accountancy
The Offices, Middle Farm
Charlton Horethorne
Sherborne
Dorset

Name

Signature

Date

Receipts & Payments Statement

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
Receipts				
Donations & Legacies				
Donations	53,642	6,270	59,912	51,762
Gift Aid	12,885	1,195	14,080	10,590
Grants	554	0	554	217
Charitable Activities				
Event Income	13,805	688	14,493	13,284
Investments				
Bank Interest	217	0	217	366
Trading Activities				
Rental Income	8,436	0	8,436	8,096
Sales	2,162	0	2,162	653
Other				
Loans Received	1,500	0	1,500	0
Other Income	14,719	0	14,719	16,333
Sale of Fixed Assets	0	0	0	0
Sale of Investments	0	0	0	0
Total receipts	107,918	8,154	116,072	101,301
Payments				
Charitable Activities				
Activities	56,409	0	56,409	47,830
Admin	2,512	0	2,512	2,661
Advertising	0	0	0	0
Bank Charges	120	9	128	36
Event Costs	2,268	0	2,268	3,315
Gifts Given	7,906	0	7,906	7,306
Other Expenditure	3,884	0	3,884	4,605
Premises	10,341	0	10,341	14,686
Staff Costs	15,229	0	15,229	18,739
Governance Costs				
Governance Costs	20	15,198	15,218	1,630
Other				
Fixed Asset Purchases	0	0	0	0
Loans Repaid	0	0	0	0
Money Invested	0	0	0	0
Total payments	98,690	15,207	113,897	100,808
Net Receipts / Payments (before transfers)	9,228	-7,053	2,175	492
Fund Transfers In	6,277	0	6,277	7,066
Fund Transfers Out	6,277	0	6,277	7,066
Net Movement of Cash Funds	9,228	-7,053	2,175	492
Total Cash Funds Brought Forward	151,627	59,633	211,260	210,768
Total Cash Funds Carried Forward	160,855	52,580	213,435	211,260
Represented By				
General (Unrestricted)	76,148	0	76,148	68,910
Benefice expense fund (Designated)	6,174	0	6,174	6,289
Fees Fund (Unrestricted)	5,766	0	5,766	4,444
Charity and Mission (Designated)	1,848	0	1,848	1,151
Restoration Fund (Restricted)	0	52,226	52,226	59,279
Flower Fund (Designated)	23	0	23	361
Bell Tower (Designated)	1,957	0	1,957	1,989
Legacies (Restricted)	0	354	354	354
Special Gifts (Designated)	8,242	0	8,242	8,242
Bequests (Designated)	60,173	0	60,173	60,173
BC19B Milborne Wick (Unrestricted)	296	0	296	68
St John's Little Jays Toddler Group (Unrestricted)	229	0	229	0
St Peter's Goathill (Designated)	0	0	0	0

Asset & Liability Statement

Cash Assets

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
General (Unrestricted)	76,148	0	76,148	68,910
Benefice expense fund (Designated)	6,174	0	6,174	6,289
Fees Fund (Unrestricted)	5,766	0	5,766	4,444
Charity and Mission (Designated)	1,848	0	1,848	1,151
Restoration Fund (Restricted)	0	52,226	52,226	59,279
Flower Fund (Designated)	23	0	23	361
Bell Tower (Designated)	1,957	0	1,957	1,989
Legacies (Restricted)	0	354	354	354
Special Gifts (Designated)	8,242	0	8,242	8,242
Bequests (Designated)	60,173	0	60,173	60,173
BC19B Milborne Wick (Unrestricted)	296	0	296	68
St John's Little Jays Toddler Group (Unrestricted)	229	0	229	0
St Peter's Goathill (Designated)	0	0	0	0
Cash Assets Total	160,855	52,580	213,435	211,260

Other Monetary Assets

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
Gift Aid		971	53	1,024	673
Stock		0	0	0	0
Other	In credit with HMRC	28	0	28	0

Investment Assets

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
Property		0	0	0	0
Investment Accounts		45,494	0	45,494	45,494
Other		10,099	0	10,099	10,099

Fixed Assets

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
Land & Buildings		1,234,814	0	1,234,814	1,134,814
Music & PA Equipment		400	0	400	450
Computers & IT		1,200	0	1,200	1,200
Furniture		500	0	500	500
Motor Vehicles		0	0	0	0

Liabilities

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
Loans Outstanding		0	0	0	0
Pension Payment Owed		0	0	0	0
HMRC Payments Owed		0	0	0	0
Independent Examination Fee Due		100	0	100	100
Other		0	0	0	478

Signature

These accounts have been approved by the trustees, and are signed on their behalf by:

Name
Signature
Date

Notes to the Accounts

Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

Transactions to Related Parties

There were no transactions related parties during the accounting period.

Movement of Funds

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Fund Transfers	Closing Balance
Unrestricted					
General (Unrestricted)	68,910	97,155	83,777	-6,141	76,148
Fees Fund (Unrestricted)	4,444	5,088	3,765	0	5,766
BC19B Milborne Wick (Unrestricted)	68	296	0	-68	296
St John's Little Jays Toddler Group (Unrestricted)	0	675	446	0	229
TOTAL	73,422	103,214	87,988	-6,209	82,439
Designated					
Benefice expense fund (Designated)	6,289	3,175	9,499	+6,209	6,174
Charity and Mission (Designated)	1,151	1,221	524	0	1,848
Flower Fund (Designated)	361	256	594	0	23
Bell Tower (Designated)	1,989	53	85	0	1,957
Special Gifts (Designated)	8,242	0	0	0	8,242
Bequests (Designated)	60,173	0	0	0	60,173
St Peter's Goathill (Designated)	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	78,205	4,705	10,702	+6,209	78,416
Unrestricted Total	151,627	107,918	98,690	+0	160,855
Restricted					
Restoration Fund (Restricted)	59,279	8,154	15,207	0	52,226
Legacies (Restricted)	354	0	0	0	354
TOTAL	59,633	8,154	15,207	0	52,580
Restricted Total	59,633	8,154	15,207	0	52,580
TOTAL	211,260	116,072	113,897	+0	213,435