

*St. John the Divine, Rastrick,
Parish Meeting and
Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2026*

*Annual Reports for
January 1st to December 31 2025*



Report on the Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council

The PCC meets six times a year to help manage the church's mission, finances, and daily life at St. John's. The PCC consists of the vicar, lay ministers, church wardens, deanery synod members (3), and elected members (6); there are currently 14 members.

At every meeting, we review issues raised by the vicar as updates, some of which need approval. Safeguarding, health and safety, Eco Church, and finances are regular items on the agenda. Reports from the Deanery Synod and the Hall committee are also included.

During 2025, in addition to the above, we dealt with proposals from the IOCS group (Improving Our Church Space) regarding the internal porch in the church, the sale of land on which the garage at 26 Gooder Lane is built, the appointment of Ann Wiggins as licensed lay Minister to the Rastrick benefice, and the appointment of Claire Summerscales to a permanent position as benefice administrator. Ongoing events and plans for the beer festival were discussed.

Thank you to everyone who serves on the PCC, especially those stepping down at the APCM. There are several vacancies on the Church Council and offers to join and contribute to the life and mission of St. John's are very welcome.

The Church Council is very grateful to all those who carry out the many roles, within and outside the Church, and who contribute enormously to the smooth running of the parish.

Christine Whitaker

Secretary to the Church Council.

Fabric Report to the Church of St John the Divine for the year ended 31st December 2025

Church

The major project this year in the church has been to build a glass entrance area by the main door to reduce drafts coming through and to balance it with the servery on the opposite side of the church. It has been a somewhat challenging journey, but by the end of December, the finish line was in sight.

Our thanks go to David James, who has been tasked with securing grants from various sources to fund the project. He has faced many rejections along the way but ultimately succeeded in raising the necessary funds, including a £20,000 grant from the National Lottery. The total cost,

including the new units, flooring, and a new ceiling beam, is just over £ 34,000.

As part of the installation, a new heat curtain has been installed above the inner main church door.

It was hoped that the entire installation would be completed before Christmas, but unfortunately, due to illness, it will not now be finished until early in the New Year. It should be noted that the entire porch project has been funded by grants through the efforts of IOCS, and no funds have been drawn from church funds or the congregation.

There was a problem with the sound system during the year, but thankfully, this has now been resolved.

A cleanup day in the choir vestry was held, during which many unwanted items were removed. An electric socket was found that probably needs replacing, and this will be addressed in due course.

A decision was also made to place a small plaque by the organ to commemorate its recent rebuild. This would complement the existing plaques.

Hall

This year, the Hall has had no major problems, but there have been a number of minor issues that have needed attention.

The possibility of installing a CCTV camera inside the hall was considered but has currently been dismissed because the cost (approximately £1800 + VAT) would be too high. A new hard drive would also be required, as the current system only supports the existing cameras. The CCTV was serviced this year.

One of the heaters in the hall was malfunctioning, but this has now been resolved.

A new electric heater has been fitted in the Sturrock Room, and thermostats have been fitted to the hall heaters.

In the Conference Suite, the hot-water boiler has had to be replaced, and the toilet seat has sustained damage. The heating controls in the Sturrock room have been boxed in to try to prevent people from altering them.

During the year, some unauthorised electrical work was undertaken in connection with stage lighting, involving the removal of a double socket in the hall near the stage and some untidy wiring. This has now been reversed, with instructions that no further work is to be undertaken.

PAT testing, heater servicing, and fire extinguisher servicing are all up to date, and it is intended that an asset list book be prepared to keep all such appliances and their respective servicing in one place, so that dates can be found easily.

Precincts

A repair to the drain in the car park has been carried out.

A large tree in the back garden had fallen further during the year, and branches had to be cut for safety. A tree that was obstructing the Conference suite door has been cut down.

The PCC are looking into the possibility of putting white lines in the car park to aid parking, perhaps including disabled spaces and spaces for minibuses, in the hope that this will improve utilisation of the available space.

In Conclusion

The fabric of the church, hall and environs remains in good condition, with repairs and upgrades being carried on apace.

As of the end of December, all major works have just about been completed. Both HIC (Hall Improvement Committee) and IOCS (Improvement of Church Space) remain active, and it is thanks to both these groups that the improvements have been steered over the last few years.

Despite all the major works underway, the PCC and related groups still ensure that the minor, more routine tasks are carried out.

David Marshall & Hilary Cartwright (Churchwardens)

Finance Report

Turnover in 2025 was £123,195 (£123,577). Overall expenditure was £102,703 (£144,614), resulting in a surplus of £20,492; however, this included £8,317 held for the completion of the church porch, leaving a total surplus of £12,175 from general activities.

Church giving increased by 8% from £39,668 in 2024 to £42,803, thanks to all who have generously contributed to the church's work. The congregation is encouraged to use the parish giving scheme, which is much easier to manage. There was no legacy income in 2025; the congregation is also encouraged to consider leaving a percentage of their estate to St. John's in their wills – it serves as a great encouragement to the remaining congregation and creates opportunities for future growth.

The recent improvements to the church's facilities have made it a popular venue for events. Income from church hire was £4,991 (£2,948), a 69% increase. Hosting these events is a pleasure, and it undoubtedly encourages people to return for other gatherings and services. Surplus on the church account was £6,205 for 2025.

The hire of the church hall generated £22,157 (£22,266) and remains a well-used asset for the church; our large car park enhances its appeal. A

better deal on gas and electricity has lowered our bills, as has the installation of solar panels last year, which reduced our electricity costs significantly to £944 (£2,713) and gas to £1,335 (£1,922). Overall, the Community Hall made a surplus of £6,834 in 2025.

Church income is tithed and allocated by PCC to the mission and charities fund. Appeals made in church throughout the year are added to this amount for distribution. In 2025, a total of £6,735 (£5,216) was distributed to 21 different charities.

Finally, thanks to Cherry for all her work as treasurer; she has been treasurer for longer than anyone can remember and stepped down in August after suffering a stroke. We wish her well. Thanks also to Roger, who counts the money on Sundays, and to Hiliary, who is handling the banking.

Alan Hoggard - Acting Treasurer

(Financial spreadsheets are at the back of the booklet)

Safeguarding Report

Safeguarding Sunday, held on 19th October 2025 at St John's, served as a strong reminder that awareness and vigilance regarding safeguarding issues are responsibilities we all share as members of the church. The national resources utilised were produced by Thirty-One Eight, the Christian charity the diocese employs to meet our safeguarding requirements, particularly the Disclosure and Barring Service checks.

Safeguarding remains a permanent item on the agenda for each PCC meeting as required, and I have continued to provide updates on our progress with the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard. St Johns' is on level three, the highest level, and throughout the year I have been working towards ensuring all our activities, policies, and procedures are fully up to date and meet the Church of England requirements. Working with Reverend Michelle, my particular focus has been on the Pantomime Society, and all heads of departments are now safely recruited and trained. The rigorous requirements mean that completing the work with the assistant heads and the rest of the volunteers will continue into 2026. However, every volunteer has read and is complying with the "Code of Safer Working Practice."

I have no safeguarding issues to report this year, either to PCC or to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisors.

Jane Hearson - Parish Safeguarding Officer

Electoral Officer's Report

Last year, a completely new Electoral Roll was prepared in time for the APCM. This was my first time doing so since taking on the role of Electoral Roll Officer in 2021. The next Electoral Roll will need to be prepared in 2031. I will be "retiring" after that, allowing an incoming Electoral Roll Officer the opportunity to shadow me as the new roll is prepared.

The Electoral Roll now stands at 67 people – the same as the previous year. However, some people have been removed and new individuals added to the Roll. Looking back through the records, I found that 20 years ago, there were 114 on the Electoral Roll. I will report any changes to this number at the APCM after the revision of the 2026/27 Church Electoral Roll is completed.

Rosemary Lake

Electoral Roll Officer

Gift Aid report

The total money donated in 2025 that was eligible for gift aid is as follows:

		2025		2024	
	No.	Donations	Tax	Donations	Tax
Standing Orders	13	9789	2447	10058	2515
Parish Giving	28	24826	6207	23535	5884
Organ Fund		0	0	500	125
Cash Collections		2101	525	1757	439
Cash Donations		1958	489	4951	1238
Donations to M & C		882	221	1107	277
Flowers		753	188	634	159
Teas & Coffee		1051	263	952	238
Beer Festival		1950	488		
Events		1290	322	1828	457
		44599	11150	45322	11331

The Parish Giving scheme enables the church to receive a single monthly payment (with Gift Aid) from all who contribute to the life and witness of St. John's. This can be a regular monthly Direct Debit or occasional donations, which can be managed on one line or by telephone. PGS helps enormously with administration. Please speak to Alan Hoggard about giving in this way.

Alan Hoggard

Music Report

“O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth; serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.” Psalm 100: 1

The Rastrick Voices: In 2025, as in the year before, our Benefice choir led the congregation in our ‘Songs of Praise’ – a glorious service-cum-sing song for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. On Maundy Thursday, the focus changed completely as the Voices added to our worship by singing ‘God so loved the world’ from Stainer’s ‘Crucifixion’. The Voices work hard to provide music for our worship, and as always, Christmas requires the biggest commitment. However, this was probably the most fun as we sang at the Yorkshire Christmas Carol Service – carols as varied as ‘Silent Night’, Ken Swallow’s ‘Christ was born’ and even the Yorkshire Wassail! The Voices also went ‘on tour’ to the local care homes, joined by other members of the congregation.

The St John’s Music Group: This wonderful group of musicians provides music for our worship every first Sunday (*All Age Holy Communion*) and for every fifth Sunday Benefice Service. Although it’s a big commitment, it’s the way we worship – through our playing, and it’s so lovely to have Frances back with us, both on flute and vocals. Other special services through 2025 have included the Songs of Praise in January, the very moving Reflection on Good Friday and the exuberant Pentecost Praise at St Matthew’s. Towards the end of the year, we were privileged to provide the music for the two very moving ‘Loved not Lost’ services, one at each church, and also for the Eucharist for Peace. Christmas, of course, is always very busy with the two Christingle services, but so much fun as our extended Group also gets to play all sorts of fun stuff such as ‘Winter Wonderland’ and ‘Rockin’ around the Christmas Tree’! The group also ‘morphed’ into a hurdy gurdy, along with Kim on recorder and Graham Kennedy on bassoon, for the Yorkshire Wassail at the Carol Service.

We’ve continued to sing the new Addington Service during the special Church seasons. We’ve also since added a new Lent Liturgy, but I’ll mention that in next year’s report.

The organ has been popular following its refurbishment, with recitals and an ‘open console’ day. David Price FRCO (CHM) included St John’s in his Summer UK tour.

As always, we’re also very grateful for all the music, Sunday by Sunday, provided by our faithful organist friends, and in that I include Jane for our ‘Bechstein Sundays’.

It is a privilege and a real joy to provide the music for our very varied worship.

Pamela Dimbleby

Eco Group Report

January 2025 marked a major milestone in the church's journey towards Sustainability, with our gaining the Eco Church Silver Award. The question of 'what next?' quickly arose. After discussion with the vicar, we decided that now wasn't the time to embark on the Gold Award. Instead, we offered our support to the St Matthews group as they work towards Silver. Norman and Rosemary had a productive session, suggesting ways to gain Silver in the 'Land' category.

Thanks to them, the church garden continues to look more 'loved'. We aim to make it both nature-friendly and a pleasant space for the community. The long drought throughout the summer months presented a challenge, as a number of our perennials and herbs didn't survive. But it has been rewarding to see a rich display of bulbs this spring. We try to keep the paths tidy and the wall adjoining the Gooder Lane houses in good repair. The bird feeders have been very well used, and it's pleasing that these haven't been vandalised.

We have plans to fit a water butt at the side of the church or hall, and also to buy two benches for the garden.

Once again, we took part in the Churches' Count for Nature in June. The crowning glory was to find a robin's nest in the ivy that grows over the far wall.

We haven't yet embarked on our Net Zero project. Meanwhile, the figures for our energy generation and consumption in the church and, especially, the hall are impressive. Overall, two-thirds of the electricity we use is generated by solar panels, and we export more to the grid than we consume ourselves!

Pat continues to operate our 2-monthly Swap Stall, which is now a colourful, inviting feature of the coffee mornings and services.

We invited a speaker to coincide with our Christian Aid collection in June. Revd James Watterson gave a very inspiring, informative talk about CA's ministry in Guatemala and Sierra Leone. It's good to remember that, in making our own lives and those of our church sustainable, we are blessing our brothers and sisters overseas.

John Hearson on behalf of Norman and Rosemary Lake, Pat Lee

St John the Divine Rastrick Mothers' Union (MU)

St. John's Mothers' Union continues to be a thriving and friendly branch, also very busy.

We currently have 23 members and one indoor member. Unfortunately, in 2025, we had to say goodbye to a very long-serving member not only of the Mothers Union but also of the church, our dearly loved Margaret Raine. R.I.P Margaret.

Our Branch Leader, Julia, had to temporarily step back in 2025 after bravely carrying on her duties in difficult circumstances. This was not a decision made lightly by Julia. Therefore, the Branch is currently being run by the committee, who have each taken on various roles. This seems to be working well.

We had a varied programme in 2025. We were fortunate to have quite a few area gatherings in our church, the services led by Rev Michelle. We are lucky to have Michelle as she is not only our vicar but the Episcopal minister and an active, supportive member of our mothers' union branch.

We continue to hold our annual coffee day and our annual New Year's dinner. Both were very enjoyable. We had many varied speakers and outings and special services too numerous to mention, but one which stands out must be the visit to Rochdale Town Hall, what a magnificent building full of history and a lovely café too.

We continue to support projects, e.g., AFIA (away from it all), for families who otherwise would not have a holiday. Various projects with the girls at Newhall Prison and the Mother and Baby Unit there.

The war in Ukraine is now in its fourth year, and we hear through our contact that the atrocities against children carry on relentlessly. Mothers' Union support where we can, by knitting for the orphanage and collecting wax to make candles for the soldiers in the trenches.

The Mothers' Union is a wonderful worldwide Christian organisation, and I feel we are privileged to be part of it.

May God guide us as we walk and follow his example of passing on love, hope, and friendship, and helping and supporting all who are in need.

Ann Johnson - Secretary

Study Groups

Our Lent groups in 2025 followed a course titled 'A Lenten Journey through the Lord's Prayer'... Exploring the prayer that Jesus taught us. We used a booklet from the Pilgrim series, and each week included video teachings, discussions, and a practical prayer activity related to a line from the Lord's Prayer. We accompanied these with videos from Rev Sam Chorley, who was formerly rector at Leeds Minster and is now the bishop of Stockport. His

videos are straightforward and provide thought-provoking insights into the week's theme. It was a wonderful way to explore the prayer we often use and to share our thoughts and understanding.

In June, we ran a course titled 'We Believe' - Exploring the Nicene Creed. 1700 years since it was first written in 325 AD. The Nicene Creed is the most widely accepted Creed in the Christian faith, used by many denominations, including the Anglican Communion, and serves as a reminder of our shared faith, both with Christians around the world today and with all those who have affirmed these words over the last 17 centuries.

Monday Meet continues to gather at Shirley Stow's home at 2 pm every week. An informal gathering with the opportunity to unpack the Bible readings from the previous day, discuss current issues, address everyday dilemmas, drink coffee, and eat cake. Thank you, Shirley, for your hospitality.

Ann ran a number of Saturday film showings, including *The Lion*, *the Witch*, and *the Wardrobe*, another opportunity to gather, share thoughts, and fellowship.

Groups are all about gathering without any expectations. Too many people tell me, 'I don't know enough' or 'I wouldn't have anything to say'... but that's the point, because we learn from each other; we learn how to apply faith to everyday life; we build fellowship, and we are encouraged as we meet with like-minded friends in a supportive environment.

In a world that appears increasingly uncertain, confidence in our faith means trusting in God, understanding His Word, and remaining steadfast in the face of difficulties. Do join a group or speak to me if you have ideas for a group you would like to see.

Alan Hoggard

Tanzania Link Report

In Summer 2025, we welcomed Bishop Malcolm to Leeds Diocese and chairman of the Tanzania Link Committee. He and his wife will be visiting our 3 link Dioceses of Mara, Rorya and Tarime as part of the first parish's visit to Tanzania since Covid. This will take place in July/August 2026.

The new Bishop of Tarime, Bishop John Msuma, visited several Tarime - linked parishes in Leeds Diocese when he was in the UK attending a new Bishop's conference in Canterbury.

Nyakiswa

Nyakiswa has a new vicar, Rev Boniface Awit, and he and his wife have 4 sons.

The church in Nyakiswa now has a beautiful, tiled floor - a big improvement - thanks to financial support from our 2 Rastrick parishes. We have also supported the purchase of a new generator and repair work to the church door.

The 2 girls completing the secretarial course in July 2026 should be able to get jobs in Musoma. It has been agreed that we will support 2 more girls from Nyakiswa to pursue the secretarial course starting in January 2027, and the church has begun the selection process.

Thank you for your continuing interest and support

Oriel Kelly

Wednesday Nighters' Report

We began the year with 14 members, as sadly, at the end of January 2025, a longtime member of the group, Angela Local, sadly passed away. Due to varying circumstances, Cherry was unable to join us, so we now have 13 active members.

We had a variety of talks during the year with Pat Lee updating us on the Air Ambulance; Anne Wiggin spoke about her journey of Faith; David Glover gave us a very interesting talk on the life of Anne Lister; Oriel updated us on Tanzania; and we were encouraged to spend when Chocolatier Sarah Tompkinson told us about her journey from making chocolate for friends and family, to starting her full time business.

July took us to the evening organ concert by David Price in the church. An annual August trip took us to Quarry Bank in the Manchester area. Thanks go once again to Anne Aspinall and Sandra Hollingdrake for arranging the very interesting day.

Our Annual Lunch in November once again took us to the Golden Fleece in Blackley, where we all enjoyed a lovely meal. Our annual visit to St John's Pantomime was enjoyed by all who attended. Our year was rounded off with a Bring and Share lunch in January and our AGM in February, when we re-elected our Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. We were saddened to hear that past member Helen Barrett and Jack Aked, husband of past member Jean, had passed away

Barbara Rukin - Secretary

Hall Improvement Committee report (HIC)

Our first job of the year was to commission the new projector and other equipment fitted in 2024 in the Sturrock Room. As with so many of these projects, it took some time to get the various connections working as they should, but the end result was well worth it. The Sturrock Room can now be used to play DVDs on either the television or the projector screen, and a laptop can be easily plugged in to project images in the same way.

Other tasks throughout the year included ongoing patching of the floor boards in the main hall; plumbing repairs in the ladies toilet; re-painting patches in the main hall; replacing the toilet seat in the Conference Suite; fitting new shelves in the church storage cupboard; putting up new signage around the church exterior; fitting three new LED lights in the downstairs church vestry; making and fitting a cover for the hall heater controls, and finally replacing the kick-board heaters in the hall kitchen.

Come September, it was once again time for us to become the 'large props' team for the pantomime, rounding off another busy year.

So our Thursday evenings continue, with Dave Smaldon, Eric Ogden, and I carrying on our work looking after the church and the hall.

Ken Swallow

Hall Management Committee Report

The committee meets quarterly to ensure the smooth running of the hall. As far as possible, booking enquiries are managed online via email at bookings@stjohnsrastrick.org.uk. Christine Whittaker manages the telephone enquiries, and confirmed bookings are recorded on the parish calendar, a link to which is on the website.

Audiovisual equipment, screen and projector were installed in the Sturrock room, which, along with the conference suite give two rooms available for presentations

In July 2025, the scout group unfortunately closed after many years as part of St. John's. A lack of volunteer leaders was the main reason. Many thanks to all those who have worked tirelessly over the years to make it a success. A whole mezzanine of equipment was transferred to central scout on Armitage Road, and other groups leaving a large area available for storage.

The running of the popular monthly Tuesday community lunches organised by Cherry Fancourt and her dedicated team of helpers had to be reassessed following Cherry's stroke in August. Fortunately, Focus for

Hope, which runs the Renaissance cinema after lunch, has been able to take on running the lunches. Thanks to them.

Lesley, our caretaker, is key to ensuring that the hall bookings run smoothly. She works from the diary to make sure the hall is ready for every booking, sets the heating, and opens and locks up for bookings where there is no appointed key holder. She brings to the committee any issues, repairs, and ongoing maintenance that need attention.

Thanks must go to the Hall Improvement Committee (HIC). dedicated to meeting every week and carrying out maintenance jobs in the hall and church, and ensuring that our facilities are well-maintained

Our Community Hall is an excellent space for parties, meetings, events and concerts. Please promote the Hall as a venue.

Missions and Charities Report

During 2025, we continued to send monthly donations to Turning Point (£40), Nyakiswa (£40), and Hand to Mouth Ministries (£25), but for 2026, we agreed to switch to an annual donation and increase the amounts.

The Lent Appeal for the RNLI raised £653, including gift aid, and the Harvest Appeal for the Welcome Centre provided cleaning goods, toiletries and tinned food, plus cash donations of £50.

We continue to support the Foodbank with help from the Knit and Natter group. Donations from the basket in church are also gratefully received.

The retiring collection after the Yorkshire Christmas service raised £300 for the Salvation Army's work in Brighouse.

From our annual allocation, we sent £500 to Embrace the Middle East, an ecumenical Christian charity that supports marginalised and vulnerable communities in the Middle East. The Bible Society and Médecins sans Frontières each received £500. Project Colt in Elland, which provides a safe place, selected partners and specialist pathways to successful recovery and sustained healthy lifestyles, along with Tearfund, also received £500. We supported several other charities with smaller amounts of money.

Thank you for your continued support, and please let us know about your favourite, particularly small, local charities.

Oriel Kelly

Pastoral Work Report

I regard safeguarding as an important element of pastoral care and this has been a major focus in the year, particularly working with Reverend Michelle, making sure our Pantomime Society volunteers are “safely recruited”

Conducting monthly “Praise and Worship” services at St Winifreds’ residential home has been a privilege and a joy, culminating in a vibrant carol service assisted by members of our “Voices” choir. We regularly have a dozen enthusiastic residents, and I have appreciated the help of Pam Dimpleby and Gillian Sykes in these services.

Though we no longer conduct services at Rastrick Hall and Grange residential home, I have taken communion regularly to 2 residents. Also under Reverend Michelle’s direction, I do the same with church members who can no longer attend church.

Until July three of us visited Cygnet Lodge monthly, an inpatient rehabilitation service for men, helping them to increase their independence. After a gap we were asked to go fortnightly, and we also held a carol service there. Normally it is an informal hour to chat over tea and biscuits, but we are also available to pray for any individual who requests this.

The church was asked to visit Railway Bridge View a new complex for over 50s when it opened. We held a well-attended carol service in 2025 assisted by members of the “Voices”. During the year the Mothers Union arranged craft sessions and a tabletop sale.

I am grateful for the Friday morning prayer session on Zoom arranged by Alan Hoggard, which a small group of us take part in (anyone welcome).

We pray for these residential homes and our presence there, as well as praying for those who are sick particularly in our parish, and the needs of the world.

Jane Hearson Lay Pastoral Minister

Pantomime Report for the APCM

2025 was another fantastic year for St Johns Pantomime society, with our 51st pantomime. It was definitely a year of change for the society, with the wonderful Graham stepping down from his plethora of roles. We had myself take over as the new secretary, Debbie Jones taking over as Producer and Neil Denham taking over as Director. Alongside these we had new choreographers, new front of house managers, a new assistant director, a new prompter and a new caterer for our Saturday night party

after the show. Everyone worked together tremendously, rolled their sleeves up and teamwork was definitely the running theme of 2025.

Throughout the year we had our usual stall at Brighthouse Gala, another wonderfully successful day raising vital funds for the society, we had an extremely well attended corporate service, followed by bacon butties and of course, the ever-popular parish lunch. A big thank you to everyone who attended in any way, shape or form and a thank you to everyone who provided sweets for our parish lunch.

One of our first changes was to our audition process for the pantomime, with people wishing to take part being able to register their interest and audition on stage for specific roles. It worked fantastically and we had a record breaking 25 people register interest for parts. The committee cast the pantomime perfectly although the numbers of auditionees did sadly mean we had to turn quite a few away with no parts. It was wonderful to have a few new faces in the cast and see people take on roles they haven't done before. We hope the success of the auditions continues into 2026 and beyond.

Sadly, we lost a cherished member of the St Johns family - Pat Hobson who had been supporting the Pantomime for decades. She is in our thoughts always and we send all our love and well wishes to Jill and the whole family.

The 3 month rehearsal process was, as always, highly enjoyable with plenty of laughs and PLENTY of prompts - we certainly kept the prompters busy (oh yes we did)! Show week was fantastic, with huge audiences every night and high praise for absolutely everyone. A huge thank you to every single person that was involved in any way with our 2025 production of 'Cinderella'. I can't wait to see what 2026 brings for the society. I have loved my first year as secretary and I can't wait to carry on all the good work that the wonderful Mr Readshaw had built in his time with St Johns Pantomime Society. I'm in no doubt that we will continue to be 'The best amateur Pantomime in Calderdale' for a long time yet.

Felicity Smallbones
Pantomime Secretary

Magazine Report

Our 'new' magazine has now been in production since October 2023, making 2025 our second full year since the post-lockdown newsletter evolved into a magazine. We have settled into a pattern of now familiar regular items, along with church posters, church adverts and individual contributions - everything produced by ourselves with no external funding. Although the magazine is available online, the number of people in 2025 who preferred to buy a real copy increased. We now print 32 at the start of each month, printing extra when the pile gets low. If you find they've all gone, just let me know as I can 'print on demand'.

We wouldn't have a magazine without all your contributions, so thank you for keeping them coming. One item I'm often short of is a prayer for the 'Favourite Prayer' page, so if you do have one you can send me (*with maybe a little explanation as to why you like it*), I would be grateful.

I'm very 'hot' on copyright, so I make sure that all the images I use myself are with permission or copyright-free. If you send me items with images, I'm leaving that responsibility to you.

It's very time-consuming to produce the magazine (although I do enjoy it), so you can really help me by always meeting the deadline for submissions. It becomes a real logistical puzzle having to move things around, change fonts, re-size pictures, etc., because something else has just arrived which needs to be included.

Last plea: do send in your suggestions for the 'Caption that!' photos. We get some great ideas, and everyone likes a chuckle!

Pam Dumbleby

Rucksack Club Report

It is encouraging / rewarding to note that as time marches on our club continues to provide opportunity for members and guests to enjoy a variety of walks.

What can be more rewarding than walking with friends and acquaintances in the outdoors, exploring new areas, and revisiting some of our favourite areas even using local buses and still keeping the length of walks at an acceptable level.

This success is the result of members offering their time in organising and leading walks.

In 2025 we had 16 walks in total, attendees on full day walks averaged at 13, with half day averaging 10. We have travelled into the dales and dare I say the darkest part of Lancashire. The walks have varied from not just

relatively steep climbs to meadowland and even a treasure hunt, all most enjoyable.

We are delighted to support charities that we can relate to, through our walking. Last year we supported the Yorkshire Air Ambulance. The annual BBQ was held at Oriel's home with 42 people attending. Our annual dinner in November at Briar Court was well attended. Christmas saw 31 people joining us at Bradley Golf Club.

Roger Ellis - Secretary

Brighouse and Elland Deanery Synod Report

Meetings during 2025 were as follows:

On 25 February, the Deanery Synod was held at St John's Church, Rastrick, and was opened by Revd. Michelle. Canon James Allison asked the meeting to talk with the person next to them about "one thing" they were thankful for that day and one thing we should pray for. Then Julia Tum gave an interesting talk on the history of the Mothers' Union and an update on its work in our Area. Afterwards, Revd. Stephen Southgate provided a brief history of St Francis of Assisi, whose main concern was for "the poor". 2026 marks the 800th anniversary of St Francis's death, and to mark this occasion, Revd. Stephen was organising an all-age musical theatre event about the life of St Francis, which would narrate the gospel and include dance and drama.

On 9th June, the Deanery Synod meeting was held at St Mary the Virgin Church, Elland, and Father Philip Chadwick welcomed everyone to the Church. The main theme of the evening was to introduce us to and widen our thoughts on the importance of music in church, for prayer, and for worship. David Buck (St Matthew's, Lightcliffe) who played a beautiful piece of music on a flute and demonstrated how music can be linked to prayer. Revd Paul Webb (St Martin's Brighouse and St John's, Clifton) talked about using a music band in worship. And how we can introduce new styles of music in worship to supplement rather than replacing what we already have in place e.g. a mixture of traditional hymns and new songs.

On 16th October, the Deanery Synod meeting was held at St Chad's Church in Brighouse. Canon Sean Robinson, an exterritorial Army Chaplain with experience in Afghanistan, is currently Diocesan Director of Vocations (formerly known as Director of Ordinands). Canon Sean gave a general talk about discernment in whatever vocation we feel we are called

to or job we volunteer for. He interspersed his talk with anecdotes of his time spent as an Army Chaplain.

The purpose of the Deanery Synod meetings is to enable each Parish to discuss any issues that may arise. Meetings are usually held every three months, with talks and organisations from some very interesting groups. Reports from the meetings are presented to the Church Council, and occasionally, members have been asked to vote for items that would be passed to the Diocesan Synod.

This is the third year of the current Triennium, which means there will be three vacancies to fill at the Annual Meeting. Please consider whether you could fill one of these vacancies, and if you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask.

Christine Whitaker, Julia Tum and Revd. Michelle

Growing Together in Rastrick Report

On January 19th, we organised an event of favourite hymns led by Rev Michelle at St John's, with music arranged by Pam Dimbleby. All the churches in the district were invited to join in, and ten hymns were sung with gusto.

Lent groups and Holy Week services were arranged between the churches. Once again, the people of Rastrick walked from St. John's to Central Methodist Church to join with other churches in Brighthouse for the Good Friday Witness Walk. Rev Michelle again invited people to join in with a sunrise service at the Vicarage to celebrate Easter Day.

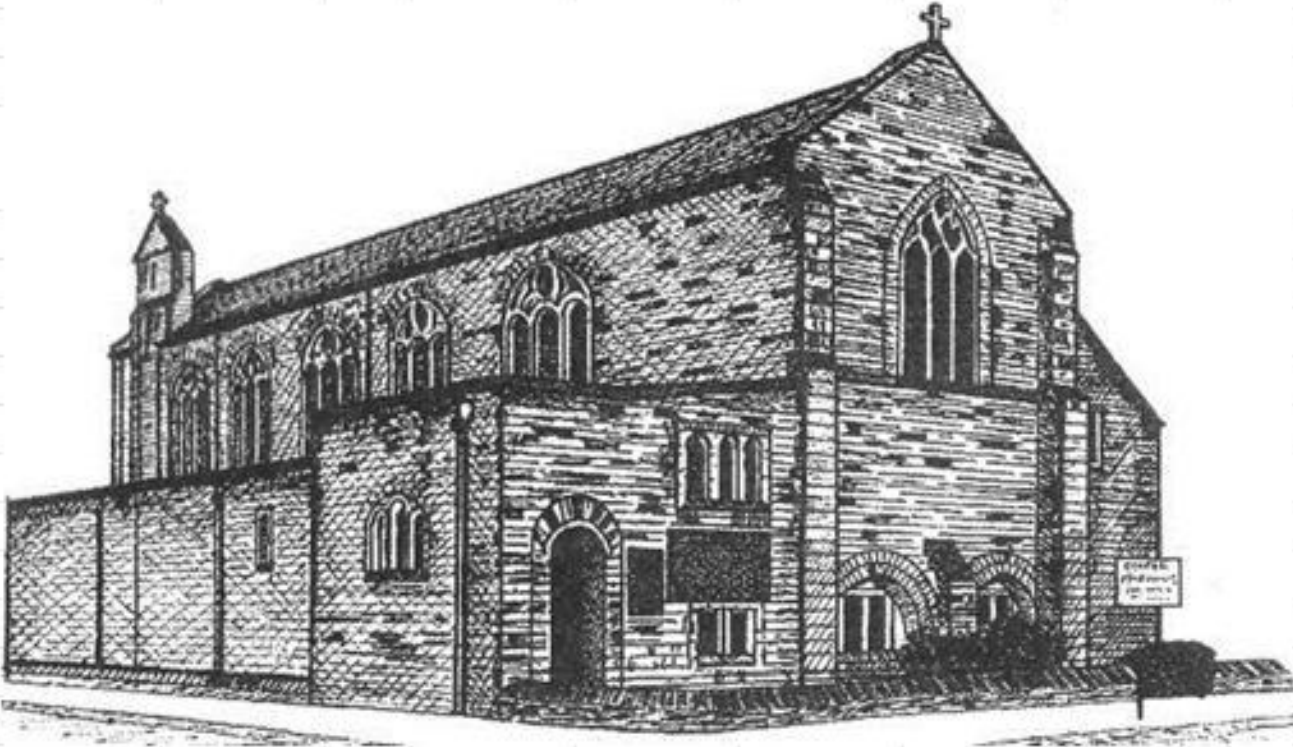
The Pentecost service, which should have been held in the open air at St. Matthew's, had to be in the church as it was a very wet day.

Christmas cards were once again ordered by John Mothersdale, and the delivery scheme brought to the meeting proved not viable, so not all our cards were delivered. Unfortunately, after I tried very hard to find a new venue for Carol Singing, nothing came to fruition. Hoping for a better result for next year.

Barbara Rukin

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025



St John The Divine Rastrick

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2025

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

Name	Position	Dates	
Rev Michelle Petch	Vicar and Chair of PCC		
Alan Hoggard	Ex Officio		
Hilary Cartwright	Churchwarden	Appointed	May-25
David Marshall	Churchwarden	Appointed	May-25

Members

Cherry Fancourt (Deanery Synod)	Treasurer		
Jennifer Guy			
John Hearson			
Pat Lee			
Janine Morrisroe			
Soo Sykes			
Julia Tum (Deanery Synod)	Deanery Synod		
Christine Whitaker (Deanery Synod)	Secretary		
Cath Palmer		Appointed	May-25

Charity number 1209292

Registered and principal address

St Johns Street
Rastrick
HD6 1HN

Bankers

Virgin Money
12 Bradford Road
Cleckheaton
BD19 3RJ

Independent examiner

Simon Bostrom FCIE

West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW

Structure, governance and management

The charity is an unregistered charity and is governed by the Church Representation Rules 2020.

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees of the charity are the PCC (Parochial Church Council) members, who are elected for three years at the Annual Parochial Church meeting. Up to three members elected as deanery synod representatives are also ex-officio members of the PCC

St John The Divine Rastrick

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2025

Objectives and Activities

The charity's objects

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St John The Divine, Rastrick, has the responsibility of working with the vicar to promote the gospel and mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Our mission is to grow in spiritual commitment and in service to our local community.

The charity's main activities

To promote the whole mission of the Church in Rastrick, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Public benefit statement

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular the advancement of religion.

Achievements and performance

The church continues to provide regular Christian worship on a Sunday for an average of 48 people. Joint services are held with St Matthews Rastrick the second church in the Rastrick Benefice. The congregation benefits from a wide variety of groups that people can participate in. A monthly community Lunch attracts people from across the community. A team of people regularly visit the care homes in the benefice, and a second team goes into the schools performing 'open the book' plays. The community hall is increasingly well-used by a wide variety of organisations and the church is regularly used for concerts.

Financial review

The net receipts for the year were £20,492, this included net income of £12,175 on unrestricted funds and net receipts of £8,317 on restricted funds after transfers.

Reserves policy

The charity's free reserves, at the year end were £60,537.

The charity does not have a reserves policy.

Approved by the board of trustees on 25/03/2026

Rev.Michelle Petch (Trustee)

St John The Divine Rastrick

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of St John The Divine Rastrick

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 5 to 9.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees 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 as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. 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 Charities Act 2011
- 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.

Simon Bostrom FCIE

07/04/2026

West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW

St John The Divine Rastrick
Receipts and payments account
for the year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	2025	2025	2025	2024
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		funds	funds	funds	funds
		£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Church Giving		42,802	-	42,802	43,999
HMRC Gift Aid		11,052	-	11,052	12,914
Other Church Income		13,072	-	13,072	13,781
Hall Hire		22,157	-	22,157	22,266
Special Appeals(M&C)		-	1,362	1,362	1,625
IOCS Grants		-	32,750	32,750	-
Organ Refurb		-	-	-	500
Hall Grants & Donations		-	-	-	28,492
Other		-	-	-	-
Total receipts		89,083	34,112	123,195	123,577
Payments					
Parish Share		34,537	-	34,537	34,416
Clergy/Admin expenses		3,201	-	3,201	2,916
Utilities		6,922	-	6,922	9,229
Insurance		7,313	-	7,313	7,361
Church Maintenance		566	-	566	2,866
Cleaning		8,543	-	8,543	10,053
Organist		1,746	-	1,746	1,225
Other church expenses		4,232	-	4,232	5,847
Sundries		-	-	-	1,359
Mission & Charities		5,144	1,591	6,735	5,216
Church Fabric		-	24,204	24,204	-
Hall Maintenance		3,468	-	3,468	28,616
Precincts & Gardens		1,236	-	1,236	2,679
Organ Refurbishment		-	-	-	32,831
Total payments		76,908	25,795	102,703	144,614
Net receipts / (payments)		12,175	8,317	20,492	(21,037)
Transfers between funds	(3)	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		12,175	8,317	20,492	(21,037)
Fund balances brought forward		48,362	1,339	49,701	70,738
Fund balances carried forward	(3)	60,537	9,656	70,193	49,701

St John The Divine Rastrick
Statement of assets and liabilities
as at 31 December 2025

	2025	2025	2025	2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cash funds				
Cash at bank	60,537	9,656	70,193	49,702
Cash in hand	-	-	-	-
Total cash funds	60,537	9,656	70,193	49,702

Debtors and prepayments	2025	2024
	£	£
Debtors	903	1,556
Prepayments	-	-
Accrued income	-	287
	903	1,843

Liabilities	2025	2024
	£	£
Creditors	1,632	1,148
Accruals	567	567
Income received in advance	-	-
	2,199	1,715

The Financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on

Approved by the board of trustees on 25/03/2026

Rev.Michelle Petch (Trustee)

St John The Divine Rastrick

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 December 2025

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The trustees have taken advantage of section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

Taxation

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

St John The Divine Rastrick

Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 31 December 2025

2 Grants and donations		2025	2025	2025	2024	
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds	
		£	£	£	£	
Bishops Development Fund		-	5,000	5,000	3,200	
Benefact Trust			1,750	1,750		
Community Foundation for Calderdale (CFFC)		-	3,000	3,000	1,500	
Community Foundation for Calderdale (CFFC)					23,292	
Calderdale - Neighbourhood Ward Forum		-			500	
LDBF - church Buildings			3,000	3,000		
Awards For All			20,000	20,000		
					-	
		-	32,750	32,750	28,492	
<hr/>						
3 Restricted funds		Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance c/f
		£	£	£	£	£
Missions & Charities Fund		229	1,362	1,591	-	-
Church Fabric		1,110	32,750	24,204		9,656
Hall Fabric Fund		-	-	-	-	-
Organ Repair Fund		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		1,339	34,112	25,795	-	9,656
<hr/>						
Fund name		Purpose of restriction				
Missions & Charities Fund		Holds funds given by the congregation for specific charitable appeals				
Hall Fabric Fund		Balance of funds from appeals plus grants in 2024 now spent				
Organ Repair Fund		Funds given and spent towards organ refurbishment now completed				
Designated funds		Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance c/f
		£	£	£	£	£
Missions & Charities Fund		5,344	-	5,144	4,280	4,480
		5,344	-	5,144	4,280	4,480
<hr/>						
Fund name		Reason for designation				
Missions & Charities Fund		PCC Transfer 10% of voluntary church giving to this fund annually				

St John The Divine Rastrick
Notes to the accounts continued
for the year ended 31 December 2025

4 Related party transactions

Trustee expenses

No trustee received any expenses during this year or the previous year.

Trustee remuneration and benefits

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.

5 Funds held as agent

Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Balance c/f
£	£	£	£
Rucksack Club	669	102	771
Wednesday Nighters	272	-	272
941	102	-	1,043

Fund name

Additional information

Rucksack Club

Funds held for a group of church members and others that enjoy walking

Wednesday Nighters

Funds are held for a group of ladies that meet on a Wednesday

6 Accrued income

	2025	2024
	£	£
HMRC Tax Refund Due (Dec 25)	436	287
	436	287

St John The Divine Rastrick

Notes to the accounts - Church

for the year ended 31 December 2025

RECEIPTS	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
Collections	2,167		1,734	
Gift Aided Giving	37,085		33,593	
Donations	3,550		4,341	
Legacies			4,315	
Other Church Income			15	
Income Tax Received	11,052		12,914	
		53,854		56,912
Other Income				
Church Events	3,962		4,080	
Wedding & Funeral Fees	621		725	
Flowers	803		784	
Tea & Coffee	1,051		938	
Magazine	588		674	
Misc sales	553		282	
Church Hire	4,991		2,948	
Grants			3,350	
Bank Interest	503		0	
		13,072		13,781
TOTAL RECEIPTS		66,926		70,693
PAYMENTS				
Parish Share	34,537		34,416	
Expenses/Clergy	841		443	
Occasional Offices	190		325	
Administrator	2,170		2,148	
Gas	3,314		3,543	
Electricity	910		708	
Insurance	5,143		5,015	
Maintenance	566		2,866	
Cleaning	2,792		2,764	
Music	1,746		1,225	
Other service costs	258		1,917	
Flowers	451		441	
Event expenses	1,577		2,504	
Printing & Stationery	801		774	
Website	191		210	
Sundries	954		620	
TOTAL PAYMENTS		56,441		59,919
Transfer to Mission & Charity Fund		-4,280		-4,400
Transfer to Organ Fund				-2,243
Net Movement for Year		6,205		4,131
Porch				
Grants		32,750		
Expenditure at 31/12/25		-24,204		
Movement 2025		8,546		

St John The Divine Rastrick
Receipts and payments account
for the year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	2025	2025	2025	2024
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		funds	funds	funds	funds
		£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Church Giving		42,802	-	42,802	43,999
HMRC Gift Aid		11,052	-	11,052	12,914
Other Church Income		13,072	-	13,072	13,781
Hall Hire		22,157	-	22,157	22,266
Special Appeals(M&C)		-	1,362	1,362	1,625
IOCS Grants		-	32,750	32,750	-
Organ Refurb		-	-	-	500
Hall Grants & Donations		-	-	-	28,492
Other		-	-	-	-
Total receipts		89,083	34,112	123,195	123,577
Payments					
Parish Share		34,537	-	34,537	34,416
Clergy/Admin expenses		3,201	-	3,201	2,916
Utilities		6,922	-	6,922	9,229
Insurance		7,313	-	7,313	7,361
Church Maintenance		566	-	566	2,866
Cleaning		8,543	-	8,543	10,053
Organist		1,746	-	1,746	1,225
Other church expenses		4,232	-	4,232	5,847
Sundries		-	-	-	1,359
Mission & Charities		5,144	1,591	6,735	5,216
Church Fabric		-	24,204	24,204	-
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Organ Refurbishment		-	-	-	32,831
Total payments		76,908	25,795	102,703	144,614
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Transfers between funds	(3)	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		12,175	8,317	20,492	(21,037)
Fund balances brought forward		48,362	1,339	49,701	70,738
Fund balances carried forward	(3)	60,537	9,656	70,193	49,701

St John The Divine Rastrick

Notes to the accounts - Hall, Precincts & Garden for the year ended 31 December 2025

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>2025</u>		<u>2024</u>	
	£	£	£	£
Grants			25,292	
Donations			3,200	
2nd (St John's) Rainbow & Brownies	855		855	
Ash Carpark	1,600		1,600	
Brighthouse Arts				
Brighthouse Theatre Productions	2,650		2,060	
Caligraphers	2,340		2,128	
CAUK	1,575		1,135	
Calderdale MBC			1,243	
Focus for Hope	930		700	
Guides	675		600	
Happy Dogs	3,840		4,000	
Line Dancing	2,250		2,680	
Scout Group	1,417		1,840	
Sundry Bookings	3,035		3,396	
Tai Tchi	1,650		1,125	
Outstanding	-660		-1,095	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		22,157		50,758
<u>Running Costs</u>				
Gas	1,335		1,922	
Electricity	944		2,713	
Water	419		342	
Insurance	2,170		2,346	
Repairs & Equipment	2,726		28,298 *	
Precincts Expenditure	1,236		2,679	
Cleaning	5,751		7,289	
Sundry	742		576	
TOTAL PAYMENTS		15,323		46,165

St John The Divine Rastrick
Notes to the accounts - Mission & Charities
for the year ended 31 December 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Appeals		
Toilet Twinning	6	58
Lent Appeal (RNLI)	567	513
Marys Meals		158
NSPCC		500
W/WDP	180	396
Christian Aid	309	
Salvation Army (Xmas)	300	
Transfer From General Church Fund	4,280	4,400
	5,642	6,025
PAYMENTS		
Arthritis Trust		250
Bible Society	500	
Brighthouse Food Bank	350	
CART		500
Christan Aid	347	552
CICS	120	153
DEC		500
Embrace	500	
Experience Community	125	
Hand to Mouth	300	285
Headway	250	250
Lent Appeal		500
MAF		250
Marys Meals	250	
Medecins Sans Frontaires	500	
NSPCC		500
Nyakiswa (Mara)	480	480
Operation Mobilisation	100	
Project Colt	500	
RNLI (Lent Appeal)	653	
S Rocha	135	
Salvation Army	300	
Tearfund	500	
Toilet Twinning	65	120
Turning Point Counselling service	480	480
UCB Word for Today	100	
Womens World Day of Prayer	180	396
Total Funds distributed	6,735	5,216
Net Movement for Year	-1,093	810
Balance on 1st January b/fwd	5,572	4,762
Balance on 31st December c/fwd	4,479	5,572

Some highlights of 2025



Celebration of 75 years of Ministry



'Celebration of Simon & Garfunkel'



Ann Wiggin becomes a Lay Minister



Organ Recital



Beer Festival



MU Activities

Visit to Rochdale. Craft Activities at Railway Bridge View.



Vicar: Reverend Michelle Petch
1, Vicarage Gardens, Rastrick HD6 3HD
Tel: 01484 710538
Email: vicar@rastrickbenefice.org.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjohnthedivinerastrick
Website: www.stjohnsrastrick.org.uk

There is a warm welcome to any of our Church services or acts of worship. We welcome Christians of all denominations and if you usually take Communion at your Church then you are welcome to join us in our Communion here at St. John the Divine.

St. John's Regular Service Times:

Sunday: 11.00am Holy Communion

Wednesday: 10.30am Holy Communion
first and third Wednesday at St. Matthew's
second and fourth Wednesday at St. John's
fifth no service

Tuesday-Saturday : 8.30am Morning Prayer with Michelle on Facebook

Friday: 8.00am Morning Prayer on Zoom (Contact Alan Hoggard)

Benefice Prayer for Growth

God of Mission

Who alone brings growth to your Church

Send your Holy Spirit to give

vision to our planning

wisdom to our actions

and power to our witness.

Help our Church to grow

in numbers

in spiritual commitment to you

and in service to our local community

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Website
www.stjohnsrastrick.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook:
<https://en-gb.facebook.com/stjohnthedivinerastrick/>

Parish Calendar :
<http://tinyurl.com/jcjrehp>