

**Eltham Parish Church of
St John the Baptist**

ANNUAL REPORTS

**PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH
MEETING HELD ON 17th MAY 2026**



The Church Built on a Hill

Vicar:

Revd Caroline Risdon

Bank:

Barclays Bank UK plc

Independent Financial Examiner:

Beracah Administration Ltd
Incorporated Financial Accounts
37 St Johns Road
Sidcup
Kent DA14 4HD

Index

Content	Page
1 Governance <i>Robert Lawrie, PCC Secretary</i>	
Background, PCC Membership, Committees, Church Attendance	3
2026 Annual Vestry Meeting Agenda (inc 2025 Minutes)	5
2026 APCM Agenda (inc 2025 Minutes)	6
2 Vicar's Report <i>Revd Caroline Risdon</i>	
Review of the Past Year	9
The Year Ahead	
- Parish Development and Renewal Programme	
- The Building Project	
- Ongoing Work	
3 Finance <i>Patricia Gooding, Treasurer</i>	
Treasurer's Report	12
Funds Movement	13
Financial Statements	14
4 Specific Reports	
Deanery Synod <i>Alberta Rosenior</i>	22
Safeguarding <i>Alberta Rosenior</i>	24
Churchwardens <i>Alberta Rosenior & Andrew McGechie</i>	26
Church Fabric <i>Dorian Woodward</i>	28
Organist & Choral Director <i>Theo Lester</i>	29

Background

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent or (during an interregnum) the churchwardens, in promoting to the Ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the responsibility for the maintenance of the church building and the hall attached to the north side of the church.

PCC Membership

Membership of the PCC includes churchwardens (ex-officio), representatives on the Deanery Synod and others elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). In accordance with Church Representation Rules and in addition to the ex-officio members it consists of members elected for a three year term with a third retiring each year (recently introduced). Elected members may serve for a maximum of two consecutive terms.

During 2025-6 the following people served as members of the PCC:

Vicar	Revd Caroline Risdon
Curate	Revd Joanne McCrone
Hon. Clergy	Fr William David
Churchwardens	Alberta Rosenior; Andrew McGechie
Electoral Roll Officer	Jill Bayliss
Treasurer	Patricia Gooding
Secretary	Robert Lawrie
Deanery Synod	Alberta Rosenior
Elected Members	Jill Bayliss Michael Cheesman Michelle Gefferie Patricia Gooding Stuart Hodgson Robert Lawrie Josephine Macaulay Colin MacKenzie Dianne Slack Dorian Woodward

The PCC met five times in 2025 with a good average attendance. Minutes are filed in the church office and available to see on request. Committees met between PCC meetings, reports being made available for PCC deliberations and approval.

Committees

The PCC is able to appoint sub-committees which meet between full meetings of the Church Council. At present, no specific sub-committees are appointed. The PCC must appoint a Standing Committee which includes the Parish Priest and churchwarden(s) and at least two other PCC members.

Standing Committee

Revd Caroline Risdon	Chair
Alberta Rosenior	Churchwarden
Andrew McGechie	Churchwarden
Dorian Woodward	Fabric/Vice Chair
Patricia Gooding	Treasurer
Robert Lawrie	PCC Secretary
Colin MacKenzie	Banking/Website

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. A short meeting will be held after the APCM to confirm nominated PCC and Standing Committee members for the year ahead.

Safeguarding Officers

Alberta Rosenior
Yvonne Watkins-Knight

Church Website Maintenance & Development

Colin MacKenzie

The Incumbent and churchwardens are ex-officio members of all committees.

Church Attendance

The Church Electoral Roll is renewed every six years by law, which was the case for St John's in 2025. The 2025 Electoral Roll comprised 107 members (34 resident in the Parish and 73 resident outside the parish). The revised 2026 Electoral Roll comprises 110 members (31 resident in the parish and 79 resident outside the parish).

2025 Attendance

- The average weekly attendance, counted in October 2025, was 73 adults and 15 children. The average weekly number of communicants over the month was 63.
- Christmas Eve 2025 Christingle service was attended by 45 adults and 63 children.
- Christmas Day 2025 (two services): were attended by 90 adults, 14 children and 60 communicants
- Easter Day 2026 service attendance was 115 adults, 49 children and 85 communicants.

**Eltham parish church
St John the Baptist**

Sunday 17 May 2026

2026 Annual Vestry Meeting

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 18 May 2025
2. Election of Churchwardens 2026

1. Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting Sunday 18 May 2025

Announcement of Election of Churchwardens

Revd Caroline Risdon, announced the nomination of two churchwardens for the coming year and asked the 39 parishioners attending to approve the reappointment of Alberta Rosenior (disqualification waiver permitted) and the appointment of Andrew McGechie.

Alberta Rosenior: Proposed: Robyn Price; Seconded: Light Luo; **All agreed.**

Andrew McGechie: Proposed: Alberta Rosenior; Seconded: Margaret Taylor; **All agreed.**

Revd Caroline then asked the meeting whether or not it was willing to apply the disqualification waiver for Alberta Rosenior; **All agreed.**

Revd Caroline expressed her delight in welcoming the appointment of both churchwardens.

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on 5 May 2024

Proposed by Patricia Gooding and seconded by Michaela Radulescu that the Minutes be accepted as a true and correct record. **All agreed.**

Signed:

Dated:

2. Election of Churchwardens 2026

To consider and approve nominations received from:

Alberta Rosenior and Andrew McGechie

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2026

AGENDA

1. Announcement of the election of churchwardens
2. Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting and APCM held on 18 May 2025
To approve and sign
3. Matters Arising
4. Elections
 - a) Parochial Church Council:
One member (Michelle Gefferie) has served two three year terms so has to stand down. Dorian Woodward is also standing down due to work commitments. Thanks are due to both for their loyal service and support for the church. Five other current PCC members have served one three year term and are eligible for re-election subject to formal nomination to be considered at the PCC meeting following this APCM.
 - b) Deanery Synod:
The following nominations have been made: Alberta Rosenior; Alison Lawrie
5. Appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner
The PCC approved the retention of our current examiner, Neal Rogers, Beracah Administration, at its 22 March 2026 meeting.
6. Reports for the 2026 APCM are:
 - a) Vicar
 - b) Treasurer's Report, Funds Movement and Financial Statements
 - c) Deanery Synod
 - d) Safeguarding
 - e) Churchwardens
 - e) Church Fabric
 - f) Organist & Choral Director*Please see the Index on page 2 for specific pages.*
7. Matters of General Parochial Interest 2025 APCM
Are included in the Minutes of the 2025 APCM (Agenda Item 6)

Questions from members arising from this 2026 agenda and answers from the Chair will be recorded in the Minutes of the 2026 APCM and reported in the 2027 APCM agenda.

St John the Baptist, Eltham
Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Minutes of the APCM held on 18 May 2025

Opening Prayer - Revd Caroline Risdon, Chair

1. Minutes of the APCM held on 5 May 2024

The Minutes were approved; proposed by Jean Harker, seconded by Colin MacKenzie and **all agreed**.

2. Matters Arising

There were no specific matters arising and Revd Caroline thanked Electoral Roll Officer Jill Bayliss for her sterling work in creating the required, completely new 2025 electoral roll of 107 members.

3. PCC & Deanery Synod Elections

All existing PCC members being in term meant that elections were not needed, but will be required in 2026. Andrew McGeachie will join the PCC in his new role as churchwarden. Both PCC membership lists and its photo gallery will be updated. A short meeting will follow the APCM to confirm PCC office holders for the year ahead.

4. Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner

It was noted that the PCC approved the 2024 Accounts and the retention of our current Independent Financial Examiner (IFE), Neal Rogers, Beracah Administration at its 2 March 2025 meeting. Retention of our IFE was proposed by Patricia Gooding and seconded by Alison Lawrie; **all present agreed**.

5. 2025 Church Annual Report

The listed items; a) Vicar's, b) Deanery Synod, c) Safeguarding, d) Churchwarden's, and e) Treasurer's reports were taken as read.

The Treasurer, Patricia Gooding, highlighted that the cost of repairs and reduced income during 2024 had resulted in a shortfall of circa £2,000. Work to upgrade the lightning conductor (£2-3,000) and to finish the electrical rewiring will be needed in 2025. At the time of the APCM the accounts surplus was £23,000.

Patricia also highlighted that Patricia Allen's legacy (£50,000) would be invested and an anticipated additional amount (potentially £17,000) would be available to boost church funds.

Theo Lester, St John's Music Director and Organist, gave a brief update on the growth and work of the choir during the year, noting that psalms and anthems are now a regular feature of the 10am Sunday services. Forthcoming events to mark the 150th anniversary festival will include a recital by James Risdon (recorders) and Trevor Hughes (piano). There will be a choral Evensong on the anniversary.

The renowned Willis church organ gives opportunity for organ recitals and establishing the church as a recognised music venue. The organ is maintained twice a year by Harrison & Harrison, but another famous organ builder, Nicholson, will be asked to survey and quote for the renovation work needed.

All reports were accepted - Proposed: Beverley Howard, Seconded: Jill Bayliss, All agreed.

6. Matters of General Parochial Interest 2025 APCM

a) The reason for the drop in collections from 2023 - 24 (£7,592 to £4,837)? - *Theo Lester*.
Some of those donating larger amounts are no longer with us.

b) Whether or not the organ is grade 1 or 2* listed? - *Peter Horton*

The certificate issued by The British Institute of Organ Studies states Grade 1.

- c) If the church clock, due to be restarted on the 150th anniversary, would be fitted with a device to prevent chiming from 9pm to 7am each day and who would pay for it (church or the Council)? Likely cost is £1500 - *Dorian Woodward*.
The council has always paid for maintenance but it will need to be approached. Local residents have continually lobbied for the chimes to be silenced overnight. In the interests of good relations and to avoid any prospective court action it makes sense to consider this seriously.
- d) PCC Safeguarding qualifications are now fully up to date - *Alberta Rosenior*
Thanks go to the dedicated work of our Safeguarding Team, Alberta Rosenior and Yvonne Watkins-Knight. The first PCC meeting after the APCM will focus on Safeguarding.
- e) The PCC is working with a Heritage consultant (Lottery Fund) to apply for professional fees to scope work to develop the project plan outlined in the Vicar's Report. An online PCC meeting with our Heritage Consultant will be held on 22 May 2025 to develop plans and identify the way forward.
- f) Security measures proposed in 2023 have been approved for funding by the Home Office. This includes CCTV and a burglar alarm with panic buttons - Vicar
- g) Revd Caroline expressed her thanks to her clergy support team - Curate Caroline Wyman, Assistant Curate Jo McCrone and Father William. Revd Jo thanked all for the warm welcome she had received since joining St John's saying the background to her coming to St John's is to learn and grow together.
- h) On the question of collections perhaps a way forward would be to restore the collection bags and use the card machine at the back - *Josephine Macaulay*
The card machine is temperamental, monthly giving is preferred; the matter has now been devolved to the PCC recognising the importance of this issue
- i) The possibility of increasing the rental on the land used by Beadles.
The invoice has been realistically increased; it will be reviewed every two years - Patricia Gooding.

7. Any Other Business

None.

8. Vote of Thanks

There being no other business the meeting was closed. The Secretary called for a vote of thanks for Revd Caroline, for her care, her leadership, energy and dedication to the future of St John's, Eltham. All agreed and signalled their approval by applauding her example and inspiration.

Closing Prayer - Revd Caroline Risdon

Robert Lawrie
PCC Secretary

23 May 2025

Signed.....

Dated.....