

**DITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Incorporating the Hamlet of Capton and the Manors of Bozomzeal  
and Coombe**

**Monthly meeting Wednesday 3 June 2026**

**Item 5.1 St George's Church Grant Request**

Churchyard Grant Request 2026

The Finance Working Group met 27/05/26 to review the PCC request for a £2,625 grant towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard. DPC granted £1250 last year and included the same amount in this year's budget.

Taking into consideration the issues listed below, and especially the overall strength of the church's finances, the WG is recommending to full council that, for this year, a grant from public money of half that applied for would be appropriate i.e. a grant of £1,300. It is also flagging that in considering any future grant application the council would need to better understand, and possibly challenge, the allocation of burial fees and the funding of legal fees to do with churchyard land.

- Burial in the churchyard is open to all parishioners regardless of church attendance or belief.
- The churchyard can be (and is) freely visited by friends and relatives of those laid to rest there and for some would be a quiet space for reflection.
- There are only 10 burial spaces left after which the grounds can be handed to a local authority to maintain. This would include DPC although it won't have to accept the responsibility and can "pass it on". DPC has, in the past, accepted responsibility for the Old Chapel burial ground and continues to maintain it.
- There is a restricted churchyard account that had £2935 in it at the church year end (down from £3872 in 2024).
- Fees charged for burials are credited to the church's general fund, not the churchyard account. In the latest church accounts this appears to amount to £2569 although there could be other non-specified fees included in this.
- Despite benefiting from a c£800,000 trust fund, whose sole objective is to fund church fabric maintenance, the church struggles to make ends meet in its general

account, largely driven by £20,298 annual contribution/levy to the Diocese of Exeter. The general account had a value of £83,315 at the year-end (down by £4034 on the previous year) but this doesn't include the actual current value of investments which add a further £29,835 – a figure that is somewhat hidden in the church account “notes”.

- The church accounts show a new line of expense in 2025 - “Legal fees re Church/Lychgate Cottage £2733”.

**DITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**Incorporating the Hamlet of Capton and the Manors of Bozomzeal and Coombe**

**Grant Application Form**

Please refer to our Grant Policy, including the selection criteria, before submitting your application. If you need any assistance please contact the Clerk to the Council.

**Name of Group / Organisation:**

St George's Church, Dittisham

**Address:**

St George's Church, Riverside Road, Dittisham TQ6 0HS

**Name of Main Contact:**

John Wells

**Phone Number of Main Contact (landline)**

[REDACTED]

**Phone Number of Main Contact (mobile)**

N/A

**Email Address of Main Contact**

[REDACTED]

**Is the organisation a registered Charity? Yes / ~~No~~**

**If yes please provide the registered charity number.**

[REDACTED]

**Are you a newly formed group (less than 1 year)? ~~Yes~~ / No**

**How long has your group been operating?**

Since 1333

**Does your group have a formal constitution? Yes / ~~No~~**

Please submit with your application.

**Does your group have a management committee / steering group? Yes / ~~No~~**

## **DITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Incorporating the Hamlet of Capton and the Manors of Bozomzeal and Coombe**

**Does your group have an annual record of accounts? Yes / No**

Please include a copy of your most recent accounts and bank statement with your application. If the organisation is newly formed please provide a cash flow forecast.

For organisations which do not have a bank account and for individuals, Dittisham Parish Council will only consider the direct purchase of items.

Relevant supporting documentation will be required.

**Please describe your group's main activities / purpose?**

Responsible for the financial affairs of the church, the care and maintenance of the church fabric, including the grounds and churchyards and has a voice in the form of service used.

**What would the grant be used for?**

Churchyard maintenance

**How would it benefit the Parish of Dittisham and its residents?  
e.g. number of people who benefit, duration of benefit, type of benefit?**

St George's Church and churchyard are a central part of the village for all residents of the Parish. It provides a place of worship for some and a place of peace and green space for residents and visitors in the centre of the village.

The churchyard and grounds are open to all villagers at all times. The villagers have the right to be buried in the graveyard, whether they attend church or not. The churchyard in the village and Parish graveyard are for burials and the burials of ashes.

**DITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**Incorporating the Hamlet of Capton and the Manors of Bozomzeal and Coombe**

**When will the project take place?**

During the growing season of 2026

**Total cost of project**

£ 2,625

**Total amount requested**

£ 2,625

**How will value for money be obtained?**

One way of obtaining value for money can be obtaining 3 quotes from suppliers. You can include copies of quotes with your application.

The current contractor has charged the same amount for the past three years and has only raised his fees by 5% for 2026, providing excellent value for money. We have also been pleased with his high standard of work over the past few years.

**Are you applying to other organisations for funding? If yes please provide details:**

No.



## DITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### Incorporating the Hamlet of Capton and the Manors of Bozomzeal and Coombe

Please refer to our Grant Policy before submitting your application. If you need any assistance please contact the Clerk to the Council.

Please read the following carefully.

- You agree that Dittisham Parish Council will process your application in accordance with its Grant Policy. Your details can be held by Dittisham Parish Council in accordance with the Data Protection Act and Dittisham Parish Council's Privacy Policy to administer the grants process. The Policies are available from the Clerk and on [www.dittishamparish.co.uk](http://www.dittishamparish.co.uk)
- You are an official representative of your group and are authorised to apply for funding on their behalf.
- The information provided in this application is a fair and accurate description of your group and the project for which you are seeking funding. Misleading or inaccurate information may result in your application being rejected. Late application or failure to complete any section of the application form may result in your application being delayed or rejected.
- Information about your group and your project may be made available as part of Dittisham Parish Councils decision making system. Personal contact details and bank details will not be made public.
- You have given due regard to health and safety considerations and have controls in place to eliminate or reduce risk.
- You will provide Dittisham Parish Council with any information it requests to enable it to assess your application. This may include (but is not restricted to) a copy of your constitution, accounts and bank statements.
- You will provide Dittisham Parish Council with any evidence or monitoring information it requests to ensure that any grant awarded has been spent in accordance with this application and the Dittisham Parish Council Grant Policy.
- Grant funding may be subject to additional terms and conditions, which will be made available to you if your application is successful.

I am authorised to apply for funding and agree to abide by the terms and conditions of the grants process.

Signed	<del>XXXXXXXXXX</del>
Print Name	JOHN MACDERIC WELLS
Position in organisation	HON. TREASURER
Date	20th JANUARY, 2016

Please send your completed application form to the Clerk. Email preferred.  
[parishclerk@dittishamparish.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@dittishamparish.co.uk)  
c/o The Bungalow, Old Road, Harbertonford, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 7TA

## 2025 REPORT & ACCOUNTS

### for the Parochial Church Council of St. George's Church, Dittisham

#### Deanery of Totnes, Diocese of Exeter

#### Background

St. George's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the Vicar, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

#### Major events in 2025

A very satisfying aspect of the year 2025 was that our church attendances held up fairly well, despite the reduction in full time residents living in the parish. From a financial viewpoint, it is disappointing that 2025 showed a deficit of income over expenditure, but this was inevitable as we did not have a Gift Aid Appeal which generated income of £7K plus in 2024.

#### Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2025 until the date this report was approved are: -

#### Ex-Officio Members

Vicar: The Revd. Dr. Andrew Langley

Churchwarden: Mrs Penny Mathews (Retired 19 May 2025)

#### Elected Members

Deanery Synod Representative: Mr Paul Vincent

Secretary to PCC: Mrs Patricia Hodson (Retired 30 June 2025)  
Mrs Rosie Beard (Appointed 9 September 2025)

Elected Members: Mr John Wells, Treasurer  
Mrs Gail Mosley  
Mrs Helen Woodman  
Mrs Jenny Sjoberg  
Mr John Keith  
Mr Peter Smyth

## **Public Benefit Statement**

When planning our activities, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

## **Safeguarding**

The PCC has complied with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

## **Committees**

The PCC operates through a number of committees, which meet between full meetings of the PCC.

### **Standing Committee**

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

### **Fabric Committee**

Attends to matters relating to the stewardship of plant, such as the church building and fabric, and the churchyard.

### **Fundraising Committee**

Attends to fundraising matters to enable the church in Dittisham to carry out its ministry in the Parish.

### **Church Attendance**

There are currently 30 on the Electoral Roll. Average weekly attendance during the year was 23, not including special occasions.

### **Review of the Year**

The PCC met four times during the calendar year. Committees met between meetings and their deliberations were reported to the full PCC Committee and discussed, where necessary.

The total income for the financial year ended 31 December 2025 amounted to £35,013. The corresponding figure in 2024 was £39,934, but this sum included £7,610, being the amount raised by the Gift Aid Appeal. It was decided not to send out an appeal in 2025,

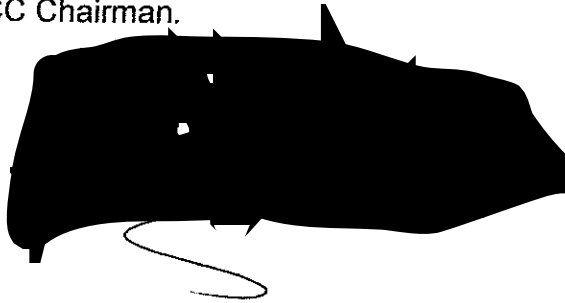
but the Accounts reflect the fact that we must organise an appeal this year, possibly earlier rather than later. Other fundraising events during the year were successful and it is essential that we maintain our fundraising efforts in the future

Total payments for the year amounted to £39,047, similar to the 2024 total of £38,895. However, it should be noted that the 2025 figure includes the sum of £2,733, being legal costs relating to the Church/Lychgate Cottage dispute.

The deficit of income over expenditure amounted to £4,034, which confirms the fact that we should always have an annual Gift Aid Appeal, unless we are able to find an alternative means of raising funds on an annual basis.

Approved by the PCC on 10.8.26 and signed on their behalf by Revd. Dr. Andrew Langley, PCC Chairman.

Signed:



**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
St. George's Church, Dittisham, Parochial Church Council**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 5 – 8.

**Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner**

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of Independent Examiner's Report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission.

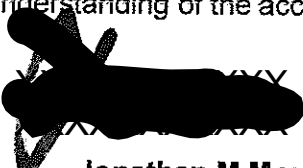
An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



**Jonathan M Moulds MA FCA**  
~~Wrote for the Xerox Dittisham Dittisham Dittisham Dittisham Dittisham~~

Dated:

29/4/26

# ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, DITTISHAM

## General Fund

### Receipts & Payments for Year to 31 December 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>		
Gift Aid donations	15,287	14,705
Tax recovered	6,523	5,543
Legacy and other donations	253	57
Collections in church	1,631	1,363
Visitors' boxes	787	749
Gift Aid Appeal	-	7,610
Cream Tea Receipts	477	840
Harvest Lunch	-	267
Dittisham Regatta Stall	228	197
St. George's Candlelit Concert	782	650
Income from Lyric Chamber Orchestra events	1,711	2,124
Other musical events	<u>1,082</u>	<u>642</u>
<b>Total Voluntary Giving</b>	<b>28,761</b>	<b>34,747</b>
Fees	2,569	1,500
Interest received	3,583	3,587
Rent received	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b><u>35,013</u></b>	<b><u>39,934</u></b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Diocesan Share	20,298	20,723
Clergy expenses	679	597
Services and Music	<u>2,988</u>	<u>3,207</u>
<b>Cost of Ministry</b>	<b>23,965</b>	<b>24,527</b>
Insurance	4,911	4,464
Electricity & Oil	1,753	1,652
Cleaning & Water	1,299	1,234
Repairs & Maintenance	1,464	1,311
Administration & Sundries	2,607	2,400
Donations from Church Funds	90	70
Costs incurred re New Graveyard	225	3,237
Legal fees re Church/Lychgate Cottage	<u>2,733</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b><u>39,047</u></b>	<b><u>38,895</u></b>
(Deficit) for the Year	<u>(4,034)</u>	<u>1,039</u>
	<b><u>35,013</u></b>	<b><u>39,934</u></b>
Monetary assets at 1 January 2025	87,349	86,310
<b>Less: (Deficit) for the Year</b>	<u>(4,034)</u>	<u>1,039</u>
Monetary assets at 31 December 2025	<b><u>£83,315</u></b>	<b><u>£87,349</u></b>

**ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, DITTISHAM**

**Statement of Assets & Liabilities at 31 December 2025**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b><u>General Purposes Fund</u></b>		
Cash	385	309
Bank Account	2,699	15,360
Deposit Account	45,231	36,680
Investments at Cost	<u>35,000</u>	<u>35,000</u>
	83,315	87,349
<b><u>Bell Ringing Fund</u></b>		
Bank	583	754
<b><u>Church Fabric Fund</u></b>		
Investments at Cost	750	750
<b><u>Churchyard Fund</u></b>		
Investment at Cost	600	600
Bank	<u>2,935</u>	<u>3,872</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>£88,183</u></b>	<b><u>£93,325</u></b>

**Notes**

1. The investments, totalling £36,350 (2024 - £36,350) are shown at cost. The market value as at 31 December 2025 was £67,336 (2024 - £70,140).  
  
The investments are held in shares administered by the Central Board of Finance, Church of England.
2. In addition, there are further Bequests totalling £6,896 (2024 - £6,896) invested in the name of the Diocese of Exeter which are not shown on the above Balance Sheet. The Market value of these investments at 31 December 2025 was £20,783 (2024 - £21,649).

**ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, DITTISHAM**

**Movement of Restricted Funds**

**For the year to 31 December 2025**

	2025	2024
	£	£
<b><u>Church Fabric</u></b> (Restricted Fund)		
Interest received	602	587
Grants from Church Land Trustees	-	8,810
VAT Refund on Church Fabric Expenses	-	1,762
Expenditure during the year	<u>(2,066)</u>	<u>(12,470)</u>
<b>Transfer excess costs to General Fund</b>	<b><u>£1,464</u></b>	<b><u>£1,311</u></b>
<b><u>Churchyard</u></b> (Restricted Fund)		
Monetary assets at beginning of the year	3,872	3,176
Grant & Donation received	1,250	3,275
Interest received	313	306
Churchyard expenditure	<u>(2,500)</u>	<u>(2,885)</u>
<b>Monetary assets at the end of the year</b>	<b><u>£2,935</u></b>	<b><u>£3,872</u></b>
<b><u>Bell Ringing Fund</u></b>		
Monetary assets at the beginning of the year	753	718
Fees & Donations received	82	35
Servicing of Bells	<u>(252)</u>	—
<b>Monetary assets at the end of the year</b>	<b><u>£583</u></b>	<b><u>£753</u></b>

**Note**

- Church Fabric**  
Interest received on the Fund, as shown above, represents the amounts credited to the Investment Account holding the Bequests held in the name of the Diocese of Exeter and not shown on the Balance Sheet – see Note 2 on Page 6

**ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, DITTISHAM**

**Charitable Donations**

**For the year to 31 December 2025**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b><u>Donations paid from Specific Collections &amp; Events</u></b>		
Royal British Legion	-	650
Children's Hospice Southwest	412	357
Rowcroft Hospice	782	-
The Mission to Seafarers	150	-
Combat Stress	354	378
Dartmouth Food Bank	<u>310</u>	<u>291</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£2,008</u></b>	<b><u>£1,676</u></b>
<b><u>Donations paid out of General Church Funds</u></b>		
The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	50	50
Friends of Exeter Cathedral	20	20
Totnes Deanery	<u>20</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£90</u></b>	<b><u>£70</u></b>