

West Dartmoor Mission Community
Annual Report for Year Ending 31st December 2025

St John the Baptist, Horrabridge

St Peter's, Meavy

St Mary's, Sampford Spiney

St Leonard's, Sheepstor

St Mary the Virgin, Walkhampton

St Paul's, Yelverton

Legal and Administrative Information

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The Purpose of Each Parochial Church Council in the Mission Community.

Each Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

The PCC (Powers) Act 1956 states that the PCC *'is to cooperate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical'*

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2020.

Rector's Report

Another year passes and I come to the writing of my 6th Annual Report as Rector with much to say of the work, life and prayer of our Mission Community and a reduced space in which to say it.

As the year has unfolded our parent and Toddler group, Poppins, continues to go from strength to strength, and our ministry to children and young people also continues to be supported by regular Collective Worship in our church schools at Meavy, Walkhampton, and the county school at Horrabridge. For a number of reasons, not least a significant drop in the numbers of pupil, the School at Walkhampton effectively closed at the end of the 2024-2025 academic year. Our Open the Book team have also been hard at work continuing to be a presence in our church schools, bringing the stories of the bible to life. Our Sunday family worship provision, Toast@10 continues to thrive at Horrabridge Church with a large cross-generational congregation.

Much of our pastoral visiting takes place unseen and unfussed, but many of our parishioners welcome the unbidden telephone call or knock on the door, especially when it's accompanied by the delivery of our superb parish magazine. Pastoral care continues to be at the heart of much of what we do here, and this has borne fruit in many ways, not least in the numbers of Baptisms, weddings and funerals we are asked to conduct. Caring for families at the milestone markers in life, being invited in to their lives is a great privilege, and we are grateful for the opportunity to care and love as Jesus taught us. Our pastoral care reaches out further in the great work that our Ministry Team has done in engaging and offering a pastoral presence in our local care homes for the elderly. This provision has been enhanced by the addition of a few members of our congregations joining the visiting team, these new members have now completed some training to administer Communion to those who wish it in our care home settings, and are to be commissioned as Anna Friends (part of Anna Chaplaincy) very soon. In the climate of increased costs of living and fuel costs, the foodbank collection point at St Pauls, and Food Hub collection point at St John the Baptist's have been as busy as ever.

Much of the usual parish life has continued earnestly; the bell ringing, flower arranging, church cleaning, church locking and unlocking, making of music, and much more, all of which I'm extremely grateful for.

This year also saw us continuing to work on our five year mission action plan. The plan will always be a work in progress, but it is hoped that it will continue offer guidance and direction for what we would like to achieve here in the coming years. Much of it will include an element of prayer and worship, and so it's fitting for me to mention here that the worship continues to be offered in all our churches on least 3 Sundays a month, and we come together as a wider community on the 5th Sundays of the month when they occur.

The Ministry Team continues to thrive and I am so very grateful for their support, encouragement and prayer. 2025 has seen the Team working hard and well together across the Mission Community. This past year the Team has been again able in addition to regular Sunday worship, offer Advent and Lent courses of study, with good attendance. The end of the year also saw the full timetable of All Souls, All Saints, Acts of Remembrance, Carol Services, Nativity Scenes, Christingles, and general extravagance.

The year ahead looks exciting and full. The building works on our churches at Walkhampton, Horrabridge, and Sheepstor will continue a pace, we hope the Champing™ bookings at Walkhampton will begin again now that the renovations and building works on the ceiling of the

ringing chamber in the tower are complete, and that our worshipping communities will continue to thrive and grow. There is always so many to thank for their efforts, kindness and care, and so to everyone, Thank You! And thank you for your support, love and encouragement this past year to me, and I very much look forward to continuing to work and live alongside you all in 2026.

Love and Prayers, Andrew.

Safeguarding Report for the Mission Community

There are forty-two volunteers in the mission community who are in roles requiring some level of DBS disclosure. The vast majority are PCC trustees; other roles include pastoral visitors, organists, servers and sidespersons. All except two people have current DBS disclosures at the appropriate level, and these two are in process. There is a robust system of recording DBS applications and outcomes, and a programme is in place to ensure renewals are applied for in good time.

All volunteers are required to have basic training. Currently all but two volunteers have this in place. Almost all volunteers also require foundation and domestic abuse training, and again all but six have both of these in place. Except for cases where it is the sole requirement the basic training module does not require updating, but other training modules have a three-year currency. There is a robust system in place to monitor training needs and outcomes. Renewals are flagged well in advance of the expiry deadline. Although most volunteers find the online provision of training appropriate we have offered face-to-face training on two occasions, and may well repeat this in the future.

The Mission Community as a whole has adopted the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy and this is reviewed regularly throughout the year, with the three main questions relating to safeguarding itemised on the agenda at each MCC and PCC meeting, these being:-

Is there anyone we wish to appoint to a position who will need to be subject to our safer recruitment procedures and/or DBS checks?

Is there anyone or any situation that is causing us concern from a safeguarding point of view?

Are there any training needs for new members or others in the congregation or refresher training for existing appointees?

The Rev Andrew Thomas - Rector.

Open the Book Report (2025)

The Open the Book team have enjoyed another year of sharing Bible stories with pupils at Lady Modiford's School, Walkhampton and at Meavy School every month during term time. The team visited Horrabridge School twice in the Autumn term.

Sadly, at the end of the summer term, the Multi Academy Trust made the decision to cease education of pupils at Lady Modiford's School, so our presentations there have now ended. At the joint Meavy and Walkhampton Churches Carol Service in December at Meavy some members of the team presented the Open the Book story 'Shepherds and Angels' as one of the readings.

In January, Richard Byrn retired from the team. Richard was involved in Open the Book before moving to Yelverton some years ago and was a great help in the establishment of a team in our

Mission Community. Richard's enthusiasm, kindly manner, Bible knowledge and acting skills are greatly missed. We are very thankful for the many props he has made for presentations. Richard will continue to format scripts as and when he can.

There is always room for new members in the team, men and women, so do make yourself known.

Toast@10 (2025)

Our Mission Community Fresh Expressions Service, **Toast@10**, has continued to flourish through 2025. The monthly service at St John's Church, Horrabridge, is open to all from across the Mission Community and the welcome starts with toast, tea and coffee being served from 9.30 and our all-age service beginning at 10 am.

The Toast Team is made up of people from the different churches in our Mission Community, who are keen for the Gospel to be told in a fresh and challenging way. The team plan a service that is interactive and encourages everyone to be involved in a comfortable way. Children are encouraged to take an active part in the dramatic readings and intercessions. Following the reflection on the reading, it is great to see everyone, old and young, involved in the Active Worship activity. We are grateful to the Mission Community Council for its continued subscription to the resources provided by www.rootsontheweb.com which have proved invaluable in the planning of these services. Sadly, we lost the talent of David Crocker this year; with his enthusiastic contribution to the music he will be much missed.

After much thought, I have made the decision to step back from the Toast Team after more than fifteen years of planning and delivering the Fresh Expression Services. However, I still plan to attend this worthwhile and inspiring service – hoping to see people from across the Mission Community gathered together.

Poppins (Mother and Toddler Group) Report 2025

Poppins has continued to take place every Wednesday morning from 9.15-10.45 am, during term time, at St Paul's church hall in Yelverton.

A wonderful team of 16 volunteers enables the group to thrive; helping with setting up and putting away, kitchen duties to provide drinks and fruit snacks, provision of craft activities, leading, creating rotas and most important of all, meeting and engaging with the carers and children who attend.

A variety of play activities are provided each week. Sessions end with songs and rhymes (with musical instruments for children to play), snacks and story time. Numbers of children attending range between 14-22 each week. It has been a pleasure to meet new families and babies during the year. Information about the group can be found on the MC website and on Facebook.

Church visits to celebrate Harvest, Christmas and Easter have taken place, with displays placed in church on these occasions. Nature trails around the church grounds have also taken place during the year, weather permitting! The group again made a display for the Nativity Festival at St. John's Horrabridge and some families attended the Christmas Eve Nativity service at St. Paul's church. Mission Community services and events are shared with the group.

A new table for exploratory play has been purchased along with craft materials. All equipment is regularly checked for safety and wear and tear. We are grateful to Kirsty, from Tavistock Library, for the very enjoyable parachute games sessions she has led during the year. The children absolutely love taking part!

Deanery Synod Report March 2026

There have been three meetings, in June and October 2025, and February 2026.

These always start with a short act of worship, offered in turn by a member of the clergy or a lay parish representative.

June 2025. Claire Reynolds, Diocesan advisor on disabilities spoke on the theme “Disability and Additional Needs”

October 2025. Revd Dr Joel Love, Diocesan Director of Ordinands, spoke on the theme of “Vocational Conversations”.

February 2026. Bishop Mike of Exeter spoke on the theme of “Our vision and five priorities”. This meeting was held on a Saturday and was very well attended

Every meeting has a business section when information from the General Synod, Diocesan Synod and from the Rural Dean is shared and there is also usually space for sharing of ideas and problems. Every meeting has a refreshment break provided in turn by different mission communities or benefices which gives more time for meeting each other from the different parishes.

Rev'd Andrew Thomas continues as the Rural Dean.

West Dartmoor Mission Community											
Receipts and Payment accounts for the year to 31st December 2025											
Receipts		2024		2025		Payments		2024		2025	
		£	£	£	£			£	£	£	£
Parish Payments						Clergy Expenses		2,242	2,242	2,225	2,225
Yelverton		0		1,000		Church Office					
Meavy		0		500		Secretarial		989		810	
Horrabridge		0		50		Other Costs		37	1,026	36	846
Walkhampton		0		500		Clergy Courses		381	381	260	260
Sampford Spiney		0		500		Printing		395	395	630	630
Sheepstor		0	0	500	3,050	Services					
Donations						TOAST		960		1,088	
Regular Giving		540		540		Wafers		31	991	80	1,168
Major Donation		4,800		8,475		Music		133	133	137	137
Other Donations		20		0		Books and Service Printing		344	344	461	461
Gift Aid Tax Recovered		1,321	6,681	2,254	11,269	Mission					
Service Collections						Poppins		1,057		576	
MC Services				138		Open the Book		216		20	
TOAST		237	237	182	320	Giving				2,031	
Fees Account						Farming Community Network					
Fees		87		28		Feeding Devon		260		145	
Easy Fund Raising		0	87	17	45	Childrens Society		169			
Mission Projects						Shekinah		950		1,119	
Harvest		111		1,867		DHCT			2,652	954	4,845
Carol Service		867		2,038		Miscellaneous					
Lent		260		145		Walkhampton Treasurer		491		678	
Christingle		73		67		Website				84	
DHCT			1,311	954	5,071	Other		742	1,233	304	1,066
Miscellaneous Income		372	373	1,074	1,074						
Total Receipts			8,689		20,829						
						Total			9,397		11,638
						Surplus of Receipts over Payments			-708		9,191
						Balance brought forward from prior year			9,219		8,511
						Balance Carried forward to following year			8,511		17,702
						Cash at HSBC Bank			8,511		17,702
NOTES											
1 The large donation and associated tax recovery has left the account in substantial surplus, which will reduce rapidly over coming years in the absence of further donations from this source.											
2 As usual the results are distorted by some Mission Giving payments, mainly from Carol Services, being delayed until the following year											
BM											
6th January 2026											