

# BICKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th April 2025 at 7.30pm. at Bickington Village Hall

Present ; Cllr Briddock Chairman Bickington Parish Council & Karen Gilbert - Clerk  
Cllrs Bruckner , Cox , Meek and Warren were in attendance - Dist Cllr Major

NO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Cllr Briddock welcomed everyone to the Meeting

Apologies -D Cllrs Nutley and Rogers - and Cllr Humphries

### **Chairman's Report - Bickington Parish Council**

I would like to offer my thanks to our District Councillors for their continued support , to my fellow Councillors for their contributions and excellent attendance and to our Clerk Karen Gilbert whose calm efficiency makes our task so much easier. I would also like to record my appreciation for the efforts of our local Policing Team - who are frequent attendees at our meetings and other community events

It has been a relatively quiet year with stability in our ranks and little, if any, disagreement .

The Parish Council continues support our Church through our contribution to the Churchyard maintenance . We maintain the defibrillator , ensuring it is available on the national network . WE have sourced replacement grit bins and have placed them around the Parish and we are working on replacing the decaying benches

The Parish Council plays a full part in supporting community events in the Village Hall - such as the 80th Anniversary D Day held on 6th June last and the upcoming 80th Anniversary of VE Day

The Village Hall is the centre of community life and we are looking to make use of our CIL monies to make physical improvements to its facilities for the benefit of our Parishioners. Our achievements as I list them are not huge . I have sometimes said it is not what we do that is important but it is important that we do have a voice. To this end we work hard to place pressure on Teignbridge District Council and DNPA to fulfil their obligations with regard to enforcement issues , with planning , fly tipping , abandoned vehicles , dog regulations , littering etc

We look forward to a productive year and hope to make progress on issues that affect us all

David Briddock

April 2025

### **TEIGNBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL - Cllr Jack Major**

Cllr Major gave a brief resume of the work Teignbridge District Council during 2024. He also advised that , due to the period of heightened sensitivity surrounding the Devon County elections , the Community Fund would become live on 2nd May 2025

### **ST MARY'S BICKINGTON - Peter Warren**

Services: Services of worship have been held twice a month throughout the year, including a Christingle Service in January, in March Palm Sunday with a donkey. Bickington Community Choir sang at Easter Sunday Service which was followed by an Easter Egg Hunt. The Community Choir also sang at Harvest Festival in October, Remembrance Sunday in November and at the Carol Service in December.

Two weddings were celebrated in Bickington Church during the year, three Baptisms and two Confirmations. Funerals took place in April, May and June.

Community Events: Fund raising events for fabric repairs included a Bell Tower Day in July raising £3,000 (including £1,000 restricted to the purchase of new bell ropes) and at the end of November the Christmas Advent Fayre team ran a stall at Bickington Brew & Cake morning.

Volunteer Days: A team of neighbours to the village church unlocked/locked the church

daily from May to October, emptied the de-humidifier, swept away bat droppings and kept the church clean and tidy, welcomed visitors and maintained 'church watch' security. On a Saturday morning in October, a Churchyard Maintenance Team, under the leadership of Michael Smith, transformed the churchyard, cutting back hedges, Yew tree surgery, clearing graves of weeds, painting ironmongery, treating porch benches, clearing moats, gullies and paths of brambles and weeds, removing ivy from church walls and then removing the green rubbish by trailer.

Fabric Repairs. Since January 2024 a new wave of energy and enthusiasm has enveloped Bickington church in caring for the historic building in the centre of the village. The first successful project was replacement of failed oil-fired central heating system with under-pew heaters. The electrical contract was completed by Finish Electrical who were efficient and helpful in meeting the DAC's List B faculty conditions. The cost of £14,670 was funded by £6,000 from the 'Quick Wins' Zero Carbon Scheme, £1,500 from Devon Historic Churches Trust, £2,400 from the Listed Places of Worship Scheme (VAT), £2,500 donation from Community Lunches held 2022-2023 and £1,400 from individual donations. The under- pew heating system was commissioned in time for Harvest Festival and appreciated by the congregation.

Other fabric repairs and maintenance projects include:

Repair of the pipe organ with a replacement motor just in time for the community Carol Service. (Thank you to Michael Smith.)

Roof repairs completed by Tor View Roofing in 2024 include:

A drone survey of the church roof, refixing and/or replacing numerous roof slates, clearing roof gullies and gutters and repairing flashing to the east wall coping stones.

Following one of the several named storms in 2024, TVR responded with speed and efficiency to a request to repair damage to the Lychgate roof. The phased programme of roof repairs is ongoing subject to grants and community support.

Thank you to all the people who care for our historic parish church, for generous donations and contributions to the Parish Giving Scheme, flower arranging, playing the organ, bell ringing, locking and unlocking the church, refreshments after Services, organising fund raising events, providing raffle prizes, cleaning brass and laundering church linen, writing reports for the Parish News.

A new team rector has been appointed to the Ashburton and Moorland Mission Community following the retirement of the Right Reverend Mark Rylands on April 6. Reverend Phillip Parker, who is currently assistant curate in the South Tamar Mission Community in West Devon, will move to Ashburton Rectory in the summer where he will lead the parishes of Ashburton, Bickington, Buckland-in-the-Moor, Holne, Huccaby, Ilsington, Leusdon, Postbridge and Widecombe.

Peter Warren

The Meeting closed at 7.45 pm