

## **St Sampson's church report to Golant Parish Council Meeting May 2026**

When I arrived in January, three years ago, it was on an interim licence but with an expectation that a further three years would be implemented to allow time to find a way forward forming a benefice grouping of the three parishes taking in both Tywardreath and Fowey. Much has happened since then and the three parishes are now working together as one group with one full-time Priest in Charge (me) but currently still on an interim basis. The legal formation of the benefice grouping is being worked through its statutory process and could potentially be finalised in early 2027. At that time there will be no change in ministry leadership and I fully anticipate being here for many more years on a permanent basis once the benefice is formalised.

In the meantime, life at St Sampson's has continued to thrive, new members have arrived and some have moved on. The PCC (Parochial Church Council) has maintained the high standard of care for the church building and the churchyard and, last year, internal decoration was carried out which has given a freshness to the walls and enhanced the experience of all those who enter. The responsibility the PCC members are given in looking after a Grade 1 listed building is held with great care, and decisions about enhancing the use of the building as a living place of worship are always made with the integrity of the building in mind. Simon Funnell, who had been a churchwarden for several years, stood down this year and Chris Taylor has been elected alongside Greg White. We are very thankful to all those who are willing to give time as members of the PCC and especially for those who take on the demanding role of churchwarden.

Services are held every Sunday with a few exceptions and our regular congregation has remained stable over the last few years. Due to the changing demands on my time for leading Sunday worship across three parishes rather than two we have just begun a new pattern of services which includes two services of Holy Communion and a service of Morning Worship at 9.30 a.m. each month plus a 6 p.m. Evensong service. The Morning Worship service is led by lay leaders and offers us a new flexibility with music and style of service. Over the last year we have enjoyed many informal gatherings and worship – our Sea Sunday afternoon at the Fishermans Arms seems to be a regular feature of the summer and our Christmas services are much looked forward to. Many of our services and events are accompanied by beautiful singing from the choir and the delightful sound of the handbells or big bells. We have supported many charities over the course of the year including the local Mission to Seafarers on Sea Sunday, Royal British Legion on Remembrance Sunday, St Petrocs at Christmas and ad hoc support for Shelterbox. We are, of course, a charity ourselves and totally dependent on the generosity of our local congregation and village supporters plus the many visitors who pass through, often on a pilgrimage journey. We had a major fundraiser last year as some 50 plus members of the village enjoyed the Safari Supper. We are very grateful to all those who contribute in many varied ways to the upkeep of St Sampson's.

We continue to offer ourselves for the benefit of the whole community and especially at the marker moments in life such as weddings, funerals and baptism. Whether an individual has a deep held faith or not, St Sampson's remains a peaceful, historical haven for people to find comfort and restoration of body, mind and spirit.

Revd Shona Hoad  
(Priest in Charge, St Sampson's)