



# APCM

The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Annual Vestry Meeting will be held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026 at St Peter and St Paul, Dinton at 19:30.

Please send all nomination forms to  
[PCCSecretary@stonedintonhartwell.com](mailto:PCCSecretary@stonedintonhartwell.com) by 17:00 on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>  
April.

[www.stonedintonhartwell.com/apcm](http://www.stonedintonhartwell.com/apcm)

Booklet V2



## What is a Annual Parochial Church Meeting?

Every parish must hold (no later than 31 May in each year) an Annual Parochial Church Meeting, often referred to simply as the 'APCM'.

This annual meeting reports on changes to the electoral roll, parish activities and financial matters. Every year we elect members to the PCC. Every three years, it is also the occasion when new members to the Deanery Synod are elected.

## What is a Annual Vestry Meeting?

The annual meeting of parishioners (also referred to as the annual vestry meeting) is held yearly in every parish of the Church of England to elect churchwardens and deputies (if any) for the forthcoming year. The meeting must be held by 31<sup>st</sup> May and is commonly held immediately prior to the annual meeting of the parochial church council.

## Who can Attend?

Anyone on the Electoral Roll are permitted to attend and vote.

## What is the Electoral Roll?

The parish church electoral roll is the first building block of the church's governance structure. It is a register of the lay members of the church who are entitled to vote at the APCM. Those on the roll, subject to the note below, are eligible to be elected to lay representative positions on their PCC and deanery synod. Deanery synod representatives may then be elected to diocesan synod and general synod. The total number on the parish church electoral roll, as presented at the APCM, is an important factor in determining the number of lay representatives (parochial and deanery synod) that a parish may have. It is only a small component of how the parish share allocation is determined.

Given this, each year a formal process is undertaken by the PCC, as preparation for the APCM, to ensure the roll's accuracy. 2026 is electoral roll revision year, meaning only additions and deletions are made to an existing list. A new roll is required to be prepared every six years (the next is 2031), where the roll starts from zero and everyone has to apply to join.

## Who can join the Electoral Roll?

The only qualifications required are to be resident, baptised, 16 or over, self-declared member of the Church of England (or church in communion with it) and not ordained. Where you are not resident in the parish, you need to attend worship (at least monthly) for over six months and still meet the other conditions.

*Note 1: Anyone wishing to stand for election to the parochial church council or deanery synod must have had their name entered on the Church Electoral Roll for not less than six months prior to the election (except in the case of those under the age of eighteen) and be an 'actual communicant' see CRR 83(2) for definition.*

## What is the PCC?

A Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the executive committee of a Church of England parish and consists of clergy and churchwardens of the parish, together with representatives of the laity.

Legally the council is responsible for the financial affairs of the church parish and the maintenance of its assets, such as churches and church halls. It also assists the clergy in the management of church affairs in the parish and promoting the mission of the church.

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## Agenda's

### **Annual Parish (Vestry) Meeting**

- 1) Opening Prayers
- 2) Apologies
- 3) Thank Churchwardens
- 4) Elect Churchwardens

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

- 1) Approval of 2025 APCM Meeting Minutes
- 2) Election of Deanery Synod Members
- 3) Election of PCC members
- 4) Annual Report for 2025
- 5) Finances and Accounts for 2025
- 6) Nomination of Independent Examiner
- 7) Church Insurance and Policy Report
- 8) Finance Committee Report
- 9) Report on the Electoral Roll
- 10) Deanery Synod Report
- 11) Safeguarding Report
- 12) Report on Fabric Goods and Ornaments of St John the Baptist, Stone
- 13) Report on Fabric Goods and Ornaments of St Peter & St Paul, Dinton
- 14) Clergy Report
- 15) AOB

## 2025 APCM Minutes

### Minutes of The Annual Vestry Meeting held at 8.00pm, Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at St John the Baptist, Stone

#### **Present:**

Chair: Rev'd Phil Groves, Associate Rector of Wychert Vale Benefice.

Alan Atkinson, Nicky Bancroft, Susan Birrell, Rev. Nigel Featherston, Rosemary Jackson, Dee James, George Lamb, Raymond Medhurst, Stephan Medhurst, Jenny Pickup, David Pickup, Enid Robinson, Val Sewell-Rutter, Richard Smith, Sue Smith, Roger Withers

#### **Apologies:**

Chris Ashbridge, Terry Cooper, Clive Corbould, Naomi Corbould, Clare Davey, Ivor James, Mary Simonds, Barry Simonds, Liz Tomkins

Rev'd Phil Groves opened the meeting in prayer for hope and peace and for those who are about to take on a role following the APCM.

Rev'd Phil Groves thanked the Church Wardens, Mrs Rosemary Jackson, Mrs Sue Birrell and Mr Raymond Medhurst for their hard work which is a huge amount of work and is often unseen and behind the scenes.

We especially thanked Rosemary who has been a Churchwarden at Dinton for several years and is now stepping down.

#### **Election of Churchwardens**

Mr Stephan Medhurst advised that prior to this meeting, there were three nominations received for the office of Churchwarden for the forthcoming year.

The following Churchwardens were nominated and unanimously elected by the meeting.

Mr Ian Cairns

Mr Raymond Medhurst

Mrs Sue Birrell

These three people were duly elected as Churchwardens to serve to the 2026 APCM unless this changes by order of the Bishop.

Churchwardens serve the whole parish no matter where they are located, or worship and members can approach any churchwarden for help, support or advice.

Mr Terry Cooper and Mrs Enid Robinson volunteered to act as assistant Church Wardens.

The Annual Vestry Meeting then closed.

# The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

## Minutes of The Annual Parochial Church Meeting held at 8.10pm, Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at St John the Baptist, Stone

### Present:

Chair: Rev'd Phil Groves, Associate Rector of Wychert Vale Benefice.

Alan Atkinson, Nicky Bancroft, Susan Birrell, Rev. Nigel Featherston, Rosemary Jackson, Dee James, George Lamb, Raymond Medhurst, Stephan Medhurst, Jenny Pickup, David Pickup, Enid Robinson, Val Sewell-Rutter, Richard Smith, Sue Smith, Roger Withers

### Apologies:

Chris Ashbridge, Terry Cooper, Clive Corbould, Naomi Corbould, Clare Davey, Ivor James, Mary Simonds, Barry Simonds, Liz Tomkins

### 1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were accepted as being a true record of the meeting and signed.

### 2. Election of Deanery Synod Members

Mrs Jenny Pickup was elected to be our Denery Synod Member and will service until the 2026 APCM when the Deanery Synod is re-elected.

### 3. Election of PCC Members

We elected Richard Smith, Rosemary Jackson, Enid Robinson and Stephan Medhurst as PCC members and they will serve on the PCC for 3 years.

### 4. Annual Report for 2024

Stephan Medhurst advised that the Annual Report on the working of the Parish during the last year was included with the APCM booklet and a copy is held with the minutes of this meeting.

No questions were raised, Roger proposed and Nicki seconded that we accepted them. Everybody was in Favor.

### 5. Finances and Accounts for 2024

Richard thanked Naomi for her work to turn the accounts around so quickly after the year end in time for the APCM. We also noted our thanks to Steve Marks who is the independent examiner and who has made some good suggestions.

We are still looking for a treasurer. If you know of anybody, please let Richard know.

Richard presented a presentation of our income and expenditure. From this we can see we have had a decline in planned giving but an increase in one off donations.

We have also received some grants for various projects and some legacies for restricted funds.

# The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

We have also transferred some money into an interest account which has given us a small return.

In 2024, we spent more than 2023, with parish share being the biggest expenditure. Many other costs have also gone up in line with inflation.

We have also spent more on our churchyards this year due to emergency repairs.

An area of large concern is that our operating reserves have reduced from £30,000 to just £15,000. This means we are at the lower end of the reserves scale as recommended by the Charities Commission, so we need to work hard to build this back up.

We are currently operating at approx. £5,000 a month and we need an additional income of £7,000 a year to break even.

Planned regular giving will be the way we would prefer to do this as we can plan and budget for the year and projects. However, any gift is always valued. Time and skills are also great gifts we would be happy to receive.

Questions were asked including could we put cards through the doors of villagers asking them if they could help support us. It was agreed to look into this in the various committees.

It was also asked if we could ask the ROC congregation if they could give through the Parish Giving Scheme. We decided that this would be inappropriate to do as they already pay rent into our general funds, help with the cost of fabric repairs and that they do a lot for us already which we are very grateful for.

It was queried that approximately £4000 had been raised from the sale of old coins but we could not see it in the accounts. Richard reported that he would ask where this had been filed.

Following the questions, Ian proposed we accept the accounts, Nicki seconded and everybody was in favor.

## **6. Nomination of Independent Examiner**

Richard reported that Steve Marks is happy to be our independent examiner, and he would nominate him again. Being part of the Aylesbury Methodist Church, Steve knows how churches run and operate which makes it easier when verifying the accounts.

Rosemary Jackson proposed we appoint Steve Marks as our Independent Examiner and Alan Atkins seconded. All those present agreed.

## **7. Church Insurance and Policy Report**

Richard reported that the insurance for both Churches and all the churchyards renewed in June. We always check to see if there's any good deals. There has been no indication of an increase above the level of inflation, but we get more information about 1 month before.

## **8. Electoral Roll**

Last year we had 67 members on the roll, however, this year after a full roll revision, we have dropped down to 58 members. We have lost 22 members but gained 13 new members. The large decrease was down to some people having moved, dies or who had stopped attending.

## **9. Deanery Synod Report**

We have had no member of the synod for the past year so there is no report.

## **10. Safeguarding Report**

Safeguarding is a standing item for the PCC to look at each meeting. Clare Davey is our Safeguarding Officer.

We work in line with the Diocese of Oxford Handbook with information posters in place within the churches. All PCC members are required to undertake training when they join the PCC.

## **11. Report on Fabric Goods and Ornaments;**

### **St John The Baptist, Stone & Ss Peter & Paul, Dinton**

There was nothing in particular to report from either church except a thank you to everyone who helps look after and maintain the buildings and grounds.

## **12. Rectors Report**

Phils report highlighted that there is lots to be thankful for such as the Services of Loving Remembrance which have been very engaging.

We have also had lots of families joining us for services and events which is very encouraging.

Phil registered his thanks to Nigel for all his work, especially for his lead on pastoral work. Phil also thanked David Pickup for leading the Evensong and Matins services. Phil also commented that it is great that Richard Smith is now a LLM and it is helping to spread the load on the ministry team.

## **13. AOB**

Thanks to Chris Ashbridge was noted for her work in leading the Music for the parish and for running the Choir.

Meeting Closed with the grace at 20:50

# The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

## 2025 Annual Report

### Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell Annual Report 2025

#### Aims and Purposes

Stone, Dinton & Hartwell Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating within the Wychert Vale Benefice to promote in the ecclesiastical benefice the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The Wychert Vale Benefice was formed on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016 as the joining of the former Benefices of Haddenham with Cuddington, Kingsey and Aston Sandford and the parish of Stone and Dinton with Hartwell. The parish is part of the Aylesbury Deanery, which is part of the Diocese of Oxford.

Our Rector is Rev'd Cassa Messervy and our Associate Rector is Canon Dr Phil Groves.

The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Churches of St John the Baptist, Stone and St Peter and St Paul, Dinton.

#### Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to become part of our parish community and the wider benefice. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning for the year, we try to enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Mission and outreach work.
- Teaching in the Local Schools.
- Charitable Giving.

The parish relies on the voluntary work of so many people and the PCC very much appreciates their service to the churches and the local community.

#### Achievements and Performance

The PCC have supported developing and promoting the church within the local schools and encouraging young people and families to come to church by providing a variety of services and activities for them.

This year, we have held a multitude of services across the parish, catering for all.

Numbers have generally declined, with the exception of Easter which was well attended. We have had more baptisms this year and fewer funerals than last year.

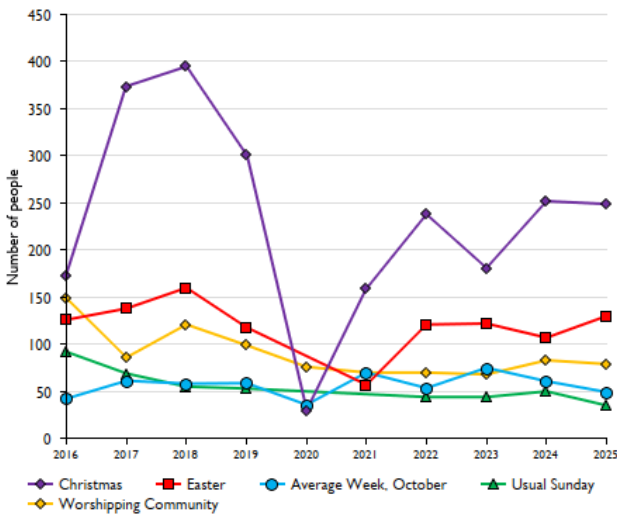
# The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

## Attendance Summary

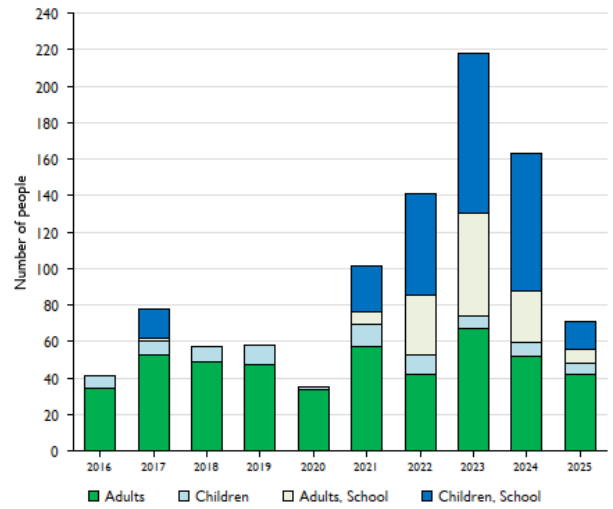
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Christmas	28	158	237	180	251	248
Easter	-	56	120	121	106	129
Average Week, October	35	69	53	74	60	48
Usual Sunday	-	-	43	43	49	34
Worshipping Community	75	69	69	67	82	78

## Average Weekly Attendance

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Adults	34	58	42	67	52	42
Children	1	12	11	7	8	6
School Service: Adults	0	8	33	56	28	8
School Service: Children	0	25	56	88	76	15



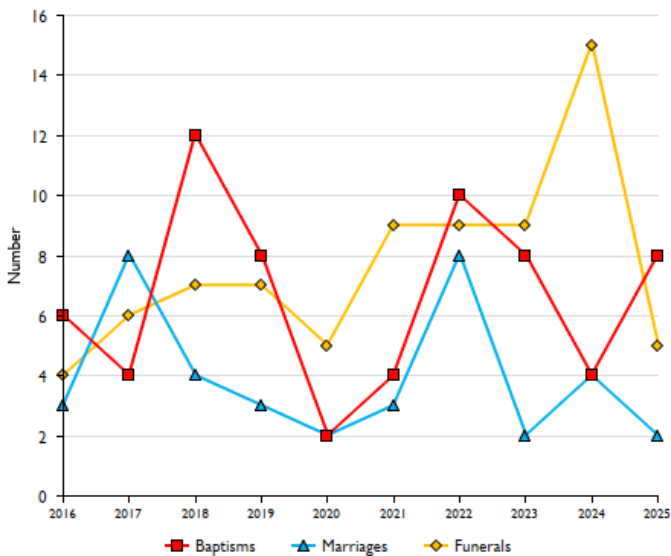
Attendance Summary



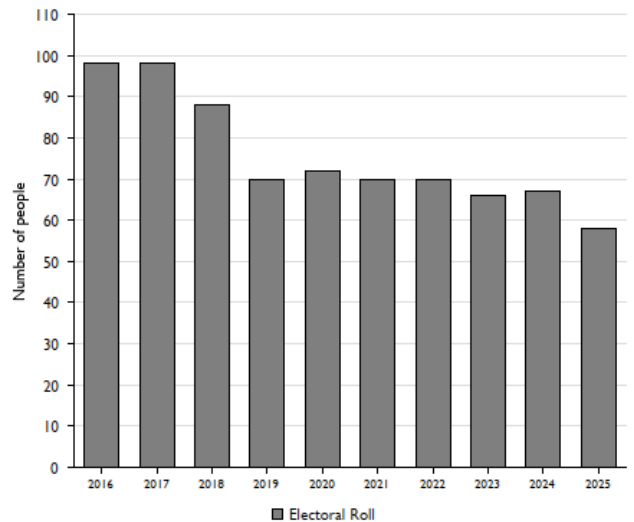
Average Weekly Attendance

## Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals and Electoral Roll

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Baptisms	8	2	4	10	8	4	8
Marriages	3	2	3	8	2	4	2
Funerals	7	5	9	9	9	15	5
Electoral Roll	70	72	70	70	66	67	58



Life Services



Electoral Roll

# The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

## Worship and Prayer

We have maintained a regular pattern of worship across the parish, offering a wide variety of services. Remembrance Sunday was marked with an outside service in Stone at the Recreational Grounds Memorial with the Stone Parish Council and a Service of Remembrance was held at Dinton War Memorial.

Christmas was down by 3 from last year to 248.

Easter was up by 23 from last year with 129 people in the congregations.

The Electoral Roll membership had dropped by 9 to 58.

As well as our regular services, we normally enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through Baptism, we thank God for the gift of life. Families are expected to attend services before and after the Baptism in order to be welcomed into the Church family. In Marriage, public vows are exchanged with God's blessing, and through Funeral services, friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the person's life and commend them into God's keeping. We have celebrated 8 Baptisms, 2 Weddings and held 5 Funerals this year. Preparation sessions for Baptisms and Weddings are normally held on a regular basis throughout the benefice.

The majority of our services were led by Rev'd Phil Groves and Rev'd Nigel Featherston, and supported by Richard Smith and David Pickup who led our lay led services.

## Deanery Synod

We have 1 ex officio members of the PCC who sits on the Deanery Synod at present and we have space for 2 representatives. They make reports to the PCC at meetings, which provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

Our next application for representatives is 2026 with a term of 3 years.

## Pastoral Care

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age and need to be visited and where Holy Communion has been given to those who have requested it. Pastoral Care is an important part of the Church.

## Mission and Evangelism

We seek to find opportunities for outreach within the Parish and beyond.

We started running Lego Church this year at the Stone Jubilee Pavillion which is a service aimed at families and young people.

We delivered the annual Christmas Card around Stone listing all our Christmas services and wishing people a very Merry Christmas from the Church.

We also had our Christmas hamper and concerts in Dinton which have once again been very successful.

## Parish News

Our Parish magazine is distributed monthly by volunteers to subscribers, schools and nursing homes. In 2025 it made a profit of £1,992 up from £1,891. The magazine keeps the parishioners informed of important matters affecting our Church, and contains articles that help develop our knowledge and trust in Jesus. The Parish News subscriptions and advertising have continued to represent a valuable source of income for the PCC.

Many thanks to Mr David Pickup and his team for managing this.

# The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

## Financial Review

We have been without a PCC treasurer since 2023, although we hope to welcome a new treasurer this coming year. We would like to thank the Finance and Compliance Committee for taking on this responsibility collectively, and to Mrs Naomi Corbould for undertaking the book-keeping.

Many thanks yet again to all who continue to give generously and regularly to the Parish, whether via the Parish Giving Scheme, standing order, via the card machine, cheque or cash – thank you! We remain dependent on committed giving for most of our income, though other important sources of income this year have included legacies and one-off gifts, outreach activities (such as Café in the Park), Parish News, weddings, hire of our buildings and grants from the Worshipful Company of Grocers and Stone Parish Council. We are also grateful to the Romanian Orthodox Church which, in addition to sharing the running costs of Dinton Church, has generously covered the cost of a number of repairs, replacements and new equipment.

Over the last few years, we have increased the number of services and outreach activities in response to an increasing number of people of all ages whom God has been calling to be part of our church community. We hope to see this trend continue, but it has inevitably resulted in increased costs – utility bills, wear and tear, consumables and so on. We have also had significant costs to maintain our buildings and churchyards to a safe standard.

Although our Parish Share of £28,885.23 was paid in full, our costs are still running ahead of our income (2025 Income total £81,862.36, Expenditure total £88,654.66), and we need at least an additional £600-£700 per month in 2026 to meet our existing commitments, and more than this if we are to develop our outreach and improve our facilities further. We are very grateful to all those who have already responded to this need by increasing existing giving, or starting to give regularly for the first time.

## Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our Churches the lively and vibrant community they are, keeping them clean and welcoming with fresh flowers and up to date information. In particular, we want to mention our churchwardens Ian Cairns, Mrs Sue Birrell and Mr Raymond Medhurst who have worked so tirelessly on our behalf.

We would also like to thank Mrs Jenny Pickup who has provided our Pew Sheet every week, keeping us UpToDate with what is happening on a weekly basis.

Many Thanks also go to Ms Christine Ashbridge for organising the musicians for our many services across the year.

We would like to thank the teams that work tirelessly to clean and maintain our churches and churchyards and for the wonderful flower displays they create.

## Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules and the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956.

At Stone, Dinton and Hartwell the membership of the PCC consists of the Rector, Associate Rector, Clergy, Churchwardens, Deanery and Diocesan Reps, Lay Ministers, Treasurer, Secretary and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

New members can receive initial training into the workings of the PCC through Diocesan training courses. The full PCC met 4 times during the year with an average level of attendance of 76%.

A Standing Committee also meets when necessary to deal with emergencies.

# The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

Each church has a separate church committee for the day to day running and a fabric committee for the maintenance. The SJB and SPP committees report to PCC.

The PCC is also required to ensure that the financial statements are examined by an independent examiner or auditor prior to presentation to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

There are the following committees:

- PCC: The overriding decision making body.
- Standing Committee: The Standing Committee is a small selection of the PCC who meet to carry out any emergency PCC business between PCC meetings.
- Church Committees – The SJB and SPP committees look after the day to day running of the respective buildings. Reports to the PCC.
- Fabric Committees – Look after the buildings and the grounds of the respective Churches. Reports to the Church Committees.
- Finance and Compliance – Looks after the finances and makes sure we fulfil our legal obligations. Reports to the PCC.

## Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding Clergy and Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). There have been no safeguarding cases reported this year. No cases have been referred to the diocese safeguarding officer.

## Administrative information

Stone Dinton and Hartwell Parish is part of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Wychert Vale Benefice Office, St. Mary's Centre, Haddenham, Bucks, HP17 8AH  
Tel: 01844 291108 Email: [office@wychertvale.org](mailto:office@wychertvale.org)

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2020) and a charity currently exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 are:

*Ex Officio members:*

**Rector: Revd Cassa Masservy**

**Associate Rector: The Revd Canon Dr Phil Groves**

Rev'd Nigel Featherston

Wardens : Mr Ian Cairns

: Mr Raymond Medhurst

: Mrs Sue Birrell

Deanery Synod: Mrs Jenny Pickup

## *PCC member*

Elected members:

Mr Richard Smith

Mr Terry Cooper

Mr Roger Withers

Mrs Rosemary Jackson

Ms Enid Robinson

Mrs Clare Davey, Safeguarding

Mr Stephan Medhurst, Secretary to the PCC

Finances

Stone, Dinton & Hartwell PCC		Statement of Assets and Liabilities				As at: 31 December 2025		
	General (Unrestricted)	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year	Note	
<b>Fixed Asset - Tangible Assets</b>								
CCLA CBF Investment Fund	-	-	21,051.51	-	21,051.51	21,319.59	34	
<b>Total</b>			<b>21,051.51</b>		<b>21,051.51</b>	<b>21,319.59</b>		
<b>Current Asset - Cash At Bank And In Hand</b>								
Barclays Main PCC Account	2,959.87	5,741.54	9,063.21	-	17,764.62	19,697.63	35	
Barclays No2 PCC Account	-	-	-	-	-	30,000.00	36	
Barclays Stone Facilities Account	-	-	599.74	-	599.74	2,113.24	37	
CCLA (CBF) deposit account	7,387.20	-	20,926.68	-	28,313.88	2,178.14	36	
Skipton Building Society	-	-	10,359.39	-	10,359.39	10,000.00	37	
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,347.07</b>	<b>5,741.54</b>	<b>40,949.02</b>		<b>57,037.63</b>	<b>63,989.01</b>		
<b>Liability - Agency Accounts</b>								
Agency collections	-	-	1,345.81	-	1,345.81	906.25	38	
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,345.81</b>		<b>1,345.81</b>	<b>906.25</b>		
<b>Net Total Assets</b>	<b>10,347.07</b>	<b>5,741.54</b>	<b>60,654.72</b>		<b>76,743.33</b>	<b>84,402.35</b>		
<b>Represented by</b>								
General (Unrestricted)	10,347.07	-	-	-	10,347.07	14,184.76	39	
Designated for Benefice Costs	-	3,941.54	-	-	3,941.54	4,200.00	35	
Designated for Extra Parish Share	-	1,800.00	-	-	1,800.00	-	35	
Restricted - Bell Fund (SPP)	-	-	2,816.16	-	2,816.16	-	17	
Restricted - Children (SJB) ***	-	-	-	-	-	243.27	40	
Restricted - Children & Family Outreach	-	-	375.11	-	375.11	-	40	
Restricted - Fabric (SJB)	-	-	11,712.29	-	11,712.29	17,607.84		
Restricted - Fabric (SPP)	-	-	14,124.40	-	14,124.40	16,154.32		
Restricted - Facilities (SJB)	-	-	10,959.13	-	10,959.13	12,113.24		
Restricted - Grocers (SJB)	-	-	1,638.90	-	1,638.90	1,639.27		
Restricted - Hartwell Graveyard	-	-	5,409.48	-	5,409.48	4,994.85		
Restricted - Messy Church (SPP) ***	-	-	-	-	-	348.44	40	
Restricted - Mission (SJB & SPP)	-	-	5,802.82	-	5,802.82	5,000.00		
Restricted - Organ Restoration (SPP)	-	-	7,816.43	-	7,816.43	7,916.36		
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,347.07</b>	<b>5,741.54</b>	<b>60,654.72</b>		<b>76,743.33</b>	<b>84,402.35</b>		

# The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

Stone, Dinton & Hartwell PCC	Analysis of Receipts and Payments			01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025		Notes
Income	General	Designated	Restricted	This Year	Total Last Year	Notes
Parish Giving Scheme	18,776.12	-	-	18,776.12	17,546.51	2
Standing Orders - Bank	1,790.00	-	-	1,790.00	3,040.00	2
Other Planned Giving - Envelopes	593.5	-	-	593.5	620	2
Loose Plate Service Collections	3,583.39	-	40.53	3,623.92	4,931.32	3
Good Box Service Donations	1260.5	-	-	1260.5	914.51	3
Stripe - Online Giving	146.5	-	372.93	519.43	144.31	4
One-off Gift Aid gifts	260	-	605.00	865.00	5,275.00	
Donations, appeals etc	2308.06	-	1,311.58	3,619.64	5,809.59	5
Gift Aid Recovered	5,146.61	-	1526.48	6,673.09	6,069.24	6
GASDS Recovered	1,674.27	-	35	1,709.27	2,368.40	6
Legacies	-	-	1,450.00	1,450.00	5,000.00	7
Recurring grants	98	-	3,000.00	3,098.00	3,000.00	8
One-off Grants	619.09	-	1,358.46	1,977.55	4,345.84	9
Other funds generated	-	-	2,961.88	2,961.88	2,398.09	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,256.04</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12,661.86</b>	<b>48,917.90</b>	<b>61,462.81</b>	
Fees for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals	3,864.00	-	-	3,864.00	5,058.00	
Church Lettings - Christian Objectives	2,400.00	-	-	2,400.00	3,550.00	11
Café Donations - Cash	4,953.84	-	-	4,953.84	5,098.20	12
Café Donations - Goodbox	4,300.20	-	-	4,300.20	3,242.00	12
Little Wrigglers - Donations	851.28	-	-	851.28	596.11	13
Parish News Advertising Income	4,136.17	-	-	4,136.17	4,214.50	14
Parish News Subscriptions & Sales	2,930.00	-	-	2,930.00	2,312.10	14
Dividends	-	-	598.64	598.64	489.01	15
Bank and Building Society Interest	227.33	-	1061.24	1288.57	994.91	16
Transfer in of SPP Bell Fund	-	-	2736	2736		17
Contribution to SPP Utility Bills	3,385.76	-	-	3,385.76	3,882.62	11
Church Lettings - Fundraising	1,500.00	-	-	1,500.00	1,500.00	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,548.58</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,395.88</b>	<b>32,944.46</b>	<b>33,292.14</b>	
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>64,804.62</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17,057.74</b>	<b>94,754.95</b>	<b>94,754.95</b>	19

# The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

Stone, Dinton & Hartwell PCC	Analysis of Receipts and Payments			01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025		
Expenditure	General	Designated	Restricted	This Year	Total Last Year	Notes
Parish Share to Diocese	28,885.23	-	-	28,885.23	29,933.64	20
Parish Insurance	4,728.27	-	-	4,728.27	5,009.10	
Benefice Costs	-	3,908.46	-	3,908.46	4,153.16	21
Administration (incl. website)	1,001.36	-	-	1,001.36	1,561.38	22
Parish Mission	256.49	-	587.55	844.04	554.62	23
Giving to Mission	-	-	-	-	141.38	
Organ / Piano Tuning	-	-	-	-	288	
Organist Cost	810	-	-	810	790	
Upkeep of Services / Consumables	852.69	-	69.27	921.96	1,258.77	24
SJB Church Maintenance	1,131.99	-	4479.34	5,611.33	3,574.49	25
SPP Church Maintenance	198.04	-	7,183.28	8,381.32	3,603.10	25
SJB Churchyard	743.11	-	4855.14	5,598.25	3,529.59	26
SPP Churchyard	169.26	-	405.61	574.87	3,445.81	26
Hartwell Churchyard	-	-	-	-	3,400.00	27
SJB Facilities Project	-	-	1,513.50	1,513.50	26,808.25	28
SJB Utilities (incl. internet)	4,309.53	-	-	4,309.53	3,996.94	29
SPP Utilities	5,517.81	-	-	5,517.81	8,457.66	29
Parish News Expenses	5,073.90	-	-	5,073.90	4,635.05	14
Café Leader Wage	-	-	2,000.37	2,000.37	2,000.04	8
Cafe Expenses	5,580.20	-	-	5,580.20	5,896.50	12
Little Wrigglers Expenses	1,371.19	-	-	1,371.19	2,413.27	13
Lego Church Expenses	-	-	459.83	459.83	2,413.27	30
Good Box/SumUp/Stripe fees	440.04	-	-	440.04	311.91	31
Costs of Fetes & Events	-	-	-	-	20	
Miscellaneous	1123.2	-	-	1123.2	606	32
<b>Expenditure Total</b>	<b>63,192.31</b>	<b>3,908.46</b>	<b>21,553.89</b>	<b>88,654.66</b>	<b>116,388.66</b>	<b>33</b>

## Finance Notes

### Introduction to 2025 Accounts

The introduction to the 2024 accounts highlighted a reduction in our income, principally because of the loss of a major donor, and a substantial increase in expenditure due mainly to urgent fabric repairs. The combined effect was a sharp reduction in reserves, particularly general funds. During 2025, we highlighted the need to increase regular giving, especially via the Parish Giving Scheme and one-off donations, we reviewed discretionary expenditure, restricted the use of general funds for fabric-related repairs and maintenance, and applied for external grants where possible. Our aim during the year was to maintain about £15,000 (about 3 months running costs) in general funds.

However, despite these actions, there is still a significant shortfall in income. Total expenditure in 2025 was £88,655, exceeding income by £6,793 and the balance in general funds had reduced by the end of the year to £10,347. Income from all sources reduced from £94,755 in 2024 to £81,862 in 2025. The biggest calls on general funds remain Parish Share to the Diocese, utility bills, insurance and costs of administrative support from the Benefice. There have been several urgent calls on fabric funds for repairs (SPP boiler, SJB heaters, SPP lightning conductor) and maintenance (e.g. removal of unsafe tree branches), which have been met from reserves.

The outlook for 2026 is even more challenging. We were notified of an approximately 10% increase in the 2026 Parish Share to the Diocese to £32,807, and we set aside an additional £300 per month from the 2025 accounts from July to offset the 2026 increase. The quinquennial architect inspection of both churches falls due in 2026 and it is possible that they may reveal issues which require urgent rectification.

We must balance the books in 2026 if we are to meet our obligations. If we are to avoid painful cuts to expenditure which would put at risk our outreach to our communities, we urgently need to raise additional income, principally through regular donations. We estimate that we need to raise at least an additional £600 - £700 per month, just to keep doing what we are doing. We give thanks to God that we have seen real growth in our church communities over the last few years, but growth inevitably brings with it increased costs which fall mainly on general funds. Heating, lighting and water for a single service during winter months costs £30 - £40. It is not just about keeping the buildings and churchyards in good repair.

Phil Groves is leading the initiative to increase giving in 2026, working with the PCC, its subcommittees and other members of the churches with relevant experience. This is being communicated in a variety of ways. The PCC and its subcommittees will be working hard to reduce expenditure where this can be achieved without harm to the church's outreach, to seek best value for money in existing commitments, and to ensure that any plans for new activity are fully costed and budgeted for. However, help from any member of the church community is welcome, so please contribute your ideas, your skills and your prayers. This is a task for the whole church.

# The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

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We are very grateful for the members of the church and the wider community who already give regularly, and we particularly wish to thank those who have already responded to the current situation by reviewing their giving, or starting regular giving for the first time. We also wish to thank those who have made generous one-off donations, or plan to do so.

I wish to pay tribute to Naomi Corbould for her work as our book-keeper, Steve Marks as our independent examiner, and the members of the Finance and Compliance committee. We hope shortly to appoint a PCC honorary treasurer to succeed Steven Kennell.

Richard Smith, Chair of Finance and Compliance Committee.

# The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

## Notes to 2025 Accounts

**1. Basis of Accounting.** The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 on the receipts and payments basis. The figures for 2024 are shown for direct comparison.

The overall total includes General (Unrestricted), Designated and Restricted Funds.

**2.** Total planned giving (via the **Parish Giving Scheme, Standing Orders** and **Envelopes**) remained at just over £21,000.

**3.** Total giving at services (**Loose Plate Collections** and **Goodbox Donations**) decreased by 17%.

**4. Stripe** was used for online donations via the website with both Fabric Funds benefitting more than General Funds.

**5. Donations** included £1,382 from the sale of old/foreign monies and jewellery.

**6. Gift Aid recovered from HMRC** on named donations and **GASDS recovered** on service collections. The decrease reflects the drop in overall giving.

**7. Legacies.** Two legacies were received (£450 for Hartwell Churchyard from the late Mrs Carole Fryer and £1,000 for SPP Fabric Fund from the late Mrs Iris Mobbs).

**8. Recurring Grants.** £2,000 Worshipful Company of Grocers' grant for the Incumbent at SJB which funded the Café Leader Wage. £1,000 Bergqvist Charitable Trust grant to SPP Fabric Fund and £98 grant from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for grave upkeep.

**9. One-off grants.** £435 from Stone with Bishopstone Parish Council to SJB Fabric Fund for new churchyard equipment and £1,447 from LPOWS for VAT paid on work invoices at both SJB and SPP.

**10. Other Funds Generated.** SJB Fete £416, SJB Xmas sale £596, SPP concerts £1,006 and SPP Raffle £665.

**11. Church Lettings – Christian Objectives.** This is the income from the Romanian Orthodox Church using SPP for services – £200/month paid monthly in arrears. ROC also contribute two-thirds of SPP gas and electric bills which offsets the costs of increased energy consumption.

**12. Café Donations** totalled £9,254, an increase of 11%, exceeding costs of £5,580 for hire of the Pavilion and consumables. A profit of £3,574 for 2025.

**13. Little Wrigglers** attendees make a voluntary contribution of £2 per family/week to help cover hire of the hall, etc.

Expenses include the hire of the Jubilee Pavilion, snacks, etc.

**14. Parish News.** Income from Advertising, Subscriptions and Sales totalled £7,066, exceeding Printing Expenses of £5,074. A profit of £1,992 for 2025.

**15. Dividends** from the CCLA CBF Investment Fund totalled £599.

**16. Bank and Building Society Interest.** £922 interest was received by the CCLA CBF Deposit Fund at 3.85% AER (as at 31/12/25). £359 annual interest was received by the Stone Facilities funds in the Skipton Building Society at 3.65% (as at 15/8/25).

**17. SPP Bell Fund** of £2,736 was transferred into the PCC Accounts (previously held externally by Mr Andrew Wild).

**18. Church Lettings – Fundraising.** The Art Society hired SPP for 10 monthly meetings.

**19. General Funds Income Total** for 2025 of £64,805 was below the £66,704 for General Funds in 2024.

# The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

- 20. Parish Share to Diocese.** In 2025 our Parish Share was £28,885 and was paid in full. This equated to ~45% of the General Funds income.
- 21. Benefice Costs for 2024.** £3,908 was paid in January 2025 from the Designated Fund set aside throughout 2024.
- 22. Administration** included £353 for annual CCLI Licences, £315 for Aylesbury Deanery Trust (Deanery Fees) and £114 for MFAO (Accounts system from Data Developments) – the cost of £19/month is shared with Cuddington PCC.
- 23. Parish Mission.** SJB Easter and Harvest cards and SPP Christmas cards, 'It's Your Move' books, Lent booklets, 10 children's story Bibles, SJB Easter Monday and Harvest Sunday events.
- 24. Upkeep of Services / Consumables.** Includes candles, Palm crosses, Service sheets paper, Baptism candles, toilet roll, hand towels, refreshments, cleaning products, flowers, etc.
- 25. SJB/SPP Church Maintenance.** General Funds cover servicing, annual safety checks, repairs of church fabric, replacement items, etc. Fabric Funds cover new items, SPP Roof Alarm, etc. SJB heater repairs £665, SJB pew cushions £4,419 (from a legacy), SPP boiler repair £3,894, SPP roof alarm £1,141, SPP lightning conductor repair £1,074 and SPP microphones £696.
- 26. SJB/SPP Churchyard Maintenance.** General Funds cover machine servicing, petrol, brown bins, repairs, etc. SJB front step repair £1,620, SJB dead wood removal £2,720, SJB new equipment £435 (funded by a grant – Note 9). SPP mower £406.
- 27. Hartwell Graveyard Maintenance.** The annual tidying and clearance was undertaken by Village Tree Surgeons without charge.
- 28. SJB Facilities Project.** £1,514 to MDP Architects on plans for the new path.
- 29. SJB/SPP Utilities.** Includes electricity, water, sewerage at SJB and SPP; SPP gas and SJB internet. Costs offset by ROC contribution to SPP bills (Note 11).
- 30. Lego Church Expenses.** Includes set up costs and continuing costs of Pavilion hire and consumables.
- 31. Goodbox/Stripe Fees.** Each service provider charges a small % fee per transaction averaging 5%. Increased usage incurred increased fees. The PCC agreed such fees should come from General Funds to encourage donations and fundraising.
- 32. Miscellaneous.** SJB Printer £305, SPP Bibles and hymn books £458, Half of solicitor's fee for SPP/ROC License of Faculty £360 (ROC paid half).
- 33. General Funds Expenditure Total** for 2025 of £63,192 was a decrease from £76,865 for 2024 (in which £9,000 was spent on significant building and churchyard repairs).
- 34. CBF Investment Fund.** Although dividends of £599 were reinvested during 2025, the year end value fell by £867 compared to the value on 31/12/24. Overall, a net loss in value of £268 which equated to -1.26%. The CCLA Investment Fund share value dropped 12.5% in March and April 2025 due to the Trump tariffs which affected the global stockmarket. On 31/12/25 the fund comprised 22.49% Hartwell Graveyard, 40.38% SPP Fabric Fund and 37.13% SPP Organ Restoration Fund.
- 35. Barclays Main PCC Account.** The main current account contains both General and Restricted Funds – all accounted for separately. During 2025 £300/month was transferred from General Funds to a Designated Fund for Benefice Costs invoiced in arrears in January 2026. From August 2025 £300/month was

# The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

transferred from General Funds to a Designated Fund for Extra Parish Share due to an anticipated substantial increase in the Parish Share for 2026.

**36. Barclays No2 PCC Account.** The funds were transferred into the CCLA Deposit Fund which has a higher interest rate.

**37. Stone Facilities Accounts.** See Notes 16 and 28. The signatories to both accounts are Mrs V Sewell-Rutter and Mrs S Birrell.

**38. Agency Collections.** Donations to external charities where the monies are paid into the PCC account and forwarded to the charity.

Throughout 2025 the following was raised:

**Chiltern Neuro Centre** - SJB Coffee Cup Collection = £217.75

**SPACE, Aylesbury** - SJB Coffee Cup Collection = £191.25

**Christian Aid** - SJB Coffee Cup Collection and Harvest Service Collections = £523.85

**Scripture Union** - SJB Coffee Cup Collection = £195.71

**Macmillan Cancer** – SJB Coffee Cup Collection and Coffee Morning = £550.92

**The Children’s Society** - SJB & SPP Christingle Services = £209.69

**Aylesbury Community Christmas Lunch** - SJB Coffee Cup Collection, Bishopstone Carol Service, ‘Carols in the Courtyard’ and 50% of SJB Christmas Service Collections = £863.24

**Florence Nightingale Hospice** - SPP Christmas Turkey Draw 2025 = £715.00

**39. Represented By** shows all the overall balances of the different PCC funds across all bank accounts and investments.

**40.** The **SJB Children’s Fund** and the **SPP Messy Church Fund** were merged into the **Children & Family Outreach Fund**. It has been used to pay for SJB Joyful Juniors, SPP Christingle, SJB Lego Church, etc.

Figures compiled by Naomi Corbould accounts@stonedintonhartwell.com 14/1/2026

Richard Smith Chair, Finance and Compliance Committee 1/2/2026

## Independent Examiners Report

### Independent Examiner's Report

#### To the Trustees of Stone with Dinton and Hartwell PCC

This report is regarding the Accounts for year ended 31st December 2025, which are attached.

#### The basis of this Report.

The Trustees of the P.C.C has agreed that an Independent Review is required in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, section 145 &152 for the above year. It is my responsibility to review the Accounts and ensure they comply with the above Act. Also to report any matters of concern which have been identified during this process. This review is not a full audit and therefore this report does not express an Audit opinion on these Accounts.

#### Examiners Statement

I can report that the Accounts are correct and can confirm that the records have been kept in accordance with the 2011 Act, however with regard to the previous year's report and reviewing the current financial situation it is with concern that my recommendations have not been adopted, although this year's loss is not as big as the previous year. Therefore I would recommend the following-

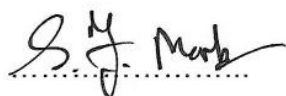
A) The overall financial loss for this year being £6.76k, comparing Income to expenditure and a total loss of reserves nearly £30k over the last 2 years. The Finance Committee must take control of all Expenditure with a view to reducing it where possible. On the income side efforts should be made to increase it and new income sources should be explored. If this action is not followed we will be looking at another loss for 2026.

B) I would recommend a Reserve Policy should be prepared and agreed, which would provide for a reserve fund to be maintained. This should be a fund to cover running expenses for 3 months, estimated at £15k in the event of no income being available.

**Follow up Items** 1) Review overall financial situation.

2) Check Reserve Policy.

Thanks are due to the Bookkeeper for her help and co-operation during this review.



S. Marks, FMAAT.

11 th March 2026

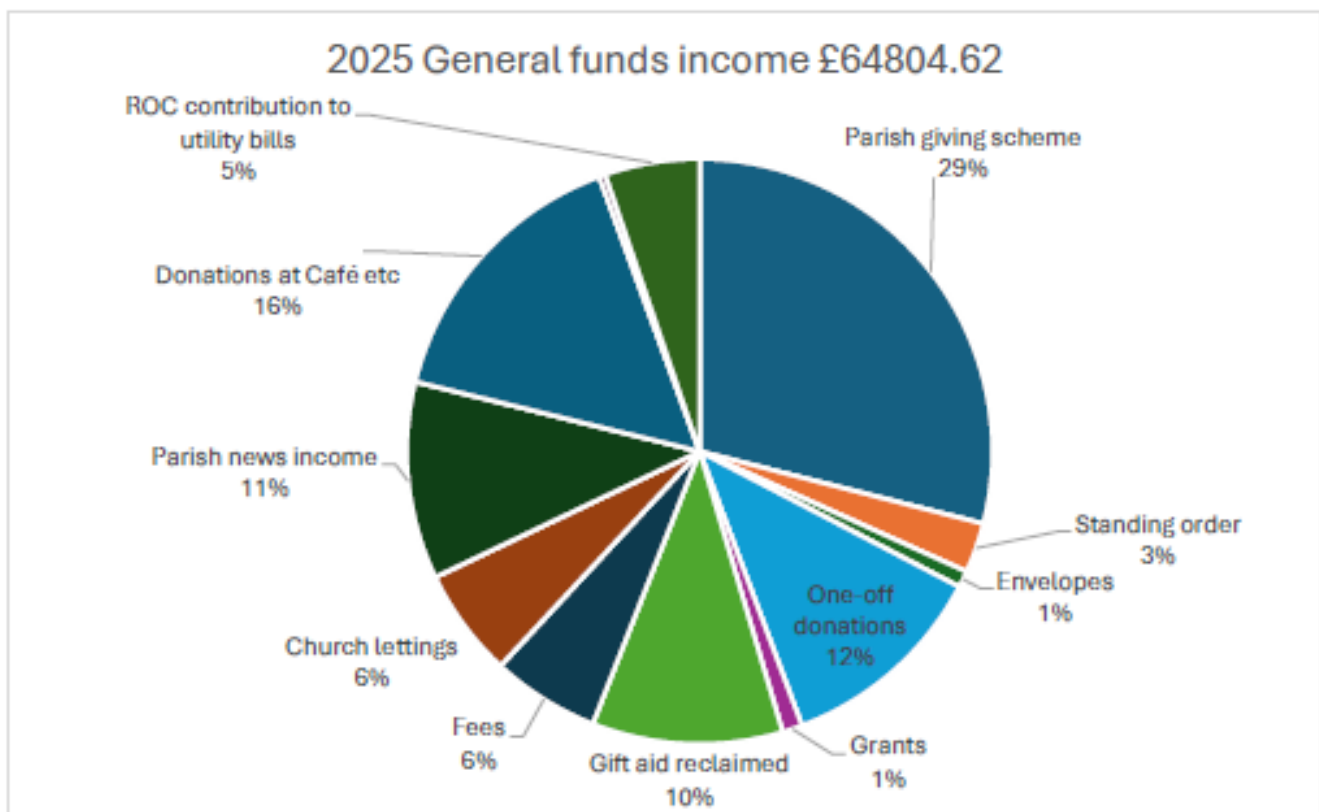
10 Chesterfield Close, Stone.

File Ref Stone Cert 2025 .

## Finance Committee Report

Since 2023, the committee has been seeking a new PCC treasurer and has collectively undertaken this responsibility, assisted by Naomi Corbould as book-keeper. We have been very pleased this year to welcome Andy Pike to the committee. Andy is a resident of Stone who has professional experience in the banking industry and the legal profession.

As explained in more detail in the introduction to the accounts, for the last two years, the costs of meeting our financial obligations as a parish, maintaining our buildings and churchyards to a safe standard and sustaining our outreach to our communities have increased faster than our regular income to general funds (which has actually declined because of the loss of a major donor in 2024). We do not want to compromise any of these commitments, but we must balance the books in the coming year, and this will require a substantial increase in income, principally from giving. Direct giving accounts for 55% of income to general funds, with a further 10% arising from donations at events such as Café in the Park. We need to raise at least an additional £600-£700 each month simply to stand still, and more than that to be able to consider new ventures. Revd Phil Groves is leading an initiative to promote an increase in giving, and we will particularly be promoting the Parish Giving Scheme, which ensures that the full value of your donations plus reclaimed gift-aid is received by this parish. We do not pay any administration fees for using the scheme.



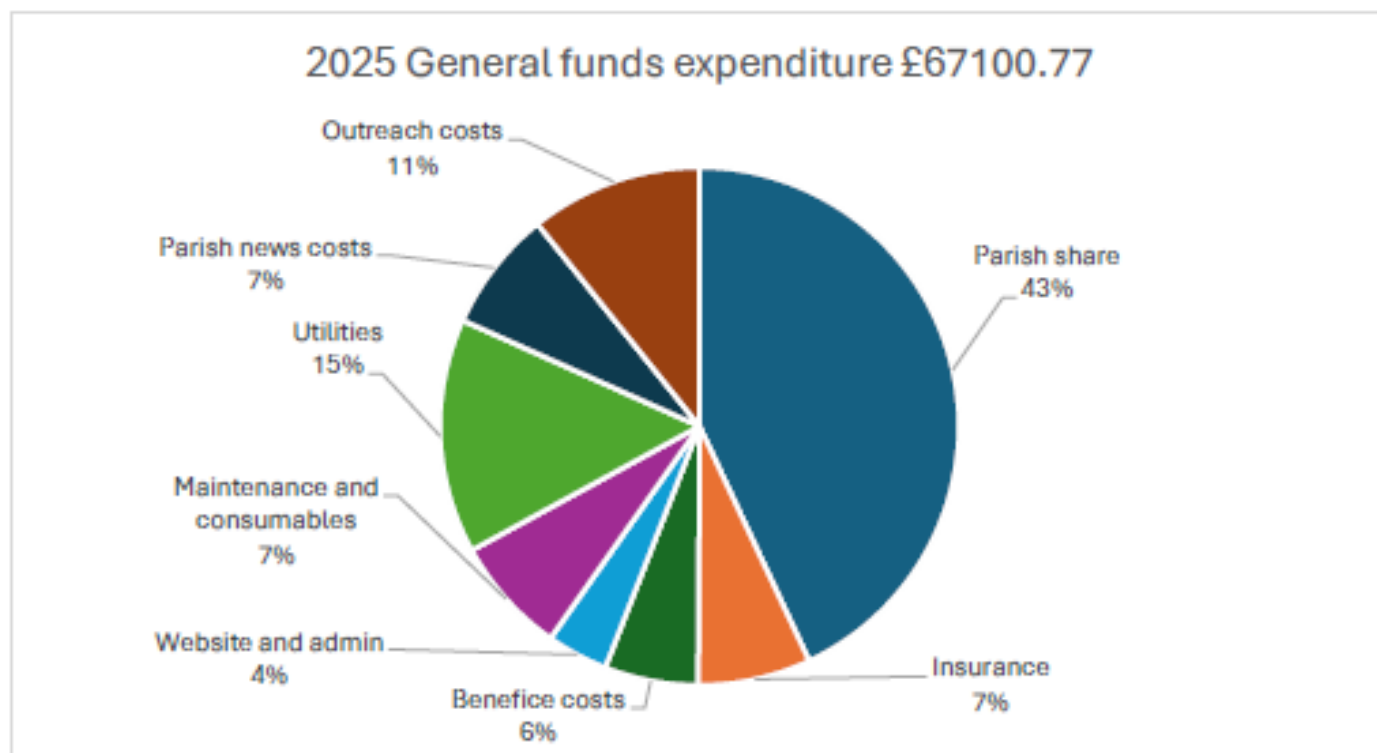
Here are a few examples of what monthly donations can buy:

*£5 per month: a subscription for one garden bin to keep the churchyard in good order. £20 per month: the cost of keeping our website running.*

*£30 per month: providing heat, light and water for one communion service a month £100 per month: a quarter of the cost of insuring both our churches, or the whole cost of running Little Wrigglers.*

# The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

If you are a UK taxpayer, the value of your gift increases by 25% when we reclaim gift-aid. We wish to express sincere thanks to those who have already responded by increasing their regular giving or starting to give regularly for the first time, and to those who are planning to do so.



At the same time, we are reviewing expenditure carefully for possible savings and seeking best value for money in our existing commitments. The expenditure chart shows how are expenses were divided in 2025. The money we must set aside each year to pay our Parish share, insurance premiums and benefice costs accounted for 58% of our general funds income in 2025. An increase in Parish Share in 2026 means that, if income does not increase, almost 65% of income to general funds expenditure will be similarly committed in advance, and any savings would have to be made from the remaining 35%.

Compliance tasks undertaken during 2025 included: PAT testing, servicing of fire appliances, servicing of the SPP roof alarm, inspection of lightning conductors, and review of fire and health and safety policies. We continue to maintain and review hazard logs for both churches and churchyards. Our quinquennial architect inspection of both churches falls due in 2026, and it is possible that these may identify issues that require urgent expenditure.

In summary, we face substantial financial challenges in the coming year. However, with your generous support, we will be able to continue the outreach to our communities of Stone and Dinton to which we believe God is calling us.

Richard Smith  
Chair of Finance and Compliance Subcommittee.

## Deanery Synod Report

The Aylesbury Deanery Synod is a meeting of the clergy and lay representatives from all the parishes in the deanery. It meets three times each year and two of those meetings in 2025 were attended by Jenny Pickup who is the lay representative for our parish.

In June the main item on the agenda was an introductory talk from Revd. Dave Bull the new Bishop of Buckingham who outlined his journey to becoming a bishop. He then encouraged us all to 'hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful' (Hebrews 10:23-25). We were then asked to share examples of where we see new life and energy in our churches before breaking into small groups to pray for one another's churches.

At the November meeting the main topic for discussion was deanery finances. In light of the coming increase in the deanery share payable to the diocese the treasurer explained the formula for calculating parish share payable to the deanery.

Deanery Synod is a good opportunity for churches to share ideas, learn from one another, and to pray together for this corner of Buckinghamshire.

## Safeguarding Report

### 1. Introduction

Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at PCC.

In addition we have safeguarding meetings between clergy and the Safeguarding Officer.

### 2. Formal Obligation

This report fulfils the formal obligation of the PCC to report to the APCMs on whether or not 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).'

### 3. Safeguarding Roles

- Parish Safeguarding Officer - Clare Davey
- DBS Recruiter and Verifier – Clare Davey

### 4. Safeguarding Policy, Guidance and Information

- The PCC has adopted 'Promoting a Safer Church' as its own safeguarding policy.
- The safeguarding guidance and information we are promoting and working in line with is contained in the Diocese of Oxford Parish Safeguarding Handbook.
- The 'Promoting a Safer Church' poster and contact information are displayed in our churches and a link to our policies and contact details are on first page of the benefice and parish websites.

### 5. Safeguarding Learning and Development

- All those in positions of leadership responsibility completed the appropriate safeguarding learning pathways did all volunteers for PCC agreed church activities.
- The Safeguarding Officer is ensuring all PCC members have complete appropriate training.

### 6. Safer Recruitment and People Management

- We are compliant with Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance.

### 7. Concerns Raised

- No safeguarding concerns were shared with Parish Safeguarding Officer.
- No referrals were made to Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

### 8. Next Steps

- New members of the PCC will be subject to DBS checks and expected to complete relevant training.
- Policies will be monitored and updated where required.

## St John the Baptist Church Report

Report for Annual Parochial Church Council from the churchwardens.

St John The Baptist church, Stone

January 2025 – December 2025

### General items:

- At the start of the year the safety inspections were carried out and all passed, the insurance and public liability were checked and paid, and church returns were completed.
- The Archdeacons Visitation in 2024 suggested that we try and open the church more and this was done with a church Open Day during the Ride and Stride event and by holding a McMillan Coffee Morning encouraging more people to come into the church. We also held an Easter Monday event in the church and churchyard for families which was very well attended and enjoyed. A similar event was held at Harvest with competitions for the best vegetable animal.
- This year we delivered cards round the parish publicising events at Easter, Harvest and Christmas.

### Works completed during 2025:

- Electrical items in the church were PAT tested, and any failures were either disposed of, replaced or repaired.
- The corner steps were reseated and made safe.
- Trees in the churchyard were made safe by the removal of a lot of deadwood, including a split tree and cutting back of trees growing too close to the church building.
- Pew Cushions were purchased from a legacy left to the church.

### Other Fabric Updates:

- Plans for the path from Bishopstone Road to the church had to be extended to go to Churchway following a visit from the DAC.
- We tried to register the tomb which is to be repaired as part of the path plan, but it isn't of enough importance. This makes it even more difficult to get grants for the tomb work.
- A monthly Church Gardening session was held from March to November and in the later weeks of the year we had a group of men come from the Community Payback Scheme to help clear the grounds and boundaries of the church.
- A grant from the Parish Council provided us with a new bench by the porch and a handheld pruning saw for which we are very grateful.
- This year an area in the churchyard was left wild for the butterflies and bees but it was generally a bad year for them so the count was very low.

## The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

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- An organ was given to us from Berkhamsted church but it is proving more difficult to set up than first expected.
- The church had a display of knitted poppies for Remembrance in the churchyard which was lit in the evening for 10 days and very much enjoyed by those visiting. The neighbours commented on the lighting making the church look more beautiful and inviting.
- Socially Crafty continues to meet in the church on the 3rd Monday of each month and is very well attended.
- Little Wrigglers, a group for babies and toddlers with parents, grandparents or carers was started in the Pavillion and has gone from strength to strength.
- Towards the end of the year Lego Church was started for all ages again using the Pavillion.
- Café in The Park continues to be a great outreach place for the community and church.
- Souper Sunday has been very popular and will continue next year.

We wish to express grateful thanks to those who work so hard to keep our church and gardens looking so well cared for.

The gardeners Ivor and Steve, the cleaners, Dee, Gwen and Sue, the flower arrangers Dee, Gwen, Sue, Clare, Shirley and Sue.

The Choir and organists; Chris, Richard and Stephan.

All others including Val who has helped to repair some of the Altar Falls and linen. The ladies who make the Mothering Sunday posies,

Jenny and Stephan who produce and distribute the Pew Sheet and Stephan for his work on the website and as PCC Secretary.

Clare who manages our Safeguarding.

Terry and Clare who allowed us to use their electricity when we had a power outage in the church on the day of the Christmas Fair, and for the wonderful Patronal Festival and Carols in the Courtyard celebrations.

Terry and Enid have supported us as Assistant Churchwardens, which has made our job easier.

Leaders and helpers at Café in the Park, Joyfull Juniors and Socially Crafty.

Finally for Phil and the Ministry Team especially for David and Raymond who have led our morning and quiet worship sessions.

We also thank you all for the support and help that you give in any way and invite anyone else who would like to help in any way at all to contact us to offer your help.

Sue and Raymond  
Churchwardens

## SJB Fabric Report

Report for Annual Parochial Church Council from the Fabric Committee of St John The Baptist Church, Stone

January 2025 – December 2025

Monthly meetings have been held to report and discuss the requirements of the church and churchyard that are the responsibility of this committee.

During the year we have been very busy looking after what we have and trying to repair, update and improve things inside and outside of the church building. I would like to express grateful thanks to the Fabric Committee members who work so hard to continuously be observant, looking for anything that needs repairing or maintaining.

### **General items of interest:**

- The Kitchen and Facilities have been very well used and are now an integral part of the church.
- Terry produced thank you plaques to display in church for all donors to the facilities.
- Cesspit has been regularly emptied.
- The oil filled candles have been so much cleaner and economical and well accepted.
- The Font continues to be of great interest with visitors from places as far away as America and China!
- The church was advertised as open all day during Ride and Stride in the hope of welcoming locals as well as people participating in the ride. During the day refreshments were served and the organ was played at times by Richard and Chris to whom we are very grateful.
- An area in the churchyard was again left wild for the butterflies and bees, but it was generally a bad year for them so the count was very low.
- Mowers were serviced and repaired as required.
- PAT testing of electrical items completed.
- Fire extinguishers and lightening conductor all serviced.

### **Repairs and Replacements:**

- Glenisters replaced the heaters elements that were no longer working and moved some of the older ones to more accessible heaters for future work to be easier.
- The corner steps were reseated and made safe so the gates could be opened again.
- The trees in the churchyard were inspected and this resulted in the removal of a small dead tree, 2 trees being cut back away from the church building, the yew trees

# The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

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by both Bishopstone and Churchway gates being cut back and deadwood removed from all of the black pines in the avenue.

- A rechargeable Hoover was purchased and a very good one which was surplus to requirements was given to the church when the main Hoover failed the PAT testing.
- Festoon lights were purchased and temporarily installed along the Bishopstone Road path to light the area during the winter months.
- Once again we were very grateful to the Parish Council who gave us a grant to purchase a new bench to replace the broken one by the porch, the slabs required to go under it, a battery operated pruning saw and pop up waste bags.
- By virtue of a donation to the Fabric Fund following the death and funeral of a well known Stone resident we purchased pew cushions for the entire church. These have made the seats more comfortable and warmer, as well as making the church look lovely. Thank you.

## Ongoing Fabric Updates:

- Plans for the path from Bishopstone Road to the church and round to Churchway continued to take up a lot of time but eventually were agreed upon. The repair of the tomb by the path will be included in this project but costs have spiralled due to the extra work required by the DAC. Fund Raising will have to start in order to fund this which will be split into 3 parts; the tomb, path from Bishopstone Road to the porch, the porch to Churchway path.
- A monthly Church Gardening session was held from March to November but this wasn't too successful due to bad weather or lack of participants. The Community Payback Scheme team came again to help clear the grounds and boundaries of the church. This resulted in the old and broken gravestones which were found when the grounds were cleared could be built into a wall along Churchway.

## Fabric Plans for continued improvements:

- New lock for Porch Door as it occasionally doesn't work.
- Altar Falls to be either repaired or replaced as required.
- Projector and remote control screen to be tried out.
- Other organ to be connected up if possible.

## Other

- Socially Crafty continues to meet in the church on the 3rd Monday of each month and is very well attended. A Christmas Fair was held in the church with many of the items for sale made by members. Despite a power cut it went ahead and funds raised went to the Fabric Fund. Thank you to Terry and Clare for letting us use their power and to Stephan and Raymond for putting up Christmas and battery lights.

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- The church display of knitted poppies was extended this year to include a drop from the wall behind the grave. Thank you to Socially Crafty for knitting and crocheting hundreds of poppies which were on display and lit in the evening for 10 days. This was very much enjoyed by those visiting and the neighbours commented on how the lighting makes the church look more beautiful and inviting.
- A tombola at the May Day Fete was very successful and raised money for the Fabric Fund.

It has been a very busy time for the Fabric Committee to do all of this as well as the general day to day things like putting the bins out and replacing light bulbs but we enjoy looking after our beautiful church and invite anyone else who would like to help in any way at all to contact us to offer your help.

I also thank you all for the support and help that you give in any way.

Sue Birrell

Fabric Chairperson

## SPP Fabric Report

Report for St Peter and St Paul Church, Dinton  
for January 2025 until December 2025

### Services

Phil Groves and Nigel Featherston are regular leaders for our morning services and David Pickup leads the Evensong services.

Five School family services have been held, including the very successful Christingle service. These are led by Phil Groves, supported by parents, and are very well attended (circa 100 children and 35 adults at each service).

There were 3 weddings, 3 Baptisms but no funerals.

As in previous years our Harvest festival, Remembrance Service and Christmas Day service were very well attended. We also held our second Service of Loving Remembrance for families to celebrate and reflect upon the lives of their loved ones.

We were also chosen to hold a Confirmation service, with Bishop Dave presiding. 69 People attended to celebrate the renewal of their baptismal promises by the candidates, including one from Dinton.

We are trying to spread the word in the adjoining villages by placing notices for our services on the noticeboards in each village.

### Fund Raising

The Arts Society of Aylesbury Vale have regular monthly meetings for which they pay a generous 'rent' and often have over 100 attenders.

There were two concerts in church, one by the Vale Singers and one by The Swing Band which has become an annual event to raise money for schools in Africa and the church.

In December the Turkey Hamper raffle was held again supported by luxury donations of turkey, champagne, port, a joint of ham and many other items. It was as usual very well supported and raised £1430 which was split between Florence Nightingale Hospice and the Fabric Fund.

### Fabric

The Chancel steps were repaired and the workman decided not to submit a bill which saved £200.

A small team of dedicated parishioners continue to maintain the churchyard and clean the church.

# The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

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A thank you party was held in January for all the people who work for and make significant donations to the church.

## **Romanian Orthodox Church**

Our relationship with them continues with mutual respect and understanding.

The numbers in their congregation continues to grow and they are using the church much more frequently. As a result we are working on a new agreement for the division of costs such as utility bills whereby they pay a larger share to reflect the greater usage of the church.

(The Faculty needed to formalise our agreement with a Licence is being applied for at present and will hopefully be received in a month or so.)

Mission Statement – Dinton Church in the community and the community in Dinton Church

Ian Cairns

Church Warden

## Clergy Report

### **Belong, Believe, Build – with Christ at the Centre**

For both St John the Baptist Stone (SJB) and Ss Peter and Paul, Dinton (SPP) 2025 was a year of both continuity and change.

### **Worship**

We built on the amazing growth of Explorers to launch Joyfull Juniors and Sue has recruited a fantastic team of helpers. We saw growth in numbers and commitment. This was reflected in our festival services – especially at Christmas. Thank you to Naomi for Explorers and to Sue and the team for JJ.

We launched Lego Church this year and that has been a success. Families unable to attend mid-morning are joined by some who attend twice on a Sunday and knew families we didn't know before. Thank you to Naomi and the team.

Our Choir is an essential element in our Festival Worship and we thank Chris for her ongoing work, supported by Richard. Richard, David and Raymond also lead us in worship and preach and we are very grateful for their service.

The Service of Loving Remembrance continues to meet a need in both of our churches. We considered a biannual service in SPP, but the demand was so strong we are looking to have it every year.

Our pattern at SPP of two Eucharistic services a month – both at 9am is now embedded. We have a lovely congregation and Ian has been excellent as Churchwarden. Thank you to all how serve on the SPP Committee. The Evensong is a great fixture.

Nigel's consistent presence in the village life still bears fruit. We saw big numbers for Christmas in SPP as well as SJB, and Nigel is a significant part of that growth.

Our companionship with the ROC continues to grow. It has had some tricky issues, but we are hosting a community of prayer, which is important and gives us joy.

### **Outreach**

Café in the Park continues to thrive and we had pastoral opportunities through our relationships with those coming week by week. Socially Crafty continues to have a significant impact – especially with the poppies at Remembrance and the Christmas Craft Fair.

Little Wrighlers is a huge success. Naomi and the whole team have made a significant impact on our community. At both Café and Little Wrighlers it is great that some helpers who do not come to church are able to participate in community building.

Terry and Clare invited us all to a picnic in their garden and to Carols in the Courtyard. These events build community. We now have Souper Sundays – a great initiative. The early church was a place where people ate together as well as worship, pray, and learn, so it is great we are following that tradition.

We welcome our Schools to worship with us in both of our churches. Richard is doing a great job with the music at Stone School and their new worship patterns are excellent.

## The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

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At SPP there are regular 'Family Services' with parents joining their children. We also repeated the Advent Christingle was better than last year.

We are all the church and God takes delight in each of us. I thank you for our partnership in sharing God's love in the world.

Revd Canon Dr Phil Groves

