



APCM

The Parish of Cuddington Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Annual Vestry Meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd May 2024 at St Peter and St Paul, Dinton at 20:00.

Please send all nomination forms to PCCSecretary@stonedintonhartwell.com or place them in the box provided by 17:00 on Tuesday 21st May.

www.stonedintonhartwell.com/apcm

Booklet V1



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 31st May and is commonly held immediately prior to the annual meeting of the parochial church council.

Who can Attend?

Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings, however, only those who are on the Electoral Roll are permitted to vote.

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 2023 APCM Meeting Minutes
- 2) Election of PCC members
- 3) Annual Report for 2023
- 4) Finances and Accounts for 2023
- 5) Nomination of Independent Examiner
- 6) Church Insurance and Policy Report
- 7) Report on the Electoral Roll
- 8) Deanery Synod Report
- 9) Safeguarding Report
- 10) Report on Fabric Goods and Ornaments of St John the Baptist, Stone
- 11) Report on Fabric Goods and Ornaments of St Peter & St Paul, Dinton
- 12) Rectors / Associate Rectors Report
- 13) AOB

2023 APCM Minutes

Minutes of The Annual Vestry Meeting held at 8.00pm, Wednesday 10th May 2023 at St John the Baptist, Stone

Present:

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

Rev'd Phil Groves opened the meeting with a short reading from Revelation 22:1 – 5, reflecting on how God shall be a light in the darkness.

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

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.

Mrs Rosemary Jackson
Mr Raymond Medhurst
Mrs Sue Birrell

These three people were duly elected as Churchwardens to serve to the 2024 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 volunteered to act as assistant Church Warden

The Annual Vestry Meeting then closed.

The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

Minutes of The Annual Parochial Church Meeting held at 8.15pm, Wednesday 10th May 2023 at St John the Baptist, Stone

Present:

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

Apologies:

Eryl Morgan, Chris Ashbridge, Nicky Bancroft, Liz Tompkins, Clive Corbould

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

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

2. Report of the Electoral Roll

We are down to 66 on the Electoral Roll, down from 70. Phil thanked Dee for maintaining the electoral roll.

3. PCC Members

The following members were elected to the PCC.

Mr Terry Cooper
Mrs Clare Davey

4. Deanery Synod Members

The following members were elected to the Deanery Synod.

Mrs Nicky Bancroft

5. Annual Report for 2022

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.

Phil reflected on how it had been an encouraging year with lively school services and developing ties with the Romanian Orthodox Church.

6. Finances and Accounts for 2022

Steven presented the Finance review and thanked people for their generosity as we are in a healthy position.

We registered our thanks to Steven who is stepping down as treasurer and he will be very sadly missed in this role as he has been brilliant, however he is remaining on the PCC for the remainder of his 3 years. Thank you to Naomi and Alan for supporting Steven.

The trend for giving has stayed roughly the same as previous years although bills have gone up. Thankfully our finances have held up despite inflated bills and emergency works.

It is still a challenge to get reasonable utility bills going forwards.

The Romanians have been generous with their time and money to cover work undertaken at SSP.

Thank you to everyone who gives so generously.

There are no accounts to present at this meeting as they have not been received back from the independent examiners yet. The APCM gives responsibility to the PCC to publish the report and bring any issues that may arise to a special meeting after a SJB service where they will be signed off instead.

There are no anticipated issues with the accounts. Everyone present was content with this as a solution.

The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

There will be no treasurer going forwards so the role will be taken on by the finance committee which will be revived. Nigel and Phil will organise this committee.

Naomi will take on book with support from the finance committee and using some online accounting software.

7. Nomination of Independent Examiner

Steven 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.

Steven proposed we appoint Steve Marks as our Independent Examiner and Alan Weston seconded. All those present agreed.

8. Report on Fabric Goods and Ornaments;

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

There was quite a bit of work done over the past year, it was noted that Rosemary was doing an incredible job steering St Peter and St Paul, Dinton which Phil thanked her for.

Some of the works include Wi – Fi, , new heating controls, new sound system and porch repairs at Dinton and in Stone the facilities were opened, substantial churchyard work was undertaken and doors were repaired.

There are still some small works that need to be carried out at both churches.

9. Report from Safeguarding Officer

There are no safeguarding concerns.

Phil proposed we thank Val and Carol who are our DBS verifiers. Naomi seconded this. Stephan will send a letter of thanks from the parish to Val and Carol.

10. Report on the Deanery Synod

The deanery synod is currently undergoing new leadership and Jonathon Hawkins is now the new area dean.

11. Rectors Report

Phil highlighted a thank you to Nigel for arranging the legal agreement with the Romanian Orthodox Church which has enabled us all to worship alongside each other.

Phil thanked David for his work with organising the Parish News every month as this is a very important asset to the community.

Messy Church has not been running recently; however it is not completely ended as we have a few events a year and we are building relationships with Cuddington Church and their Chill In sessions.

12. AOB

It was noted that Hartwell Cemetery has become quite messy. The PCC will look into this.

Meeting Closed at 20:45

The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

2023 Annual Report

Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell Annual Report 2023

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 1st 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.

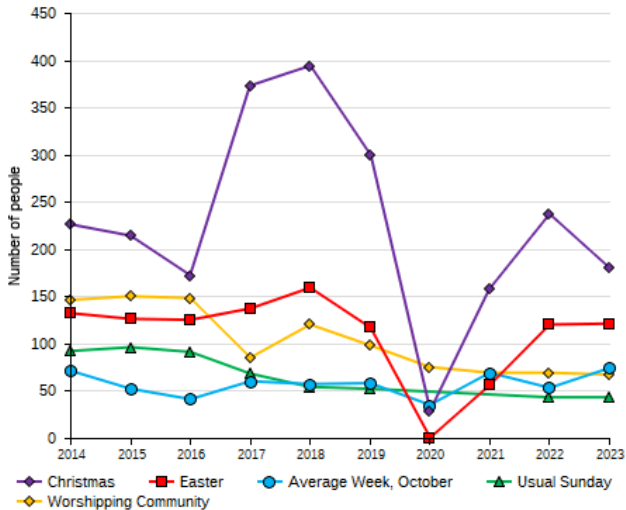
This year, we have held a multitude of services across the parish, catering for all.

Numbers have generally increased or stayed the same although there has been a decline in Life Services.

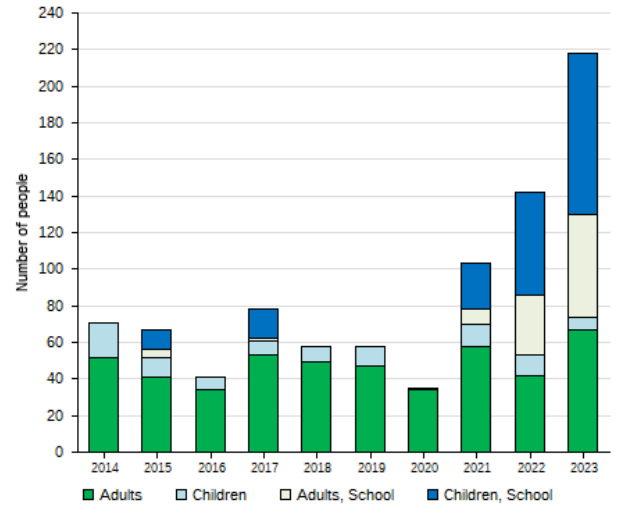
The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

Attendance Summary	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<i>Christmas</i>	394	300	28	158	237	180
<i>Easter</i>	159	117	0	56	120	121
<i>Average Week, October</i>	57	58	35	69	53	74
<i>Usual Sunday</i>	54	52	-	-	43	43
<i>Worshipping Community</i>	120	98	75	69	69	67

Average Weekly Attendance	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<i>Adults</i>	49	47	34	58	42	67
<i>Children</i>	9	11	1	12	11	7
<i>School Service: Adults</i>	0	0	0	8	33	56
<i>School Service: Children</i>	0	0	0	25	56	88

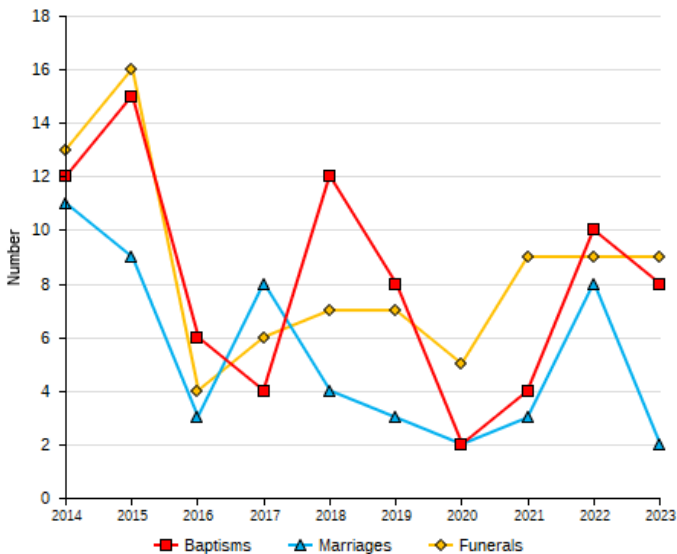


Attendance Summary

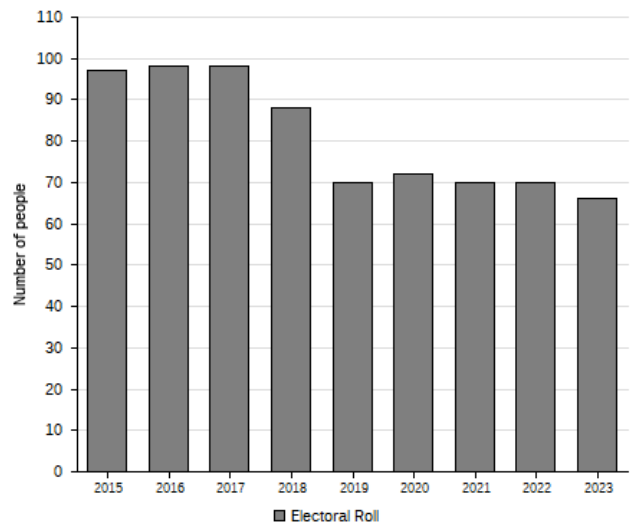


Average Weekly Attendance

Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals and Electoral Roll	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<i>Baptisms</i>	12	8	2	4	10	8
<i>Marriages</i>	4	3	2	3	8	2
<i>Funerals</i>	7	7	5	9	9	9
<i>Electoral Roll</i>	88	70	72	70	70	66



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. We have had less clergy available this year, so we are grateful to those who have led services for us.

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.

Both Easter and Christmas were very well attended with 121 and 180 people in the congregations.

The Electoral Roll membership has dropped down to 66.

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 9 Funerals this year. Preparation sessions for Baptisms and Weddings are normally held on a regular basis throughout the benefice.

Deanery Synod

We have 1 ex officio member of the PCC who sits on the Deanery Synod but we do have a space for a further representative. 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 our socially crafty sessions from SJB this year, putting the facilities to good use and inviting members of the community in for coffee and cake. Many thanks to Sue Birrell for arranging this and getting it running.

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 brought back our Christmas hamper and concerts in Dinton which have once again been very successful.

SPP, Dinton has also been opening its doors regularly this year, not only for hires such as art exhibitions, but also for regular worship for the ROC which has been an enormous success for everybody involved.

Parish News

Our Parish magazine is distributed monthly by volunteers to subscribers, schools and nursing homes. In 2023 it made a profit of £1,082, down from £1,526. 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 spent the past year without a treasurer so we continue to pray that we may be able to find a new treasurer to take on the role.

We would like to thank the finance committee for taking on this role collectively and to Mrs Naomi Corbould for the bookkeeping until we are able to find someone to take on the role of treasurer.

Many thanks yet again to all who continue to give generously and regularly to the Parish. Whether you have given through the Parish Giving Scheme, online, by plastic, or by means of cash or cheque, thank you!

Our income totalled £78,911 This was due to your kind generosity and the increase in income from users of our buildings and from weddings, baptisms, and funerals, as well as outreach activities and grants.

Our expenditure totalled £66,845.47 (up from £42,136 in 2021).

Our Parish Share of £27,826.92 was paid in full.

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 Mrs Rosemary Jackson, 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 music 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 5 times during the year with an average level of attendance of 63%.

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

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.

The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

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

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 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023 are:

Ex Officio members:

Rector: Revd Cassa Masservy

Associate Rector: The Revd Canon Dr Phil Groves

Rev'd Nigel Featherston

Wardens : Mrs Rosemary Jackson

: Mr Raymond Medhurst

: Mrs Sue Birrell

Mrs Nicky Bancroft representative on Deanery Synod

PCC member

Elected members:

Mr Richard Smith

Mr Steven Kennell

Mrs Eryl Morgan

Mr Terry Cooper

Mrs Clare Davey, Safeguarding

Mr Stephan Medhurst, Secretary to the PCC

The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

Finances

Stone, Dinton & Hartwell PCC	Analysis of Receipts and Payments			01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023		
					Total	
	General	Designated	Restricted	This year	Last year	Notes
Income from:						
Donations and Legacies						
0101 - Standing Orders - Bank	8,790.00	-	-	8,790.00	-	2
0105 - Parish Giving Scheme	17,547.41	-	-	17,547.41	-	2
0115 - Good Box - Donations	2,339.75	-	330.22	2,669.97	-	3
0116 - SumUp Giving	6.00	-	-	6.00	-	
0118 - Stripe - Online Giving	50.00	-	112.01	162.01	-	4
0201 - Other planned giving	460.80	-	-	460.80	-	
0301 - Loose plate collections	4,581.37	-	25.25	4,606.62	-	5
0420 - Café Donations -Cash	4,990.81	-	-	4,990.81	-	
0501 - One-off Gift Aid gifts	-	-	2,397.90	2,397.90	-	
0550 - Donations appeals etc	397.23	-	1,841.58	2,238.81	-	
0601 - Gift Aid Recovered	8,208.95	-	166.95	8,375.90	-	6
0701 - Legacies	-	-	500.00	500.00	-	7
0801 - Recurring grants	40.00	-	2,000.00	2,040.00	-	8
08A1 - Non-recurring one-off grants	358.80	-	2,250.00	2,608.80	-	9
0901 - Other funds generated	-	-	1,812.67	1,812.67	-	
Total	47,771.12	-	11,436.58	59,207.70	-	
Charitable activities						
1101 - Fees for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals	3,783.59	-	-	3,783.59	-	10
1230 - Church lettings - objectives	4,050.00	-	-	4,050.00	-	11

The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

Total	7,833.59	-	-	7,833.59	-	
Other Trading Activities						
1250 - Parish News advertising income	3,767.00	-	-	3,767.00	-	12
1260 - Parish News subscriptions & sales	2,221.25	-	-	2,221.25	-	12
Total	5,988.25	-	-	5,988.25	-	
Investments						
1001 - Dividends	-	-	434.61	434.61	-	13
1020 - Bank and building society interest	64.23	-	-	64.23	-	14
Total	64.23	-	434.61	498.84	-	
Other Income						
0905 - Contribution to SPP Utility Bills	3,882.62	-	-	3,882.62	-	15
1235 - Church lettings - fundraising	1,500.00	-	-	1,500.00	-	16
Total	5,382.62	-	-	5,382.62	-	
Income Total	67,039.81	-	11,871.19	78,911.00	-	17
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds						
1701 - Good Box/SumUp/Stripe fees	196.47	-	-	196.47	-	18
1730 - Costs of fetes & other events	54.02	-	-	54.02	-	
Total	250.49	-	-	250.49	-	
Charitable Activities						
1850 - Home mission	260.40	-	-	260.40	-	
1910 - Parish Share to Diocese	27,826.92	-	-	27,826.92	-	19
2050 - Café Leader Wage	-	-	2,299.89	2,299.89	-	20
2170 - Education	-	-	52.20	52.20	-	
2205 - Cafe Expenses	4,911.68	-	-	4,911.68	-	21

The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

2301 - Church Insurance	4,529.77	-	-	4,529.77	-	
2320 - Organ / piano tuning	323.00	-	-	323.00	-	
2325 - Organist Cost	370.00	-	-	370.00	-	
2330 - Church maintenance	3,239.89	-	5,770.59	9,010.48	-	22
2340 - Upkeep of services	659.17	-	235.51	894.68	-	
2350 - Upkeep of churchyard	773.19	-	99.99	873.18	-	
2360 - Administration	711.50	-	-	711.50	-	
2401 - SJB Electric bills	2,337.95	-	-	2,337.95	-	
2405 - SPP Electric bills	910.07	-	-	910.07	-	
2410 - SPP Gas bills	5,488.93	-	-	5,488.93	-	15
2415 - SJB Internet cost	625.99	-	-	625.99	-	
2420 - Church running - water	212.61	-	-	212.61	-	
2501 - Parish News expenses	4,905.73	-	-	4,905.73	-	12
Total	58,086.80	-	8,458.18	66,544.98	-	
Other Expenditure						
2390 - Miscellaneous	50.00	-	-	50.00	-	
Total	50.00	-	-	50.00	-	
Expenditure Total						
Expenditure Total	58,387.29	-	8,458.18	66,845.47	-	23

The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

Stone, Dinton & Hartwell PCC	Statement of Assets and Liabilities			As at: 31 December 2023			
Class and nominal code	General (Unrestricted)	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year	Note
Fixed Asset - Tangible Assets							
6430: CBF Investment Fund	-	-	16,187.65	-	16,187.65	14,380.54	24
Total	-	-	16,187.65	-	16,187.65	14,380.54	
Current Asset - Cash At Bank And In Hand							
6501: Bank Barclays current account	28,039.25	3,000.00	22,665.02	-	53,704.27	38,012.53	25
6507: Barclays Stone Facilities Account	-	-	4,719.90	-	4,719.90	29,977.78	26
6509: Barclays Dinton Organ Rest. Account	-	-	-	-	-	7,713.92	27
6510: CCLA (CBF) deposit account	2,068.36	-	-	-	2,068.36	2,004.13	
6520: Skipton Building Society	-	-	30,000.00	-	30,000.00	-	26
Total	30,107.61	3,000.00	57,384.92	-	90,492.53	77,708.36	
Current Asset - Debtors							
Z05: Accounts Receivable	-	-	-	-	-	7,254.32	28
Total	-	-	-	-	-	7,254.32	
Liability - Agency Accounts							
6699: Agency collections	-	-	933.13	-	933.13	-	29
Total	-	-	933.13	-	933.13	-	
Liability - Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year							
Z04: Accounts Payable	-	-	-	-	-	7,034.20	28

The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

Total	-	-	-	-	-	7,034.20	
Net Total Assets	30,107.61	3,000.00	72,639.44	-	105,747.05	92,309.02	
Represented by							30
General (Unrestricted)	30,107.61	-	-	-	30,107.61	24,454.15	
Designated - Benefice	-	3,000.00	-	-	3,000.00	-	
Restricted - Children (SJB)	-	-	246.22	-	246.22	311.37	
Restricted - Electrics (SJB)	-	-	145.20	-	145.20	145.20	
Restricted - Fabric (SJB)	-	-	5,844.89	-	5,844.89	3,450.20	
Restricted - Fabric (SPP)	-	-	13,900.15	-	13,900.15	13,603.30	
Restricted - Facilities (SJB)	-	-	34,719.90	-	34,719.90	32,305.06	
Restricted - Graveyard	-	-	8,041.41	-	8,041.41	7,054.84	
Restricted - Grocers (SJB)	-	-	1,639.31	-	1,639.31	2,699.98	
Restricted - Messy (SPP)	-	-	348.44	-	348.44	571.00	
Restricted - Organ (SPP)	-	-	7,753.92	-	7,753.92	7,713.92	
Total	30,107.61	3,000.00	72,639.44	-	105,747.05	92,309.02	

Finance Notes

Introduction to 2023 Accounts

In previous years the accounts have been compiled on an Excel spreadsheet on an Accruals basis and resulted in delays with balancing and finalising the PCC accounts. So, a fresh approach was needed. In June 2023 the PCC agreed to subscribe to MyFundAccounting.Online (MFAO), an online software accounts package by Data Developments. Colin Wood, from Leicestershire, was contracted to set up the PCC accounts on the software as from 1st January 2023 and the first 6 months were input in a 'mass catchup' exercise. From July the software has been used in real time and this has enabled accurate reports to be produced whenever required. It makes fund accounting a lot simpler. As with any change in software or systems, some anomalies have arisen. Colin asked why we used the Accruals basis rather than the simpler Receipts and Payments basis (which is all that is required by law for a charity with gross income less than £250,000)? He said we should switch to R&P. This change in the method of accounting means that, in the 2023 accounts, certain regular payments may appear twice, while others may not appear at all. In the accounts for 2024 and subsequent years, this apparent anomaly will no longer occur.

Several of the categories of income and expenditure in MFAO are different to those we used in the previous Excel-based accounts. For instance, the increasing use of online giving has made it necessary to update the categories of income. This means that line-by-line comparison of 2023 accounts to 2022 accounts will not be possible. However, the MFAO categories are aligned to the CofE Financial Return which will make reporting easier.

Notes to 2023 Accounts

1. Basis of Accounting. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis as detailed above. Certain categories have been added / deleted to align the accounts with the Statement of Financial Affairs (SOFA) and CofE Financial Returns formats. Therefore, no figures for 2022 have been entered for direct comparison. The overall total includes General (Unrestricted), Designated and Restricted Funds.

2. Giving by Standing Order and via the **Parish Giving Scheme** similar to 2022 levels with a slight inflationary uplift.

3. Goodbox – used for contactless card donations. Used each week at Café in the Park and increasingly for service collections on the new Goodbox Mini machines purchased.

4. Stripe – used for online donations to Unrestricted or Restricted Funds via the website.

5. Loose plate collections decreased from £6,535 to £4,500.

6. Gift Aid recovered from HMRC on named donations and GASDS recovered on service collections and Café donations.

7. Legacies. One legacy in aid of SJB Fabric Fund was received from the late Miss Jo March.

8. Recurring Grants. £2,000 Grocers' Grant for Incumbent at SJB. £40 from Commonwealth War Graves for upkeep.

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- 9. One-off grants.** £2,250 for SJB Pulpit repair from the Dame Margaret Slaney Fund (Grocers').
£358.80 for SPP tap repair from the Dinton Beer Festival.
- 10. Fees for Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals.** Reduced from £4,509 in 2022 which was an unusually high figure due to events having been postponed during the Covid pandemic.
- 11. Church Lettings – Christian Objectives.** This is the income from the Romanian Orthodox Church using SPP for services – charged at £450/month in 2023 and paid quarterly in arrears.
- 12. Parish News.** Income from Advertising, Subscriptions and Sales totalled £5,988, exceeding Printing Expenses of £4,905. Profit of £1,082 for 2023.
- 13. Dividends** from the CCLA CBF Investment Fund of £14,380 totalled £434.61. The fund comprises 49.06% Hartwell Graveyard and 50.94% SPP Fabric Fund.
- 14. Bank and Building Society Interest.** The CCLA CBF Deposit Fund received £64.23 interest. This is only for 9 months – the date when interest is paid has changed to the start of the month after the quarter rather than the last day of the quarter.
- 15. Contribution to SPP Utility Bills.** The Romanian Orthodox Church using SPP agreed to contribute two-thirds of the cost of the SPP gas and electric bills. Listed as an income – it offsets the increased costs of energy consumption.
- 16. Church Lettings – Fundraising.** The Art Society hires SPP for its meetings once a month for 10 months.
- 17. General Funds Income Total** for 2023 of £67,040 compares with that of £62,855 for 2022. Main increases due to Café in the Park donations and SPP lettings (although costs increased).
- 18. Goodbox/Stripe Fees.** Each service provider charges a small % fee per transaction. The PCC agreed such fees should come from General Funds to encourage donations and fundraising.
- 19. Parish Share to Diocese.** In 2023 our Parish Share was £27,826.92 and we paid it in full.
- 20. Café Leader Wage.** The PCC employs the Café Leader and is paid from the Incumbent's Annual Grant from the Worshipful Company of Grocers'.
- 21. Café Expenses.** Includes hiring of Jubilee Pavilion and purchase of food and other consumables.
- 22. Church Maintenance.** Includes servicing, annual safety checks, emptying cesspits, repairs of church fabric, etc. At SJB the pulpit repair and installation of handrails, upgrading electrics and sound and installing wifi. At SPP a new flagpole and kneelers and roof alarm costs.
- 23. General Funds Expenditure Total** for 2023 of £58,387 compares with that of £54,799 for 2022 mainly due to increases in costs of insurance and fuel bills.
- 24. CBF Investment Fund.** In addition to the £434.61 in reinvested dividends the fund value grew by £1,372.50 (+9.5%).
- 25. Barclays Current Account.** The main PCC account contains both General and Restricted Funds – all accounted for separately on the new software. During 2023 £250/month was transferred from General Funds to a Designated Fund to pay the annual invoice for Benefice Office fees.
- 26. Stone Facilities Account.** The final invoice from Wards for the Facilities project has yet to be received. In August 2023 £30,000 was transferred into a Skipton Building Society savings account to earn interest of 3.65%. This will be applied to the account annually or upon closure.

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27. Barclays Dinton Organ Restoration Fund. Along with many other charities in 2023, the PCC experienced Barclays undertaking their 'Know Your Customer' project. Numerous emails and letters were received which threatened to close inactive accounts (de-banking) and hours of phone calls were made to try to resolve the issues. In order to protect the inactive DORF – the funds were transferred into the main PCC account, but the fund remains restricted.

28. Accounts Receivable / Accounts Payable. These relate to the accrued transactions included in the 2022 Accounts. As the accounts are now done on Receipts and Payments there will be no accruing transactions from 2023 onwards.

29. Agency Collections. This is when direct fundraising has been for an external charity and the monies are paid into the PCC account in order to be forwarded to the charity – the account acts as a postbox for the donations.

Throughout 2023 the following was raised:

SJB Coffee Cup Collection – Aylesbury Chaplaincy	= £182.63
SJB Coffee Cup Collection – Dogs for Good	= £278.88
SJB Coffee Cup Collection – Aylesbury Community Christmas Lunch	= £146.93
SJB Coffee Cup Collection and SJB & SPP Harvest – Aylesbury Vineyard Foodbank	= £472.50
SJB & SPP Christingle Services – The Children's Society	= £287.63
SPP Christmas Turkey Draw – Florence Nightingale Hospice	= £565.00
SJB & SPP Christmas Carol Services – Embrace the Middle East	= £235.13

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

Naomi Corbould accounts@stonedintonhartwell.com

12/2/24

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 2023, 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.

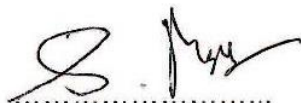
Examiners Statement

I am pleased to report that there are no matters of concern that have been identified during this review and can confirm that the records have been kept in accordance with the 2011 Act. However there is one issue I need to raise and this involves the balance held in the Barclays Bank Current Account. The Accounts indicate a balance of £53,704.27 as at 31st December 2023 and this is considered to be above the normal operating balance required. I would therefore suggest that consideration be given to opening a new Deposit Account (or use a current deposit Account) and depositing any residual funds in it. This would enable the unused funds to earn interest for the Church. Previously the interest rate offered has been very low, but now offer a better return.

Follow up Items

Review action on Deposit Account.

This review has been assisted by members of the Church and would just like to record my thanks for their help throughout this process.



S. Marks, FMAAT.

10 Chesterfield Close, Stone.

20 th Feb 2024.

File Ref Stone D&H cert 2023 final.

Deanery Synod Report

No Report Received.

Safeguarding Report

No Report Received.

SJB Fabric Report

The church and Fabric Committee have been very pleased to have the Kitchen and Facilities signed off as completed during the past year. Everything is working well and used on a regular basis for church, school, craft sessions and visitor activities. This has been a long time coming but has very quickly become a major part of the church facilities.

The South boundary wall between the church and neighbour on Bishopstone Road was repaired with stone collected from Hartwell House. The stone was from a wall which was taken down to make way for HS2. This was a splendid job by local contractors, and we still have spare stone for the future.

The Pulpit Floor was found to be rotten and needed a new frame making. This work was undertaken by a local carpenter following a successful grant application to The Dame Margaret Slaney Trust of the Grocers. Handrails to the pulpit and by the South door entrance have also been done from this grant as a matter of Health & Safety. These used the original Altar Rail which was removed in the 1960's.

The Internet and Sound System has been upgraded and is working well. The sound can now be controlled by the use of a tablet and works anywhere in the church so we are not committed to staying close to the sound desk anymore.

Ideas to do a path from Bishopstone Road to the church were taken up and a survey will be undertaken alongside the architect plans.

A monthly Church Gardening session was held from March to November and whilst not a great number attended a lot of extra work was undertaken. Some people are now responsible for a certain grave or area. This will continue for 2024.

The Font booklet was updated and should be available in 2024.

Socially Crafty started in the church on the 3rd Monday of each month and has been well attended. Those who attended have worked on producing banners and posters for the church including the LOVE and FAITH ones to join the original HOPE one. This has brought people into church who may not have been inside the building before. A Christmas Fair was held in the church with many of the items for sale made by members and £800 was raised for the Fabric of the Church.

The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

Noticeboards in the porch have been recovered and generally the porch has been tidied.

The Yew tree by Churchway steps has been trimmed to remove a dangerous branch overhanging the road and steps but more could still be done to trim it back.

Two church Banners were cleaned and repaired and are now on display by the tower screen.

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, Sue 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, Jenny and Stephan who produce and distribute the Pew Sheet and Stephan for his work on the website and as PCC Secretary. For Clare who manages our Safeguarding and Terry who has supported us as Churchwardens this year. For Leaders and helpers at Café in the Park, Explorers 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.

Raymond and Sue
Churchwardens

SPP Fabric Report

Report for St Peter and St Paul Church, Dinton
for January 2023 until January 2024

Dinton Church's motto is 'Church in the Community and the Community in the Church. We have tried to live up to this target by welcoming many visiting groups and families and also developing some more long term relationships.

Romanian Orthodox Church – Our partnership with the Romanian Orthodox Church (ROC) has gone from strength to strength. We are beginning to form working relationships and have regular meetings to ensure our services and use of the church are dovetailing, and issues dealt with.

Arts Society of Aylesbury – we welcome the Arts Society on the first Tuesday of every month. There are usually over a hundred people present to hear a visiting speaker and have refreshments.

Weddings – there were two weddings this year. Funerals – there were three funerals.

Pattern of Services

We continue to have three regular services each month with the first Sunday being a 9am Holy Communion Service: the second Sunday being an Evensong Service which was 6pm during the summer and earlier during the winter. The third Sunday is a 10am Morning Worship. Fortunately, we all seemed to get used to the variable times although the congregation would prefer a 10am Holy Communion but this is not possible because of the shortage of priests. Our congregation is generally very small but swells greatly at Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas.

On October 8th Dinton Church was blessed with Bishop Alan coming for a Confirmation Service.

Fabric Works

With such an old church there are obviously continuous repairs required so we have had plenty of visits from electricians, plumbers, and this year the septic tank needed emptying. Fortunately, Dinton Church had a 3000ltank fitted which requires emptying infrequently.

Flagpole repair

This was required because the one of the leather stays which held the flagpole in place wore out. This was noted in the Quinquennial Architects report so had to be done.

The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

The faculty requirements were that an architect and a surveyor should advise on the wind power possible on the Tower Roof. This was costly but we were very fortunate to have local craftsman who was able to fit metal stays which will last for a very long time.

External stores

Also noted in the Quinquennial report was the very poor condition of the two Victorian privies which had been built there when there were alms houses in the churchyard. They were built into the back wall of the churchyard and were in danger of collapsing taking the wall with them. Fortunately, there are members of the ROC who are builders and craftsmen and they had no difficulty fulfilling the requirements of the Diocesan Faculty to create two excellent storage facilities. Interestingly as the work proceeded a Victorian cobbled path and hard standing were uncovered from under a century of silt.

Outside tap fitted

It is very pleasing to note that a lot more families are caring for their loved ones graves and interment ledgers. People regularly required water for flowers and plants. In order to make it more convenient an outside tap was fitted on the north side of the church. People can now fill watering cans but it is still impossible to run a hose round to the new graves.

Screen for the waste bins.

Because the waste bins are situated near to the interments area it was felt necessary to screen them off. This was done with willow hurdles. Unfortunately, because the wind whistles round the churchyard the screening is often blown over and the fixings have pulled out.

Repair to external path

The heavy rains of recent years have washed away the grass that covered the path from the cobbles past the west door to the south porch.

We have plans for a bonded gravel path to be laid and this is currently awaiting a decision from the Diocesan as to whether to grant faculty permission.

Upkeep of the church

Churchyard Gardening - a small group meet on the second Saturday of each month to trim and mow and dig out weeds. The intention is to try to get all the graves flat enough to mow straight through, but this is complicated by families putting borders around plots.

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Cleaning Rota – We have a stalwart crew of five ladies who clean the church monthly. The ROC also clean the church thoroughly twice per year and after their use.

Bellringers – Unfortunately we no longer have a full team of Dinton ringers so we rely on friends from Haddenham and Cuddington to make up the team for weddings etc. The Tower Captain would be pleased to hear from anyone who has had previous experience and would like to join.

The Church is now very well used and cared for and our regular small congregation is very happy to welcome people.

Rosemary Jackson,
Churchwarden

Rectors Report

No Report Received.