THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF BISHOPSTONE AND STRATFORD TONY, SALISBURY

Registered Charity Number 1213127

Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025

Trustees and PCC Members

Chairman:	The Revd Canon Jenny Taylor, Team Vicar (until 11 May 2025)
	The Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shipley, Team Rector (from 12 May 2025)
Churchwarden:	Mrs Sarah Seal (also Deanery Synod & Team Council member)
Secretary:	Mr Geoffrey Taylor (also Deanery Synod & Team Council member)
Treasurer:	Mr George Brutton
Elected:	Mrs Margaret Barter
	Mrs Jill Ford (until December 2025)
	Mrs Sally Leaver
	Mrs Alix Ricketts
	Major James Thompson
	Mrs Louise Vincent

Electoral Roll Officer: Mrs Anne Stutchbury

Administrative Information
The Parish of Bishopstone and Stratford Tony is part of the Chalke Valley Team Ministry in the Chalke Deanery, Diocese of Salisbury. The Team address is: Church Office, Byworth, Meadow Close, Dinton, Salisbury SP3 5HY.

Structure and Governance
The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England and operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. The PCC registered with the Charity Commission on 30 April 2025, Registration Number 1213127. The appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. PCC Members are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). The 2024 APCM, resolved that, 'in accordance with CCR 2020, M15(9), the total number of elected lay representatives on the PCC may be 9 irrespective of the total determined by the number of names on the Electoral Roll, effective from the 2025 APCM'.
The PCC met formally on 4 occasions in 2025. The APCM was held on 23 March 2025.

Electoral Roll 39 members.

Objectives and Activities
The general functions of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) are set out in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and include the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has responsibilities for the maintenance of the Bishopstone church building and churchyard and the Stratford Tony churchyard.

Achievements and Performance
On 11 May 2025, a full church gathered at a Benefice Communion to mark the retirement of the Revd Canon Jenny Taylor after 16 year's ministry in the Chalke Valley Team, initially in 2009 as an Associate Priest responsible for Bishopstone and Stratford Tony and from 2013 as Non-Stipendiary Team Vicar. The Incumbent of the Parish then became the Team Rector, The Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shipley. Apart from the ministry of our two stipendiary clergy, all the activities in this report rely upon the support of volunteers: two Associate Priests, retired Clergy, Churchwarden, Lay Worship Leader, PCC members and all who give of their time, energy and financial support to ensure that services take place in a well preserved building, the Churchyard is maintained and the Church is able to serve the wider community.

Policies and Safeguarding All policies on Health & Safety, Safeguarding and Financial Management issues are reviewed annually, in line with Church of England policy. In particular, Safeguarding Policies are reviewed by the Benefice Team Council, then adopted by individual PCCs. Training, based on these policies is provided for individuals either on-line or face to face within the Benefice and a record of such is maintained centrally.

Worship The pattern of two Parish Communion services a month has continued. In addition, five 1st Sunday Morning Services were led by our Lay Worship Leader, Mrs Sally Leaver. The Carol Service was held in the Village Hall again with increased numbers and the "Carols round the Crib" on Christmas Eve proved as popular as ever. A Carol Service and an Evensong were held in Stratford Tony.r

Organists We continue to thank Mrs Shelagh Lamb for her support for our regular Communion services and other 'special' occasions and Mrs Margaret Barter, then Mrs Heather Hooper for supporting our Morning Services. The church organ restoration which began in 2024 was completed by April 2025. This was marked by a well-received celebratory recital by David Halls, Director of Music at Salisbury Cathedral.
From the Registers 4 Funerals, 2 Weddings and 1 Baptism were conducted in Bishopstone in 2025.

Mission and Outreach
Pastoral support to individuals in our community continued to be provided by our Clergy and Lay Pastoral Assistant (LPA), Mrs Sally Leaver who stood down in April after 15 years of dedicated service as an LPA. 2025 Mission Giving was: £600 to our Deanery Chalke-Cueibet Link, £200 to Salisbury Foodbank, £150 to Morning Star, £200 to The Bridge 2026 Lent Project, £50 to Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust. Separately, participation by volunteers in the annual Ride & Stride raised £845 for the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust, of which £422 was returned to the PCC for the North Transept Roof Appeal. The Augustus Montgomery Coal Trust funds administered by the PCC have provided financial assistance to individuals in need in the Parish. A Coffee Morning was hosted in support of the Lent Appeal for 'Save Our School', a project to build a new church primary school in our linked Diocese of Cueibet.

Our magazine, STaB, continues to play an essential role in the life of our community. The PCC is most grateful for the work of the Editorial Team in maintaining such a high quality magazine, for the contributors and for the team of volunteers who deliver it to every house in the Parish.

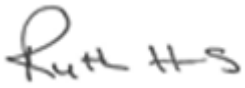
Fabric
The North Transept Roof Project understandably consumed much time and energy both in fundraising and preparation for the building work to begin in 2026. The PCC is very grateful to Toby Mills and Roger Stockton for volunteering to undertake the considerable work in preparing an application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund which was to be successful against strong competition in obtaining a grant of £248,000 in January 2026. Alongside the main fundraising activity, Mrs Anne Stutchbury, Chairman and the Friends of Bishopstone Church Committee have been tireless in organising fundraising events involving local speakers. The events and the funds raised have been well publicised throughout the community. The response has demonstrated a clear desire for such activities which point towards exploring a wider community role for the church in addition to ensuring that the building is well maintained and secure. Our Churchwarden, Mrs Sarah Seal has played a leading role as our trustee in her involvement in all aspects of this project. This work will continue for all involved into 2027.

A regular team of volunteers has continued to maintain the churchyards in both Bishopstone and Stratford Tony. The day to day care and welcoming appearance of the building and churchyard, cleaning, flower arranging and refreshments after services are undertaken at no cost to the PCC. These and other items of maintenance could not happen without the generosity of finance and time of a small number of volunteers.
This year, in particular, has demonstrated the importance which the whole community places upon its local church. It is the aim of the PCC to develop this engagement after the North Transept Roof Project has been completed.

Financial Review
In 2025, activities in the PCC's General (undesignated/unrestricted) Fund were: Total Receipts: £31,481 (2024 £42,407) against Expenditure of £30,690) (2024 £38,680). a surplus of £791 (2024 surplus of £3,727. The Share, the PCC's contribution towards the cost of Clergy and administration was £16,207. The PCC is grateful to the Parish Council for its ongoing financial contribution to the maintenance of the Bishopstone churchyard.

It is the policy of the PCC to maintain, where possible, a balance on our unrestricted funds which equates to one year's running costs to cover any emergencies that may arise, particularly bearing in mind the significant costs that can be incurred when work is required to the church building.

Approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by the Chairman, The Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shipley



Team Council
Team Council is formed of clergy and lay representatives from each parish in the Benefice. The group met three times in 2025.
June 2025 - Bill Stacey shared details of contactless giving trials in the Benefice. Revd Ruth highlighted changes to the safeguarding training requirements. Geoff Taylor confirmed the total raised for the Lent Project – 'Save Our School' was £21,500. Benefice Planning and items such as types of services, parish events and working with the local community were discussed..
September 2025 - Anthony Bell-Chambers shared details of the Alpha Course proposed for January – Easter 2026. Revd Ruth gave an update on the Diocesan data breach. Members were asked to consider a charity for the 2026 Lent Project.
November 2025 - Members were joined by representatives from The Bridge Youth Project Salisbury and Morning Star. Both charities shared presentations on their work locally. The Bridge was chosen as the 2026 Lent Project.
It was noted that individual PCC contributions to the Team Account are likely to increase by 10% in 2026.
Changes and additions to Benefice services and events have been implemented and proved successful.

Chalke Deanery Synod
Chalke Deanery Synod is formed of clergy and lay representatives from the Benefices of Chalke, Nadder, St Bartholomew, Western Downland and Wilton. The group met three times in 2025.
February 2025 in Nadder (Tisbury) - Following a recent visit, The Very Revd Nicholas Papadopulos gave a presentation called 'Eyewitness…Stories from Palestine'.
June 2025 in Chalke (Bishopstone) - Elizabeth Harvey, Diocesan Director of Finance shared a presentation on the work of the DBF (Diocesan Board of Finance). Miriam Longfoot was introduced as the new link between the DBF and the Chalke Deanery. Dr Sherwood Elcock gave an update on the Chalke-Cueibet Partnership and building the new Church Primary School in Cueibet.
November 2025 in Nadder (Dinton) - Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shipley was appointed Rural Dean on the retirement of Revd Mark Hayter. Jean Watson was appointed Deanery Treasurer. Suzi Futcher, Diocesan Director for Safeguarding gave an update on safeguarding, training and reporting procedures. Katie Fitzsimmons, Diocesan Director for Education gave a presentation on the work of the DBE (Diocesan Board of Education).

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, BISHOPSTONE WITH STRATFORD TONY
Independent Examiner's Report
for the year ended 31 December 2025

Independent Examiner's report to the PCC of St John the Baptist, Bishopstone with Stratford Tony

I report on the accounts of Bishopstone Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2025 which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC (Trustees) and Independent Examiner
The PCC (charity's trustees) is responsible for the preparation of these accounts in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. It considers that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) but that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to
- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement
In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

(1) which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
   a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
   b) to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Charities Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed :- F Taylor

Name : Francis Taylor

Relevant Professional qualifications :- FCMA

Address :- 14 The Croft
Bishopstone
Salisbury

Date :- 9th February 2026

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, BISHOPSTONE WITH STRATFORD TONY

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (Including Income & Expenditure Account)
for the year ending 31 December 2025

	2025					2024				
	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Roof funds £	Other Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Roof funds £	Other Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT										
Income										
Receipts from donors										
Regular giving	12,866				12,866	12,703				12,703
Collections	5,530				5,530	6,711				6,711
					-					
Income tax recovered	4,245				4,245	4,610				4,610
Other voluntary receipts					-					
Legacies	1,000				1,000					
Donations	722		3,912	2,110	6,743	4,068	8,500		1,610	14,178
Income from investments					-					
Dividends & interest	779			617	1,396	771			600	1,371
Sales of Grenfell Trust holding									1,502	1,502
Activities for raising funds					-					
Fund raising events/activities (Lent Appeal)				783	783				725	725
Parochial fees	2,613				2,613	10,503				10,503
Church upkeep box	52				52	35				35
STAB advertising inc donations	2,849				2,849	2,860				2,860
Other income					-					
Grants received	800				800					-
Sundries	25				25	146				146
Friends of Bishopstone Church			26,955	1,232	28,187			(4,995)	4,943	(53)
- net income/(net expenditure)										
Total Income	31,481		30,867	4,742	67,089	42,407	8,500	(4,995)	9,380	55,291
Expenditure										
Church Activities										
Donations	138		3,509	2,589	6,236	1,918			1,425	3,343
Grants	-				-					
Parish share	16,207				16,207	16,030				16,030
Pastoral expenses (Statutory and CV Team)	2,765			1,850	4,615	5,840				5,840
Lay fees (organists)	1,015				1,015	1,440				1,440
Church lighting & heating	1,196				1,196	1,859				1,859
Church insurance	4,721				4,721	4,493				4,493
Church maintenance and improvements	1,456			2,921	4,377	3,519			13,580	17,099
Churchyard maintenance	620	500			1,120	940	500			1,440
STAB	2,462				2,462	2,471				2,471
Sundries	109				109	171				171
Management & administration			-		-					
PCC expenses			-	-	-					-
Total Expenditure	30,690	500	3,509	7,360	42,059	38,680	500	-	15,005	54,185
Net movement in Current funds	790	(500)	27,358	(2,618)	25,030	3,726	8,000	(4,995)	(5,625)	1,106
Net Movement in Investments	(1,121)			(3,680)	(4,801)	627			487	1,114
Transfers between funds:	-		(4,995)	4,995	-			4,995	(4,995)	-
	(331)	(500)	22,363	(1,303)	20,229	4,353	8,000	-	(10,133)	2,220
Total Funds brought forward	45,177	8,225	-	123,098	176,500	40,824	225	-	133,231	174,280
Total Funds carried forward	44,847	7,725	22,363	121,795	196,729	45,177	8,225	-	123,098	176,500

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, BISHOPSTONE WITH STRATFORD TONY

Statement of Assets & Liabilities

at 31 December 2025

		2025	2024
		£	£
Cash funds			
Cash in hand			
Lloyds TSB current account		31,925	*35,082*
CBF Main Deposit account		4	*4*
Friends of Bishopstone Church bank accounts		53,886	*25,700*
	Note 2	85,815	*60,786*
Investment assets			
CB 3034767 inv fund- PCC Bishopstone Church (unrestricted) *[1,212 shares]*		26,904	*28,025*
CO 3052963 inv fund - Rev GA Montgomery Coals (restricted) *(1087 shares)*		21,003	*22,059*
COIF Investment Fund - Friends of Bishopstone Church (restricted)		63,007	*65,631*
		110,914	*115,714*
Total assets		196,729	176,500
Current liabilities		-	-
Total Funds		196,729	176,500

Approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by :

Chairman

Notes to the financial statements

1. Accounting policies

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

General funds represent unrestricted money that can be used for the general charitable purposes of the PCC.

Designated funds represent unrestricted money that has been earmarked for a specific purpose by the PCC. This money may be undesignated by the PCC at anytime.

Restricted funds must be used for the purposes for which the money was given or donated.

2. Cash Funds	General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2025 were as follows:				
General Fund	17,442	225	2,726	20,393
Friends of Bishopstone Church	-	-	53,886	53,886
Montgomery Fund	-	-	4,036	4,036
Stratford Tony Churchyard	-	7,500	-	7,500
Monetary assets c/f	17,442	7,725	60,648	85,815

Ruth HS

3rd March 2026.

Read Dr Ruth Hewlett-Shipley

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for the year ended 31 December 2025

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3rd March 2026.

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