

**STANTONBURY ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)**

TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 2025 – DECEMBER 2025

Charity No: 1200563

**STANTONBURY ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP
FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 2025 – DECEMBER 2025**

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Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

Trustees Report and Financial Statements for the period 1st January 2025 – 31st December 2025

Trustees:

Mr David Preston (Chair)
Mrs Anne Slee (Secretary)
Dr Adrian Prisk (Treasurer)
Ms Diana Stammers (Safeguarding)
Mr Stephen Fletcher (Until May 2025)
Mr David Parsons (From May 2025)

Revd Dr Samuel Muthuveloe (Ex-officio)
Revd David Haseldine (Ex-officio until August 2025)
Mrs Penelope Miller (PCC appointed)
Revd Canon Chibuzor Okpala (Ex-officio until July 2025)
Revd Philip Dunning (Ex-officio)
Revd Peterson Feital (Ex-officio from September 2025)
Revd Dr Kofi Tekyi-Ansah (Ex-officio from September 2025)

Office address:

Christ Church Stantonbury
Purbeck
Stantonbury Campus
Milton Keynes
MK14 6GU

Independent Examiner:

Jonathan Vowles FCA
114 High St
Cranfield
Bedford
MK43 0DG

Principal Bankers:

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Ave,
Kings Hill,
West Malling
ME19 4JQ

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the period from 1st January 2025 – 31st December 2025. The trustees are listed above. The Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership was registered as a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) in October 2022. The financial processes for the new charity started with effect from January 1st 2023

Purposes and Public Benefit

Following the establishment of the CIO, the purposes of the charity and its associated public benefit are now as articulated below:

To advance the Christian faith by drawing together the congregations in the Partnership to further the “Five Marks of Mission” which have been adopted by the Forum of Churches Together in England and any other purposes which are charitable in law to the benefit of those living within the Partnership area and to support the wider mission in Milton Keynes and beyond.

The “Five Marks of Mission” are expressed as:

1. To proclaim the good news of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain the life of the earth.

These objectives generate public benefit through:

- Providing places of worship for regular worship and to conduct baptisms, weddings, funerals and other offices as required.
- Offering the opportunity for people to engage with and respond to the Christian faith.
- Raising awareness and understanding of religious benefits and practices, thus advancing the religion.
- Encouraging a direct, practical response to human need.
- Encouraging a just society.
- Promoting care for the environment.

Additionally, as an ecumenical body, the charity is intrinsically concerned with the public benefits of reconciliation and the broad advancement of the Christian faith.

Organisation

The charity is governed by trustees. Six are elected at the Annual General Meeting. Ministers in pastoral charge of congregations serve ex-officio. There is provision for appointment of a trustee by the PCC and other equivalent denominational bodies.

The wider membership is made up from the members of the six congregations in the partnership.

Trustee vacancies are advertised, with a closing date for written applications which require all pertinent information and a nominator. Elections are held at the

AGM.

All trustees are required to have full DBS checks with appropriate safeguarding training.

All trustees have been alerted to advice on the Charity Commission website regarding their roles. Recruitment procedures are in line with Charity Commission recommendations.

Review of the activities and future developments

In 2025, the six congregations in the Partnership continued to provide worship throughout the year. Some progress was made in 2023 in arranging services for the entire Partnership, this has continued in 2024 and 2025. The Congregational Leadership Teams have matured in their roles and are working well and have made very positive contributions to the partnership.

There have been a number of changes to the ministerial team. The Team Rector has been on a period of suspension since May 2025. The duration of this suspension is currently unknown. Revd Peterson Feital joined the team in September 2025 in the vacant Housed for Duty (HfD) post and Revd Dr Kofi Tekyi-Ansah was appointed to the MK Methodist Circuit at the same time with a 20% input to the SEP.

The churches have continued to address the changing demography of their congregations and to attempt to reach out to younger members of the community. We have been encouraged by the findings that more young people are showing an interest in matters of faith and have seen evidence of this in our congregations. Plans are in place to promote the message of the gospel with the help of a Youth Gospel Choir and further support through grants for existing projects within the congregations.

Chatterbox at Cross and Stable church on Wednesday mornings has proved a great success as a resource to the community, raising the profile of the church and bringing the message of the Gospel to those who would otherwise never receive the ministry. Other initiatives such as 5 ways café at St Andrews and TTTT at St Mary Magdalene are promoting the church as a significant player in community life. We have been able to establish closer relationships with a Christian support group within Stantonbury School and have opened a weekly youth club at Christ Church.

Several churches introduced the technology to live-stream worship during the pandemic and have continued to develop this. There is a loyal following of online worship (Christ Church has a regular participant from Japan!). This has progressed in 2025 with a significant number of online worshippers including housebound current members and some former members.

The suspension of the Team rector has increased the workload of the remaining ministerial team but regular service has been upheld by the current team of ordained and lay ministers and some visiting leaders.

Congregations have continued in their support of the '5th Mark of Mission' and have looked at their environmental impact. They have applied for environmental ratings, carried out an environmental audit and started projects to reduce the use of fossil fuels. This process has been ongoing in 2025 and congregations are becoming focussed as ageing heating systems will require replacement in the near future.

The Hooke Heritage Project at St Mary Magdalene Willen continued its work of preparation of the project. The Partnership has increased its involvement in 2025. It is likely that the funding required to develop a new building will not be forthcoming; however the church is committed to providing toilet facilities and faces a considerable bill for repair of the tower of its Grade 1 listed building which will require fund raising, so the project has taken a new direction.

A part-time administrator was employed from June 2025. She has proved a valuable asset especially during the absence of the team rector.

Financial review

The current finances of the Partnership are reviewed at each trustees meeting. The trustees have been monitoring the congregational finances in 2025, requiring quarterly figures. This enables concerns about the financial health of our partnership churches to be identified and appropriate action to be taken. The main concern has been the ability or the willingness to contribute to the share which supports the cost of the ministry. The annual accounts of all the congregations are consolidated with the Partnership accounts for inspection and presentation at the AGM.

The current level of reserves and income enables us to conclude that the Charity is a viable going concern.

Salary policy

Anglican clergy are employed by the Oxford Diocese. Methodist clergy are employed through the Milton Keynes Methodist Circuit. Baptist ministers are employed by the partnership. Parity is maintained between the Baptist and Anglian stipends. Employee pension contributions as well as employer contributions are paid in addition to the gross salary. We have a policy of following the 'real living wage' in the payment of any staff members.

Investment powers

The trustees have the power to make any investment

they see fit in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as the trustees of a trust are permitted to do by the Trustee Act 2000.

Related parties

There were no related parties in the period covered by this report

Reserves policy and risk management

The Partnership maintains reserves of at least two months regular expenditure.

A risk register is currently being developed along with robust financial policies.

Statement of Trustees responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to: select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; following the methods and principles in the Charities SOFA, make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements and prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website.

Signed

David Preston – Chair of Trustees

Adrian Prisk – Treasurer

Date

Awaiting Inspector report

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership - (CIO 1200563)
Statement of Financial Affairs (SOFA) December 2025

	Notes	Total Unrestricted	Total Restricted	Total Endowment	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
		£	£	£	£	£
Income						
Donations and legacies	1	190,913	8,806		199,718	203,774
Income from charitable activities:	2	17,602	70		17,672	13,555
Income from trading activities	3	23,278	139		23,417	23,782
Grants	4	22,515	12,460		34,975	7,447
Income from investments	5	1,191	115		1,306	1,323
Other Income	6	6,519			6,519	1,039
Total income		262,018	21,589		283,608	250,919
Expenditure						
Cost of fundraising	7	892	1,760		2,651	1,321
Donations to charity and mission	8	7,055	1,954		9,009	8,387
Ministry costs and expenses	9	141,405			141,405	143,958
Running Costs	10	75,269	3,692		78,960	64,731
Major building repairs	11	31,785	8,995		40,781	28,968
Other costs	12	7,430	5,821		13,251	8,427
Total expenditure		263,835	22,222	-	286,057	255,791
Increase (Decrease) in investment value				(1,148)		642
Net income/expenditure and net movements		(1,817)	(632)	(1,148)	(3,597)	(4,230)
Reconciliation of Funds						
Transfers and corrections		813	(800)			83
Fund balance brought forward at 01.01.25		82,740	49,912	28,718	161,371	165,517
Fund balance Carried forward at 31.12.25		81,736	48,480	27,570	157,786	161,370

Signed

David Preston – Chair of Trustees

Adrian Prisk – Treasurer

Date

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership (CIO - 1200563)							
Balance Sheet Dec 2025							
						31/12/2025	31/12/2024
	Notes						
Debtors	13					9,078	8,535
Gift Aid Accrual						12,220	10,857
Bank Current Accounts						113,270	102,037
Bank Deposit Accounts						7,478	14,594
Cash						499	720
Endowments						27,570	28,718
Creditors	14					(12,320)	(4,158)
Adjustments						(7)	66
Total						157,788	161,370
Funds							
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment			
Bradwell		7,591	3,591	27,570		38,752	39,000
Christ Church		18,763	3,032			21,795	25,306
Cross & Stable		5,702	4,166			9,868	12,002
St James		5,483	5,487			10,970	12,079
St Andrew's		1,828	25,556			27,384	27,908
St MM Willen		16,819	4,735			21,555	17,398
SEP		25,550	1,912			27,461	27,678
Total		81,736	48,480	27,570		157,786	161,371

Signed

David Preston – Chair of Trustees

Adrian Prisk – Treasurer

Date

Notes to the Accounts

1. Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Partnership's ability to continue as a going concern. The most significant area of risk concerns the contributions from each of the congregations to the general funding. These have shown significant decline in recent years, a process accelerated by the coronavirus pandemic. As these contributions are used to pay the stipends of the ministerial team, there has been a reluctance to increase donations while there have been two significant long-term vacancies. These have now been filled and it is hoped that that will increase the overall income going forward.

(b) Funds structure

Each congregation has its own bank account(s). Most have their own treasurers. Decisions regarding income and expenditure are delegated by the trustees to the congregational leadership teams (CLT). Each congregation makes a contribution towards the Partnership budget based on the affordability from its own resources. Towards the end of each year, the denominations publish their budgeted requests for the following year. These are based on the salary calculations for the ministers working in the partnership with additional per capita membership costs to cover additional denominational expenditure. Baptist ministers are appointed to an office in the Partnership which is responsible for the stipend, pensions and housing and the associated payroll tasks including PAYE and National Insurance.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or trust deed.

Unrestricted income funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. Unrestricted funds include designated funds where the trustees, at their discretion, have created a fund for a specific purpose.

(c) Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Legacy gifts are recognised on a case by case basis following the granting of probate when the administrator/executor for the estate has communicated in writing both the amount and settlement date. In the event that the gift is in the form of an asset other than cash or a financial asset traded on a recognised stock exchange, recognition is subject to the value of the gift being reliably measurable with a degree of reasonable accuracy and the title to the asset having been transferred to the charity.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank. Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

This is normally upon notification by our investment advisor of the dividend yield of the investment portfolio.

(d) Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings.

(e) Allocation of governance costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support costs. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to statutory audit and legal fees together with an apportionment of overhead and support costs.

(f) Costs of raising funds

The costs of generating funds consist of costs and expenses of staging events including publicity, venue hire, insurance etc.

(g) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All assets costing more than £1000 are capitalised and valued at historical cost. Depreciation is charged on furniture and equipment on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful life of six years from the year of acquisition.

(h) Fixed asset investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The statement of financial activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year.

(i) Pensions

Baptist ministers are members of the Baptist Pension scheme. Before 2008 this was a defined benefit scheme. After this date members were transferred to a defined contribution scheme. For many years the defined benefit scheme was in deficit and members and employers were required to pay additional contributions to remedy this. If a cessation event had occurred, the Partnership would have been liable for a share of the outstanding debt. This debt gradually reduced and was completely eliminated when the scheme was taken over by a third-party provider. Registration as a CIO and the retirement of the last incumbent minister created a cessation event, but this was after the debt had been cancelled. The Partnership has withdrawn from the scheme, so there will be no future liabilities. With the appointment of a Baptist minister in September 2024, the Partnership has rejoined the scheme but has no ongoing liability to the defined benefit scheme.

Other employees will be subject to the rules of Auto Enrolment and will either be entered into a suitable scheme or join one on a voluntary basis depending on income thresholds.

INCOMING RESOURCES						
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
1. Donations and Legacies						
Planned giving:						
Gift Aided	105,939.54	102,575.93	3,600.00	2,400.00	109,539.54	104,975.93
Income tax recoverable on Donations	34,384.96	34,652.06	643.82	188.65	35,028.78	34,840.71
Not Gift Aided	8,927.39	9,209.00	9.82		8,937.21	9,209.00
Collections (open plate and card)	26,219.25	27,361.67	214.00		26,433.25	27,361.67
Gift Days	800.00	601.67			800.00	601.67
Small Donations	1,910.22	2,405.46	1,511.86	754.55	3,422.08	3,160.01
Donations, appeals etc.	9,321.71	8,995.26	2,826.18	3,861.15	12,147.89	12,856.41
Refreshments and Flowers	3,409.63	3,268.19			3,409.63	3,268.19
Legacies and Memorials		7,500.00				7,500.00
	190,912.70	196,569.24	8,805.68	7,204.35	199,718.38	203,773.59
2. Income from Charitable activities						
Fetes, bazaars, other fund-raising events	5,914.73	4,364.57		1,525.89	5,914.73	5,890.46
Fees - Weddings/Funerals	11,687.00	7,665.00	70.00		11,757.00	7,665.00
	17,601.73	12,029.57	70.00	1,525.89	17,671.73	13,555.46
3. Income from trading activities						
Church letting	21,220.63	20,473.97			21,220.63	20,473.97
Chapel letting	263.88	466.92			263.88	466.92
Other Fees	1,783.96	2,841.27	138.66		1,922.62	2,841.27
	23,268.47	23,782.16	138.66		23,407.13	23,782.16
4. Grants						
St MM Willen Hooke project			4,750.00	150.00	4,750.00	150.00
Other	22,515.25	1,171.70	7,710.00	6,124.90	30,225.25	7,296.60
	22,515.25	1,171.70	12,460.00	6,274.90	34,975.25	7,446.60
5. Income from investments						
Dividends	797.99	779.36			797.99	779.36
Interest on CBF Accounts	229.28	327.24			229.28	327.24
Interest from bank accounts	164.04	149.58	114.85	66.41	278.89	215.99
	1,191.31	1,256.18	114.85	66.41	1,306.16	1,322.59
6. Other income						
Insurance claims						
Sundry Refunds	6,518.89	1,039.00			6,518.89	1,039.00
	6,518.89	1,039.00			6,518.89	1,039.00
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	262,008.35	235,847.85	21,589.19	15,071.55	283,597.54	250,919.40

RESOURCES USED	Unrestricted 2025	Unrestricted 2024	Restricted 2025	Restricted 2024	Total 2025	Total 2024
7. Cost of fundraising						
Costs of fetes, bazaars, other fund raising events	891.80	1,271.01	1,759.59	50.00	2,651.39	1,321.01
	<u>891.80</u>	<u>1,271.01</u>	<u>1,759.59</u>	<u>50.00</u>	<u>2,651.39</u>	<u>1,321.01</u>
8. Donations to charity and mission						
Overseas Miss Church Societies	1,000.00	1,000.00	381.40		1,381.40	1,000.00
Relief & development agencies	600.00	616.00	1,027.87	818.76	1,627.87	1,434.76
Home Missions Church Societies	1,220.00	1,220.00	544.81		1,764.81	1,220.00
Relief & development agencies	274.00	1,082.66		468.44	274.00	1,551.10
Other	3,960.50	3,931.11		(750.00)	3,960.50	3,181.11
	<u>7,054.50</u>	<u>7,849.77</u>	<u>1,954.08</u>	<u>537.20</u>	<u>9,008.58</u>	<u>8,386.97</u>
9. Ministry Costs and Expenses						
Parish Share (Denominations)	81,276.06	117,840.68			81,276.06	117,840.68
Baptist Minister Salary Costs	40,621.91	15,652.80			40,621.91	15,652.80
Clergy Expenses	3,633.28	2,795.07			3,633.28	2,795.07
Manse Costs	15,873.27	7,669.14			15,873.27	7,669.14
	<u>141,404.52</u>	<u>143,957.69</u>			<u>141,404.52</u>	<u>143,957.69</u>
10. Running Costs						
Insurance	14,699.43	14,415.60			14,699.43	14,415.60
Utilities	28,148.30	24,653.78			28,148.30	24,653.78
Churchyard upkeep	4,343.97	3,128.50		540.00	4,343.97	3,668.50
Other Church running e Flowers	4,920.00	6,148.56			4,920.00	6,148.56
Worship	4,244.91	3,360.23	498.00		4,742.91	3,360.23
Equipment	3,260.87	1,094.48	2,618.92	1,842.81	5,879.79	2,937.29
Expenditure on church letting	144.00				144.00	
Expenditure on church hall letting	1,681.83				1,681.83	
Expenditure on other trading	2,040.93				2,040.93	
Junior Church and Youth Club / Training	2,656.95		574.96	299.83	3,231.91	299.83
Administration:	1,224.00	1,200.00			1,224.00	1,200.00
Administrator	5,460.00				5,460.00	
Printing and stationery	652.71	557.56			652.71	557.56
Subscriptions	876.40	1,107.77			876.40	1,107.77
Payroll Expenses	72.00				72.00	
Bank charges	651.48	685.66			651.48	685.66
Safeguarding	190.82	817.00			190.82	817.00
	<u>75,268.60</u>	<u>57,169.14</u>	<u>3,691.88</u>	<u>2,682.64</u>	<u>78,960.48</u>	<u>59,851.78</u>
11. Major building repairs						
Repairs and Maintenance	31,785.45	14,468.35	8,995.17	14,499.04	40,780.62	28,967.39
Quinquennial Work						
	<u>31,785.45</u>	<u>14,468.35</u>	<u>8,995.17</u>	<u>14,499.04</u>	<u>40,780.62</u>	<u>28,967.39</u>
12. Other costs						
St MM Willen Hooke Project			1,060.88	2,837.94	1,060.88	2,837.94
Refunds			4,000.00			
New Bradwell Community Centre						
Sundry	7,430.41	8,426.66	760.00	2,041.88	8,190.41	10,468.54
	<u>7,430.41</u>	<u>8,426.66</u>	<u>5,820.88</u>	<u>4,879.82</u>	<u>13,251.29</u>	<u>13,306.48</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES USED						
	<u>263,835.28</u>	<u>233,142.62</u>	<u>22,221.60</u>	<u>22,648.70</u>	<u>286,056.88</u>	<u>255,791.32</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,826.93)	2,705.23	(632.41)	(7,577.15)	(2,459.34)	(4,871.92)