

# Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

*Six thriving and growing churches, making Christ known in our area of Milton Keynes.*



## July 2026 Newsletter

Welcome to the July edition of the Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership Newsletter, (also see website at [www.stantonbury.net](http://www.stantonbury.net)).

### Pastoral Message

‘Rest for your souls’

‘Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.’ Matthew 11 v 29

In so many ways July marks an end to the year, and the beginning of time to rest that leads into a new term in September. It is appropriate then that this memorable saying of Jesus crops up in our lectionary readings at the start of this month.



It has been a busy time for the SEP, with events in all our churches and the Pilgrimage that practically linked us so well together. We have also had the final agreement on our new operating procedures for the Partnership and the first meeting of the new Leadership Team; which whilst initially heavy with operational clarifications - should build into our most prominent time together. We took note in the meeting that churches should feel the SEP leadership is always approachable, and always able to coordinate ministerial and pastoral leadership in the churches.

As we take the time to reflect and recuperate after our summer events I pray we reflect more on Jesus’ inspiration, which looks not so much toward complete rest but rather taking a different kind of burden. It is one that brings the duty of love and care for God and those around us. It shows our devotion to walk with Jesus all our days and receive both the joy and hope that he brings. It needs to be noted that there is nothing this world offers that brings such sustained life and peace.

I hope you enjoy the summer break, but use it to note again the continued life and joy that only comes as we take on the yoke of Jesus, our Saviour.

**With every blessing**

**Rev Phil Dunning**  
**SEP Baptist Minister and Vision Enabler**  
**Acting Ministry team Leader**

## **Partnership wide events**

### **Partnership-wide services**

Our next SEP-wide service will be held on at 11am on 30<sup>th</sup> August at 11am at Christ Church Stantonbury.

The annual SEP Tree Cathedral Service will be held at 3pm at the end of Heritage Week (20<sup>th</sup> September). This year the Service will be supported by the Woburn Sands Training Band.

### **SEP MED Group' - Mission, Evangelism, Discipleship**

The latest notes for the last MED group meeting are available in all our churches and from Phil (please contact directly), and reflect the themes we discussed and prayed for on 18<sup>th</sup> May

These included...

- 'Partnership Pilgrimage' - Summer 2026
- Bishop Tony Porter, and evangelism
- 'Being with' - new discipleship course
- Summer initiatives

Next meeting - Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September – St James Church, New Bradwell.

LIVE and online.

### **'Being With' Course**

We now have dates confirmed for the beginning of the new SEP Discipleship course, using the resources provided by friends from St Martin in the Fields Church.



It is very much designed to meet and greet enquirers and new converts to Christ, offering a chance to think and ponder the presence of God in the world, and call of Christ upon their lives.

Initially the course will be offered 'online' only - with evening meetings on Zoom at 7.30pm. Led by Peterson and Phil.

Thursday 17th September

Thursday 24th September

Thursday 1st October

Thursday 8th October

If you are interested in joining the course please contact our Administrator: phone 01908 382458, email [sburyepadm@gmail.com](mailto:sburyepadm@gmail.com) .

## Partnership News

### Our new Partnership Leadership Team (PLT)

The first meeting of the new Partnership Leadership Team was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July. The Team meetings are co-chaired by Revd Phil and Sharron Marland. The core membership is made up of our core Ministry Team and our Church Officers (Church Wardens). The next meeting will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

### Administrative Support to the SEP

Helen's SEP admin. phone number is 01908382458 and her email is [sburyepadm@gmail.com](mailto:sburyepadm@gmail.com). Our hope is that Helen will remove some of the burden of administrative tasks from the shoulders of our ministers and officers. We can all help with that **by contacting Helen with any admin or bookings, in the first instance, instead of our ministers and officers**. Helen will then feedback any bookings to our Team Leader, Revd. Phil Dunning, who will be able to decide who best to Minister any service or office.

### Drawing the Partnership Together & Partnership Events

Please support our drive to bring the six congregations closer together through social events over the year. Keep a check on your congregation news and visit the SEP website or Facebook page to keep up to date. Maybe start a WhatsApp group for your congregation members.

Please pray for the congregation of St Mary Magdalene on their patronal day 22 July and for the congregation of St. James on their patronal day 25 July,

**Sharron,**  
**Lay Co-Chair of SEP Leadership Team**  
Secchair22@gmail.com

## **Summary of report to Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership AGM 21st May 2026**

The annual accounts for 2025 were agreed by the independent examiner and there were no specific questions about the figures or the trustees report which are available to read on the SEP website. This report focusses on the budget for the current year and some future projections.

### **Giving/Stewardship.**

Member donations form the core of church income whether that is by Standing Order, cash or cheques in the offering or donations by contactless card. Surveys show that 75% of regular income comes from this source so good stewardship is key to the financial health of the Partnership and its congregations!

At the AGM we compared levels of giving in the various congregations and there is significant variation from £18 to £7.25 per member per week. The average across the church of England is between £15 and £20 per week but only two of our congregations fall within that range. Of the donations that are Gift Aided, 25% of the income comes from 8 donors and 50% comes from 20 donors. This puts a great reliance on a few individuals and couples. If someone dies or moves away, that can have a devastating effect on church income.

The message is to please consider prayerfully your contributions and remember that costs go up so giving the same now as five years ago is not keeping pace with inflation; and we have seen the reduction of ministerial members that has resulted from our inability to afford a larger team.

Church may have seemed free in the past, but it isn't any longer despite the feeling that the Diocese or perhaps even the government should be paying. Those from free church backgrounds know that they have always had to pay for their ministry.

If you need helpful advice, please speak to your church treasurer or the Partnership treasurer. Information about the Parish Giving Scheme will be in the appendix.

### **Budget for 2026**

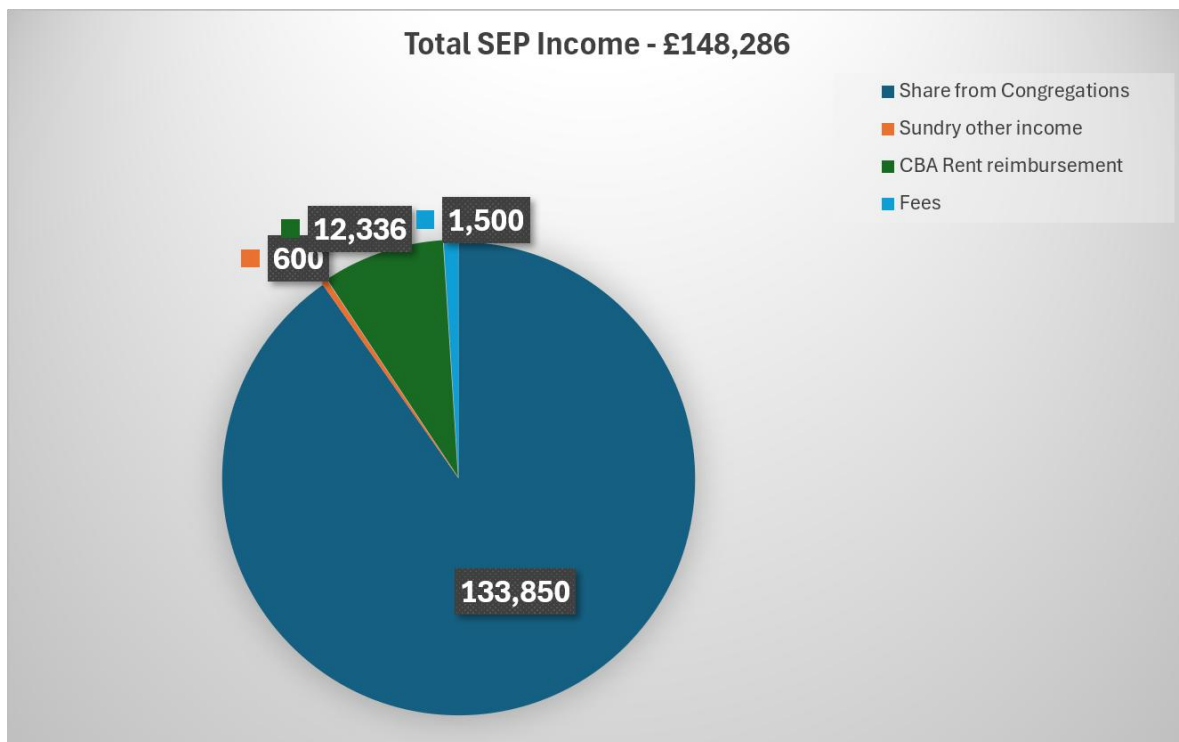
The figures below were projected at the start of 2026. We accumulated some reserves during the Baptist interregnum and paid a lower share to the Diocese in 2025 as we now have only one full-time Anglican post (currently on long-term leave of absence).

<i>Projected Income</i>	£148,286
<i>Projected Expenditure</i>	£162,662
<i>Budget Deficit</i>	(£14,376)
<i>End of year reserves Dec 2026</i>	£12,699

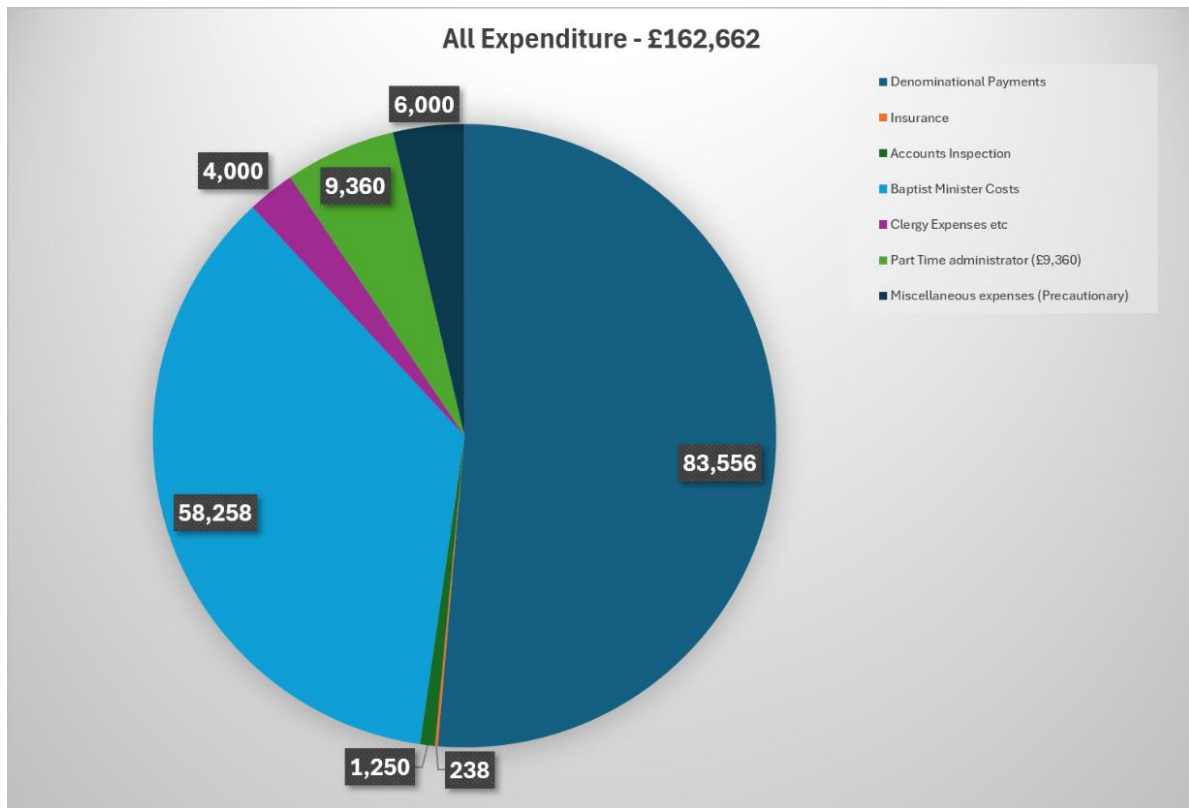
*At End of May the Budget still balances and reserves are £27,391*

If we use the whole budget, we would have under £13k in reserves by the end of the year. As it stands at the moment, the budget has balanced largely because the clergy expenses have been lower than expected and we have used very little of the ‘miscellaneous’ category. Please be aware that we are receiving £12,336 from the Central Baptist Association as we thought we would be paying rent for the Bradwell Vicarage which the Diocese are allowing us to use to reduce the share to them so we will not be able to claim that next year.

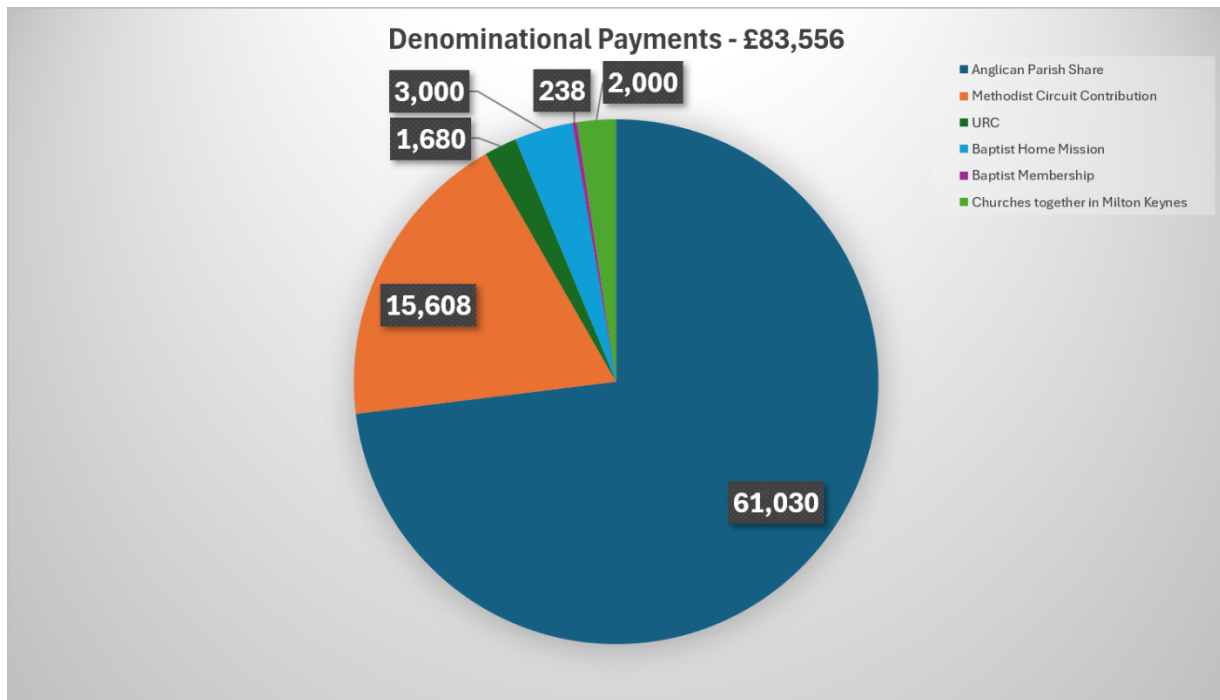
Pictures are easier to understand than columns of figures so I hope you will find the following easier to understand:



This emphasises that around 85% comes from the congregational shares but the CBA grant is a significant portion of the rest and this is not repeatable!



The breakdown of the denominational payments is shown in the next chart but you can see that they account for more than half of our expenditure. The next largest portion is the Baptist Minister. This figure includes salary, pensions and Housing costs including rent to the Diocese, Council Tax and water bills. And is on a par with the cost of the Anglican ministry. The administrator salary is around £9 ½ k. The sundry expenditure and clergy expenses are less predictable and I have allocated a generous amount that may not be needed in full.



The Methodist contribution is a 20% share of the Methodist minister and includes a membership tariff based on our Methodist membership. There are smaller contributions to other denominations and to Churches Together in MK.

As you can see the finances are and remain critical. We will need to raise more income across the Partnership to cover the amount that we have received this year from the CBA. We want to avoid defaulting on the share to the Diocese although there may be room for negotiation if the Team Rector absence continues in the longer term. We still however have to show that we can continue to afford the ministry team that we have.

**Key points:**

- The average Anglican weekly donation is £15 - £20 per member.
- Where possible make regular donations by Standing Order (Parish Giving Scheme is an alternative).
- Remember to update giving to offset inflationary increase in expenses.
- Gift Aid donations if you pay sufficient UK income or Capital Gains Tax (If you are a higher rate taxpayer you will have relief on your donations as well).
- If you need advice on the Parish Giving Scheme (see appendix below) please contact me on [aprisk@doctors.org.uk](mailto:aprisk@doctors.org.uk)

**An appendix – providing information about the Parish Giving scheme is on the next few pages...**

# An introduction to the Parish Giving Scheme

## Why are regular gifts so important to your Church?

The Church of England offers a Christian presence in every community. Together we seek to make this Christian presence the heart of all our cities, towns and villages: by our wonderful buildings; by worshipping together; by serving our communities and by sharing our faith and values. This valuable contribution to our communities has a cost. For our Churches to survive and grow, they rely on regular gifts so that they can plan confidently for the future.

## What is the Parish Giving Scheme?

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) has been set up to help your parish best manage regular gifts. It is a charity that is owned and funded by the Church of England.

## How does it work?

Gifts can be made on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis, using the attached gift form and Direct Debit instruction. Even though gifts are made to the Parish Giving Scheme, they are restricted to your parish, giving you peace of mind that your gift cannot be used elsewhere. Unlike a utility bill you are always in charge of what you give. Your gift will be passed back to your parish by the 10th of the month. Gift Aid will be received separately once PGS has received it from HMRC. The unique feature of this scheme is the option for you to commit in principle to increase your gift annually in line with inflation. Whilst this is a voluntary decision, it is one that could potentially have a huge impact on the life and future of your church.

## What are the main benefits?

Through your generous commitment, your church can be assured of a regular, tax-efficient source of income which has the capacity to increase with the cost of living, yet involves virtually no administration. You will benefit from a system that is secure, confidential and easy to use, while supporting your church today and for the future.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who is responsible for my personal information?

Although PGS has been set up to help your church manage gifts, it is a separate legal entity and must comply with data protection law. By returning the gift form you consent to PGS using your information for the purposes of the Parish Giving Scheme. For more information please see PGS's privacy notice available on the PGS website [www.parishgiving.org.uk/privacy-policy](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk/privacy-policy). Alternatively, please call PGS on 0333 002 1260 for a copy of the privacy notice.

### Will our parish be charged for this scheme?

There is no direct charge to your parish for using the Parish Giving Scheme or processing your gift. The annual running cost of the Scheme is met by the Church of England.

### Can I choose the day my gift is collected?

Unfortunately not. In minimising costs it is important that all gifts are collected on the same day each month, which has been agreed as the 1st.

### Why am I giving to PGS?

In order to manage your gift and claim Gift Aid, it is necessary that your gift is legally given to PGS who are handling all the administration. PGS provides a secure and robust service to make it easier for your church to receive regular gifts.

### What rate of inflation will be used?

If you opt-in to increase your gift annually, we will use the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as an independent and well-known measure of inflation. As your giving anniversary approaches, we will calculate your increased gift using the most recently published monthly CPI data.

### What if I say yes to an inflationary increase, but my circumstances change?

We fully understand that circumstances can change; please rest assured that you will be written to 30 days in advance of any increase with the revised amount. If you are unable to meet it, simply let us know.

PGSGIFT:DOWN-0925

## What next?

### How do I go about signing up to the scheme?

Fill out the form opposite, with as much detail as possible using a black pen in BLOCK CAPITALS.

Detach it from this leaflet following the cutting line and post it to the address given below.

**Important:** It is essential to complete all sections of the gift form in particular 'Church / Parish name; Diocese of; and PGS Parish code'. Please also ensure that you have ticked the box to say you have read and accepted the terms and conditions. Without this information in full, PGS cannot process your gift. **Note:** We welcome gifts from couples, so if you wish to make a joint gift please write your preferred title in the 'other' box. For the purpose of Gift Aid however they need the signature of just one individual who pays sufficient tax to cover the gift. Please add your initials in the Gift Aid signature box so they know which individual the declaration belongs to.

### Then what can I expect?

Within 10 working days you will receive a letter confirming your personal details, the level, frequency and date of your first gift and the parish you wish to restrict it to. Please check this letter thoroughly to ensure that all the details are correct. In this letter you will receive a PGS reference number (located below the address) which needs to be retained by you, and quoted in any future communication you have with the Parish Giving Scheme. There will also be a bank reference code which begins with 'PGSGIFT', and ends with a unique number code. This is the description which will appear on your bank statement when each gift is given.

### How will my parish be notified of my gift?

Your gift will be paid into your parish's bank account by the 10th of the month and Gift Aid will be received separately once PGS has received it from HMRC. Your parish's Planned Giving Representative receives a statement detailing the names of those who have given gifts through PGS. PGS will provide your parish's Planned Giving Representative with your postal address, however you can decide to remain anonymous by ticking the box on the right. If you decide to remain anonymous only the amount of the gift will be shared with your Representative. We encourage you to remain known to your parish, so that they can thank you and tell you more about how you can support them. This also helps them to avoid mistakenly approaching you in the future to consider a regular gift to your church.

### I currently give by standing order; how do I stop this?

Unfortunately PGS is unable to cancel a standing order for you, only you may do this. If you bank online it is very simple to do through your online account, otherwise you will need to contact your bank direct.

### How do I go about changing my gift in the future?

We know that circumstances change and your ability to give may increase or decrease over time. If you wish to make a change please notify the Parish Giving Scheme using one of the methods provided in the contact information box below, quoting:

- Your PGS reference number (found below your address on PGS correspondence)
- The value of your existing gift
- The new amount you would like to give
- When you would like this change to be brought into effect

Should you wish to have a confidential conversation about your options in changing your gift, please don't hesitate to contact the Parish Giving Scheme at the address below.

**Note:** For administrative reasons the Parish Giving Scheme cannot make any changes within three working days of the next gift date..

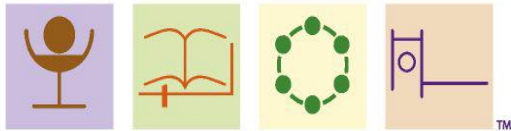
### Who do I contact for help?

Parish Giving Scheme  
76 Kingsholm Road, Gloucester, GL1 3BD  
Tel: 0333 002 1260 Email: [info@parishgiving.org.uk](mailto:info@parishgiving.org.uk)  
[www.parishgiving.org.uk](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk)



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PGSGIFT-DOWN-0925



# PARISH GIVING SCHEME

Title: Mr  Mrs  Miss  Ms  Other

First name(s):

Surname(s):

Full home address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

I wish to give £

Please tick one **per month**  **quarter**  **year**

**to the Parish Giving Scheme** Registered Charity Number: 1156606

**Starting on the 1st\* of ..... (month) ..... (year)**

\*Please allow one month from today

NB: Only you can cancel your existing Standing Order

I wish to remain anonymous to my parish's Planned Giving Representative (Please carefully read 'How will my parish be notified of my gift?' on page 3)

**I wish my regular gift to be used solely for the benefit of:**

Church / Parish name: .....

PGS Parish code: .....

In the village / town / city of: .....

In the Diocese of: .....

I understand that the new amount will be communicated to me by letter 30 days prior to the gift date. I have the right to opt out of this arrangement at any point in the future by communicating my wishes by letter, email or phone to the Parish Giving Scheme.

**I wish to support my parish in the future by increasing my gift each year in line with inflation.** Please tick **Yes**

**I wish to Gift Aid my donation**  
**Gift Aid makes every £1 worth £1.25** *giftaid it*  
 Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made from the date of my first gift on this declaration and in the future. I am a UK tax payer and understand that if I pay less income Tax and/ or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my gifts in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p for every £1 that I give.

**Signature**  **Initials:**

**Please tick to confirm you have read and accepted the terms and conditions, which can be found at mypgs.io/givers**

News from PGS by: Post  Email  or Text

Share info with Church by: Post  Email  or Text

## Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

Name and full postal address of your Bank/Building Society

To: The Manager Bank/Building Society

Address:

Postcode:

Name(s) of Account Holder(s)

Branch Sort Code

Bank / Building Society account number



Service User Number

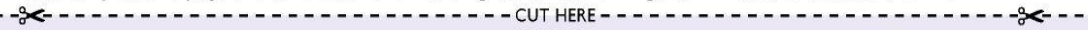
Giver reference number (to be completed by PGS office)

**Instruction to your Bank or Building Society**  
 Please pay Parish Giving Scheme Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Parish Giving Scheme and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank / Building Society.

**Signature(s)**

**Date**

Please complete this page and send it to: **Parish Giving Scheme, 76 Kingsholm Road, Gloucester, GL1 3BD**



### This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer The Direct Debit Guarantee



- ✓ This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits.
- ✓ If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit GC re Parish Giving Scheme will notify you a minimum of two working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request GC re Parish Giving Scheme to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.
- ✓ If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit, by GC re Parish Giving Scheme or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.
- ✓ If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when GC re Parish Giving Scheme asks you to.
- ✓ You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.
- ✓ Payments securely processed by GoCardless. GoCardless Ltd (company registration number 07495895) is authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority under the Payment Services Regulations 2017, registration number 597190, for the provision of payment services. GoCardless uses personal data as described in their Privacy Notice (<https://gocardless.com/privacy/>)

## Website EVENTS Diary

An Events Diary is now live on the Website. However, it's looking fairly sparse at the moment, so **please let Helen know of any events you wish to publicise**. For example. It would help our congregation members who maybe can't make the Bible Study group closest to them, but would like to go to one on a day or time better suited to them, if they could check on the website to see when and where other groups are being held.

## External Ecumenical News

We want to plan for our future in faith and church and ministry. If anyone reading this is thinking their future may lie in any level of ministry, please speak to one of our ministers or drop me a line. Thank you Sharron

## News from the Oxford Diocese

New listed places of worship fund launched

Guidance on applying to a new Government grants fund for listed places of worship to help pay for capital works including fabric repairs and essential improvements, such as electrical upgrades, heating, toilets and step-free access.

The Places of Worship Renewal Fund, for listed places of worship, is launched with details of its remit and eligibility criteria: [Places of Worship Renewal Fund | Historic England](#). The Fund will be administered by Historic England.

The £92 million scheme - £23 million a year - is for England only and will last for four years. It is funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and replaces the Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme.

Churches are being encouraged to explore making expressions of interest under the scheme with the application process expected to be proportionate to the size of the grant that is applied for.

The Bishop of Lynn, Dr Jane Steen, the Church of England's deputy lead bishop for buildings, said: "Our church buildings are national treasures for the common good, both for their spiritual, cultural and historical significance and the vital practical help they provide communities across the country.

"The majority of fundraising for the maintenance and repair of church buildings is done locally by thousands of wonderful volunteers. The Places of Worship Renewal Fund has a vital part to play alongside this local fundraising, and other funders who support churches.

"We welcome the launch of the Fund and we look forward to working closely with Historic England, in helping encourage eligible churches to make full use of the scheme."

The deadline for submitting Expressions of Interest for the first round of grants is Sunday 14 June, 2026. A second round will follow soon after in September 2026.

The launch of the Fund has come amid concerns over the ending of the Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme, after more than 20 years in operation. The Scheme repaid VAT as a grant on essential repairs and maintenance of more than £1,000.

The Church of England's national buildings team has pledged to keep working with the wider sector and the Government to make the case for the importance of church buildings to communities and national life and to work to alleviate the extra burden of fundraising for churches

## News from the Regional Central Baptist Union

**Summer Retreat, Saturday 18 July** Small Church Connexion invites you to... The Summer Retreat on Saturday 18 July 10:30 to 15:00

# Small Church Connexion SUMMER RETREAT

Saturday 18th July, 10 30am to 3.00pm  
(Doors open at 10am for registration)

He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. (Mark 6:31-33)



Led by Revd. Jo Allen from Rural Ministries  
[ruralministries.org.uk](http://ruralministries.org.uk)

Venue: Westbourne Park Baptist Church.  
5 minutes walk from Royal Oak tube station  
on the Circle line and the Hammersmith and City line.  
Buses 18 and 36.

Please bring your own packed lunch. Tea and coffee provided.  
Suggested donation for the day: £10

To register a place or for more information  
email: [smallchurches@londonbaptist.org.uk](mailto:smallchurches@londonbaptist.org.uk)  
or telephone Stephen on 020 82081 463



## Methodist District ReNew Gathering - Summer 2026

The District ReNew summer gathering will take place on **Tuesday 28 July**, 10am at Melton Mowbray Methodist Church, 18 Sandy Lane, LE13 0AW.

A joyful day of worship, Bible study & reflection with the Northampton District Mission Team. Rediscover hope together.

ReNew is a day for anyone, whether you're a part of the Northampton District or further afield, who finds themselves serving in the life of the local church or is spiritually curious and wants to engage more.

ReNew is a special place of worship, Bible study, and engaging sessions that will equip, resource, and ultimately... ReNew you for the journey ahead.

So, whether you're a local preacher, lay worker, steward, local pastor or serving in the local church (or are involved in any other lay capacity!), this day is for you!

The theme for this ReNew will be *'Our Story Awakened'*. Revd Dr Sonia Hicks will be leading the Bible Study, and Matt Forsyth (District Mission Team Leader and current Vice President of the Methodist Conference) will be speaking.

Book your free place here - [ReNew July 2026 Tickets, Tuesday, July 28 • 10 AM - 3 PM | Eventbrite](#)

**Sharron,**  
**Lay Co-Chair of SEP Leadership Team**  
Secchair22@gmail.com

## Our Church Services and Events in June

### Bradwell Church, St Lawrence

<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am</b> <i>Led by Revd Phil Dunning</i>	<b>All-age Worship</b>
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am</b> <i>Led by Revd M Goodall</i>	<b>Morning Worship</b>
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am</b> <i>Led by Revd Paul Smith</i>	<b>Morning Worship</b>
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am</b> <i>Led by Revd Dr K Tekyi-Ansah</i>	<b>Holy Communion</b>



Most services are live streamed to You Tube. The You Tube link is @BradwellChurch MiltonKeynes. Simply go to You Tube, search for this and click the red live button just before the service begins.

**Gardening Club** is now active and meets on Wednesdays 10am to 12pm.

**Bell Ringing** practice every Wednesday at 19:45.

There is a **coffee morning** the first Saturday each month from 10am to 12pm.

### Christ Church, Stantonbury

<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am</b> <i>Led by Maggie Prisk</i>	<b>All Age Worship</b>
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am</b> <i>Led by Revd Phil Dunning</i>	<b>All Age Worship</b>
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am</b> <i>Led by Revd David Nash</i>	<b>All Age Worship</b>
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am</b> <i>Led by Revd Phil Dunning</i>	<b>Holy Communion</b>



All our Sunday services are live-streamed to Christ Church's Facebook page, using the link below. You don't need to belong to Facebook in order to follow the service. Streaming starts from 10.25: <https://www.facebook.com/christchurchmk/>

We also have a Christ Church website at [www.christchurchmk.org.uk](http://www.christchurchmk.org.uk) which has the service details on it, and which is updated each week

**Wednesday Morning Drop-In** every week 10.00 – 11.30am. Meets at Church, refreshments and a quiz are available. All welcome.

**Under 5's** meet every Thursday in **Term time only** from 10:00 to 11:30 in the Hall. (Under 5's will finish for the summer break on 16<sup>th</sup> July and will reopen in September.) For more details, please contact Susan Gander on 01908 312162

**Coffee and cake morning – 18<sup>th</sup> July 2026.** On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month, we hold a coffee and cake morning this runs from 9.30 to 11.30, all donations received go to our coffee money charity. All are welcome to join us for a coffee and a chat.

## Cross and Stable, Downs Barn

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> at 11am**                      **Signed Holy Communion**

*Led by Revd Dr Sam Muthuveloe*

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> at 11am**                      **Holy Communion**

*Led by Revd Dr Sam Muthuveloe*

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> at 11am**                      **Holy Communion**

*Led by Revd Phil Dunning*

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July at 10am**    **Family Breakfast Club**  
**(followed by a short Service of the Word for adults at 11am)**

*Led by Revd Sam Muthuveloe*



Services are live-streamed on Zoom at  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85922248518?pwd=Tm4vd00wancwVk52cCtqNm5tMWRZdz09> Meeting ID: 859 2224 8518 Passcode: 830413

**Bell Ringing** practice every Friday at 19:30.

**Friday at 2:00 pm - Prayer time & Bible reflection on Zoom**

This lasts around 45 mins - do join us from wherever you are on Zoom!

Please contact Sue Baines for the Link on [suejbaines@gmail.com](mailto:suejbaines@gmail.com)

**Chatterbox MK** every Wednesday from 10:30 to 12:30. All Welcome - tea - coffee - cakes - meet and chat. Come and meet others.

## St. Andrews', Great Linford

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> at 10am**

*Lay led service*

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> 10am**

*Led by Rev Prof John Beazley*

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> at 10am**

**Open Door**

**Holy Communion**

**Holy Communion**



*Led by Revd Peterson Feital*

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> at 10am**

**Holy Communion**

*Led by Rev Prof John Beazley*

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> at 10am**

**Holy Communion**

*Led by Revd Peterson Feital*

Morning Services are live-streamed on Facebook using this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/StAndrewsGL>

**Bell Ringing** practice every Tuesday at 19:30.

### **St Andrews 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Seminar Group**

You would be most welcome to join us on the first Wednesday of each month and participate in the discussion, which usually starts at about 11am. Please email [greatlinford@gmail.com](mailto:greatlinford@gmail.com) if you would like information on the current study topic.

*John Beazley.*

**5WAYS CAFÉ at St. Andrew's Church** 11.00am to 1.00pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month.

Join us to enjoy good company, refreshments, a selection of board games, Pete on the piano and, for those wanting a bit of exercise, an accompanied walk in the Great Linford Manor Park is available on request. We also have free participation in the 'Coffee & Craft' sessions, with local artist Jane Charles, held on the 4th Tuesday of the month. All are welcome to 5Ways - we aim to be dementia friendly.

## **St. James', New Bradwell**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> at 9.30am**

**Holy Communion**

*Led by Revd Peterson Feital*

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> at 9.30am**

**Holy Communion**

*Led by Revd Hannah Akibo-Betts*

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>**

**SEP Youth Service**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> at 9.30am**

**Holy Communion**

*Led by Revd Peterson Feital*

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> at 9.30am**

**Holy Communion**

*Led by Revd C Collinge*



Services are not currently being live-streamed. The Church Leadership Team are hoping to start this up again once volunteers have completed training.

**Coffee morning:** held every Saturday from 10:00 to 12:00.

Visit St James' website at [www.stjamesnewbradwell.org.uk](http://www.stjamesnewbradwell.org.uk) for more information.

## St James' Church Bell

Here is a piece for the SEP newsletter from St. James:-

Repairs have now started to our church bell, the bell having been out of use for around 18 months.

The repairers have removed the bell from its timber cradle in the bell tower in order to carry out repairs to the cradle which supports the bell.

Various components have been removed and taken to the repairer's workshop for repair and restoration.

When the bell and its cradle are reassembled, because of the stresses and strains imposed by the bell on its cradle, the bell itself will no longer swing when it is tolled,

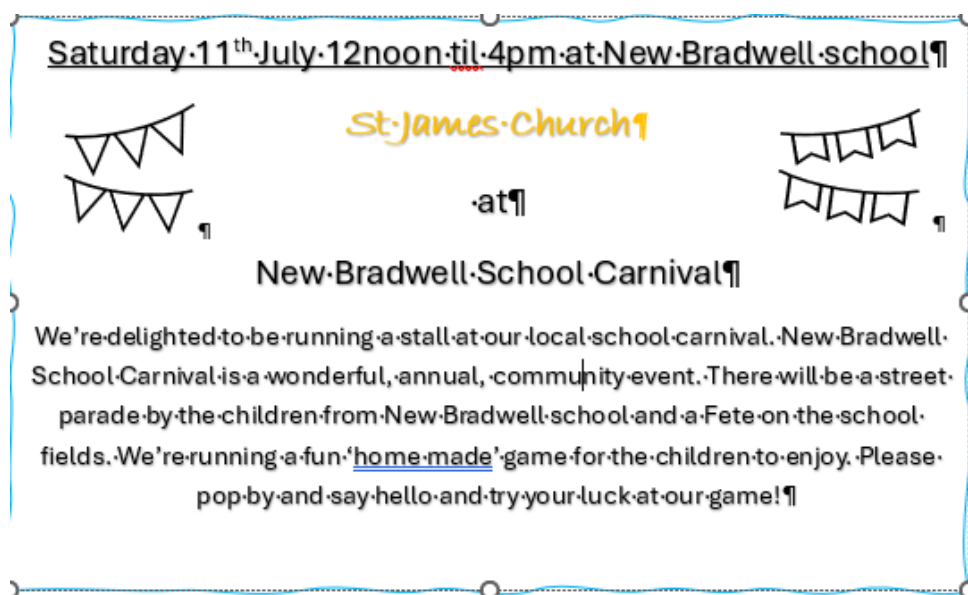
instead, it will be only the bell's clapper that will move. We understand that this will make no difference to the sound of the bell but it will make ringing it much easier !

Once repairs are complete and we are able to start ringing the bell again, we hope to celebrate the event by making church bells the subject of a future Open Door service.

As an aside, I discovered that one of the repairers started his interest in church bells as a former bell ringer at St. Mary and St. Giles church Stony Stratford, he is related to the now retired Rev. David Haseldine and I was a pupil at the Radcliffe School Wolverton with his father back in the late 1960's.

Small world !!!

**Graham Crisp.**



## **St. James Church Mini Pilgrimage.**

Our June Open Door service was themed around nature and the Big Green Week. After the service, a group of us made our leisurely way along the Ouse Valley Park from New Bradwell to Holy Trinity church at Old Wolverton.

On the way we paused to take in the sights and sounds of nature, especially its birds and wildlife.

We were greeted at Holy Trinity by the Rev. Gill Barrow-Jones and John Bushe and we were kindly refreshed with tea and cake.

The rev Gill had also prepared a short service for us which was followed by a very interesting tour of the church.

As some of you may know, St. James has its own resident poet, the Bradwell Bard and he was keen to compose a poem to commemorate the event.

At the end of our visit I read out the poem and Gill asked me if she could publish it in their parish newsletter "In Touch" the newsletter of St. George's and Holy Trinity church.

With this in mind, I thought it would be nice for our own Stantonbury parish to be able to read the poem too !

## **Ouse Tour Is It Anyway?**

### **The Bradwell Bard.**

#### **1.**

The Open Door team are planning a walk along the Ouse, Enjoying nature's beauty with some lovely natural views.

#### **2.**

We'll start our journey in New Bradwell at the beginning of the walk, So why not join us on the day, there'll be loads of time to talk!

#### **3.**

We'll take in all the local sights, Haversham bridge with headroom low, Watch your head when walking beneath you don't want to suffer a blow.

#### **4.**

We now come to the viaduct with trains passing up above. The Bard gets very excited here to watch the trains he loves.

#### **5.**

There follows a wooden footbridge, it takes us over Back brook, You'll sometimes see small fishes here, it's always worth a look.

#### **6.**

The river here is shallow and sandy, a favourite spot to swim, But not for us today I'm afraid, we won't be dipping in.

#### **7.**

There's so much wildlife on our walk with nature and birds all round,

Just pause to listen, take it in, the sounds of nature abound.

**8.**

And now we come to Cosgrove park, caravans come into view,  
There's statics, tourers, tents and awnings, all both old and new.

**9.**

With people relaxing, sunbathing, fishing there isn't too much doing,  
The smell of cooking drifts over the Ouse, someone's barbecuing.

**10.**

Soon the Iron Trunk appears the Ouse here not too deep,  
We walk under the canal via a tunnel, known as a cattle creep.

**11.**

And now we've reached the Old Wolverton side of our gentle Ouse side tour,  
And if by now your feet are sore don't worry there's not much more.

**12.**

Across the river above the trees Cosgrove's church of St.Peter and St.Paul,  
And high up in the clear blue sky, the Skylarks plaintiff call.

**13.**

Close by the earthworks of a medieval village and castle can be seen,  
Beneath the cattle grazing, on lush pastures oh so green.

**14.**

Now through a gate, the final field (beware of cows) Holy Trinity we see,  
We'll soon be there to meet our friends to rest, to chat with well earned cups of tea.

**15.**

So thank you Gill and all your friends for a lovely afternoon,  
You're all most welcome at St. James we hope it's sometime soon

**16.**

We'll soon be wandering off back home so its time to say farewell,  
Not back along the river this time, but the towpath and canal.

**Graham Crisp**

## St. Mary Magdalene, Willen

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am**      **All Age Morning Worship**

*Led by Margaret Moakes, LLM*

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am**      **Holy Communion**

*Led by Revd. Dr. Sam Muthuveloe*

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am**      **Patronal Festival**  
**Holy Communion**

*Led by Revd. Dr. Sam Muthuveloe*

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> at 6pm**      **Choral Evensong with Quorum**

*Led by Revd. Dr. Sam Muthuveloe*

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am**      **Holy Communion**

*Led by Revd Hannah Akibo-Betts*



The monthly communion service at **Oaktree Court**, Portland Drive will be at **2.15 pm on Thursday 2nd July**. Anyone who would like to join us, would be welcome. Please contact Margaret Moakes.

**Bible study** meetings will be on **Monday 13th July** and **Monday 27th July** from **7.00 to 9.00pm** at 91A Aldrich Drive, Willen, using a book called *Women of the Old Testament*. All welcome. If you would like further information please contact Margaret Moakes.

### **T.T.T Concert (Third Tuesday at Twelve Thirty)**

Come along to St Mary Magdalene Church Willen and be entertained by Freddie's Barnet on Tuesday July 21st, 12.30 - 1.15. Pop in during your lunch break walking the dog or just passing by, stay for a while or the whole 45 minutes. Complimentary cake and coffee. Donations to Church Restoration & Hooke Heritage Project.

### **Volunteer Gardening**

The volunteer gardening group has started their weekly Saturday morning 10am-12pm work in the Garden of Remembrance. Please come along. No special skills needed. Please contact Sharron if you would like to join the Gardening Group WhatsApp.

### **Private prayer**

St Mary Magdalene church is open for private prayer or quiet reflection on Sundays and Mondays from 9.30am until evening.

### **Two-day Robert Hooke birth anniversary event**

**Wings over Willen** coffee morning and plant sale Thursday 16th July 10.30 -11.30

Watch Douglas C-47 Dakota (ZA947) fly over Willen church in honour of its architect Robert Hook. Join us for a cuppa in our garden of remembrance, keep eyes to the skies while choosing plants grown in Willen Village by our very own green fingered gardeners.

Caveat: The Dakota is the only one of its kind still flying. It wants to fly, but if the weather is unsuitable or it becomes unairworthy at short notice, it won't be able to.

The **Robert Hooke birthday social** Saturday 18th July 11.00 – 1.00

A community cuppa and a tour of the Grade I listed St Mary Magdalene Church, the only church built solely by Robert Hooke and judged by Historic England to be a building of exceptional special interest. Also, a chance to buy plants and get a few top tips from our green fingered gardeners.

Details for both events

Free entry with donations welcomed towards repair of the leaking church tower.

Location

St Mary Magdalene Church Milton Rd, Willen Village, Milton Keynes MK15 9AA

Free parking at:

Church car park, Milton Road: MK15 9JJ

Also west and east end of the church and in nearby Smabridge Close MK15 9LT

Our neighbours appreciate consideration if parking within the village.

We hope to see you there.

## News from the Partnership Green Champions

### July Eco Tip

### Be Water Wise!



Water is an essential resource, but it's easy to waste it without realising the impact. From bathrooms to gardens, there are simple ways to save water, reduce your bills, and help the environment.

#### **Saving water in the bathroom**

- Opt for a low-flow shower head
- Try to shorten your shower time, ideally to 4 minutes.

- Upgrade to a water-efficient toilet or use a Cistern Displacement Device (CDD). Find out more on your water company's website.

### **Saving water in the kitchen and laundry**

- Avoid pre-rinsing dishes – scrape them instead, as modern detergents are designed to work effectively without extra rinsing.
- Use a washing-up bowl to catch excess water, such as when you are waiting for the tap to run hot.
- Fill your washing machine and/or dishwasher to its recommended load size for the most efficient use of water.

### **Saving water in the garden**

- **Leave the lawn** – resist the urge to water your lawn in dry spells! Lawns are surprisingly resilient and will bounce back as soon as it rains.
- **Waterwise watering** – water in the early morning or evening. Use a watering can rather than a hose or sprinkler. Only water the plant root zone.
- **Install a water butt** – water butts provide you with a free water source for watering your garden!
- **Use an olla** – A terracotta olla is an ancient way of storing water in the soil for plants to absorb. More details here: <https://www.water.org.uk/blogs/olla>

More tips at [waterwise.tips/save-water](https://www.water.org.uk/blogs/olla)

## **This and future Newsletters**

I hope that you have found this and previous newsletters interesting and useful. If there is anything else you think would make it better or find any glaring omissions, please let your congregation's newsletter editor, Sharron or me know.

The deadline for information to go into **July's** issue is **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July**. This may be earlier than the deadline for previous Newsletters, but I'm a 'newbie' at compiling the newsletter and also have to juggle its production with my other admin duties. Please bear with me!

*Helen*

Helen Eaton  
SEP Administrator  
[sburyepadm@gmail.com](mailto:sburyepadm@gmail.com)