A scenic view of a pond in a garden. The pond is surrounded by lush green grass and various trees, some of which have yellow and orange autumn leaves. In the background, a building with a chimney is visible through the trees. The sky is bright and clear.

God our Father,  
May we be alert to new opportunities,  
Discover new ways to work together,  
And nurture new gifts to employ  
In service to you and one another.  
Make us sensitive to discern your will,  
Confident in your plan for us,  
And thankful for your abundant  
blessings even in times of change.  
Amen

## West Buckingham Benefice Profile

*View from Vicarage garden*

## Foreword from the Archdeacon of Buckingham

This benefice of six rural churches to the West of Buckingham town make up part of a wider Group Ministry that comprises all the rural churches in the deanery. As such, this is a supportive and encouraging context in which to exercise rural ministry.

The churches are faithful and faith-filled communities and have worked well together to support and care for each other during the vacancy. Each church is distinctive in character and respectful of the strengths of their sister parishes. They have built close relationships within the wider communities they serve and want to develop this community aspect of their ministry. They are inclusive and welcoming churches and set 'welcome to all' as a central strand of their mission and ministry.

Lay participation and lay leadership are strong within the benefice and the churches are now looking forward with hope and prayer towards the next phase of their mission and ministry.

The new Rector will be an enabler and a collaborative leader who can help the benefice to develop the strengths of each parish and church whilst encouraging unity within the diversity. A key aspect of the post will also be to work well with colleagues in the deanery's Group Ministry structure.

For a priest committed to the diocesan vision of becoming a more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's World – contemplative, compassionate and courageous – this role presents a good opportunity to live and minister with supportive and faithful rural communities as they work together to enrich and develop their missional challenges and aspirations more confidently.

I commend this profile to you and I would welcome conversations about the role with interested candidates.

Ven Guy Elsmore,  
*Archdeacon of Buckingham*



# Welcome to the West Buckingham Benefice

Welcome to the West Buckingham Benefice, which comprises six parishes in the Buckingham Deanery between the pleasant market towns of Buckingham and Brackley. All our churches offer a friendly welcome. Our parishes work well together; we respect and care for our sister parishes. We understand that each parish has its own needs and we value what makes each one distinctive. Some of our regular churchgoers will travel to another benefice church for worship, so there is a core congregation who are known in all the churches. We hope that the vacancy will draw us closer to Christ and to each other as we serve and support one other.

Each village and each church has its own characteristic charm. All our churches strive, as part of our worshipping community, to witness to the presence of God in our villages. We are proud to be inclusive and consider being able to offer 'welcome to all' as central to our mission.



*The West Buckingham Benefice Choir singing a Good Friday meditation*

## Our Life and Worship Together

We worship together once a month at our benefice Holy Communion, which rotates around each of our parish churches. We also have a regular pattern of worship to ensure a variety of service types across all our parishes including modern services of Holy Communion, traditional Evening Prayer, Messy Church and lay-led village worship, often with breakfast. We enjoy worshipping in fellowship, before we re-join our communities carrying, we hope, a little of the light of Christ with us. Although only a moderate number of villagers are regular church-goers, a high proportion of our communities come together in church for special celebrations such as Christmas, Harvest and Remembrance. In most parishes, members of the congregation read the Bible readings and in some they additionally prepare the intercessions. Our two authorised lay preachers, both based in Turweston, are happy to lead services in other churches within the benefice. Our standard hymn book is Hymns Old and New, but we occasionally try newer hymns too. Each church has a PCC, which meets three to six times per year.

We have an enthusiastic Benefice Choir, which is inclusive, requiring no audition, only a love of singing, and sings to a good standard. The choir has been instrumental in encouraging people from our village churches to attend a different church in the benefice for services and to support events in other parishes. The choir sings monthly at benefice services and marks significant festivals. It is often asked to sing for benefice weddings and occasionally for funerals too.

The demographic of our congregations, like the village populations, varies, and, as one might expect in small communities, can change quickly. Many of our members are retired, but families with children are represented too. Currently the congregation in Turweston is likely to have the largest number of children attending regular services, although the activities of Little Angels (our toddler church - meeting monthly) and Messy Church, are focused on Tingewick, where we are able to benefit from its recently installed kitchen and toilet facilities. There are two bible study groups, both held in homes in Turweston.

## Our Community Links

Our churches are well integrated and rooted in our communities, and the presence of our church family is valued by the majority of our friends and neighbours. We are glad to make Christ visible in our villages and our churches often work alongside community organisations, sometimes sharing fundraising events. Inevitably in villages such as these, those who volunteer in the church also have roles in community organisations.

There are two schools within the benefice: Roundwood School is a maintained school with dual sites in Tingewick for infants and the neighbouring village of Gawcott for juniors; Beachborough Preparatory School is situated in Westbury with grounds bordering the churchyard. Although the primary catchment school is Roundwood, there is also a selection of primary schools in Buckingham and Brackley. Neither Roundwood nor Beachborough are church schools, so the level of church involvement is at the discretion of the current head teachers. Nevertheless, we have offered and provided assemblies, and are always happy to welcome the local children to the parish church either for festival assemblies or other learning opportunities. In Westbury there are annual services for the school, and Beachborough would like this facility to continue. We would also value the opportunity to further involve our local schools in their church communities.

Senior school catchment is the Royal Latin grammar school or Buckingham School, but some children attend Magdalen College School in Brackley. Pupils from Beachborough sometimes go on to Akeley Wood or Stowe independent schools which are conveniently near.

We have a benefice monthly newsletter published as a booklet. This is distributed free of charge to every household in the benefice.

## Our Church Buildings

All our church buildings are beautiful and historic; five are medieval, but with multiple later additions and restorations and one dates from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. We all keep up to date with our quinquennial inspections and maintain our buildings as well as we are able.

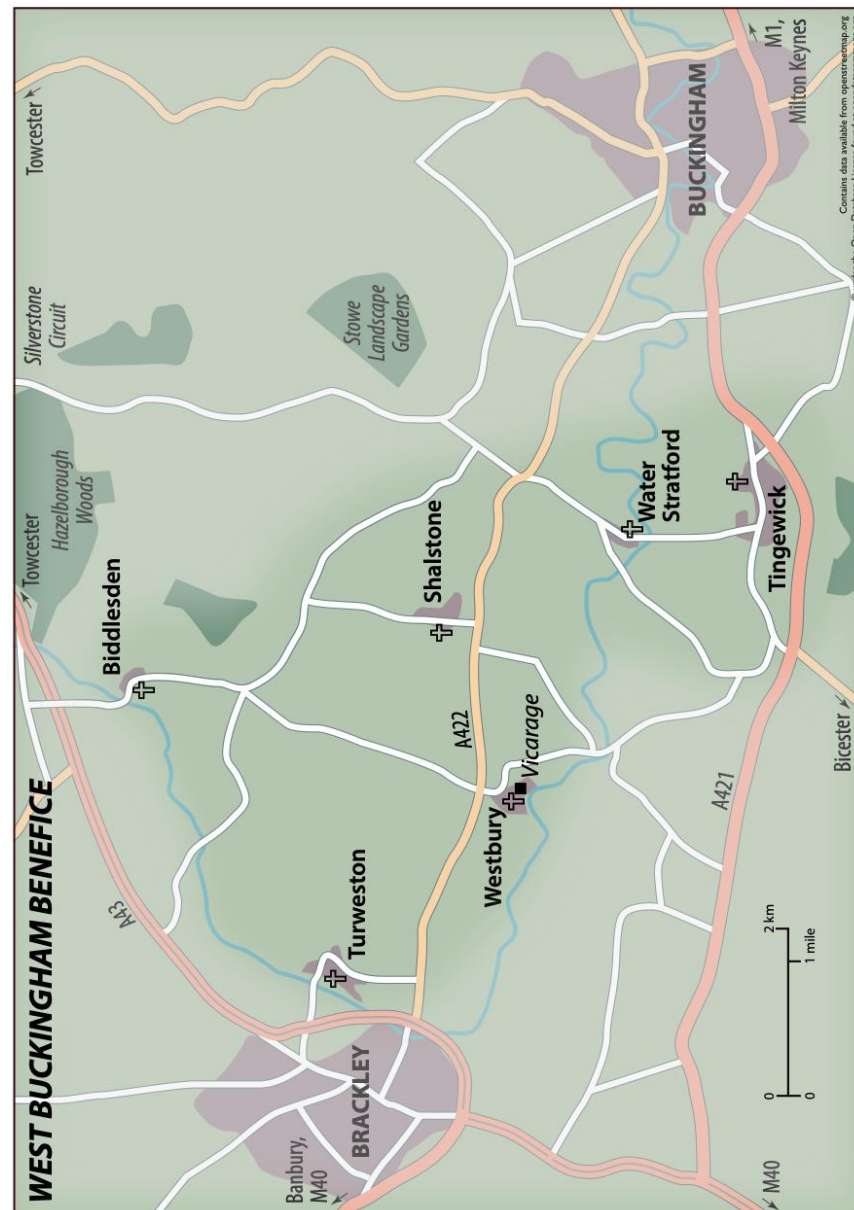


*Toddler Church in sunny Tingewick*

## Our Area

We are blessed to live in a beautiful part of the country with plenty of footpaths for walking and opportunity to exercise dogs. The National Trust property of Stowe Landscape Gardens and the less well known Evenley Wood garden are very close. Our villages vary in size with Tingewick as the largest, comprising around 500 houses, home to around 1200 people, and Biddlesden as the smallest with a population of around 30 people. Most of the working population of the benefice travels to local towns for work, with some going as far as London or Birmingham, but there are thriving local business too. Many of these are rural in nature such as farms and rural supplies businesses; our proximity to Silverstone makes motorsport another local employment option. There are also local craftspeople running small businesses in our villages. Tingewick and Westbury both have village shops, and there are pubs in Tingewick, Turweston and Water Stratford.

Road transport links are good with the two local towns of Brackley and Buckingham being easily accessible. Both hold weekly markets and are popular centres with a selection of restaurants, cafes and pubs as well as sports facilities including swimming pools, gyms and a wide variety of sports clubs. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved in local sport, arts and music; cultural activities include a community cinema in Buckingham, arts and music at Stowe and in Brackley, and annual Literary, Music and Arts events in Buckingham. Brackley also hosts food and beer festivals, along with a motorcycling weekend, soapbox derby and summer carnival. For occasions when more variety is required, the larger towns of Oxford, Banbury, Bicester and Milton Keynes have modern shopping centres and are accessible by public transport, or by car.



## Mission: Challenges and Aspirations

**Connecting with our community:** One of our key challenges is engaging with all our residents from young to old, from long-established to newcomers. A number of the parishes have expanded and changed, either through new housing developments or through the impact of HS2. We would like to explore ways to reach out to our new neighbours, and to consider how the church might become more relevant to them. Additionally, we have some young families who have engaged with activities such as Messy and Toddler Church and we would like to reach more young families.

**Growing our Churches:** Our festival and celebration services are well attended across the Benefice. These include Harvest Festivals, Carol Services, Crib Services, Good Friday meditation, Easter Services and Mothering Sunday Services. To build on this, we would like to encourage occasional visitors to our churches to become more regular members.

**Benefice cohesion:** In the last 20 years we have worked increasingly cohesively as a Benefice. There is good support between PCCs and a willingness for our churches to help each other. This is an area that we would like to continue to develop. For instance, whilst some of our regular members attend services across the Benefice, we would like to encourage more people to do so, more often.

**Identifying and developing spiritual gifts:** We are fortunate that all our churches have some people who are able and willing to lead services and carry out other essential work. We realise that because of employment, family and life commitments, these people cannot always be available. We would like, therefore, to identify and encourage gifts of leadership and service to expand the capability across the Benefice.

## Our New Rector: Is God Calling You Here?

Are you someone who can :

- Lead us into a greater understanding of God's message through the Bible and worship, encouraging and inspiring us with your love of God?
- Be a friendly, and approachable communicator offering a welcoming, empathetic and sensitive approach; use your IT and social media literacy to engage with our communities?
- Use your skills, creativity and versatility to engage not only with our families, young people, and those new to faith and church but to be truly inclusive in approach?
- Relish country living and rural ministry; keen to offer pastoral care in engaging with our village communities so as to broaden the appeal of the church in our villages?
- Be enthusiastic and collaborative, keeping abreast of new developments; be willing to both lead and work with us, encourage and engage with others to develop their gifts and motivate them to contribute to our church life?

Because you will need to travel between our villages, you will need your own transport.

In return we can offer you:

- small, cohesive and dedicated PCCs who are keen to work alongside you.
- A warm welcome and a recognition that we have a responsibility to care for your wellbeing to help you to be happy and thrive in our Benefice.
- support to ensure that you can achieve a positive work/life balance, and respect for your need for private and family time.

We look forward to welcoming a new priest to work with us in keeping the church alive and of service to this community, preserving our liberal outlook and enhancing our rural traditions.

Parishioner quotes:  
We'd like a vicar  
who ....

## Example Service Schedule

... has a smiley  
face

Sunday	Time	Place	Service
First	09.30	Turweston	Holy Communion
	11.15	Shalstone	Holy Communion
	18.00	Westbury	Evening Prayer
Second	10.30	Each parish in turn	Benefice Holy Communion with Benefice Choir
Third	09.45	Tingewick	Coffee & Croissants followed by 'Sunday @ 10'.
	10.00	Turweston	Coffee & Croissants followed by Village Worship (lay led)
	11.15	Water Stratford	Themed service
Fourth	09.30	Westbury	Holy Communion
	11.15	Tingewick	Holy Communion
Fifth	10.30	Biddlesden	Benefice Holy Communion
	15.00	Tingewick	Messy Church

... is inclusive

... is child-friendly

... says prayers for  
all people

... follows the  
teachings of Jesus

... is willing to  
embrace rural  
ministry

... is open-minded  
and compassionate

... is approachable  
and non-judgemental

... is welcoming  
and down to earth

# Our Parishes

## St Margaret, Biddlesden

Biddlesden is situated on the county boundary with Northamptonshire and consists of 14 dwellings housing 23 adults and 7 children.

### Church Life

The Church is central to the village both physically and socially, as there is no shop or pub, but the village does have a good community spirit. The attendance is good relative to the village size and Group Services held in St Margaret's are welcome and joyous events.



*St Margaret's, Biddlesden in the Spring*



*St Margaret's under the beech tree*

### Our Church

The church building is within the grounds of Biddlesden Manor House and has the appearance of a private chapel. Access is by a private road. The building has few facilities although its setting is second to none. The church is in a good state of repair with a small churchyard close by, the site of the village annual Easter Egg Hunt!

## St Edward the Confessor, Shalstone

Shalstone is a rural village situated midway between the market towns of Buckingham and Brackley. Built mainly of Cotswold stone, Shalstone's history goes back to the time of the Domesday Book, and members of the same family who now occupy the Georgian Manor House have been traced to the thirteenth century. Wood Green, a small hamlet of seven houses about one mile from Shalstone, also lies within the Parish. There are about fifty homes within the village, consisting of both privately owned and rented accommodation. A large part of the village has conservation status and has been designated an area of outstanding natural beauty. Communal activities centre around the Reading Room which is used about six times a year.

### Church Life

Our Electoral Roll is 18 and the average attendance at normal monthly services is about 11. Additional services at the Church welcome visitors from the Benefice and beyond; these regularly include the Benefice choir. All are most welcome and our forms of worship are varied. We try to accommodate all ages and preferences and we would welcome anyone wishing to attend. Members of the congregation provide refreshments at the end of services to give the congregation time to chat and mingle.

The Parochial Church Council meets, typically, three times a year and there is a regular rota for intercessions, lesson readers, flower arranging, and Church cleaning. The Churchyard is well maintained by volunteers.

Shalstone has a good community spirit and fund-raising events for the Church are well attended. A Safari Supper around the village and the annual village Harvest Supper are particularly well supported. Occasional Quiz nights and a Summer Cream Tea additionally attract people from around the Benefice and sometimes even further afield. We are particularly keen to be part of the wider community and regular events such as carol singing around the village have been used to support charities such as the Helen and Douglas House Hospice in Oxford.



*Community cream teas in the Shalstone sunshine*

## Our church

The church in its present form stands on the site of a much earlier structure. Graves in the churchyard date back to the burial of Jone Foliat in 1664 but the current building is an example of a Sir George Gilbert-Scott restoration completed in 1862. There are a number of memorials and a notable Jacobean brass of Dame Susan Kyngestone, Vowess, who died in 1333. The Church has a peal of five bells which are still used for weddings and special occasions. A wind pipe-organ is regularly maintained and used for all services.



*St Edward's, Shalstone, in the Spring*

## St Mary Magdalene, Tingewick

Tingewick is the largest parish in the Benefice and is a growing and thriving North Buckinghamshire village about three miles from Buckingham. The village is surrounded by attractive farm land and is in the valley of the Great Ouse. Some five hundred houses provide homes for about 1200 people. We have an array of clubs and organisations, including the Historical Society, the Horticultural Society, the Diamonds Club for the elderly, Line Dancing, Table Tennis, a walking group and several others, all of which meet weekly or monthly and attract a membership from all sections of the village community as well as from other villages. There are troops of Beavers and Scouts, as well as a flourishing football club for young people and there are plans for the expansion of sports facilities on the well-used recreation ground.

Our village school is Roundwood First School, from Foundation to Year 2, which has 71 pupils and a pre-school of 25 pupils which share the same premises. There is also a very successful Montessori nursery near the Church. We are fortunate to have a village shop and post office, as well as two public houses, and a number of other local businesses. A very successful Village Community Café is held every Friday in the village hall which is popular with all ages in the village and surrounding area. Our village hall also plays host to live music events which attract audiences from all over the country.

We have several effective means of village communication which are of huge benefit to our community: alongside The Link magazine we have Tingewick News, the village magazine, and the Tingewick Life Facebook page.

## Church Life

We have 22 people on the electoral roll and an average of fifteen adults attend normal Sunday worship although this number increases on special occasions, with about 200 people attending services over the Christmas period. Services are usually taken by the incumbent, although some may be taken by retired clergy or the lay people in the congregation. Our music is well provided by an unpaid organist on an electronic organ and several parishioners belong to the Benefice Choir. Our five bells are rung only for festivals, although we are encouraging new members so that ringing can be more frequent.

At present we have a 'Sunday@10' café service each 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday and a Holy Communion on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, using Common Worship. Additionally we take our turn to host the Benefice Holy Communion with the Benefice Choir, which includes members from all of our churches. Occasional Evensongs are held using the Book of Common Prayer.

St Mary Magdalene has enormous potential for growth as there is great underlying support within the community. With encouragement and direction, we are convinced that we will be able to reach more Tingewick families and unlock that potential. The recent completion of 84 new houses at Tingewick Park has increased the population of the village significantly and reduced the age profile with its addition of families and young children. We are keen for them to integrate with the village and be encouraged to support the church.

We have a fund-raising committee who organise a range of events throughout the year including the pig roast at the annual Tingewick Fete, Beer Festival and Classic Car Rally; a Safari Supper; and a Harvest Supper which is well attended by members of the village.



*Baptism at St Mary Magdalene's*



*Advent preparations*



*Children's kneeler designs*

## Our church

Our beautiful and historic Church of St Mary Magdalene is Norman or earlier. It stands on the brow of the valley at the edge of the village and the flag of St George, donated annually, flies from its tower and can be seen from miles around. Additions to the building were made in the fifteenth and nineteenth centuries. The Quinquennial inspection took place in March 2019. Works requiring attention or repair of the utmost urgency include re-pointing of the church tower, leadwork repairs to the flashings and attention to rainwater gutters. Window tracery will need to be monitored carefully. A grant for the re-pointing has been made by Bucks Historic Churches .



*St Mary Magdalene*

We are able to seat about 200 people and have recently removed pews from the back of the church to create a useful space which is used regularly for coffee, Toddler and Messy Church, meetings, social events and concerts. A part of our vestry houses a new kitchen and enabled toilet, and there is a small space that could be used as a parish office. There are six members of the PCC, which meets four to six times each year. Our Patrons are New College, Oxford and, from time to time, we go there for tea and Evensong.

The Parish Council is responsible for the churchyard (closed) and the cemetery. However, we benefit from the committed support of members of the congregation and villagers who help with all that is involved in keeping the church and its churchyard in good order.

## The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Turweston

The parish of Turweston is the most westerly parish in the benefice. It is a popular church and attracts residents from neighbouring Brackley both as worshippers and for baptisms and weddings. It is attractive and peaceful, with farmland around it, bordered to the west by the Great Ouse which is the boundary between Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire. There are playing fields, which are used by sports clubs in Buckingham and Brackley as well as the village, and a very popular children's playground. Turweston airfield, used by light aircraft and as a park and ride for the Silverstone Grand Prix, is close by to the north, but with no vehicular access from the village itself.



*St Mary's, Turweston, in the spring*



*Village Worship at St Mary's*

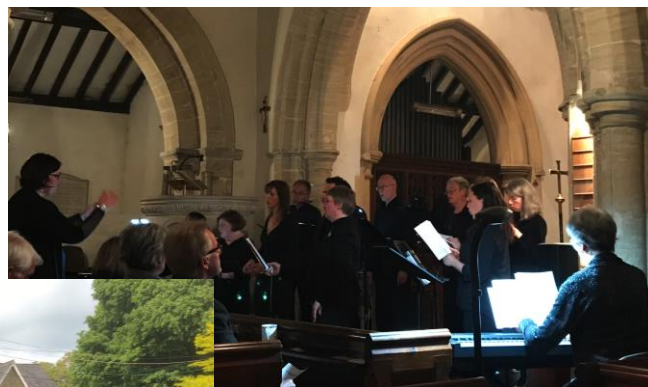
## Church Life

The church is small and has two churchwardens who are also authorised lay preachers ministering across the benefice. The regular congregation is a small proportion of the village, and is key in witnessing to Christ in our village community in a variety of non-church roles and activities. In addition to Holy Communion, we hold a variety of services including a monthly village worship which is particularly popular – we offer a sociable breakfast of coffee and croissants in the half hour before the short lay-led service, and many villagers who wouldn't otherwise attend a service come to this as a community event. These services culminate in a village carol service which concludes with a bring-and-share supper and attracts around 90 people each year. We also hold an annual Remembrance service which our Scout troop attends every other year.

The village hall plays an active part in village life and it is available to hire for local groups such as Brackley Players, or for parties. The community is friendly and welcoming and local events are often held jointly by the church and village hall such as a village barbeque, the harvest supper, a flower and craft festival (Turwestival) and concerts. The village also has a Scout hut where Scouts, Cubs and Beavers meet and there is a popular village pub.

Driven by the HS2 project, the church has suffered depletion in numbers of regular attenders and givers because some houses have been purchased by HS2 and then let rather than sold, so the proportion of the population which is transient has increased considerably. We have held a welcome event for new residents which was well attended and are keen to welcome and involve new-comers in both church and village .

There is a strong community spirit in the village. Its residents and various organisations work well together with the church as an integral part of the community. For example the village hall will lend tables, chairs and crockery for village events, the pub provides refreshments after the village clean-ups, the church and village hall organise joint fund-raising or whole village events.



*Concert in St Mary's*



*Diamond Jubilee Street Party*

## Our Church

There is an active, representative and cohesive PCC which is grateful for the support of our generous Friends organisation in maintaining the building. We have always paid our parish share and work hard to maintain our medieval building and its fixtures, including recently rebuilding the pipe organ. The peaceful churchyard is maintained by the Friends and is still open for interments and burial of ashes.

## St Giles, Water Stratford

Water Stratford is a small rural parish, consisting of a village of some 40 houses, together with a few outlying dwellings and farms. The housing is mixed: there are large old properties, picturesque thatched cottages, and modern buildings, including four local authority bungalows. The village houses line an old Roman road and are surrounded by agricultural land, both arable and pasture, mainly used for grazing sheep. We are a friendly community, with much mutual support taking place. We have a website [www.waterstratford.org.uk](http://www.waterstratford.org.uk) which contains a great deal of information about church and village history and current events.



*Rogation walk*



*Carols at St Giles*

## Church Life

The church attracts a good number of visitors and we consider it an important part of our work to welcome these by being open every day, clean and with flowers, and providing literature of spiritual and historical interest. The Visitors' Book often records heartening messages of thanks.

We hold at least one service each month apart from August. 'Themed' services have proved popular, with Remembrance a particular growth point. Last year we introduced Lammas, completing our set of rural services which already included Plough Sunday, Rogation and Harvest. These are often prepared and led by lay people, with members of the congregation, including children, taking an active part. The emphasis is on all-age worship and on inclusivity – Roman Catholics, Baptists, Methodists and (probably) those of no faith have been among our congregation. Attendance is often surprisingly high as a proportion of our small population. 14

There is goodwill towards the church amongst parishioners, and its work is supported by many in addition to those who regularly attend services. We have a good number of volunteer church cleaners, flower arrangers, newsletter deliverers and fund-raisers. Community events, often in aid of The Old School or St Giles' Church, are well attended. This year we have held a Bridge Evening, an event to mark the centenary of the Great Sale of land belonging to the Manor, and we hold an annual Duck Race on the Ouse.



*Bluebells blooming at St Giles*



*Bishop Alan blesses John Mason memorial*

## Our Church

The 12<sup>th</sup> Century church of St Giles is at the south end of the village, set in a peaceful churchyard with mature trees and in spring a profusion of wildflowers. It is a small, manageable building seating about eighty, noted for Norman tympana above the south and north doors and a fine Early English chancel arch. Famous past rectors were the 17<sup>th</sup> Century hymn-writer Revd John Mason, author of 'How shall I sing that majesty?' and the 19<sup>th</sup> Century academic Professor Joseph Bosworth, whose seminal dictionary of Anglo-Saxon is still in use. In 2008 the Bishop of Buckingham dedicated a memorial plaque to John Mason.

We work hard to maintain the building. In 2009 there was a major project to re-tile the roof and completely redecorate the interior and last year a wrought iron fence was erected round the churchyard. Raising funds is always a challenge: paying our parish share is a priority and this is almost always achieved. We would like to remove some pews to provide a larger area for socializing after services; another expensive hope is that one day our three large ancient bells will be restored and able to be rung again – at present we can only use the minute bell, which has been re-hung.

The Churchwardens and Rector are also the legal owners of the former village school, now used as a village hall. In recent years a small kitchen and toilet have been installed there, and the hall is now regularly used for social events, a Pilates group and as rehearsal space for an amateur operatic company.

## St Augustine, Westbury

Westbury is a village of approximately 500 inhabitants, situated on A422 from Buckingham and just two miles from the market town of Brackley. After many years with little change, the village has expanded over the last ten years or so with new housing bringing in a number of young families as well as older inhabitants. Westbury has welcomed the newcomers, who have joined an active community.

After the village pub closed in 2011, a new Village Hall was built and opened through a community effort supported by the Parish Council. This now actively hosts regular courses and village events, and houses the Westbury Community Shop and Café, also established through village-wide community action and run by a volunteer committee. The Village Hall is situated on the sports field, where thriving Cricket and Football Clubs have been very active for a hundred years or more. An excellent children's activity playground has just been revamped and is very popular.



*St Augustine's in the summer*

## Church Life

There is wide support for the church in the village community. Villagers mention the value of the church as a building, as a quiet retreat, and for baptisms, weddings and funerals. The church is seen as more than just a meeting place. It is a place where parishioners can come together as a community (and not only in a religious sense) and where inspiration to do greater good takes place. As one parishioner said, *"We can't imagine Westbury without the Church"*. Our challenge is to harness this support and to reach out to everyone to bring Christian values to the whole community, and to create a shared vision for the future of the church.

The congregation at the twice monthly services (Communion and Evening Prayer) is small, but our special services for Easter, Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas are always well-attended. Our monthly Evening Prayer service follows the Book of Common Prayer. Although we are open to innovation, this is the preference of the current PCC and we would like to continue regular services in this format, especially as we understand Westbury is the only church in the Benefice which does so.

We run fundraising events throughout the year, including a plant sale, the Christmas Bazaar, an annual Quiz and a tombola stall at the annual village festival (Westival). Events organised through the Village Hall frequently share the funds they raise with the church.

Westbury is the location of the private Beachborough Preparatory School. Beachborough staff are committed to supporting village life, and recently have contributed to a number of village events as well as regularly using the church for school services. They additionally contribute donations from the congregation at their Christmas and the leavers' services, and help with practical maintenance.



*St Augustine's at Christmas*

## Our Church

The church, in the heart of the village, has a history dating back to 1215, with the first vicar recorded in 1224. It is a beautiful and welcoming building, maintained by a small team of PCC members and volunteers who keep the church open all day every day, do all the cleaning and maintenance, mow and maintain the churchyard and organise the flowers.

## The Vicarage

The Vicarage is located in the village of Westbury, and is a two-minute walk from the church. It is a modern house with a large garden and a lovely view overlooking the valley below the village. It is large enough to accommodate a family, with 4 bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs. Downstairs there is a hallway, cloakroom/toilet, kitchen, utility room, dining room, sitting room, and study. The garden is to the rear and side of the house and there is a terrace with access from the sitting room. The house is set well back from the road at the end of a shared driveway. There is a single garage and a large area for parking.



The Vicarage

# Statement From The Buckingham Deanery

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the Buckingham deanery. Over the last two years the deanery has undergone a significant reorganisation. The Deanery is now looking forward to and working towards a creative vision for mission across the whole Deanery.

The Buckingham Deanery is a small, mainly rural, deanery comprising five benefices. The Deanery is within the Archdeaconry of Buckingham and has the Rt Revd Dr Alan Wilson as Area Bishop.

The Deanery centres on the town of Buckingham which has a growing population at present in the region of 15,000. Surrounding Buckingham there are 20 villages. One has a closed church and one has no church building but regular services are held in the village school.

The villages are divided into four benefices comprising six, six, four and four church communities. All of whom will see some development in the future, some larger than others. We feel this is an opportunity not to be missed. So as a deanery we would like to use our allocation of five stipendiary ministers gifts and skills across the deanery and a Group Ministry which has been established for some time. This means, broadly, that the incumbent of each benefice in the group has authority to perform in any other benefice all the duties as would normally be performed by the incumbent of that benefice. Importantly it is the duty of all the incumbents to assist each other to make the best possible provision for the cure of souls throughout the area. The incumbents in a group ministry are required to meet as a chapter for the purpose of discussing and reaching a common mind on all matters of general concern or special interest to the group ministry.

As a Deanery we face new challenges with major infrastructure projects which will increase the housing in the Deanery area considerably. These will create exciting new opportunities for Mission and outreach in these areas but will need to carry with them faithful rural communities.

The Deanery, along with three other local, rural Deaneries runs a successful ministry every year at the Buckinghamshire County Show providing a space *'to rest a while'* and enjoy refreshments on the busy showground. Many fruitful and supportive conversations have come out of this for the visitors to the tent.

Every year during Lent there are series of themed deanery lent evensongs which rotate around all the churches in the deanery

Deanery Synod meets three times a year.

Lay participation within the Deanery is being actively encouraged.

# The Diocese of Oxford

The Diocese of Oxford serves the mission of the Church in Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire. The Diocese comprises more than 600 parishes, with over 800 churches, serving a diverse population of more than 2 million people located in all types of settings.

Due to the size and complexity of the Diocese, we have three Area Bishops who exercise considerable strategic and pastoral oversight for their Areas. The Bishop of Buckingham is the Rt Rev'd Alan Wilson who has been the Area Bishop since 2003. The Archdeacon of Buckingham is Ven Guy Elsmore who has been in post since 2016.

Since the appointment in 2017 of the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft as Bishop of Oxford, a new common vision has emerged for the Diocese of Oxford. The vision is based on the qualities described in The Beatitudes and addresses what kind of church we are called to be:

- **a more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world: contemplative, compassionate, courageous.**

Together we have identified seven themes for our common life. These are not a description of everything the Church does, but they do represent the areas God is currently calling us to:

- making a bigger difference in the world
- sharing our faith and growing the local church
- growing new congregations
- serving every school in our communities
- setting the discipleship of all at the heart of our common life
- celebrating and blessing the city of Milton Keynes
- engaging in new ways with young people, families and children

These priorities are being supported centrally by resources, training, conferences, workshops, and much more. The diocese is inviting benefices and their priests to share a vision rather than demanding a response. It wants all its clergy to flourish in ministry and to deepen their enjoyment of God.

It is hoped that all clergy appointed into the Archdeaconry of Buckingham will want to commit to the Diocesan vision and to encouraging their benefices to share in becoming a more Christ-like church for the sake of God's world.

## Finance and Governance

Parish	Church Wardens	Other PCC Members	Meetings per Year	Electoral Roll
Biddlesden	1	3	1	6
Shalstone	2	5	3	18
Tingewick	2	4	5	22
Turweston	2	4	4	17
Water Stratford	2	3	3	11
Westbury	0	6	4	8

## Biddlesden Accounts 2018

Accounts to end 31 December 2018

<u>Income</u>	<u>2018</u>
Freewill	121.40
Dividends	27.71
Bank Interest	0.00
Harvest Supper	0
Wedd/Fun/Christ	0.00
Donation	0.00
Investment Payment	<u>0.00</u>
	149.11

<u>Expenditure</u>	
Quota	0
Church Insurance	316.21
Benefice Expenses	0.00
Church Repairs	0 <u>316.21</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	-167.1

Opening Bal C/A	306.26
Opening Bal D/A	0.1
Opening Creditors	0
Opening Cash	<u>0</u>
	306.27
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>-167.10</u>
	139.17

Closing Balance C/A	239.61
Closing Balance D/A	0.01
Closing Creditors	0
Closing Cash	<u>0</u>
	239.62

## Shalstone Accounts 2018

ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, SHALSTONE

Accounts of Cash Funds for 1st January - 31st December 2018

INCOME	Unrestricted	Restricted	Combined	EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted	Restricted	Combined
<u>Opening Funds</u>							
Cash in hand	0.00	0.00		Heat/light	273.62		
Cash in bank:				Insurance	1697.15	0.00	
Community account No 1	2928.34	4295.95		Parish share	2500.00	0.00	
Community Account No 2	0.00	11460.41		Deanery	0.00	0.00	
CBF Accounts:				Charity	0.00	625.93	
CBF Deposit Account 1D	0.00	5029.94		Repairs/renewals	172.20	0.00	
CBF Special Maintenance Accou	0.00	6628.41		Quinquennial Fees	0.00	0.00	
Total opening funds	2928.34	27414.71	30343.05	Fundraising expenses	0.00	0.00	
Gift-Aided Envelopes Ac No 1	699.10	0.00		Incumbent's expenses	448.67	0.00	
Gift Aid Claimed	505.22	59.26		Sundry expenses	0.00	0.00	
CAF donations	0.00	400.00		Transfers from Ac No 1 to Ac No 2	0.00	0.00	
Cash Collections	453.30	0.00		Transfers from Ac No 2 to Ac No 1	0.00	0.00	
Regular Gifts	940.00	0.00		Total expenditure Ac 1	5091.64	625.93	5717.57
Bequests	0.00	0.00		Total expenditure Ac 2	0.00	0.00	0.00
Donations Ac No 1	50.00	0.00					
Grants	0.00	0.00		<u>Closing funds</u>			
VAT recovered Ac No 2	0.00	0.00		Cash in hand	0.00	0.00	
Functions	2128.43	0.00		Cash at bank:			
Fees	840.00	0.00		Community account No 1	3052.75	4129.28	7182.03
Insurance claim	0.00	0.00		Community Account No 2	0.00	13633.38	13633.38
Sundries	0.00	0.00		CBF Accounts:			
Transfers into account No.1	0.00	0.00		CBF Deposit Account 1D	0.00	5054.94	
Dividends Ac No 2	0.00	39.67		CBF Special Maintenance Account 2D	0.00	6628.41	
Gift-Aided Envelopes Ac No 2	0.00	850.00		Total closing funds	3052.75	29446.01	32498.76
Donations Ac No 2	0.00	1283.30					
Transfers into account No 2	0.00	0.00					
Total income to Ac no 1	5216.05	459.26	5675.31				
Total income to Ac no 2	0.00	2172.97	2172.97				
Interest to CBF Fund Ac 1	0.00	25.00					
Interest to CBF Fund Ac 2	0.00	32.94					
<b>Total interest to CBF Funds</b>			<b>57.94</b>				
Opening funds + income	8144.39	30104.88	38249.27	Closing funds + expenditure	8144.39	30071.94	38216.33

### St Edward the Confessor, Shalstone

Statement of Financial Assets as at 31st December 2018

#### Barclays

Current Account (Community Account No.1)	£	7,182.03	
Maintenance Account (Community Account No.2)	£	13,633.38	<u>£ 20,815.41</u>

#### Church of England Central Board of Finance

Deposit Fund	£	5,054.94	
Special Maintenance Fund	£	6,661.35	<u>£ 11,716</u>

#### M P Fitzgerald Bequest

Church of England Investment Fund containing 73 shares.			
Price per share at 31/12/18 (bid market value)	£16,1096	£	1,176.00 <u>£ 1,176.00</u>

Total financial assets £ 33,707.70

# Tingewick Accounts 2018

## Income and Expenditure report

	2017	2018
	£	£
<b>Brought Forward</b>	<b>18,212</b>	<b>14,016</b>
	<b>£18,212</b>	<b>£14,016</b>

### Income:

Fees	41	1,284
Dividends and Interest (Gross)	12	24
Fund raising income	619	1,890
Sale of Pews	1,015	526
Income tax recovered	1,560	1,645
Tax-efficient planned giving	7146	7,908
Building Fund	579	6,390
Legacies & Donations	-	190
<b>Total</b>	<b>£10,972</b>	<b>£19,857</b>

### Expenditure:

Diocesan Quota	5,000	2,000
Clergy Expenses	1,344	1,360
Repairs to Church	5,741	4,221
Church running expenses	2,903	4,124
Parish magazine and bookstall	180	80
<b>Total</b>	<b>£15,168</b>	<b>£11,785</b>
<b>Year Balance</b>	<b>(£4,196)</b>	<b>£8,072</b>
<b>Overall Balance</b>	<b>£14,016</b>	<b>£22,088</b>
<b>Actual Balance per reconciliation</b>	<b>£14,016</b>	<b>£22,088</b>

### Reconciliation Report:

Business Reserve: General Fund		£ 8,275
Building Fund		£10,035
Organ Fund		£ 3,288
Current		£ 490
<b>Balance per Accounts</b>		<b>£22,088</b>

# Turweston Accounts 2018

St Mary's Church Turweston					
Financial Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2018					
	2018	2017		2018	2017
Income			Expenditure		
Gift Aid/free will offerings	5,730	6,421	Oxford Diocesan Share	6,656	6,723
Offertories	938	1,262	Clergy Expenses	718	955
Church Fees	392	623	Insurance	2,727	1,605
Investment income	82	56	Utilities	445	1,170
Interest income	159	92	Organist & Bells	5,160	684
Fund Raising (net)	576	1,118	Administration & Sundry	217	535
Donations & Others	1,498	921	Church maintenance	3,216	2,134
Gift Aid Tax recovery	1,556	1,942	Churchyard maintenance	250	200
Organ Fund (release)			Charities and donations	139	365
			Biddlesden Dicesan Share		
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,930</b>	<b>12,435</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>19,526</b>	<b>14,371</b>
Excess/(Shortfall) of Income over Expenditure				(8,596)	(1,936)
Statement of Reconciled Assets & Liabilities as at 31st December 2018					
	2018	2017			
Current Account - Lloyds General					
Current	17,899	28,388			
Organ Fund	0	670			
	17,899	29,058			
CCLA General Deposit	6,590	6,558			
Current Account - Lloyds Maintenance	280	280			
CCLA Maintenance Deposit	25,495	25,369			
subtotal	50,264	61,265			
Current Assets					
Debtors - tax refund etc	3,485	1,605			
Debtors	135	441			
Loan to Benefice					
Current Liabilities	211	371			
Organ Fund	0	670			
Creditors	4,681	4,681			
	48,993	57,589			
Assets as at 1st January 2018	57,589	59,525			
Excess/(Shortfall) of income 2018	(8,596)	(1,936)			
Assets as at 31st December 2018	48,993	57,589			
Signed					
Margaret Tilley					
Hon Treasurer, Turweston PCC					

# Water Stratford Accounts 2018

<b>WATER STRATFORD PCC: RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS TO 31/12/2018</b>					
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>					
(Unrestricted)					
		£		£	
<b>Receipts</b>		<b>2017</b>		<b>2018</b>	
Offerories		1,188.19		1,380.73	1
Donations		2,000.00		3600.00	2
Planned giving- now all donations		700.00			
Fund raising events		0.00		120.00	
Gift Aid reclaim		2,360.18		0.00	3
CBF interest		9.35		8.55	
Box		1.00		5.00	
Other	2018 Occasional Fees.	395.00		162.00	
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>6,653.72</b>		<b>5276.28</b>	
<b>Payments</b>					
Electricity		181.08		192.98	
Parish share		4,670.00		4670.00	4
Insurance		652.15		525.17	
Parish Expenses		840.00		0.00	
	Quinquennial	773.94		0.00	
	Electrical work				
	Other	101.15		20.45	
	Fire Ext Service	576.70		532.42	
	Vicars expenses	80.00		74.35	
	Xmas Charity donation				
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>7,875.02</b>		<b>6015.37</b>	
<b>GENERAL FUND AT START OF YEAR</b>		<b>3,662.51</b>		<b>2,441.21</b>	
Excess of payments over receipts		- 1,221.30		-739.09	
<b>GENERAL FUND AT END OF YEAR</b>		<b>2,441.21</b>		<b>1,702.12</b>	
(including deposit a/c)					
<b>BELL FUND</b>	Start of the Year	<b>872.44</b>		<b>874.90</b>	
(restricted)	CBF interest	2.46		4.35	
	End of the Year	<b>874.90</b>		<b>879.25</b>	
<b>OLD SCHOOL FUND</b>	Start of the Year	<b>353.57</b>		<b>531.84</b>	
(Partly unrestricted)					
	Donations for use of hall	1,776.00		1321.00	
	Fund Raising	191.57	Pub Night/Themed evening	20.00	
	Rebate from SSE Electricity	0.00		67.08	
	less Expenses	0.00		0.00	
	Electricity/water	504.94		285.14	
	Insurance	970.36		514.01	
	Fire Protection	0.00		0.00	
	Other	314.00	New heating control.Pests	0.00	
	End of the Year	<b>531.84</b>	Excess of income over expenditure £608.93	<b>1140.77</b>	
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT THE END OF THE YEAR</b>		<b>3,847.95</b>		<b>3,722.14</b>	
Notes to the accounts:					
1 Collections were up this year reflecting greater average attendances.					
2 All the planned giving is now being received as donations.					
3 There was no gift aid reclaim this year. The next will be in 2019. GADS will be done immediately.					
4 We paid our Parish Share in full. A number of West Bucks benefice churches didn't.					
The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the R&P basis.					
Approved by the PCC on 8th April 2019 and signed on their behalf by Chris Hilsdon (Chairman) and Guy Brogden (Treasurer).					
4th April 2019					

# Westbury Accounts 2018

General Fund Receipts and Payments Account (PCC Current and Deposit)					
Receipts	2018	2018	2018	2017	2019
	Actual	Budget	Difference	Actual	Proposed
Collections (9)	£1,426.86	£450.00	£976.86	£416.53	£800.00
Gift Aid (8&9)	£2,610.75	£2,300.00	£310.75	£2,320.95	£2,500.00
Tax Rebate (9)	£780.00	£750.00	£30.00	£767.89	£750.00
Cake Stall		£45.00	-£45.00	£37.45	£0.00
Bazaar	£627.29	£450.00	£177.29	£479.60	£450.00
Fete		£150.00	-£150.00	£196.80	£0.00
Quiz	£275.00	£225.00	£50.00	£255.00	£225.00
Plant Sale	£338.57	£300.00	£38.57	£332.60	£300.00
Churchyard Donation (5)	£150.00	£150.00	£0.00		£150.00
Parochial Fees	£2,760.00	£275.00	£2,485.00	£1,257.00	£275.00
CBF Income (2)	£442.39	£420.00	£22.39	£424.76	£420.00
Grants		£0.00	£0.00		£0.00
Donations	£249.50	£0.00	£249.50	£638.19	£0.00
Donations (Restricted - WSCA)(4)		£0.00	£0.00	£3,260.00	£0.00
Donations (Restricted - Sir Alastair Pilkington Charitable Trust)(5)	£3,000.00	£0.00	£3,000.00	£0.00	£0.00
Bequests		£0.00	£0.00	£200.00	£0.00
Transfer From Sunday School		£0.00	£0.00		£0.00
Transfer From Churchyard Fund		£0.00	£0.00		£0.00
Total Receipts	£12,660.36	£5,515.00	£7,145.36	£10,586.77	£5,870.00
Payments	2018	2018	2018	2017	2019
	Actual	Budget	Difference	Actual	Proposed
Parish Share (1)	£1,500.00	£3,000.00	-£1,500.00	£3,361.50	£1,500.00
Vicar's Expenses (6)	£756.46	£600.00	£156.46	£519.00	£600.00
Lay Chairman's Expenses (6)		£0.00	£0.00		£0.00
Electricity	£571.65	£350.00	£221.65	£337.25	£575.00
Insurance	£2,238.73	£2,300.00	-£61.27	£2,238.72	£2,300.00
Donations Out	£197.06	£165.00	£32.06	£165.22	£165.00
Expenditure (Restricted - WSCA)(4)		£1,233.60	-£1,233.60	£1,233.60	£0.00
Donations (Restricted - Pilkington)(5)		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Organ Tuning	£144.00	£150.00	-£6.00	£138.00	£150.00
Organist		£0.00	£0.00		£0.00
Fire Extinguishers	£60.00	£30.00	£30.00		£30.00
Fabric	£52.99	£500.00	-£447.01	£1,140.00	£3,000.00
Altar		£150.00	-£150.00	£149.73	£150.00
Misc/Adjustments	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£8.45	£0.00
Chidrens Expense		£0.00	£0.00		£0.00
Churchyard Expenses	£250.00	£500.00	-£250.00	£720.00	£500.00
Transfer to Churchyard Fund		£0.00	£0.00		£0.00
Total	£5,770.89	£8,978.60	-£3,207.71	£10,011.47	£8,970.00
Excess Receipts Over Payments:	£6,889.47	-£3,463.60	£10,353.07	£575.30	-£3,100.00
Summary of General Fund:					
	2018			Account Balances	
Excess Receipts Over Payments	£6,889.47		Current A/c	Deposit	Total
Cash & bank deposits at 01/01/17	£7,261.59		£3,201.47	£4,060.12	£7,261.59
Cash & bank deposits at 31/12/17	£14,151.06		£10,070.76	£4,080.30	£14,151.06

# Westbury Accounts 2018 Continued

<u>Restricted Funds</u>				
1. Sunday School Chq Account (3)				
	2018			2017
Balance Brought Forward	£3,887.08			£2,671.34
Transfers From Deposit				
CBF Income	£1,299.72			£1,272.24
Vicars' Expenses - Childrens				£56.50
Beneface Grant Deposit				
Children's Service Materials				
Transfers to PCC Current A/c				
Fabric (6)				
Transfers To Deposit				
Balance Carried Forward	£5,186.80			£3,887.08
2. Sunday School Deposit Account (3)				
	2018			2017
Balance Brought Forward	£8,594.60			£8,570.48
Transfers from Current A/c				
Interest	£42.71			£24.12
Transfers Out to Current A/c				
Balance Carried Forward	£8,637.31			£8,594.60
3. Churchyard Deposit Fund				
	2018			2017
Balance Brought Forward	£4.38			£4.38
Transfers In (Receipts)				
Interest	£0.02			
Transfers Out (Payments)				
Balance Carried Forward	£4.40			£4.38

<u>SA87:F140statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2018</u>				
Cash Assets	2018	2018	2017	2017
	General	Restricted	General	Restricted
PCC Current Account	10,070.76		3,201.47	
PCC CBF Deposit	£4,080.30		£4,060.12	
Sunday School Chq Account		£5,186.80		£3,887.08
Sunday School Deposit Account		£8,637.31		£8,594.60
Churchyard Deposit		£4.40		£4.38
TOTAL CASH	£14,151.06	£13,828.51	£7,261.59	£12,486.06
Other Assets				
	2018		2017	
Allotment CBF Trust 1 (2)	£6,701.04		£6,891.51	
Allotment CBF Trust 2 (2)	£5,635.83		£5,721.65	
Sunday School CBF Trust (3)	£38,617.52		£39,205.57	
Total	£50,954.39		£51,818.73	
Liabilities				
Children's Society	£281.79			
TOTAL LIABILITIES	£281.79			
This is from the Christmas services but not sent until the New Year				
Donations Made:				
Children's Society	£197.06			
Total	£197.06			
Notes to the accounts:				
1. The parish share figure for 2018 is £6961 up from £6723. We were unable to pay this in full in 2018				
2. This relates to the sale of former church land in 1968. Capital is "permanent" and cannot be spent. Income is paid into the PCC Current Account for general church purposes.				
The trust is managed by the Vicar and Churchwardens.				
It also includes interest from the CBF on the PCC's deposits				
3. This relates to the sale of 2 village schools. Income is paid into the Sunday School Current A/c and is used for educational purposes. The trust is managed by the Vicar and Churchwardens.				
4. A restricted donation of £3260 was received from WSCA. This is being held in the current account and expenditure is being tracked separately so we can account to WSCA re it's usage				
£2026.40 of this is left. In addition we received a restricted donation of £3000 from the Sir Alastair Pilkington Charitable Trust for fabric use only				
5. The Parish Council normally kindly make a donation towards the upkeep of the Churchyard.				
6. We contribute to the clergy expenses				
7. The number of regular givers at the end of year remained the same as at start year.				
8. Most giving is recorded under "Gift Aid" e.g. the envelopes in church, standing orders. As a result, the amount of Collection income appears lower than might otherwise be expected and is primarily just loose cash. Loose cash can also now be claimed as gift aid within limits				
Gift Aid remains a vital source of income for the church.				
PCC Treasurer	Independent Examiner			
Arthur Lewis				
16/02/2019				

**We look forward to welcoming you**

