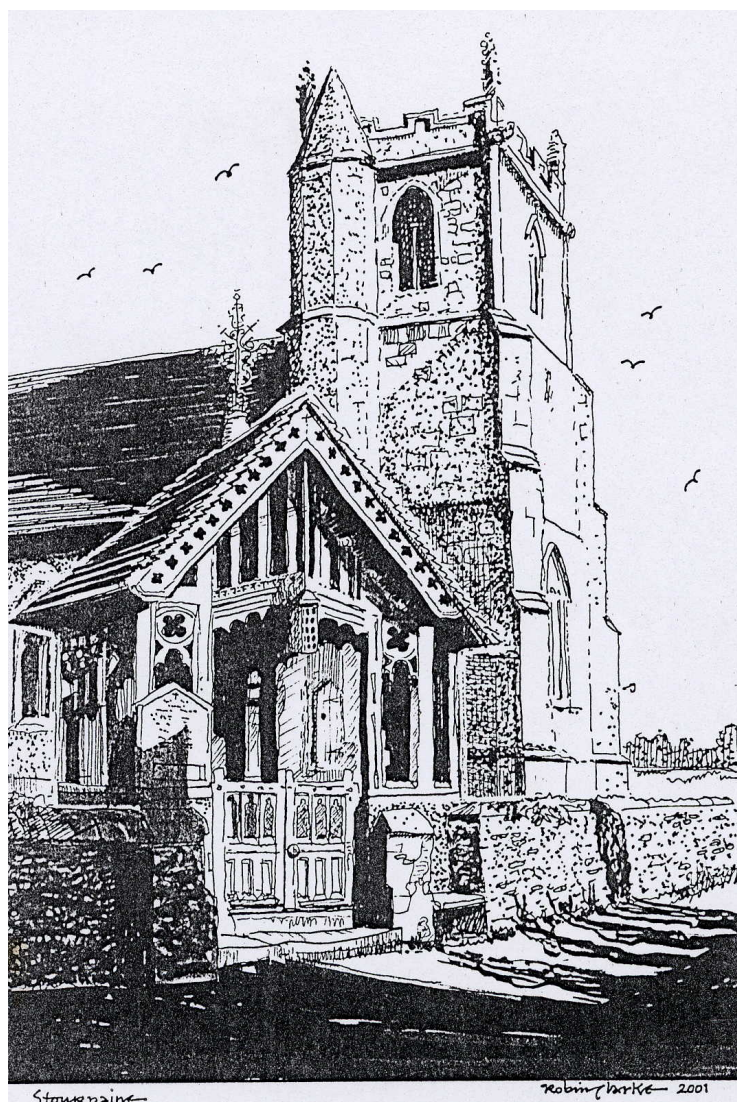


HOLY TRINITY CHURCH STOURPAINE ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Background

The Holy Trinity, Stourpaine, Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Priest-in-Charge – when appointed - in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Holy Trinity, Stourpaine, Church building, its Churchyard and Lych Gate.

PCC Membership for 2025 – in accordance with Church Representation Rules

Ex Officio members:

Ms Judith Jakes	Warden
Mr Michael Warren	Deanery Synod Representative & Secretary

Elected at 25 April 2023 APCM:

Mrs Francine Towill

Elected at 21 May 2024 APCM:

Mr Peter Jones

Elected at 20 May 2025 APCM:

Mr Christopher Brown Ms Joanna Jakes Mr David Meaden – Treasurer Mrs Jean Palmer
Mrs Melissa Gould

Committees

General:

The full PCC is required to meet at least 4 times each year. To aid its work it has appointed a Fundraising Group and a Fabric Committee drawn from the PCC and wider parish. Between meetings the PCC operates, if necessary, through its nominated Standing Committee. During the year the Parish representative to the Deanery Synod attends 3 meetings of the Synod. Here, subjects of a more general nature are discussed and matters of concern to the PCC can be aired in a wide forum. If necessary, these are brought to the attention of the Diocesan Synod.

Standing Committee:

This committee is required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any direction given by the PCC itself. Members for 2025 were: the Church Warden, the Lay Chair of the PCC, the Treasurer and the PCC Secretary.

Review of the Year

The Year in Outline. The number of parishioners on the Church electoral roll in December 2025 was 38. The routine was maintained for Sunday services in Holy Trinity: 1st Sunday - Holy Communion at 8am, 2nd Sunday - Lay led informal service at 10am, 3rd Sunday Holy Communion at 9.30am, 4th Sunday – Lay led Evensong. Each Wednesday at 10am either a Morning Prayer service or service of Holy Communion took place. In addition, Morning Prayer on Monday & Friday and Compline on Thursday were conducted by ZOOM. Fifth Sunday Benefice services were shared between the six parishes of our new Long Barrow Benefice (the old PSD Benefice and the Upper Tarrant parishes). We wish to thank all the service leaders who have helped us to maintain services on each Sunday at Holy Trinity Church, especially Canon Tina Stirling, Rev Lynne Rogers, and our LLMs Martin Richley and Penny Wallis, not forgetting our own Lay Worship Leaders – Judy Jakes, Caroline and Peter Jones.

PCC Meetings and Membership. The APCM took place on 20 May 2025 in Church. The full PCC met 5 times during the year, covering the full range of subjects to do with the running of the wider church. . The Fabric committee met a number of times, taking forward the plans for and work to solve an issue with the roof lead work of the tower. The fundraising committee was headed by Francine Rough. The Standing Committee did not meet in 2025.

Capital Work and Maintenance. The principal effort of the Fabric Committee covered progressing the Toilet project and the tower roof project.

Services and Mission Sunday services were conducted to the schedule as described above. This was enabled by the continued hard work of Retired Priests, LLMs and our own Lay Worship Leaders (LWL) Judy Jakes, Caroline and Peter Jones. The traditional Easter Eve service with bonfire was conducted on Easter Saturday. Yet again, a joyful Carol Service was conducted in Holy Trinity on 14th December with stunning contributions from Durweston school and a congregation of well over 100. A 10am Family service was held on Christmas Day; the congregation being in the order of 50.

Music and Bells. Christopher Dowie remained permanent organist for the parishes of the old PSD Benefice. His famed Sunday evening concerts and soirees in the three PSD churches included one in Holy Trinity in January. Shirley Bragg from Tarrant Gunville gathered together choir members from all parishes to sing at 5th Sunday services wherever they were held in the Six Parishes – although this did not happen this year in Holy Trinity. Our six bells were rung for almost every 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sunday service in church. They were rung for two weddings and one funeral. Visiting Ringers made use of the bells on three occasions. Finally, the New Year was welcomed in traditional style by the ringing of a touch of Grandsire Doubles at midnight on 31st December 2025.

Fundraising. Starting with another very successful Spring Fair held in early May in the courtyard of Stourpaine House, fundraising continued with the popular “Pop up Cafés” held at the church on 5 Sunday afternoons during the summer. Team Stourpaine again took to their bicycles in September, to raise money for Holy Trinity and Dorset Historic Churches Trust as part of the annual Ride and Stride fundraising effort. In December a Christmas Coffee morning – with many additional stalls of craftwork, produce and many, many cakes was held. This was well attended and very enjoyable.

Durweston Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School. The school continues to thrive and to bring much satisfaction that a good primary school education is being provided to all pupils. The new Head took post in September on the retirement of Nicola Brook.

Children’s Work. No Friday Club or Babies & Toddlers group activities took place. Judy Jakes, however, as last year, organised and ran a summer scheme for youngsters on 4 consecutive Mondays in August. Again the scheme was enthusiastically received and attended. We were very lucky to be supported by 19 volunteers during the 4 sessions, this meant that the children were able to be well supported during the various activities. We are very grateful for the grant from Stourpaine PC towards the cost of the Summer Scheme which meant that we were able to offer lunch to all the children. The Open the Book team, a group of 8-10 members of the churches across the PSD parishes, visit Durweston and Pimperne Primary schools twice a term much to the delight of the pupils to present a bible story through drama from The Open The Book programme. The presentation is rehearsed the week before. The team has recently been renamed as the Long Barrow Open The Book Team and has received training from the Bible Society.

Safeguarding. During the year the PCC has complied with the duty set out under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. The duty is to have regard to the House of Bishops’ guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The Safeguarding report by the Parish Safeguarding Officer is at Annex A.

Pastoral Reorganisation. Holy Trinity Stourpaine is now part of the new Long Barrow Benefice. As yet no applicants have applied for the post of Priest in Charge. The recruiting process for an Incumbent continues.

Deanery Synod. The Deanery Synod met 3 times during 2025. The full Report is at Annex B.

Financial Review.

Treasurer’s Report 2025

As last year less work was carried out to the fabric and interior of the Church, but upkeep and reordering of the Church is still one of our major areas of expenditure including this year on the PA system.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to reclaim VAT on this work as the scheme is no longer available. Gift Aid has however been claimed where possible on donations and regular giving - the amount of which has increased this year.

As in previous years there have been several successful fund-raising events including the Spring Fair and Pop-Up Cafes, all well attended and popular events which have raised more than in previous years. Donations were received from Stourpaine Parish Council, and a donation was also received from the Historic Churches Trust because of the efforts of our Ride and Stride participants. Two substantial legacies were also received from past Parishioners.

Covenanted donations and service collections form an important part of our regular income, but the total amount received was down on 2024. Investment income however also forms an important part of our income.

The Parish Share, as agreed by the PCC, that is paid to the Diocese, forms the largest part of our expenditure and amounted to £19,500.00. The cost of utilities increased from 2024, but we were able to reduce the cost of churchyard maintenance without adversely affecting its appearance.

Despite the best efforts of our fund-raising team, many hard-working volunteers and the generosity of parishioners we are however still running with an operating loss over the year.

A copy of the Accounts is posted on the Church Notice Board with a hard copy attached to this report.

Approved by the PCC on 25 April 2026 and signed on its behalf by Michael Warren, Secretary to the PCC.

MWM WARREN
PCC Secretary, Holy Trinity Stourpaine PCC

ANNEX A to
2025 PCC Report

Annual Safeguarding report for PCCs for year 2025

Stourpaine

The Church of England safeguarding focus last year was on devising and implementing changes in policy and administration following the publication of the Makin report at the end of 2024. This involved the setting up of safeguarding hubs to ensure that every new volunteer and employee is 'safely recruited', to minimise the chance of taking on anyone posing a safeguarding risk.

In July/August there was a major data breach of our DBS provider, APCS. It affected thousands of people nationally but fortunately only a handful of our local church volunteers and none in Stourpaine. The diocese offered significant support. A new DBS provider, 'thirty-one eight', which currently offers emergency out of hours support, will be brought in to replace APCS.

During 2025 I worked on implementing the parish dashboards more fully. Activities we run aside from our worship services eg Open the Book and the Summer scheme are now accounted for on the dashboard. Volunteers have the required DBS checks and risk assessments have been completed. I have just received emails to set the new hubs rolling, one per parish. They sit alongside the dashboards via the same secure logon. I am the hub 'owner' and will be setting up the Stourpaine hub first. Judy Jakes as church warden is the other authorised user and will be helping with the set up - information has to be input manually (ie names, dates of DBS checks and training), there is no export facility. The diocese is offering training on the hubs and 31:8, both of which I've done.

There have been one or two safeguarding issues across the three parishes during 2025, all of which have been addressed.

Caroline Jones
Parish safeguarding officer
23 January 2026

ANNEX B to 2025 PCC Report

Milton and Blandford Deanery Synod Report – 2025

Elizabeth Harvey, Director of Finance and Operations and who leads and manages the Parish Support and Finance team joined Deanery Synod as a representative of the Diocesan Board of Finance She has been a great support at meetings; this is an initiative begun at the start of 2025 to improve communications at Deanery level. The Deanery Synod met 3 times this year and the following is a summary of those meetings:

1. The first meeting of the year was on 1st March when we were joined by Anna Hardy the Diocesan Giving Adviser, David Hart from Christian Aid /Faith Will and also by Jeremy Selfe and Liz Jones Trustees of DHCT – the latter being Ride and Stride Lead for our Deanery area.
 - a. The first presentation (Christian Aid) focussed on how small legacies can contribute to the fantastic work of Christian Aid over 80 years.
 - b. For the second presentation, DHCT gave an update on their work to assist our churches with grants from fundraising activities. Ride and Stride is the main fundraising activity across Dorset area, however there are other activities that go on throughout the year and creative ideas for raising money are always welcome, especially as much of this money comes back to our churches in the form of grants for maintaining buildings and restoration projects.
 - c. Sharing good practice. - A short presentation from Molly Edwards (Spetisbury) gave an insight into the very successful fundraising initiatives that are also well supported by the villagers in general.
 - d. What is the point of the Deanery? At the September Synod 2024 representatives were asked for their thoughts on what our priorities should be. The Rural Dean outlined the following as a focus for further synod meetings this year as this March meeting had focussed on Finance.
 - Synod should be a time to share expertise and experience
 - Be a vehicle for communication between the Diocese and Parishes
 - Encourage Lay training and ministry
 - Reaching out to make Jesus known, reps asked that the 40–60 year age range could be a group we would like to encourage.
 - e. Finance update from Philip Whitcomb
 - Philip reiterated that legacies to charities are tax free. In addition, if your Estate is subject to Inheritance Tax and 10% of your Estate is left to charities (including Churches) then the rate of tax falls from 40% to 36% meaning you are able to give to charity and your family/residuary beneficiaries are better off.
 - Thanks to treasurers – beat our record. 87.5% of share asked for (last year 85.2%). Slate will be wiped clean from previous deficits (subject to consultation). 21 parishes may be paying 100% now but have a historic deficit. Recent communications indicate that in the case where there are sufficient funds available, the debt may not be written off.

Thanks were given to Chris Beaumont for hosting the Synod at Blandford Parish Centre and for the bacon rolls.

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2. Our 2nd meeting was on 23rd June in Sixpenny Handley. Following on from our decision to encourage lay ministry we had a short presentation from Andrew Helosn LWL in the Red Post. Later Debbie Albery LPA spoke to us about the training and good practice around the Deanery.

Philip Whitcomb (Deanery Treasurer) explained his role was as a link between parish PCC treasurers and the Diocese and particularly as a point of contact if there are challenges to paying share. End of year Mission and Finance Statistics and a copy of the annual report should be sent to him after APCMs. Short references were also included with regard to the new safeguarding system. Thanks were conveyed to Mike Dyer and team for hosting at Sixpenny Handley.

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3. Our final meeting of 2025 was held at Almer in the Red Post on 13th October.

The focus for the meeting was sharing good practice and there were excellent contributions from Pimperne, Winterborne Zelston, Sturminster Marshall, Winterborne Valley and MIlton Abbas, Langton Long, Farnham, Blandford St Mary, Blandford Parish Church, Tarrant Gunville and Benefice, Tollard Royal and Stourpaine. A few churches also stated areas of need where they could benefit from advice from others including the filling in of faculties.

A short report was also given by Rev Chris Beaumont on and the recent Diocesan Synod, particularly with focus on the budget.

Chris Beaumont also has maintained links with Bishop Emmanuel with the Rokon Link.