

Parish Profile

Exploring the parishes of Holy Trinity, Prestwood
and St Mary Magdalene, Great Hampden



2026

Welcome

Rt Rev'd Dave Bull, Bishop of Buckingham



Thank you for taking time to explore the parishes of Holy Trinity, Prestwood and St Mary Magdalene, Great Hampden. These church families are set at the heart of wonderful communities. The people are genuinely warm, welcoming and eager to grow in faith. The buildings have received very careful attention under the previous Rector and the infrastructure of the parish is in very good order. If you think you might be the priest they are looking for – enthusiastic, energetic and determined to see God's Kingdom grow – then please read on!

As you will see, this role offers substantial opportunities in community life. The churches have an extensive range of events and are established centres of communal life for all ages. Worship is in the modern Anglo-Catholic tradition and offers an inclusive and welcoming experience, which is matched by well-developed pastoral care. There is a tangible desire to grow in faith. If you are someone who is committed to ongoing growth and new discoveries in your own faith then I think you would find kindred spirits here. As in so many parishes, a central challenge is to renew the churches by growing younger and unearthing a new generation of lay leaders who can work with the clergy to resource future growth, as you can read on pages 14 and 15. This work is already underway and you will be helped by staff team colleagues and a supportive PCC environment.

We realise it is an exciting but uncertain time as you seek God for your future. If after reading this profile you would like to discuss it further, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at bishopbuckingham@oxford.anglican.org.

We are praying for you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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Safeguarding

We are committed to ensuring the full and safe inclusion of everyone in our Parish.

Click to view our Safeguarding Policies:

[Holy Trinity, Prestwood](#)

[St Mary Magdalene,
Great Hampden](#)

These can also be viewed on our website at htprestwood.org.uk under Policies.

Welcome



Holy Spirit,
Please guide those who are seeking
the right place for their ministry,
That they and their new parish may
discover your way for the future and
see your kingdom grow.
Though Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Welcome to the United Benefice of Prestwood and Great Hampden, part of the Wendover Deanery in the Diocese of Oxford.

We hope this profile gives you a real sense of what a wonderful, friendly and inspiring place this is – and perhaps even a glimpse of the community you could be part of.

We hope it tells you about who we are and what we do, and of how, with God's help, we want to develop and grow.

Our Benefice is made up of two churches –

- Holy Trinity serving Prestwood and Great Kingshill
- St. Mary Magdalene serving Great Hampden.

[Holy Trinity, Prestwood
Annual Report](#)

[Great Hampden
Annual Report](#)

Together, these two churches form a caring, hopeful and outward-looking Christian community rooted in the beautiful Chiltern countryside and united in our desire to know God, to serve our neighbours and to share the love of Christ.

We have always enjoyed being a teaching Benefice and feel privileged to play a part in training new clergy. We own a house in Prestwood village, where they can live. At present, our curate is in their third year.

***Our worship celebrates Christ's love
for all people.***

We find rest in God's presence.

The Holy Spirit empowers our lives.

***We enjoy building a loving
community.***

Who We Are

Parish of Prestwood and Great Kingshill

Holy Trinity lies within the Parish of Prestwood and Great Kingshill, two thriving Chiltern villages in Buckinghamshire, just half a mile west of Great Missenden. With populations of around 7,600 and 1,170 respectively, they are large enough to offer a range of amenities yet small enough to retain a strong local identity and rural charm. Nestled in the Chiltern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the villages combine countryside living with easy access to London Marylebone via Great Missenden station.

Prestwood is well served for young families, with a range of early-years and primary provision, including strong links between Holy Trinity and Prestwood Village Schools. Older pupils attend nearby secondary schools, including several highly rated grammar schools in the area. The village is also home to the Chiltern Way Academy for students aged 11-18 with social, emotional and communication needs.

Prestwood has a warm, community-focused character with a lively village spirit supported by numerous clubs, societies and events. The Prestwood Community Association plays a central role in organising local activities such as the annual “Prestwood Big Week” in which Holy Trinity plays a key part. Residents of all ages take part in local groups—from Scouting, Guiding and parent-toddler clubs to coffee mornings and senior gatherings. Great Kingshill, surrounded by beautiful countryside and farmland, offers small, local amenities, social events and plentiful walking routes. The villages comprise families, professionals and retirees with an estimated 26% over 65 and 9% in social housing.



Who We Are

Holy Trinity, Prestwood

Holy Trinity stands at the heart of the community as an active, friendly and inclusive parish church. We have a strong commitment to worship, pastoral care and community engagement.

We have a modern Anglo-Catholic tradition and are a centrally liberal Eucharistic community.

The Eucharist is at the core of our life. It sustains our mission and enables us to go out and build the Kingdom in Prestwood and Great Kingshill. Our pattern of worship reflects this with two midweek Communion Services and two Sunday morning services. Alongside the Eucharist, there is a commitment to the prayer life of the community with Morning Prayer hosted on [Facebook](#) each weekday morning.

We are committed to full inclusion and are registered with Inclusive Church and Welcome Church. We believe that these commitments respond to the Christian call to love and welcome the stranger regardless of their gender, sexuality, race or cultural background.

We have a steady average attendance and electoral roll.

[Click to view our
Statistics for Mission Dashboard](#)



Who We Are

Parish of Great Hampden

The church is situated in a beautiful location in the Chiltern Hills, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, close to several small villages as well as being within easy reach of the larger towns of High Wycombe, Princes Risborough, Wendover and Aylesbury. It is situated next to Hampden House, the former original ancestral home of the Hobart-Hampden family, the most famous of whom was the English Civil War protagonist John Hampden. Lord Ian Hollenden, a direct descendant of the Hobart-Hampden family, lives locally and is the Patron of our Benefice.

The Church and Hampden House estate lie just outside the village of Great Hampden, a very small, Uk-born (92%) population with a strong sense of community and a distinctive local identity, with many families having lived in the village for several generations. Inhabitants number about 275 people (13% between the ages of 0-17, 59% with ages between 18-64 and 28% over 65 years of age). The village has a pub, village hall and a cricket green with schooling provided in the neighbouring villages of Speen, Lacey Green and the town of Great Missenden.



Who We Are

St Mary Magdalene



St Mary Magdalene Church is a well-loved parish church with its own identity deeply rooted in history and faith, serving Great Hampden and the surrounding villages. We are made up of people of different ages and backgrounds who enjoy being a part of the life of our church. We foster a warm, inclusive community where everyone feels welcome and at home. We aim to create meaningful relationships and support one another on our spiritual journeys, emphasising love, service and growth.

Whilst retaining the character of our historic building, we have made some thoughtful updates in recent years to create an inspiring space for worship, pilgrimage, music and the arts. These improvements enable us to host events that celebrate the church's unique facilities, features, setting and its connection to John Hampden.

We have a prayer book tradition and now identify as generally middle-of-the-road. Our service is designed to welcome us into God's love and allow him to be present to us. We go out enabled to live a full life in the knowledge that we are cared for and loved by God and one another. Although small, we have a steady and committed gathered community.

We are a church for the 21st century and welcome all who seek God and invite you to join our efforts to be a strong facilitator of good in our community. We seek to build the Kingdom of God in our souls, our lives and our community here in Great Hampden and beyond.

We have a flexible pattern of worship reflecting the individual spirituality of our congregation. Twice a month, we hold BCP Morning Prayer, once a month Common Worship Morning Prayer, and once a month Common Worship Order 1 Holy Communion. We hold Family Services for special services e.g. Mothering Sunday. These are typically a contemporary language Service of the Word with Family Eucharists for Christmas and Easter.

Music is a significant part of our worship at St Mary Magdalene. We have a strong musical tradition with regular concerts and services supported by choirs and the Hampden Ensemble. Highlights during the Church Year are the Christmas Carol Service and Joseph Haydn's Seven Last Words of Our Saviour on the Cross on Good Friday.

[Click to view our Statistics for Mission Dashboard](#)

Who We Are

Wendover Deanery

Wendover Deanery is made up of large and small villages to the south of Aylesbury with the edge of the Diocese of St Albans to the east and Amersham to the south. It is an area of outstanding beauty as well as good road links.

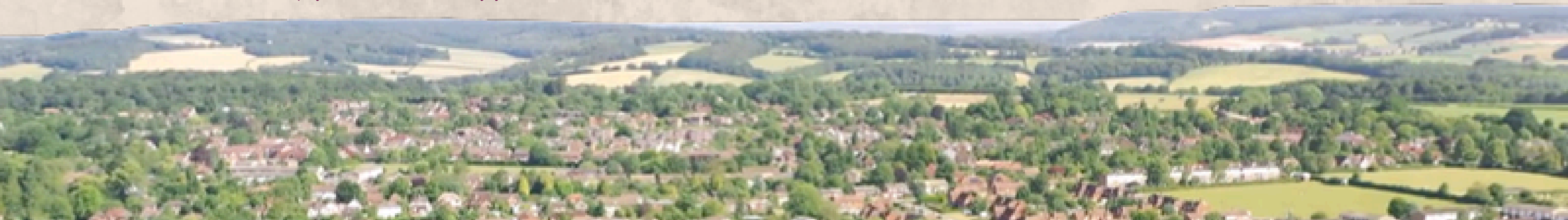
Over recent years there has been significant housing development in some parts of the deanery; most notably Aston Clinton, Stoke Mandeville, Weston Turville and Great Kimble with more planned.

The deanery sits with the Archdeaconry of Buckingham in the Diocese of Oxford. We are 20 churches grouped together into eight benefices. These are ministered to by six stipendiary clergy and two House for Duty priests (when appointed).

There are also a number of retired priests who have permission to officiate, living in the deanery and several of our parishes have licensed lay ministers.

The Area Deans are Rev'd Canon Sally Moring and Rev'd Sally Bottomer and the Lay Chair is Gavin Oldham OBE. There is an active Deanery Chapter and the Deanery Synod normally meets four times each year, covering a wide range of topical subjects.

We encourage every church community to flourish within their wider communities, sharing the gospel in ways appropriate to them and endeavouring to support one another as we do so.



Who We Are

Oxford Diocese



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, the Rt Rev'd Dave Bull, was consecrated Bishop in Lent 2025. The post of Archdeacon of Buckingham is currently vacant as we await the collation of the Rev'd Cassa Messervy in March 2026. In September 2020 the Rev'd Canon Chris Bull was appointed Associate Archdeacon of Buckingham.

Through prayer, listening and discernment a 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**

Our Common Vision continues to emerge as we identify together areas of our common life where we believe God is calling to focus. The Diocesan focal areas are not a description of everything we do, but these priorities are being supported centrally by resources, training, conferences, workshops and much more. The Diocese is inviting benefices and their clergy to share a vision rather than demanding a response, motivated by hope not driven by anxiety, and thereby to flourish in their ministry. It is hoped that clergy appointed into the Archdeaconry of Buckingham will want to commit to this vision and encourage their benefice to share in becoming a more Christ-like church for the sake of God's world.

Children, Youth and Families

Holy Trinity, Prestwood

The Parish has a thriving children's, youth and families ministry, enabled by our Families Outreach Worker, and supported by a wealth of volunteers, who are integral to all we achieve together.



Children grow their faith and build lasting friendships and meaningful fellowship through our engaging weekly Children's Church and our exciting monthly Fusion youth group gatherings.



Craft and Praise is a quarterly highlight of our church year, where church families and families from the wider community come together to enjoy seasonal crafts and praise God.



We run a thriving weekly Toddler Group where the church becomes a lively, welcoming space for preschoolers and their families to enjoy play, crafts, snacks, songs and toddler prayers. We also host a weekly Bumps & Babies group supporting new parents.



During our Family Eucharists children and young people are encouraged and supported to play their part in the life of the church. During every service we provide safe, engaging spaces where our youngest children and those with neurodiversity can come and meet God just as they are. Individuals may continue their faith journey through participation in Baptism, first Holy Communion, and Confirmation.



We build strong links with our local Infant and Junior schools through our weekly Sparks and Light Clubs, bringing children in our Parish the message of God's love for them. This link is strengthened through assemblies and our annual school carol concert.

[Click to view our Families video](#)

Community & Outreach

Holy Trinity, Prestwood

There are a wealth of activities and events that build our community and are part of our outreach. We are always looking for ways in which God is calling us into new outreach projects, furthering the Kingdom here in this place. Hospitality is at the heart of our missional activity, taking the meal that we receive at the Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Christ and sharing that with the wider community.



We support families during the school holidays with our Make Lunch programme, partnering with Transforming Lives for Good (TLG) and giving families a weekly hot, nutritious meal alongside a fun afternoon of activities together.



Each summer, our Marquee in the church grounds becomes a wonderful setting for our seniors' tea party, offering a relaxed and welcoming space for conversation, refreshments and community.



Our Annexe is a busy venue where activities such as our Toy Library and Wool Gatherers group meet. Our Men's Breakfast enjoy a monthly speaker and tasty breakfast in our Hall. A new opportunity on the horizon is a SEND support group to support local parents and children.



We ensure that we are a presence in the village through participation in events such as the Prestwood Big Week and 'Prestmas' in the Village Hall. Each Autumn we welcome local charities to our church site for our Autumn Fair. We have an active involvement in Lighthouse, a Christian Holiday Club that runs each summer in Great Missenden.



We support those experiencing food poverty or reaching a crisis point in their lives through our partnership with the Chiltern Foodbank and our on-site Distribution Centre, ensuring that individuals and families receive practical assistance and support.

[Click to view our Outreach video](#)

We are seeking a new leader who...

Is passionate to make the liturgy accessible to all age groups, including the neurodiverse and those with dementia

Can lead by empowering others, delegating and sharing responsibilities

Is committed to growing their own faith and the faith of those in the Benefice, through the Eucharist and prayer

Is keen to build on outreach initiatives by engaging with schools and the local community

Has enthusiasm, energy and determination to grow the Kingdom of God

Creative thinker
Empathetic

Strong communicator

Forward-thinking

Adaptable

Collaborative

Good listener

Determined

Is a visionary and creative thinker

Is compassionate, empathetic and humble

Is committed to, and understands the importance of safeguarding and social justice

Is a strong communicator, collaborative, approachable, non-judgmental and a good listener

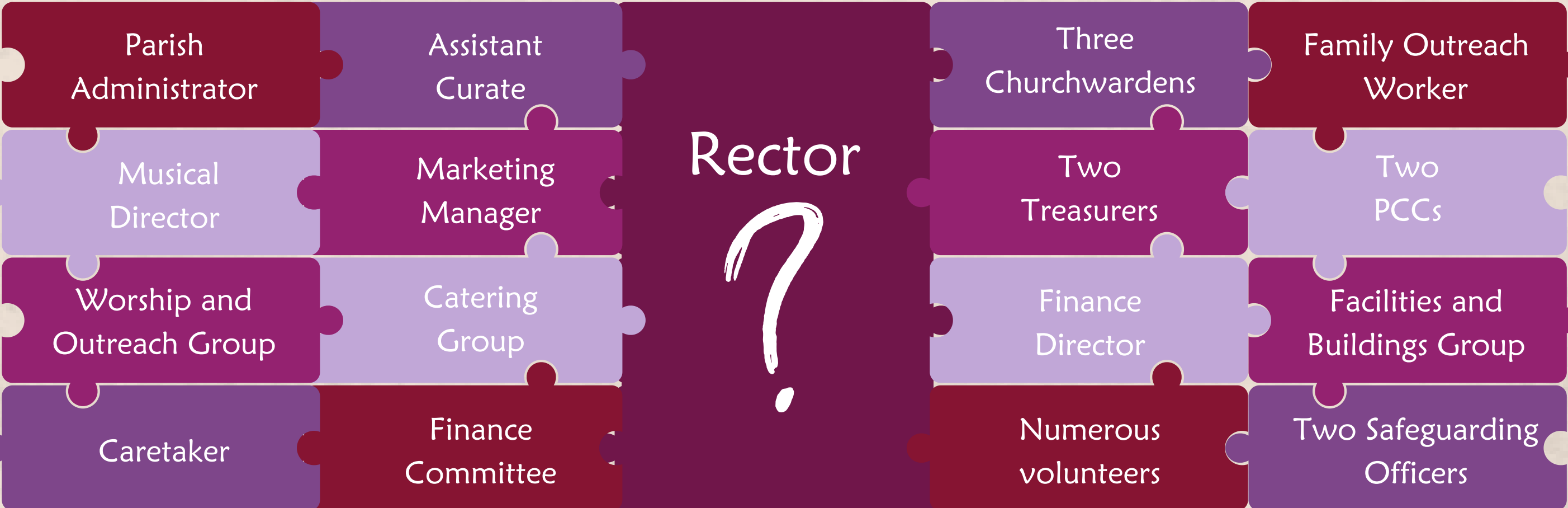
Can develop, support and motivate our staff team and volunteers

Has a sound knowledge of modern technology, or a willingness to learn

Leader
Compassionate
Enthusiastic
Approachable
Non judgmental

Could this be you?

Our Team



Our strengths and opportunities

Holy Trinity, Prestwood

Strengths

- Welcoming and friendly community
- Homely and peaceful
- Variety of in-person and online worship
- Focus on hospitality and celebration
- Fully inclusive
- Part of the local community
- Beautiful, versatile church building
- Churchyard and grounds - Ashes Garden, Memorial Wall, Labyrinth and a haven for rare fungi
- Eco Bronze Award and working on Silver
- Outreach groups
- An array of sub groups to strengthen aspects of church life
- Committed team of volunteers
- Dedicated staff team
- Excellent, informative website
- Good communication via weekly email and Weekly Herald
- Strong and vibrant seasonal worship - Holy Week and Easter and Advent, Nativity and three Christingles
- Annual Lent appeal for local, national and international causes

Areas for Development

- Develop new ways to explore personal faith
- Support and balance the needs of all generations
- Attract and engage teenagers and young people
- Address the overreliance on ageing volunteers
- Embrace two differing church services and traditions within the Benefice
- Further develop a SEND support group to support local families
- Increase our social events to better include the wider community
- Continue to grow our international links with a pre-school in South Africa
- Establish a greater involvement with the village of Great Kingshill
- Enable the redevelopment and refurbishment of the hall, Annexe and church cottage to widen community use
- Improve the outdated technology in the hall and Annexe
- Better address succession planning
- Encourage financial initiatives
- Continue working towards our Eco Silver Award



Our strengths and opportunities

St Mary Magdalene

Strengths

- Extending an inclusive welcome to all existing and new worshippers
- A variety of services
- A family feel where we know each other and everyone is valued
- An attractive, well maintained, newly refurbished church with excellent AV facilities, a flexible worshipping and gathering space including a servery, a wc and outside lockable store
- Beautiful, rural setting down a private drive with ample parking
- Good communications via a weekly email, the Weekly Herald and tri-annual Parish Magazine
- Historical links to Sir John Hampden and associations with the John Hampden society
- A desirable venue for weddings and baptisms due to proximity to Hampden House
- Outstanding musical events including special services and concerts
- A small but excellent group of volunteers, dedicated to the pastoral, charitable and events organisation for the parish
- Valuable links to local village activities

Areas for Development

- To overcome a resistance to change and foster a willingness to experiment
- To increase congregation numbers by reaching out to newcomers in the area
- Attracting younger members
- To increase regular giving
- To encourage wedding couples to the beautiful church
- To offer greater opportunity for worship, pilgrimage, music and the arts
- To widen the community use of the flexible and newly refurbished space



Our buildings

Holy Trinity, Prestwood



Church

- 19th century parish church
- Grade II listed
- Reordered in 2015
- Organ
- Small kitchen
- Two car parks
- Moveable benches
- Modern AV system
- Flexible lighting
- Underfloor heating
- Accessible w/c



Annexe

- Kitchen
- Capacity for up to 15
- Underfloor heating
- w/c
- Locked office



Church hall

- Grade II listed
- Capacity for up to 50
- Kitchen
- Underfloor heating
- Two w/cs
- Store room with tables



Church Cottage

- Grade II listed
- Parish office
- Small meeting room
- Small kitchen
- Two w/cs
- Locked vestry

At the last quinquennial inspection, no major issues were identified and the few minor ones were all dealt with quickly.
The next inspection is due in 2027.

Our grounds

Holy Trinity, Prestwood



The Graveyard

The graveyard has been used since the Church was opened in 1849. Though most of the graveyard space is now full, there are a small number of available plots for future burials.



The Labyrinth

Established in 2023 in the Quiet Garden as a place of quiet focus and prayer, the labyrinth has only one path, representing a symbol of our journey through life and towards God and offers a place for meditation to those of all faiths, cultures and traditions.



The Ashes Memorial Wall

In 2021, we installed the Ashes Memorial wall. This was built from Lakeland Stone and has space to inscribe the names of those whose ashes are interred in front of the wall.



Wax-Cap Mushrooms

The combination of no fertilisers, regular mowing and removal of cuttings has created ideal conditions for what is known as 'wax-cap grassland' where rare fungi flourish. The churchyard has 23 different varieties of wax-caps, making it a site of particular wild-life interest.

[Click to view our Caring for God's Acre profile](#)

Our building and grounds

St Mary Magdalene



Church

- Grade II* listed 13th century traditional rural church with architectural and historical features
- Expertly restored in 2025
- Flexible nave space with disabled access
- Open space in the chancel and North aisle for small groups with flexible seating
- State of the art AV system
- Three bells
- Servery and lockable store

At the last quinquennial inspection, there were no category one items and the category two items have been dealt with. The next inspection is due September 2028.

[Click to view our Virtual Tour](#)

Grounds

- Open churchyard
- In the grounds of the beautiful Hampden House
- Car parking
- Accessible mains toilet in grounds



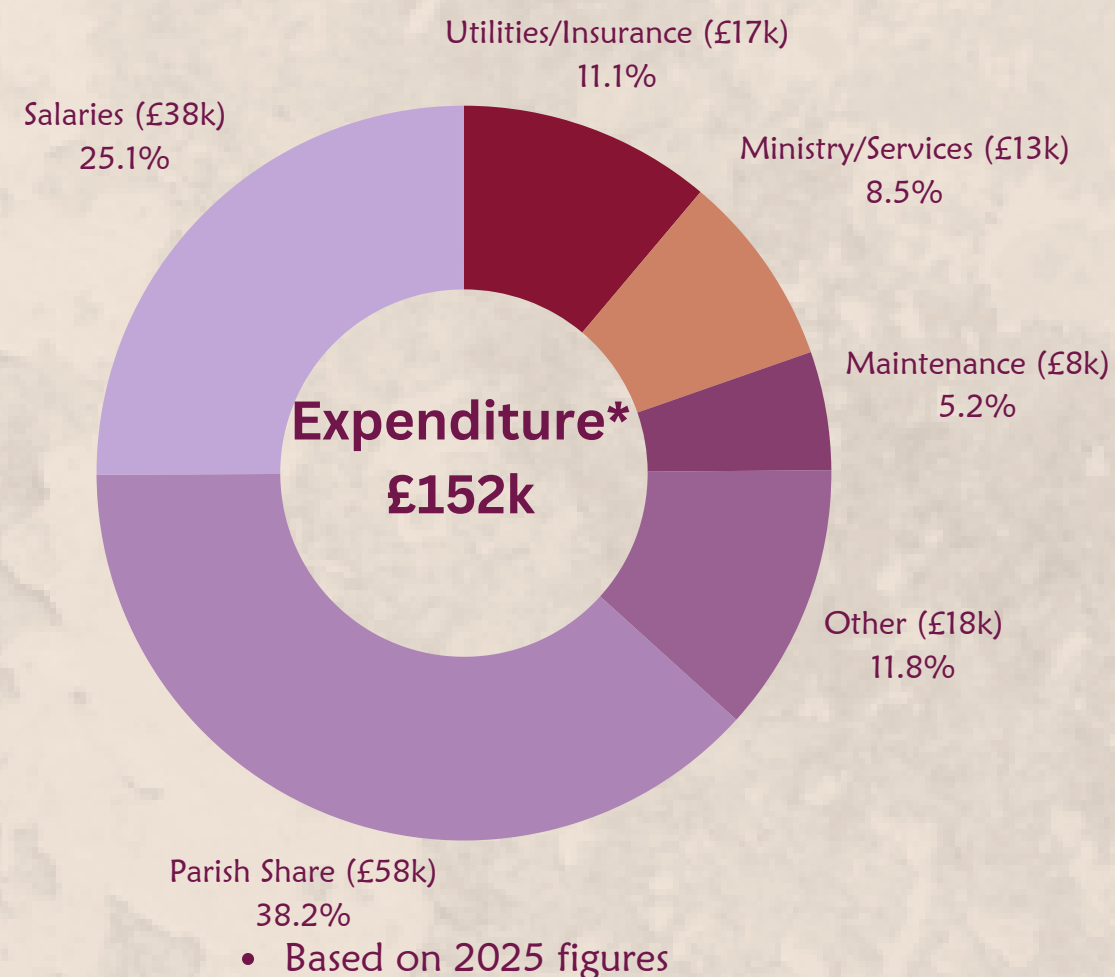
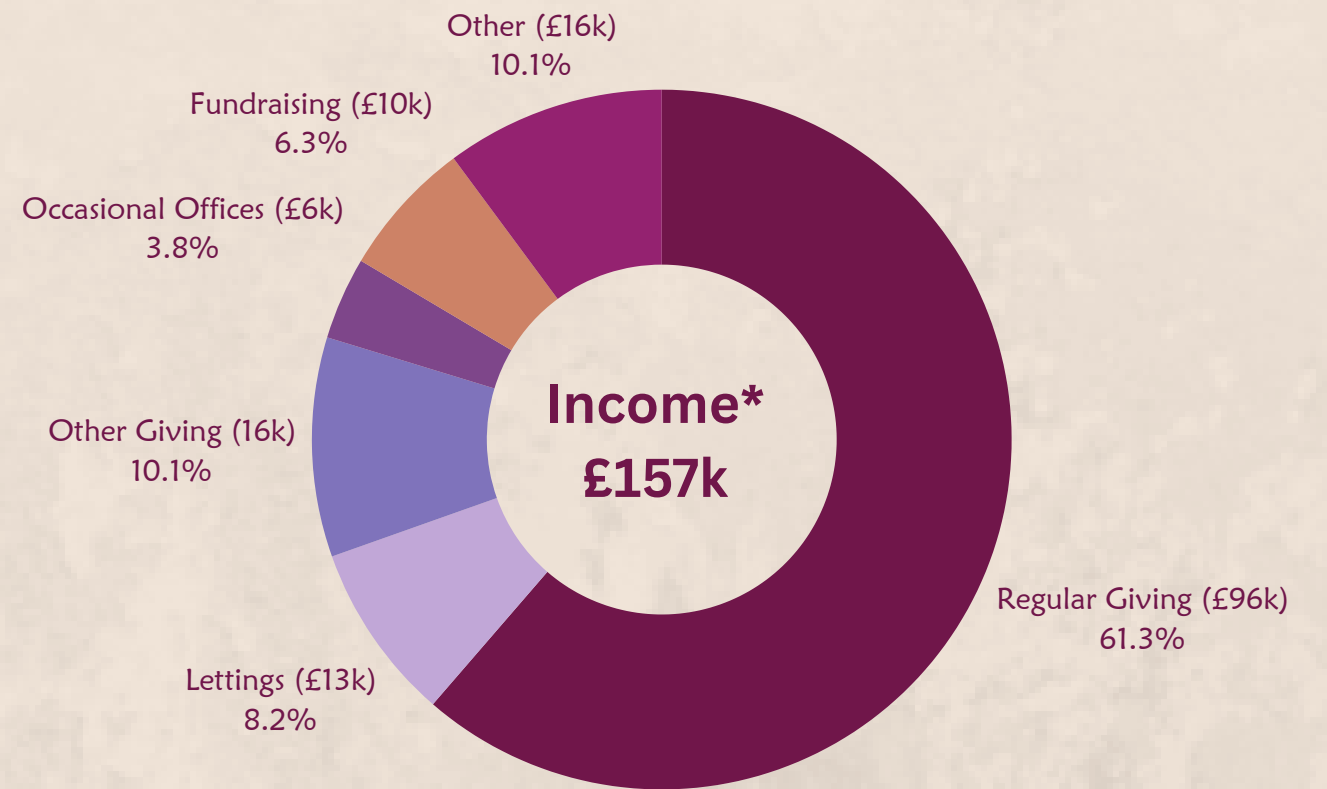
[Click to view our beautiful grounds](#)



19



Holy Trinity, Prestwood Finances



Organisation

Managing day-to-day finances and accounting is handled by our volunteer Treasurer.

Budgeting/longer term financial planning is delegated by the PCC to a Finance Committee. The Budget is approved by the PCC, who have Finance as a strategic agenda item once a year.

Income & Expenditure

Income and Expenditure are circa £157k and £152k respectively. Approximately 61% of income comes from Regular Giving. Roughly 25% of Expenditure is represented by the salaries of our 3 employees and a further 38% by payment of our Parish Share. Matching Income and Expenditure is always a bit of a struggle but we normally get there.

Parish Share

In 2026, the Diocese has allocated £76,500 Parish Share to the Benefice. The parishes have agreed on how this should be split and both parishes are budgeting to meet their full allocation of this Parish Share.

Significant Projects

In 2009, we were left a legacy of £200k to be spent on the buildings. In 2015, we embarked on a church re-ordering project costing £550k, with £320k raised from targeted fundraising. We now have a well-heated, well-lit church with flexible seating, improved kitchen facilities and a disabled toilet, leading to lower maintenance costs and higher rental income.

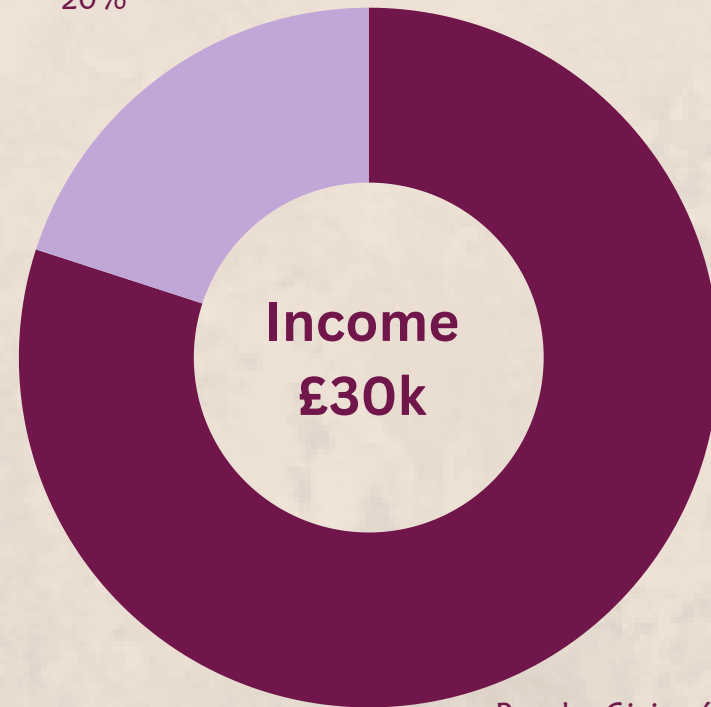
Reserves

We hold £35k of funds in the Repair Fund. This is sufficient to cover a substantial repair without having to have a special appeal first. We hold £100k of funds in the Legacy Fund. We have used this fund to provide seed-funding for new initiatives which we believe will provide significant growth opportunities. This gave us the confidence to recruit a Family Outreach Worker and a Marketing Manager to generate revenue. Both roles are now funded out of our day-to-day income.

[Click to view our Treasurer's Report](#)

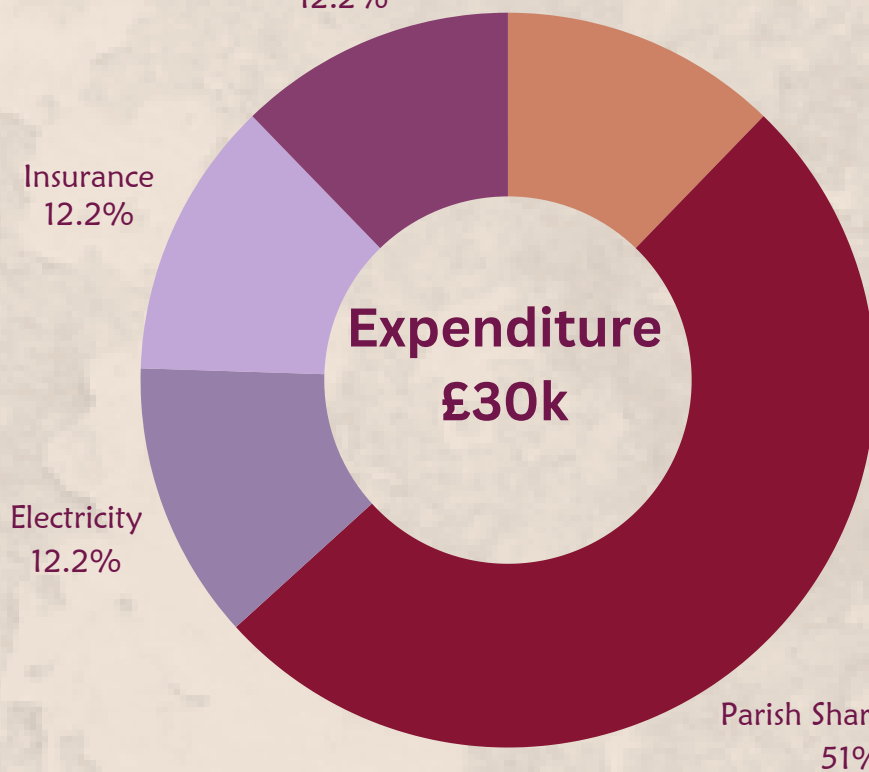
St Mary Magdalene Finances

Fees & Donations (£6k)
20%



Regular Giving (£24k)
80%

Organist 12.2%
Admin Support 12.2%



Parish Share (£15k)
51%

• Based on 2024 figures

Organisation

Accounting and day-to-day financial management is handled by our Treasurer. Financial reports are prepared at the end of June, September and December. A forecast for the coming year is prepared at the end of January.

Significant Projects

In 2019, we embarked upon a major fundraising initiative to finance extensive repairs and improvements to the interior of the church. The project was brought to a halt by the Covid epidemic in 2020/21 and was relaunched in May 2023. The work was completed just before Christmas 2024 at a cost of £372k.

[Click to view our Treasurer's Report](#)

Income & Expenditure

Income and Expenditure in the General Fund are both in the region of £30kpa. Circa 80% of income comes from Regular Giving including Gift Aid. The only other significant income sources are fees and donations. Both are heavily dependent on weddings, the number of which varies greatly from year to year.

Parish Share accounts for approximately 50% of expenditure, with Insurance, Organists, Admin Support and increasingly Electricity the other major cost areas.

In 2026, the Diocese has allocated £76,500 Parish Share to the Benefice. The parishes are agreed on how this should be split and both parishes are budgeting to meet their full allocation of Parish Share.

We maintain a separate Fabric Fund and a separate fund for the maintenance of the grave of a former Rector of the church.

Our Fundraising and Events



Unbound Theatre's "Macbeth"



Aylesbury Consort of Voices



Arts Expo



Flower Festival



Chamber Music Concerts



Autumn Fair



Coronation Fete



Wine Tasting



Horseman's Sunday



Seasonal Craft & Praise



Light Party



Harvest Festival



Remembrance Day



Christingle Making

Where You Will Live

The vicarage is situated within the grounds of Holy Trinity, just a one-minute walk from the church. St Mary Magdalene is a five-minute drive away or a beautiful one-hour walk across the fields.

The house itself is a spacious four-bedroom home, featuring an upright piano in the living room. The garden is of moderate size with a small pond, wildflowers and mature shrubs and trees, including apple and plum. There is a large garage.

Prestwood village offers a range of local amenities, including two convenience stores, a post office, butcher and florist. There are also doctors' and dentists' surgeries, as well as hairdressers and a barber. The village has a hall, and a sports centre which has a gym and tennis courts. You'll find a good selection of pubs, cafés and takeaways, and a small garden centre with a farm shop just a short drive away. For larger shopping needs, the Eden Centre in High Wycombe is only a 15-minute drive. The area is surrounded by beautiful countryside, with many footpaths to explore.



Come and lead us!

What our people say about our Church community



A welcoming community which provides spiritual sanctity

A wonderful team of committed and dedicated volunteers

Proactive and caring

I leave every Sunday feeling renewed and grounded

From the first moment, we felt completely comfortable and at home

It's a place where all ages come together and learn from one another

Outstanding special musical services and concerts

A peaceful church offering quiet order and genuine personal connection

Quality and strength of musicianship

Excellent sermons



Thank you for considering our parish community



Holy Trinity, Prestwood

134 Wycombe Road, Prestwood, Bucks HP16 0DS

htprestwood.org.uk



St Mary Magdalene

Great Hampden, HP16 9RD

greathampden.org.uk



“We seek a spiritual, grounded, inclusive and visionary leader who combines liturgical depth with collaborative leadership, community engagement and strong interpersonal skills, while being adaptable, empathetic and forward-thinking”