The Parish of Hadley Holy Trinity and Wellington Christ Church





One Parish ✠ Working Together

to serve the people of Apley, Hadley, Leegomery, Arleston and South Wellington

2026 Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statement

on behalf of the Trustees
the Parochial Church Council of the Parish
Charity No. 243357

for the Financial Year ended 31st December, 2025

and

Parochial Year ended 30th April, 2026

The Parish of Hadley Holy Trinity and Wellington Christ Church





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Trustees Annual Report for the Parish of Hadley Holy Trinity and Wellington Christ Church

Sunday 17th May, 2026

Scope of Report

In accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and SORP 2006 the trustees of all charities must produce an Annual Report. In the case of a parish, the trustees are the members of the Parochial Church Council.

The report is intended to inform parishioners, and in due course the Charity Commission, of how the church operates, and covers its:

- ✠ objectives and activities
- ✠ achievements and performance
- ✠ financial position

One Parish ~ One Vision Promoting the Gospel and Doctrines of the Church of England

Statutory Information

Charity Name: The Parish of Hadley Holy Trinity and Wellington Christ Church
In the Diocese of Lichfield and Deanery of Telford

Charity No: 243357 (Formerly The Henry Parker Trust)

Vicar: Revd Stuart Howes
Holy Trinity Church Office, Hadley Hollow, Telford, Shropshire TF1 1NX

PCC Secretary: Mrs E Frost
Holy Trinity Church Office, Hadley Hollow, Telford, Shropshire TF1 1NX

PCC Treasurer: Mr N Frost
Holy Trinity Church Office, Hadley Hollow, Telford, Shropshire TF1 1NX

Bankers: Barclays Bank plc
Barclays Servicing Centre, Leicester LE87 2BB

Independent Examiner: Mrs Margaret Parker
Holy Trinity Church Office, Hadley Hollow, Telford, Shropshire TF1 1NX

The Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure, but is excepted by order from registering with the Charity Commission.

Membership: Clergy, Readers, Churchwardens, Lay Ministers, Members of Diocesan Synod and Deanery Synod are ex-officio members

There are 8 elected representatives:

3 each from the congregations of Holy Trinity and Christ Church elected on a 3 year cycle (1 each per year)

2 additional elected for 1 year from either congregation

The Parish of Hadley Holy Trinity and Wellington Christ Church





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Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 17th May, 2026

There will be a Meeting of the Parishioners of the above parish on Sunday 17th May 2026, in the nave at Christ Church immediately following the Parish Eucharist at approximately 10.45 am.

Agenda

1. Opening Prayers
2. Apologies for absence
3. Reception of nominations for the office of Churchwarden
4. Election of Churchwardens

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the above parish will be held on Sunday 17th May 2026, immediately following the Meeting of Parishioners.

Agenda

1. Minutes of the previous Meetings of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 18th May 2025 in the nave at Christ Church.
2. Presentation of the new Electoral Roll for 2025-2031 - Year 2, 2026
3. Election of 4 representatives of the laity to the Parochial Church Council
4. Presentation of a report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council
5. Presentation of a report on the financial affairs of the parish together with the audited accounts for the year ending 31st December 2025
6. Presentation of a report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the parish churches
7. Presentation of a report on the proceedings of the Telford Deanery Synod
8. Appointment of an Independent Examiner to the Parochial Church Council
9. Vicar's Report
10. Presentation of reports on other parish groups and activities
11. Any other matters of parochial or general church interest (notified in advance)
12. Closing Prayers

The Parish of Hadley Holy Trinity and Wellington Christ Church

Minutes of a Meeting of Parishioners of the above parish held on Sunday 18th May 2025 in the Meeting Room at Holy Trinity Church.

1 Opening Prayers

2 Attendance and Apologies for absence

Fr Stuart Howes (Vicar);
Revd H Page;
Mr R Page (APCM Secretary / Lay Chair);
Thelma Davies (Churchwarden)
Ann Jones (Churchwarden)
Lynda Jones (Churchwarden)
Judy Coupland (Churchwarden)

No apologies for absence

3 Vote of Thanks

Fr Stuart expressed his personal thanks, and those of the parish, to Ann Jones and Lynda Jones who served as wardens at Holy Trinity and Judy Coupland and Thelma Davies who served as wardens at Christ Church during the past year.

4 Nominations for the office of Churchwarden

4 nominations were received for the 4 vacancies of Churchwarden:

Holy Trinity:

n	**Mrs A Jones**	**p**	Ms H Elliott	**s**	Mrs Jane Marsh
n	**Mrs L Jones**	**p**	Mrs J Coupland	**s**	Mr K Henderson

Christ Church:

n	**Mrs J Coupland**	**p**	Mr K Lucas	**s**	Mrs T Davies
n	**Mrs T Davies**	**p**	Mr K Henderson	**s**	Mrs S Hanscombe

There being no further nominations, the above nominees were duly declared elected as churchwardens for the ensuing year.

In accordance with the resolution passed at the 2018 Annual Parochial Church Meeting, it was emphasised that although wardens are elected to each of the 2 churches, the expectation is that all 4 wardens work together across the whole parish.

R A Page
APCM Secretary
May 2025

The Parish of Hadley Holy Trinity and Wellington Christ Church

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the above parish held on Sunday 18th May 2025, immediately following the Meeting of Parishioners.

1 Minutes

The minutes of the previous Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 19th May 2024 in the Meeting Room at Holy Trinity, were read and signed as a correct records.

2 Report on the Electoral Roll

Mr R. Page, Electoral Roll Officer, presented the new Electoral Roll for the parish 2025-2031 (Year 1). There are 92 persons on the Roll, there being 60 Resident and 32 Non Resident in the parish; of these, 37 worship at Holy Trinity and 55 at Christ Church. There were no additions and no removals from the previous year.

Thanks were expressed to Mr R. Page for maintaining and presenting the Electoral Roll.

3 Election of representatives of the laity to the Parochial Church Council:

Mrs Rebecca Billingham, Mrs Delyth Franks, Mrs Sue Hanscombe, Mrs Gillian Henderson retired from the PCC by rotation. All were thanked for their contribution during their elected terms.

6 nominations were received for the 4 vacancies. The following names were nominated: Leah Tench-Hughes, Lesley Savage, Jane Marsh, Sue Hanscombe, Rebecca Billingham and Martin Scholes. A vote took place, after which by agreement, the following were elected for the following terms:

Holy Trinity:

n	**Mrs R Billingham**	(3 years)	**p**	Mrs P Ashworth	**s**	Mrs R Walker

Christ Church:

n	**Mrs Sue Hanscombe**	(3 years)	**p**	Mrs C Wood	**s**	Mr A Hatton

Additional:

n	**Mrs L Savage**	(1 year)	**p**	Mrs P Ashworth	**s**	Mrs L Jones
n	**Mrs L Tench-Hughes**	(1 year)	**p**	Mrs A Jones	**s**	Mrs S Tench-Hughes

4 Election of Sidesmen:

Those persons who acted as sidesmen during the preceding year were thanked for their service in this most important role.

In accordance with Church Representation Rules 2020 Rule M6, the annual meeting may not appoint sidesmen; the duty to do so is imposed on the PCC by section 2(2)(f) of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. The Churchwardens were therefore asked, on behalf of the PCC, to produce rotas of those members of the congregation prepared to act as sidesmen for the forthcoming year.

5 Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council:

The PCC Secretary's report on the proceedings of the PCC during the previous year was presented. Thanks were expressed on behalf of the meeting to Mrs L Frost for her work as PCC Secretary during the previous year, and to Mr R Page for overseeing the secretarial …/… work

associated with the Annual Meeting.

(The full text of the report is published in the 2025 APCM Trustees Report booklet)

6 Report on the financial affairs of the parish, and presentation of audited accounts:

Mr N Frost presented the audited accounts for Holy Trinity and Christ Church for the financial year ended 31st December 2024. On the proposal of Mr M Scholes, seconded by Mr K Henderson, the accounts were unanimously accepted..

The chairman, on behalf of the parish, thanked Mr N Frost and Mr S Jones for their work as Treasurer and Gift Aid Secretary, respectively. Those who act as tellers and count on a weekly basis were also thanked for their help.

(A copy of the audited accounts is published in the 2025 APCM Trustees Report booklet)

7 Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the parish:

The Churchwardens' reports for Christ Church and Holy Trinity were circulated in the APCM Trustees Report.

Thanks were expressed to all those members of the parish who help clean and maintain our buildings.

(The full text of the report is published in the 2025 APCM Trustees Report booklet)

8 Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod:

Mr R Page, Deanery Lay Chair, presented a report on the proceedings of the Telford Deanery Synod.

(The full text of the report is published in the 2025 APCM Trustees Report booklet)

9 Appointment of an Independent Examiner to the Parochial Church Council:

Mrs Margaret Parker has agreed to act as our Independent Examiner for the ensuing year. Her appointment was proposed by Mrs S Hanscombe, seconded by Mrs P Ashworth, and agreed unanimously.

10 Vicar's Report:

Fr Stuart thanked the parish for the support he has received during the past twelve months.

(The full text of the report is published in the 2025 APCM Trustees Report booklet)

11 Any Other Matters of parochial or general church interest:

Reports were presented on groups and activities.

(The full text of the reports is published in the 2025 APCM Trustees Report booklet)

There being no further business, the meeting closed with the Grace at 11.15 am.

R A Page
APCM Secretary
May 2025

The Parish of Hadley Holy Trinity and Wellington Christ Church

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to serve the people of Apley, Hadley, Leegomery, Arleston and South Wellington

Parochial Church Council 2025 - 2026
Record of Attendance for representatives

Name	Membership Codes	02 Jun 25	21 Jul 25	22 Sep 25	24 Nov 25	26 Jan 26	23 Mar 26
Fr Stuart Howes	Vicar	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Revd Heather Page	Co	✓	✓	Ap	Ap	Ap	Ap
Pauline Ashworth	HT E 3/3	✓	Ap	Ap	✓	✓	✓
Rebecca Gregory	HT E 1/3	✓	Ap	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jo Cartwright-Briggs	FM	Ap				✓	✓
Judy Coupland	CC CW	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Thelma Davies	CC CW	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Carrie-Ann Ecclestone	CC E 2/3	Ap	✓				
Lis Frost	HT E 2/3 S	✓	✓	Ap	✓	✓	✓
Nick Frost	Co T	✓	✓	Ap	✓	✓	✓
Sue Hanscombe	CC E 1/3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ann Jones	HT CW DeS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lynda Jones	HT CW DeS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kevin Lucas	CC E 3/3	✓		Ap			
Richard Page	L O DeS/DiS	✓	Ap	✓	Ap	Ap	Ap
Lesley Savage	Add E 1/1	✓	✓	Ap	✓	✓	✓
Leah Tench-Hughes	Add E 1/1	✓	Ap	✓	✓	✓	✓

PCC Membership Codes: ✓ = Present; Ap = Apologies

Church: CC = Christ Church; HT = Holy Trinity; Add = Additional

Ex-officio: CW = Churchwarden; R = Reader; FM = Funeral Minister

DeS = Deanery Synod; DiS = Diocesan Synod

Elected: E = Elected; n/n = Year of *n* year term (1 or 3 years)

Co-opted: Co = Co-opted (1 year term)

Officers: S = Secretary; T = Treasurer; L = Lay Chair; O = Electoral Roll Officer

Electoral Roll 2025 – 2031

Year 2 ~ 2026

Produced in accordance with Rule M5(1)(a)
of the Church Representation Rules

Total:	**90**
Resident:	**58**
Non-Resident:	**32**
Holy Trinity:	**38**
Christ Church:	**52**

S Howes
Temp Electoral Roll Officer
Version 26.1 26-April-26

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Synodical Government Measure 1969

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL CERTIFICATE

Parish of Hadley Holy Trinity & Wellington Christ Church

in the deanery of Telford

and the diocese of Lichfield

I hereby certify that the number of names entered upon the church electoral roll of the above parish, as revised in preparation for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in the year 2026 was 90

Date 26.4.2026 Signed Stuart Howes

Temporary Electoral Roll Officer

Note:

This form may be used to fulfil requirements under Rule 10 of the Church Representation Rules, that the chair, vice-chair, secretary or church electoral roll officer of a PCC must, no later than 1 July in each year, give the secretary of the diocesan synod written notification of the number of names there are on the roll of the parish as at the date of the annual parochial church meeting.

A Report on the Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council for the Parochial Year 2025 - 2026

Produced in accordance with Rule M5(1)(b) of the Church Representation Rules

Throughout the year, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Hadley Holy Trinity and Wellington Christ Church convened six times, with standing committee meetings in between. Representing both congregations as One Parish, the PCC brings together members from each church. Its meetings have provided a forum for wide-ranging discussion, supported by careful and prayerful discernment, to sustain every aspect of parish life.

Fr Stuart Howes has continued to faithfully serve the parish alongside Rev Heather Page, Rev David Shinton and our funerals minister Jo Cartwright-Briggs. We have started to witness growth in many areas, serving a wider variety of people, with new groups starting and a wonderful confirmation service. We have continued to be blessed through the ministry of ordinands, with Laurina Rushworth who will be leaving us soon, to start life as vicar of her own parish.

Our church wardens continue to work hard for the parish, supported by officers and members of the PCC.

Buildings

Churchwardens have taken steps to keep both church buildings in good condition, for example, cleaning of guttering, servicing of boilers and fire extinguishers, repair to the ceiling in Holy Trinity, repair to the back step at Christ Church and brass plates fitted to the inner wooden doors at Christ Church to help preserve the stained glass in the panels. A solution to ongoing issues with electrics at Holy Trinity is being actively sought.

Heating of the buildings can now be operated remotely via an app, which means this can be used much more efficiently.

Finance

Nick, the treasurer, has worked hard this year to manage the accounts, and to ensure the PCC has been fully aware of the financial status at all times. Gift Aid payments were received and several very successful and imaginative fund-raising events took place, all of which contributed to a healthier bank balance as the year progressed. Nick has continued to seek the best deals for utilities. Our Energy Footprint has been assessed and forwarded to the Diocese.

The Common Fund (parish share) was paid in full for 2025.

Jacob Tilsley Curtis has taken on management of the fees account.

Growth & Pastoral Care

Work in our local schools has continued throughout the year with several classes visiting the churches for ‘Experience’ events.

Our funerals minister, Jo Cartwright-Briggs, has been formally re-approved by the PCC to continue her important ministry.

At the start of the year Rev Heather Page was appointed Safeguarding Officer with Sam Tench-Hughes and Hazel Elliott supporting. Going forward, there will be a new Safeguarding Officer for each church, Hazel Elliott and Jo Tilsley-Curtis will be taking on these roles.

Other

All PCC members have undergone safeguarding training and DBS certification.

September’s Ride and Stride Day was supplemented by listing us on the Heritage Open Day website too.

The PCC and congregation have continued to support a range of successful fundraising and social events throughout the year. Plans are already in place for future activities to maintain this positive momentum, encouraging fellowship among church members and the wider community. These efforts are vital in raising our profile and strengthening our support for those living within our parish.

PCC members had their annual “Hopes and Dreams” meeting at the start of 2026 where ideas and plans for the future were shared. Some of these have already come to fruition, like Trinity Tots, and others will follow in due course.

Elisabeth Frost, PCC Secretary: 10 April 2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Independent Examiner's Report

To the PCC Christ Church Wellington with Holy Trinity Hadley

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December, 2025 is in respect of an examination carried out under Regulation 3 (3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act).

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43 (2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.43 (7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations form you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
   - to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met: or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

M E Parker

Mrs Margaret Parker

13 Oakfield Park

Much Wenlock

TF13 6HQ

11th March, 2026

End of Year Financial Statements
Year ending 31st December 2025

Produced on behalf of the Trustees (Parochial Church Council) of the parish, and in accordance with Rule M5(1)(c) of the Church Representation Rules.

Receipts and Payments Account

	Total funds	Prior year funds
Dev - Development Fund (Restricted)		
Brought forward balance	—	—
Carried forward balance	—	—
General - General fund (Unrestricted)		
Receipts		
Planned giving		
0101 - Gift Aid - Bank	9,440	10,765
0110 - Gift Aid - Envelopes	2,642	2,911
0201 - Other planned giving	7,324	2,253
Total Planned giving	*19,407*	*15,930*
Collections and other giving		
0301 - Loose plate collections	2,860	3,370
0302 - Loose plate fundraising	—	81
0501 - One-off Gift Aid gifts	15,174	12,563
0502 - One off fundraising	5,243	2,012
Total Collections and other giving	*23,277*	*18,026*
Other voluntary receipts		
0550 - Donations appeals etc	5,973	5,107
0551 - One off fundraising	7,908	4,553
0701 - Legacies	2,500	—
08A1 - Non-recurring one-off grants	1,050	—
Total Other voluntary receipts	*17,430*	*9,660*
Gift Aid recovered		
0601 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	14,267	8,544
Total Gift Aid recovered	*14,267*	*8,544*
Other receipts		
0901 - Other funds generated	500	7,434
Total Other receipts	*500*	*7,434*
Activities for generating funds		
0911 - Fund raising Donations	—	11
1240 - Church hall lettings - fund raising	7,533	5,138
Total Activities for generating funds	*7,533*	*5,149*
Investment Income		
1020 - Bank and building society interest	16	193
Total Investment Income	*16*	*193*
Receipts from church activities		
1101 - Fees for weddings and funerals	4,026	6,445
Total Receipts from church activities	*4,026*	*6,445*
Total Receipts	**86,456**	**71,380**

The Parish of Hadley Holy Trinity and Wellington Christ Church



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to serve the people of Apley, Hadley, Leegomery, Arleston and South Wellington

End of Year Financial Statements
Year ending 31st December 2025

Produced on behalf of the Trustees (Parochial Church Council) of the parish, and in accordance with Rule M5(1)(c) of the Church Representation Rules.

Payments			
Cost of generating funds			
1730 - Costs of fetes & other events		552	639
	Total Cost of generating funds	*552*	*639*
Missionary and Charitable Giving			
1801 - Charities		597	685
1850 - Outreach/Mission		1,330	4,873
	Total Missionary and Charitable Giving	*1,927*	*5,558*
Common Fund			
1910 - Ministry parish share / Common Fund		34,729	33,075
	Total Parish Share	*34,729*	*33,075*
Clergy and Staffing costs			
2001 - Assistant staff costs		15	55
2101 - Clergy expenses		1,073	1,348
	Total Clergy and Staffing costs	*1,088*	*1,403*
Church Running Expenses			
2301 - Church running - insurance		5,725	5,608
2310 - Church office - telephone		1,433	1,192
2320 - Organ / piano tuning		—	125
2330 - Church maintenance		2,992	10,895
2331 - Cleaning		76	87
2340 - Upkeep of services		3,220	3,488
2350 - Upkeep of churchyard		—	53
2360 - Administration		4,635	4,908
2401 - Church running - electric		3,293	3,348
2410 - Church running - gas		7,065	10,954
2420 - Church running - water		961	467
	Total Church Running Expenses	*29,402*	*41,125*
Hall Running Costs			
2560 - Hall running - maintenance		1,013	—
	Total Hall Running Costs	*1,013*	—
Governance Costs			
1741 - Recharge to HHT & WCC Fees		—	496
	Total Governance Costs	—	*496*
Total Payments		**68,711**	**82,295**
Excess of Receipts over Payments		17,745	(10,915)
Brought forward balance		9,790	20,705
	Carried forward balance	**27,534**	**9,790**
Res - Restoration Account (Restricted)			
Brought forward balance		—	—
	Carried forward balance	—	—

End of Year Financial Statements
Year ending 31st December 2025

Produced on behalf of the Trustees (Parochial Church Council) of the parish, and in accordance with Rule M5(1)(c) of the Church Representation Rules.

Balance sheet

	Total funds	Prior year funds
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	28,741	10,763
	28,741	**10,763**
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	1,080	848
	1,080	**848**
Net current assets less current liabilities	**27,660**	**9,915**
Total assets less current liabilities	**27,660**	**9,915**
Total net assets less liabilities	**27,660**	**9,915**
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
General fund	27,534	9,790
Restricted		
Development Fund	—	—
Agency collection	126	126
Restoration Account	—	—
Funds of the church	**27,660**	**9,915**

End of Year Financial Statements
Year ending 31st December 2025

Produced on behalf of the Trustees (Parochial Church Council) of the parish, and in accordance with Rule M5(1)(c) of the Church Representation Rules.

Statement of assets and liabilities

	This year	Last year
Cash at bank and in hand		
Bank current account		
Agency collection (Restricted)	1,279	1,047
Development Fund (Restricted)	2,968	2,968
General fund (Unrestricted)	15,016	3,651
Restoration Account (Restricted)	1,962	1,962
	21,225	**9,627**
Bank deposit account		
Agency collection (Restricted)	(73)	(73)
Development Fund (Restricted)	(2,968)	(2,968)
General fund (Unrestricted)	12,518	6,139
Restoration Account (Restricted)	(1,962)	(1,962)
	7,515	**1,136**
Total for Cash at bank and in hand	**28,741**	**10,763**
Debtors		
Accounts Receivable		
General fund (Unrestricted)	—	—
	—	—
Total for Debtors	—	—
Agency accounts		
Agency collections		
Agency collection (Restricted)	(1,080)	(848)
	(1,080)	**(848)**
Total for Agency accounts	**(1,080)**	**(848)**
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year		
Accounts Payable		
General fund (Unrestricted)	—	—
Total for Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	—	—
Grand total	**27,660**	**9,915**

This report dated 21/03/2026
Nicholas Frost - Treasurer

End of Year Financial Statements
Year ending 31st December 2025

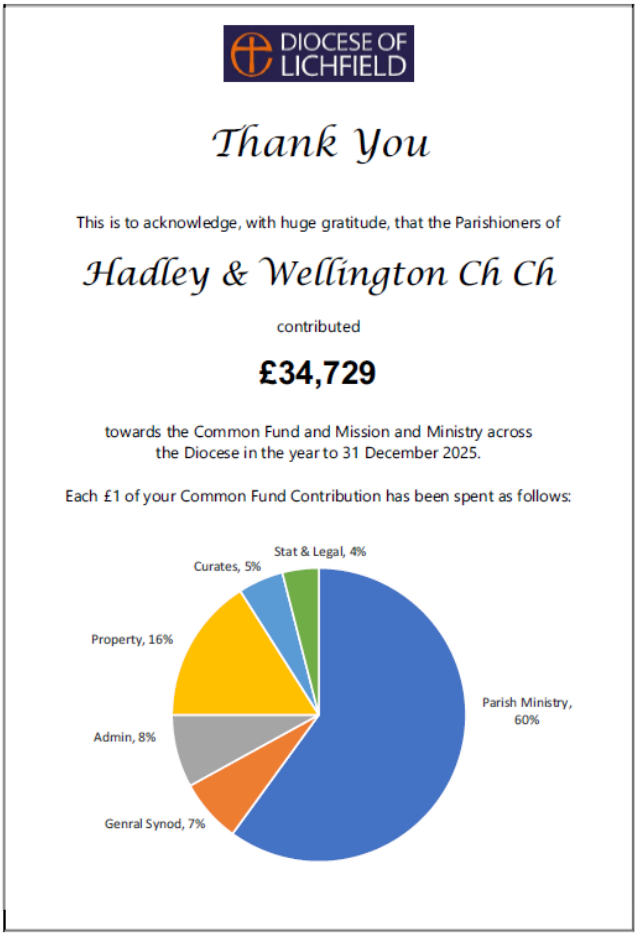
Produced on behalf of the Trustees (Parochial Church Council) of the parish, and in accordance with Rule M5(1)(c) of the Church Representation Rules.

Statement of Common Fund Contributions 2025 (formerly known as Parish Share)

2025 Assessed Contribution	**£34,729**
Contributions in 2025	**£34,729**

The requested full contribution of £34,729 was therefore met in full. Lichfield Diocese Board of Finance have said "we would like to personally thank all the parishes for their con-tribution towards the payment of the Common Fund over the last year. This has enabled the Diocese to continue supporting our parish-es.

The 2026 Assessed Contribution is £34,729.



Statutory and Local Fees for Occasional Services 2025

In addition to PCC accounts, the parish maintains a Fees Account under the jurisdiction of the churchwardens. This account is used to collect all Statutory and Local Fees from Funerals and Weddings (Service, Banns, Verger, Organist, heating, etc.) and redistributes these as appropriate on a quarterly basis. There are no fees charged for baptisms.

There were 34 Funerals conducted in the parish during 2025. Of these, 18 were held at Holy Trinity and 8 at Christ Church. The remainder were either conducted at the Telford or Shrewsbury Crematoriums, or at the graveside in Wellington or Hadley Cemeteries.

There was 1 Wedding and 1 Wedding Blessing conducted in 2025.

Away Banns were requested by 2 couples.

The total fees received by the Parochial Church Council were £4267 (2024 £4405), of which, £2818 were received from funerals (2025 £3825) and £1449 from weddings and banns (2024 £505).

Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance received a total of £5107 in statutory fees (2024 £5831), of which, £4119 were from funerals (2024 £5590) and £988 from weddings (2024 £241).

There were 11 baptisms conducted in the parish during 2025 (2024 8). Of these, 8 were held at Holy Trinity and 3 at Christ Church.

R Page (c/o S Howes)
on behalf of the Churchwardens
May 2026

Supported Charity Donations 2025

We have sent the following donations, received with grateful thanks:

Alzheimer's Society	£ 111
Christians Against Poverty	£ 98
Christian Aid	£ 29
East Shropshire Talking Newspaper	£ 92
The Samaritans (Telford)	£ 88
Severn Hospice	£ 102
The Mothers' Union	£ 83

We have also received donations for use with the parish Hope Fund and Let's Meet Together.

Weekly Mission Collection: The PCC determines the list of supported charities based on:

1 International	Christian Aid
2 National	Alzheimer's Society Mothers' Union
4 Local	East Shropshire Talking Newspaper, The Samaritans (Telford) Severn Hospice
	Christians Against Poverty
	The parish Hope Fund

The parish has also supported:

Short Wood Share, The Ukraine appeal,

The Children's Society (via collecting boxes held by members of the congregation).
Royal British Legion from the poppy plaques £200

Shropshire Historic Churches Trust £272 re Ride and Stride

A donation of £50 was sent to Guide Dogs following a church talk.

The list and calendar for 2025 may be found on the following page..

N Frost, Treasurer April 2026

2026 Mission and Charity Collection Calendar

04-Jan-25	CAP (Telford)
11-Jan-25	
18-Jan-25	
25-Jan-25	
01-Feb-25	East Shropshire Talking Newspaper
08-Feb-25	
15-Feb-25	
22-Feb-25	
01-Mar-25	Alzheimer's Society
08-Mar-25	
15-Mar-25	
22-Mar-25	
29-Mar-25	Samaritans (Telford)
05-Apr-25	
12-Apr-25	
19-Apr-25	
26-Apr-25	Hope Fund
03-May-25	
10-May-25	Christian Aid
17-May-25	
24-May-25	Severn Hospice (Telford)
31-May-25	
07-Jun-25	
14-Jun-25	
21-Jun-25	Mothers' Union
28-Jun-25	

05-Jul-25	Mothers' Union
12-Jul-25	
19-Jul-25	CAP (Telford)
26-Jul-25	
02-Aug-25	
09-Aug-25	
16-Aug-25	East Shropshire Talking Newspaper
23-Aug-25	
30-Aug-25	
06-Sep-25	
13-Sep-25	Alzheimer's Society
20-Sep-25	
27-Sep-25	
04-Oct-25	
11-Oct-25	Samaritans (Telford)
18-Oct-25	
25-Oct-25	
01-Nov-25	
08-Nov-25	Severn Hospice (Telford)
15-Nov-25	
22-Nov-25	
29-Nov-25	
06-Dec-25	Mothers' Union
13-Dec-25	
20-Dec-25	
27-Dec-25	

v26.1 Published 24-Nov-25

Churchwarden's Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the parish churches for Parochial Year 2025-26

Produced in accordance with Rule M5(1)(b) of the Church Representation Rules and section 50 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018

Order and Maintenance of the Church and Grounds

Holy Trinity:

- Gas boiler and cooker serviced.
- Maintenance of fire extinguishers
- Gra-Bern Electrical Ltd have investigated and given advice on reasons for the church experiencing regular tripping on the circuit board.
- Work completed on replacing and painting the ceiling in the main body of the church.
- Outside roof tiles replace
- Gutterings cleared.
- Hadley and Leegomery Parish Council continue to maintain the church grounds.
- Setting up of 'Trinity Gardening Club'

Pending

- PAT testing.
- Repair/Assessment to bell rope.
- Assessment/repair of damp in Lady Chapel.
- Further investigation of cause of the circuit board tripping to be undertaken.

Christ Church

- Gutterings cleared.
- Maintenance of fire extinguishers
- New socket outlet in the kitchen
- Investigation regarding the damaged stained-glass panels in the vestibule door.
- Back step repaired by Judy and Ian Coupland
- Major repairs to external cellar hatch carried out by Judy and Ian Coupland.
- Telford and Wrekin Council continue to maintain the church grounds.

Pending

- PAT testing.
- Repair of Church bell.
- Gas boiler to be serviced.
- Further thought on how best to manage the damaged stained-glass panels in vestibule door.
- West end portion of roof flashing is displaced..

Thank You

 To Father Stuart Howes, Father David Shinton, Revd Heather Page and Laurina Rushworth

for the loving leadership experienced at one Parish through their individual ministries.

 Jo Cartwright-Briggs for her dedicated role as Lay Funeral Minister.

 Our Parish Administrator, Richard Page for his hard work and efficiency in the oversight and running of One Parish and to Martin Scholes for his assistance in processing Church Fees.

 Nick Frost for his hard work and diligence as our Treasurer
 Lis Frost for her time, effort and dedication as Secretary to the PCC.
 Our organists Ann Jones and Carrie Ecclestone for their musical talents.
 Our singing group which adds an extra dimension to our worship.
 All our sides persons for their work and dedication.
 Judy Coupland for her dedicated work as Co-Ordinator of the Funeral Team and her assistants Del, Kevin and Jo.
 Sue Hanscombe for co-ordinating the much valued and enjoyable 'Let's Meet Together' group.
 Molly Pound for organising the greatly appreciated Fellowship Group.
 Jeanette Stanworth for running the Christ Church kitchen 'Tea and Toast'
 For the generous donations enabling a variety of new purchases to be made within One Parish.
 The flower teams who do such great work keeping our churches beautiful.
 Our intercessors, readers, chalice assistants, counters who make our services so special.
 For the reverent role of our Servers Kevin Lucas and Carrie-Ann Wood.
 All those who provided refreshments and catering, whether the much appreciated regular after service refreshments, Wednesday 'Tea and Toast ', our appetising monthly Breakfast Church and tempting Cake Sundays or special events Parish Meal and Italian Evening.
 Our dedicated cleaning teams at both Worship Centres for keeping them sparkling.
 To Del and Dalton for looking after the Remembrance Garden.
 To our Gift Aid Secretary Steve Jones for his time and commitment to ensuring One Parish makes the most of its regular giving.

If we have missed anyone from the list of those we have to thank, we are sorry and don't mean to offend, but you are thanked and enormously so it is a testament to our church community that there are so many we must thank for their hard work, dedication and Christian spirit over the year, that we may have overlooked some names; but thanks to you all.

Judy Coupland
Thelma Davies
Ann Jones
Lynda Jones

A Report on the proceedings of the Telford Deanery Synod for the Parochial Year 2025 - 2026

Produced in accordance with Rule M5(1)(e) of the Church Representation Rules

This year is the third of the triennium. Our parish representatives are Mrs Ann Jones, Mrs Lynda Jones and Mr Richard Page.

It has been decided that all meetings will be held jointly with Edgmond and Shifnal Deanery for the foreseeable future.

The Parochial year started with a social at **Holy Trinity Church Hadley** on **10th July 2025**. Grace was said by Rev Dr Tom Atfield before a magnificent spread was enjoyed by all. Our thanks go to our very own Lesley and Leah for providing a feast that was the envy of the deanery!

Telford Deanery Synod (with Edgmond & Shifnal)

Meeting held: 23 October 2025, Holy Trinity, Wrockwardine Wood

The meeting opened with worship, led by Fr. Stuart Howes, followed by his formal licensing as Rural Dean, conducted by the Archdeacon.

A key theme of the meeting was **mission and community engagement**, with a strong encouragement for churches to support local schools, particularly during Advent and Christmas, and to consider involvement in governance roles.

Fr. Stuart outlined his vision for the coming year, including plans to build relationships across the deaneries through **joint gatherings**, such as a meeting in April (focused on mental health), a summer social event, and a further meeting in October.

A significant administrative decision was made regarding **Deanery bank accounts**. Due to banking challenges, it was agreed to close the accounts and distribute the remaining funds to **Telford Crisis** and the **Royal British Legion**, with both Synods voting in favour.

The meeting also included a presentation from Sarah Thorpe, Diocesan Dementia Friendly Church Enabler. She highlighted the importance of understanding dementia as a condition affecting the whole person, not just memory, and encouraged churches to become more supportive and inclusive. Practical guidance was offered on communication, pastoral care, and the development of dementia-friendly initiatives, alongside the value of shared learning through church networks.

The meeting concluded with thanks to the speaker and the sharing of the Grace.

Telford Deanery Synod (with Edgmond & Shifnal)

Meeting held: 28 April 2026, St Michael and All Angels Church Lilleshall.

The meeting began with worship led by Fr Stuart Howes, Ann Jones and Rev Ellie Cheetham-Wilkinson.

We welcomed our guest speaker, Rev David Sims, Vicar of St Thomas Aldridge who spoke about his life as the “TikTok” Vicar. We heard how he uses the platform to engage with people, not just in the local community, but around the world about his faith. This also is beneficial for use at Parish level and David spoke to us about how easy it is to use, how this can be implemented for growth in faith and number. We also heard how his church has sent out over 3,000 bibles after one of his videos went viral overnight, where he offered a free bible to anyone who asked, and the testimonies that have come from that. This was followed by a Q&A session.

Fr Stuart fed back to synod that Telford’s bank account was still active and that it was a priority to close it before the next meeting.

We also prayed at the end for Geoff, the admin of Edgmond and Shifnal who had just undergone an operation, and for the repose of the soul of Fr Herbert who had served at Holy Trinity, Oakengates for many years.

Finally we acknowledged the work of Richard Page as Deanery Lay Chair over many years. His funeral had taken place that day and the meeting ended in prayer for those three things.

Vicar's Report
for the Parochial Year 2025 - 2026

Produced in accordance with Rule M5(1)(e)
of the Church Representation Rules

It may seem strange, but sitting down to write this report every year is one of the most joyful things I do. Why? Because it's a chance to look back on the previous year at the many things we've enjoyed together, to reflect on them and look forward to the coming year and all that it has in store for us.

As always, there was plenty of engagement with our local schools. It's such a privilege as a church to be given the chance to tell the youngsters in our parish (and their teachers) about God's love. We've spoken to children of all ages at the usual times of year, Christmas and Easter, but we've also seen an increase in the children coming into church at other times. As always, I was grateful to Rev Heather for her help with the VERY little children. She has such a calling to that age group and if you've never seen them curled up at her feet while she reads them a story, you're missing out!

Some of you enjoyed the luxury of Short Wood's pupils showing you their skills with Mendi art and then even got your own (temporary!) tattoo from one of the staff. Whether it's one of the "Experience" events or any other schools work, we rely heavily on volunteers. Would you like to spend more time with the children of this parish? Why not volunteer next time the children are in?

Speaking of volunteers, hasn't it been wonderful to see the creation of the Trinity Gardening Club? Being the gardening expert that I am, (hang on, I'm not allowed to tell fibs on these things am I?) being someone who avoids gardening at all costs it's been lovely to see so many people take pride in the church yard at Holy Trinity and meet regularly to make it look beautiful. Hasn't it made a difference? Thanks to all who take part in that and a special thanks to Paul for his passion in organising it.

Christ Church has seen its own "new growth" with the addition of two new servers. Jennifer who has joined our amazing team of worship leaders, as well as Dalton, have been put through their paces by Carrie and I'm sure you'll agree they've done brilliantly. There is nothing more joyful than someone coming forward to live out their faith in a way they want to. So if you feel called to serve at the altar, why not give it a go. Carrie is very gentle I promise!

Our monthly service at Sandstone Court is still going strong. It's become its own worshipping community over the past year. They even have their own hymn books there. There are so many people that now feel a part of this parish, not only because they attend that service but because people from this parish attend too. It's a chance to catch up with old (or should I say familiar) faces as well as meet new ones, some of which have been on our prayer list for years.

Sadly this year our lovely Molly decided that, after many years of dedication, it was time to call it a day on our Fellowship Group. The bible tells us that for everything there is a season, and the Fellowship group has brought a lot of people together over a number of years.

I want to put on record my thanks to Molly for her hard work in running that group and we wish her well in her well earned rest!

It's with sadness that as I look back, I reflect on the members of our church who have died since my last report. Firstly of course, Terry McGill. Or should I say Terry "Two Combs" McGill as I learned he was called when I came to take his funeral. Terry was someone we knew through our lovely Sue who told us all about him, so it was with great joy when we got to meet the man himself when he started coming to church. Towards the end of his life he started coming up for communion to receive a blessing. This brought me great joy. Job done!

Then of course there was Esther Fryer. Known for her beautiful singing voice and (as Mrs Vicar would often say) being very glamourous. I used to love to listen to her and Mike talk about their time together in choirs. They loved to talk about it. At her funeral we heard a recording of her son playing piano and her granddaughter singing, so it obviously runs in the family. Her singing is very much missed at Christ Church. The rest of you need to make up for it!

Then there is David Coleman. Or "Simnel Cake Man" as he was also known. I loved the way David said the responses in the service so boldly. It proved someone was paying attention. My favourite memory of him was how he'd make little remarks as he walked past me at the back of church if he didn't like the hymns. Despite the rotten hymns, he was a very faithful member of this parish, coming to Holy Trinity after he'd finished ringing the bells at All Saints. He also led a fascinating life in the RAF which I found out about when I took him home communion towards the end of his life.

Who could forget our "cheeky Chappie" Bernard Hansell. He sadly died very suddenly which came as a shock to us all. A bit of a karaoke king and always had a story to tell, he brought a lot of happiness to us, especially over coffee at the end of the service. As I reflected at his funeral, I was never more proud of Bernard than when he volunteered to join the reading team. Reading in public isn't something that came naturally to him, but again this is someone living out their faith, something that comes in many forms. Every time he read he brought a smile to my face and it's something I'll never forget.

And then of course there's Richard who died in Holy Week this year. I'd known Richard for many years before I became his parish Priest so there is a lot to say about him! I'll try and keep it short by reflecting on a man who gave his entire skill set to the life of this parish. We talk about being bold in our faith, living it out in the open, but actually, most of what Richard did was behind closed doors. When it comes to running a church there's lots of things that aren't very appealing and some would even label as "dull". Not Richard of course. He thrived in front of a screen and ran the "other side" of church life with great skill and dedication. However, the truth of the matter is that all those jobs can be replaced, but there will only be one Richard and it's HIM we'll miss most of all.

Please keep Heather, Lynn, Sue, Mike and Judy in your prayers.

I'd like to end on a happy note and to reflect on what an amazing Easter Sunday we had. Holy Week, as I've reflected in the past many times, is nothing without people. It's a journey, and taking the journey alone just won't cut it, so I want to thank all of you who attended all those services. But Easter Sunday…wow! The Breakfast was superb as always, my thanks go to Leah and the team for that. The worship was amazing. I know for some of you Breakfast Church is a challenge, but seeing people there who wouldn't normally come filled my heart. There was such a great sense of joy, which is all that is required. Not choreographed perfection, just pure joy as we recall our salvation in the risen Jesus. Something we can do EVERY Sunday! So thank you for making your Vicar happy.

A special mention should go to our wonderful singing group. They meet every Monday and especially for those who have been at work all day it can be a challenge, but the way they have enhanced our worship over the years, and not less this year is appreciated by so many of you. Why not join them?

As I do every year, I must thank our brilliant warden team, not because I have to but because they are simply the best at what they do. Again, so much of what they do is done out of sight and I think we have struck gold with these four. So, to our very own Spice Girls, Judy, Thelma, Lynda and Ann, thank you!

Thanks also to our standing committee, to Nick and Lis our treasurer and PCC secretary, again, such brilliant work that is vital to keeping a church going. To our PCC, those who are bowing out and those who are carrying on, my thanks go out also to you. Of course, to all who contribute, whatever it is you do, my sincere and heartfelt thanks. If you feel you're not included in that, have a word with me and I'll put you straight in an instant.

As we look forward to next year, we also take a slight look back as we prepare to lose Laurina as she prepares for her ordination in June. She has been an absolute joy as part of out ministry team. We're so grateful for her wisdom in her preaching and her joy in leading worship on many occasions. It's another singing voice we're going to miss, but we wish her and Mike well, as they prepare to move on to her curacy parish. It's been great to have you both with us.

When we lose Laurina and Mike, blink and Alex will appear! It's going to be so exciting to have him as our new curate. Alex, his wife Rachel and their children Reuben and Caleb will be arriving in June. Please pray for them in what will be a huge transition for them all. I know they'll be made welcome and supported here by you all. There will be other faces appearing over the next year as people continue to be sent here on various placements. I think the diocese know that all these people are guaranteed a friendly welcome from you all, something that cannot be underestimated. Thank you.

Finally, I want to reflect on something I wrote in the news sheet a couple of months ago. It is my deepest wish that in the coming years, we can gather together as One Parish in greater numbers, whether that is a fundraising or social event, or more importantly our Sunday worship together. This is something we do really well already so please don't see it as a criticism, but it's something I feel we can still build on.

My two favourite Sundays of the month are Breakfast Church and Cake Sunday. They are two of the most joy filled gatherings we have, and I want more of that, with more of you.

It's going to be another exciting year ahead. The PCC met in January to talk about their hopes and dreams for the future. Some of those are already being put into motion, others will take longer, but I want them shared together in the place I love…One Parish!

God bless.
Fr. Stuart Howes

The Parish of Hadley Holy Trinity and Wellington Christ Church





One Parish ✠ Working Together

to serve the people of Apley, Hadley, Leegomery, Arleston and South Wellington

Reports on some of the Groups and Activities of the Parish

2025 - 2026

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

One Parish Mothers' Union Report 2025-2026

To follow on from last year's report we did as planned 'to continue our work and prayers locally, across the diocese and the Midlands cluster. We also wish to fundraise for AFIA- the 'Away From It All' fund who, as many of you know, provide short holidays for families in need. We recently ran a craft day in order as a different form of fellowship and as a vehicle to raise funds. It went well so watch this space for the next day! If you would like to find out more, please contact Kate Austin on Kate.Austin42@outlook.com.

Mothers' Union in One Parish meets at 7pm on the second Wednesday of each month except during Lent and Advent to support the study groups. Our group enjoys food and fellowship followed by a short service of prayer and at times reflection on what has affected us locally. At some meetings a Speaker is arranged, if the topic is of interest to the wider congregation, we invite them to join us. One of our speakers was the inspiring Jenny Seymour, chaplain from Stoke Heath prison. Every year, we write Christmas cards to prisoners in our diocese, along with other members, but this year after a request from Jenny, we wrote more cards specifically for that prison.

As always, we raised awareness of Gender Based Violence, as part of the worldwide 16 Days Activism. This year, we managed to do Souls of our Shoes in both churches and we would like to extend our thanks to Carrie Ann who made this happen at Christ Church.

Kate and Rosemary attended a Provincial gathering in Oxford in September where they met with members from Leicester, Birmingham, Gloucester, Bristol and others including past worldwide president Trish Heywood (Kate bought Trish her very first Mocha coffee). Stories were shared, projects in individual dioceses presented and the present worldwide president Kathleen Snow Zoom called with a message of Mothers' Union worldwide from her home in New Brunswick Canada. A presentation by Pippa and Steve Cramer on The Hymns we Love was inspiring, so much so a pack was bought which Fr Stuart used as a Lent Course this year.

We are reminded by an African bishop that Mothers' Union is the church's best kept secret. That is about to change in One Parish. Two new members have just been enrolled with a further Facebook enquiry and one or two others expressing their interest. Trinity Tots, see separate report, is facilitated by Mothers' Union members. This wasn't planned but quite poignant. Mary Sumner, the founder 150 years ago, was concerned for young mums who had little or no support in bringing up their children. There was no NHS, no government funded health visitors. Today, the NHS is in a pickle, we find there are no weekly clinic sessions for mums and carers to receive support. Mothers' Union here in One Parish may even be filling a spot once again needed? Mary Sumner enlarged on the day-to-day care of families by adding that children needed to be prepared for heaven. One Parish group will rise to that challenge. Mothers' Union is open to all who support Christian care for families both here and worldwide.

A Report on the Pastoral Care Team for the Parochial Year 2025 - 2026

The Pastoral Group continues to meet, make contact with people who have had funerals in the parish and take Home Communion to people unable to come to church. We also send out cards to everyone on the 1st anniversary of the funeral.

We are aware of people who are unable to come to church for various reasons and are available to contact them if they so wish.

Anyone interested in joining the group please make contact and we can give you more information.

Sue Hanscombe
01952 245982

A Report on the Social and Fund Raising Group for the Parochial Year 2025 - 2026

Its been another busy year, from the TV quiz night to a Valentine evening. We have been entertained by an Abba tribute band, New College Chorale, The Gallery Singers, an Elvis tribute singer, and The Telford Community Ensemble. We have celebrated with the annual Christmas Festival, a Summer Fete and a Harvest Supper.

We also took part in hosting the annual Ride and Stride, and some people actually took part in it.

We are always looking for new suggestions for fund raising events. A huge THANK YOU to those who generously gave their time to organise events and to all who support them.

Ann Jones
May 2026

DIOCESE OF LICHFIELD

Working to become Dementia Friendly 2024-2025

Dementia-Friendly Churches

Transforming Church and Transforming

Let's Meet Together

Fun, food and friendship

A Report on the activities of Let's Meet Together for the Parochial Year 2025 - 2026

The group has continued to meet monthly at Holy Trinity Meeting Room, Hadley on the third Thursday of the month at 2pm. We have lost some of our members through illness or lack of mobility, but despite being a small group at times, we have had some entertaining afternoons enjoyed by all.

We have had Eve , the Kiddlydivey singer, Jack the magician several times and of course John with his never ending variety of activities and quizzes.to keep us entertained. We have had a couple of craft afternoons as well as Ann getting us in the Christmas spirit with Carols in December.

We are opening the group to not only people with dementia but anyone who enjoys a social afternoon with tea, cake and a chat. We especially encourage people who are lonely, bereaved or with time to fill to come and share the fellowship and laughter.

My thanks to all the loyal helpers who give up their time to make tea and coffee and to be there for anyone who wants a chat.

Sue Hanscombe (01952 245982)
May 2026

Report on Trinity Tots Hadley for the Parochial Year 2025 - 2026



At the beginning of February, we launched 'Trinity Tots Hadley', a 'stay and play' group for babies, toddlers and their parents/carers.

The group runs during term time on a Monday morning 10:00 to 11:00. Children play; parents/ carers chat and enjoy a cuppa. To date we have up to seven children attending. We have four regular volunteers supporting the group, Ann Jones, Lynda Jones, Sue McGill and Rosemary Walker with Lesley Raybould-Savage on our reserve list. When booking Baptisms, information about the group is passed on.

Lynda Jones
May 2026

THE BOYS' BRIGADE & GIRLS' ASSOCIATION
>the adventure begins here

A Report on The Boys Brigade and Girls' Association for the Parochial Year 2025 - 2026

Over the last twelve months, our company has grown significantly, doubling in size from around seven children to approximately fourteen or fifteen attending each evening. This growth has been largely thanks to word-of-mouth recommendations and simple Facebook advertising. While we have not been able to run our section for 11+ year olds recently due to limited numbers, we expect to restart this in September as more members reach that age.

Our evenings have been full of fun and learning—from taking part in crafts and developing new skills to enjoying outdoor walks. We have also been fortunate to go on several trips, including visits to the circus and a pantomime, which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

In addition, we were pleased to have a stall at the church summer event, which helped us feel even more connected to the community. We are especially grateful to Lesley Savage, whose ongoing support and efforts to include us in these events have meant a great deal.

Looking ahead to next month, we will start our summer sessions, focusing on more outdoor activities like visiting the town park and playing on the church grounds, which should be a wonderful change of scenery for the children.

We have also participated in most Breakfast Church services, contributing in various ways such as doing readings, leading the Christingle service, or cooking breakfast for attendees. Although encouraging more of our members to attend these events remains a challenge, we continue to promote their involvement.

There is still work to be done. Our goals for the coming year include further growing the company, deepening the children's faith, and increasing membership. We are also keen to organise more sleepovers and weekend away trips to enrich the experience.

Time has been a limiting factor for us, especially when it comes to tasks like preparing the garden or purchasing a new storage unit. Many of the team balance these responsibilities alongside their own work, making it tricky to find the hours needed, but we are actively seeking solutions.

Finally, please save the date for our awards night on 26th June at 6:30 pm, where we will celebrate the company's achievements with awards and praise. Everyone is warmly invited to join us for this special evening.

We want to say thank-you to Stuart and also the church community for everyone's continued interest and support. You all have made us feel welcome. Here's to another great year ahead!

Luke Eggerton
Company Captain
May 2026

Trinity Gardening Club – Annual Report

Why Trinity Gardening Club Began

Trinity Gardening Club was born out of a simple but powerful realisation: many people in our community live alone, often going days without meaningful human contact. While campaigning during a local by-election in Ketley, I knocked on countless doors and met residents whose isolation was quietly shaping their daily lives. One conversation changed everything, an elderly gentleman who had not spoken to another person in an entire week. Widowed for ten years, with family living far away, his world had grown painfully small. That encounter turned a long-held desire to "do something" for the community into real action. I wanted to create a space where people of all ages and abilities could come together, build friendships and reconnect with nature. Gardening offered the perfect way.

Why Gardening?

Gardening is one of the few activities that welcomes everyone, elderly and young, disabled and able bodied, experienced gardeners and complete beginners. It encourages gentle exercise, shared learning, and time out-doors. It also gives people a sense of purpose and belonging. The church garden itself needed attention, and the church uses a significant number of fresh flowers. Gardening therefore offered multiple benefits: community wellbeing, environmental care, and practical support for the church's ministry.

What We Bring to the Church and Community

Trinity Gardening Club now provides:

• A welcoming space for connection; reducing loneliness and encouraging friendships across generations.

• Opportunities for wellbeing; fresh air, gentle activity and therapeutic benefits of working with nature.

• A more beautiful church environment; improving the grounds for worshippers, visitors, and the wider community.

• A growing team of volunteers; people discovering new skills, confidence, and purpose.

• A spirit of service: offering time and care to God's house and God's people.

Our Ambition

Our vision is both practical and deeply human. Practically, we aim to:

• Develop a thriving cut-flower border to supply the church with home-grown flowers.

• Continue improving the church grounds so they become a place of beauty, peace, and pride for the whole community.

• In the coming years, enter the Churchyard Award Scheme through the Diocese of Lichfield, showcasing what a small but committed group can achieve.

Our ambition is even greater:

To build a community where people know one another, support one another, and break down the invisible barriers that often keep us apart. We want gardening to be a pathway to friendship, belonging, and shared joy.

Looking Ahead

Trinity Gardening Club will continue to grow, in flowers, in volunteers, and in the relationships that make our community stronger. With God's help, and with the hands and hearts of those who join us, we hope to create a garden that draws people in from near and far, and a fellowship that reflects the love and welcome of Christ.

Paul Savage, April 2026



The Parish of Hadley Holy Trinity
and Wellington Christ Church

One Parish ✠ Working Together

to serve the people of Apley, Hadley, Leegomery,
Arleston and South Wellington



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