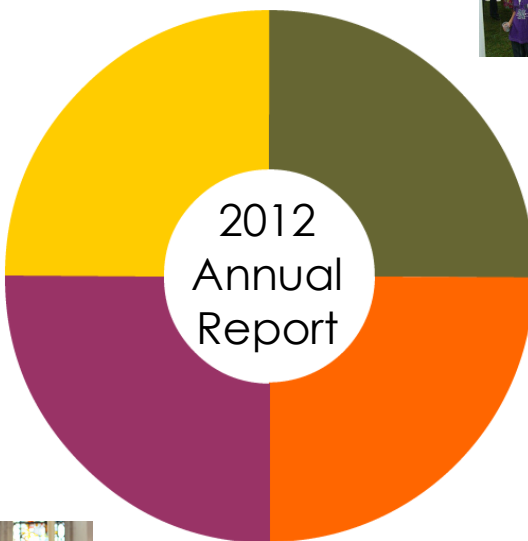


Stoke Poges Church[†]

St Giles' and St Andrew's



Our vision is to see God grow His Church in Stoke Poges numerically as we reach out in evangelism and spiritually as the members grow in faith.

As Christians, we also seek, in all our activities, to benefit those in our immediate community and beyond.

We continue to open St. Giles', an historic and sacred place, on a daily basis for visits and quiet contemplation and the St. Andrew's Centre is a hive of activity for all sorts of village clubs and societies, whilst its coffee shop provides a haven for all who wish to drop in for refreshment.

In the autumn we were delighted to be joined by Charlie Styles, our curate, who has amongst other things, enabled us to restart the youth club. I would like to thank all those who have given money and time and talents and volunteered in whatever capacity to ensure that we can continue to preserve the heritage and carry out the mission of the Church in this community.

This year's annual report highlights some of the good work of the past year and seeks to point forward to the future God has planned for us.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Harry Latham".

Revd. Harry Latham
Incumbent



CONTENTS:

p2 Welcome

p4 Who We Are

p6 Outreach

p8 Pastoral Care

p10 Resources

p12 The Money

Stoke Poges Church, St Giles' and St Andrew's

The Deanery of Burnham and Slough

The Diocese of Oxford

The Church of England

St Giles' Church
Church Lane
Stoke Poges, SL2 4NZ

St. Andrew's Centre
Rogers Lane,
Stoke Poges, SL2 4LN





who we are

A WELCOMING GOD, A WELCOMING CHURCH

We are so grateful to God that the scope of his love is worldwide. We believe in a Saviour who came to seek and save the lost. We experience the power of the Spirit who enables us to change from the inside out and sends us out to reach a lost world.

We want to share his love with others and are so glad that many guests have thanked us for our welcome and the warm atmosphere at services and church events.

ATTENDANCE

We are a warm church family and love to see new faces. Our services are open to all and so many join us to share in our festivals and special events.



We currently have 130 members on the electoral roll, and about 120 people attend each week.



COMMUNICATION

We have been working over the past year on our communication within and without the church. Our church magazine continues to be widely read. We have completely overhauled our website and now publish a weekly email newsletter.



*“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not
perish but may have eternal life.”*

John 3:16

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY LIFE

St Giles' holds a special place in the history of Stoke Poges and is the jewel of its heritage. During the year St. Giles' hosted 15 baptisms, 10 weddings and 20 funerals or memorial services.



DESPITE THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO
CONTINUE TO THIS YEAR TO SHARE WHAT WE HAVE WITH OTHERS,
SUPPORTING A RANGE OF DIFFERENT WORK AROUND THE WORLD

- SHOC, providing for the homeless in Slough, enabling them to have a hot meal, home comforts and rehabilitation
- The Royal British Legion, supporting serving members and veterans of the Armed Forces
- Compassion, sponsoring children throughout the world and enabling them to lead better lives
- The Children's Society, helping vulnerable and disadvantaged children in the UK
- The Barnabus Fund helping persecuted Christians in Northern Nigeria
- Worldshare, rescuing girls from human trafficking Moldova.
- St George's Britwell, a church in our Group in nearby Slough.

LOOKING FORWARD

We will to seek to continue our role in Stoke Poges as a community of believers who are good stewards of our heritage and faithful disciples of Jesus in 2012/2013.

We will continue to offer a range services that enable the whole community to draw near to God in worship. We want members of the wider community to know they are welcome in church.



Outreach

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS

We want everyone to encounter the love of God in Jesus; from the young ones at Tots Praise to the older ones at Supper Club.

We all share the privilege and responsibility of being ambassadors of Jesus Christ.

MEN'S GROUP

Together with Stoke Poges Free Church we continue to enable men to explore Christian faith and to grow as disciples of Christ.



OPEN DAY

In July we held a very enjoyable day at St Giles', put together and run by a team of volunteers. Over 260 visitors enjoyed teas, tours, as well as exhibitions on the King James Bible and Thomas Gray, a concert and a special service.



ALPHA

We ran another Alpha Course in the autumn, exploring the Christian Faith.



CHORAL EVENSONGS

Over the past year, we have been delighted to be joined at special services by the David Guest singers who supplement our own choir excellently



"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him."

Luke 15:20

TOTS PRAISE

Our Monday morning for young ones continues to thrive. The Hall at St Andrew's is busy every week! People from many different walks of life come along. All are welcomed by our team of hardworking volunteers!



ST ANDREW'S YOUTH CLUB

Thanks to a committed leadership team, the youth club is back up and running after taking a term off through lack of staffing. Attendance is taking some time to recover, but the team remain keen and we're excited about developing this work.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas in Stoke Poges is very special. Over 500 people came to church over the Christmas weekend.



LOOKING FORWARD

We are excited about the opportunities presented in 2012 by the Olympics and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. We look forward to hosting special events for both these historic occasions.

We will continue to provide a club for 10-14s, with club nights and trips out. We will also continue our good connections with the village school by taking regular school assemblies and hosting the school at church for festivals.



Pastoral Care

BEING THE BODY OF CHRIST

With large and small services, on Sundays and during the week, with study groups, support groups, special interest groups and social groups we want to give everyone a place of belonging and growing.

LIFE GROUPS

Our weekday groups continue to be at the heart of learning together and looking out for each other. These groups provide an ideal place for both pastoral care and discipleship. These groups are essential to fulfilling our vision for spiritual growth.

SERVICES AND SERMONS

We completed a Bible overview called the E100 Bible Challenge—getting to grips with the wider themes of God's word.



We spent time learning more about the Presence of God among His people and seeking to experience it ourselves.



We have begun to see more clearly the God revealed by Jesus in our most recent series and Lent Course.

JUNIOR CHURCH

Creative volunteer leaders care for and teach around 25 children from the crèche to the teens.



This is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Philippians 1:9-11

PARENTING COURSE

Several mums from the Church family were thrilled to run this course to support other local mums. We hope this work might grow in the future.

THE
PARENTING
COURSE

NEW WINE 2011

For a growing number, a big feature of our church's year is the exodus down to the Royal Bath & West showground at Shepton Mallet for the New Wine Families week Camp. Around 13,000 people create a village larger than our own, there is great kids work and the grown-ups worship in a tent of 6000.



NewWine
Local churches changing nations

LOOKING FORWARD

We will continue to offer special services that enable the wider community to draw near to God in worship and regular services that enable all to grow in faith. We will invest significantly in musical provision at all our services.

We want to increase numbers in Life Groups and aim for every regular church member to belong to a small group. We will continue to nurture Christian young people through Junior Church and the Youth Life Group.

We are also forming a new pastoral visiting team to enable the long-term care for the most needy in our community and to create a culture of visiting in our church—as a family that cares for each other.



Resources

GOOD STEWARDS

We have been entrusted and blessed with great resources. We are committed to caring for and developing our buildings so that they are secure for the future. But, more importantly, we recognise the need to invest in people, our human resources.

We want our volunteers to know they are appreciated and not to be overworked. We are committed to the ongoing support and training of all our volunteers.

It has also been wonderful for Harry to have the support and input of a ministry colleague and we are looking to provide this for the future.

ST GILES' CHAPTER HOUSE

Owing to the theft of lead from the roof, the Chapter House developed a leak that severely damaged some of the old wooden beams. After some financial investment and a lot of hard work, the redecorated Chapter House is now a light, open and beautiful place.

HTB LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

In June we sent some members of our PCC to Holy Trinity Brompton for a conference on Leadership. This brings together some of the most fruitful church leaders from across the world to share their wisdom and experience.



THE STYLES FAMILY

In September we were delighted to welcome the Styles family as Charlie joined us as curate, bringing Sophie, Zebedee and Elsbeth.



*"God is able to make all grace abound to you,
so that in all things at all times, having all that
you need you will abound in every good work."*

2 Corinthians 9:8

PRACTICAL VOLUNTEERS

The Reapers have continued to give their time and considerable energy to care for the churchyard at St Giles'. Thank you so much!

We are so grateful to the many different people who contribute to the practical care of the church buildings and grounds.



REDECORATION OF HALL

In the autumn a committed band of painters and decorators tackled the main Hall at St Andrew's. It is now light and bright and fresh.



LOOKING FORWARD

We will continue to act as responsible stewards of our buildings and enable them to be used for the purposes for which they were built. This includes the operation of an efficient parish office as central hub.

We will continue to develop a culture of generous giving in terms of financial support and set aside significant financial capital for youth provision for the future. We will actively support our clergy and staff and progress plans to recruit an additional full-time member of staff.

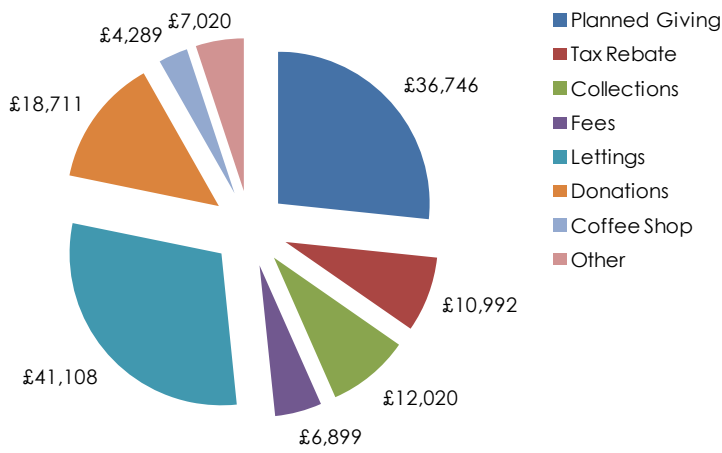
We will be running a one-year trial of 'Friends of the Country Churchyard', enabling those with a significant personal connection to St Giles and the churchyard to grow their link with us and invest for the future.

BALANCING THE BOOKS

We are committed to good stewardship of our resources, transparent finances and financial prudence. Information regarding both restricted and unrestricted funds is contained in the full set of financial statements. The charts below show our day to day running costs. Whereas income from collections and regular giving fell during the year we were able to make up the shortfall from an increase in lettings income. Careful monitoring of expenditure ensured the balancing of the books.

The Money

INCOME 2011: UNRESTRICTED FUNDS



EXPENDITURE 2011: UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

