

## **PRECEPT PAYMENT TO ST.MARY'S, MILSTON – April 2025**

Each year, Milston Parish Meeting receives one payment from Wiltshire Council in the form of a Precept. This is money requested by Milston Parish Meeting and paid to St Mary's, Milston for the upkeep of the churchyard/church grounds. It's the only financial transaction we have as a formal Parish council. All other costs/transactions (e.g. for the hall) are via our Social Fund.

If we wanted to pay for other items e.g. traffic calming, additional street lights – then that would be discussed and agreed as a village. Then paid for through an increased Precept.

**What is a precept?** It's a tax that Parish/Town Councils charge local residents to cover spending on service delivery in the community e.g. cemeteries, playing fields, toilets, street furniture, open spaces.

The 'precept' is the specific term for the money requested by the Parish Council and collected from residents as part of the Council Tax payment. The precept is set annually for the financial year running from 1 April to the following 31 March. For Milston, it's only used for our churchyard:

- The relevant legislation is covered by Local Government Act of 1972 Section 215 which gives the Parish Council the power (and sometimes the duty) to raise a precept to maintain closed churchyards
- and Section 214 (6) which gives the Parish Council the power to raise a precept to contribute to the expenses of maintaining (open) cemeteries in which the residents of the parish are entitled to be buried.

Milston Parish Meeting submits a request each year to the Council for an amount. That amount is agreed at our AGMs. The Precept for this financial year (2025/6) is **£1350** – it was approved last April at the AGM.

This amount is shown as '**Milston Parish Meeting**' on your Council Tax Bill. Each household's amount depends on your property band.

For 2024/25 it was: D band £22.73 and G Band £37.88

For 2025/26 it is: D band £22.89 and G Band £38.15

The running costs of St Mary's Milston are at least £18,000 per year. The majority of the congregation is from outside of our parish. The Precept is used to pay a local person to look after the grounds, churchyard, etc. For several years, the Precept has not covered the costs and we have been catching up.

To discuss and vote at the AGM:

***Do we agree to increase the Precept by a total of £50 for the next financial year (April 2026/7)?***

The church PCC has requested an amount of **£1400**. An increase of **3.7%** for the 'Milston Parish Meeting' element of your Council Tax bill, next year.

Band D - £22.89 p.a. (2025/6) would increase by approx. **£0.85** = £23.74 p.a. (2026/7)

Band G - £38.15 p.a. (2024/5) would increase by approx. **£1.41** = £39.56 p.a. (2026/7)

For context, some current local Precept amounts showing the cost per band D household:

## Milston Parish Meeting

### Milston Parish Meeting

Tax base 2024/25	Precept 2024/25 (£)	Council tax band D 2024/25 (£)	Tax base 2025/26	Precept 2025/26 (£)	Council tax band D 2025/26 (£)	Council tax difference
57.19	1300.00	22.73	58.98	1350.00	22.89	0.7%

## Durrington Town Council

### Durrington Town Council

Tax base 2024/25	Precept 2024/25 (£)	Council tax band D 2024/25 (£)	Tax base 2025/26	Precept 2025/26 (£)	Council tax band D 2025/26 (£)	Council tax difference
2647.11	275000.00	103.89	2625.38	275000.00	104.75	0.8%

## Bulford Parish Council

### Bulford Parish Council

Tax base 2024/25	Precept 2024/25 (£)	Council tax band D 2024/25 (£)	Tax base 2025/26	Precept 2025/26 (£)	Council tax band D 2025/26 (£)	Council tax difference
1432.42	59679.14	41.66	1418.42	62039.18	43.74	5.0%

## Figheldean Parish Council

### Figheldean Parish Council

Tax base 2024/25	Precept 2024/25 (£)	Council tax band D 2024/25 (£)	Tax base 2025/26	Precept 2025/26 (£)	Council tax band D 2025/26 (£)	Council tax difference
231.61	20358.52	87.90	186.11	20358.52	109.39	24.4%

## Netheravon Parish Council

### Netheravon Parish Council

Tax base 2024/25	Precept 2024/25 (£)	Council tax band D 2024/25 (£)	Tax base 2025/26	Precept 2025/26 (£)	Council tax band D 2025/26 (£)	Council tax difference
378.20	28564.00	75.53	428.26	31885.00	74.45	-1.4%