



St Michael with St Mary

Living God, we pray for growth in St Michael's and St Mary's:
make us effective evangelists,
deepen our spirituality,
and strengthen us for service,
in your name and to your glory.
Amen.

Annual Report and Accounts 2019

including the Agenda for the Annual Meeting
10.00 am Sunday, 26th April 2020 in St Michael's Church

UK Registered Charity 1132915

The Parish Office
The Vicarage
St Michael's Street
St Albans, AL3 4SL

www.stmichaels-parishchurch.org.uk/home.asp

Governed by the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended
and Church Representation Rules



St Michael with St Mary

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS

Sunday 26th April 2020

10am THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

- Appointment of Clerk
- Election of Churchwardens

10.10am THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

- Apologies
- To receive the revised Electoral Roll
- To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 28th April 2019
- Delegation of Churchwardens' powers in respect of St Mary, Childwick Green to those elected as Deputy Churchwarden(s)
- Election of Deputy Churchwarden(s)
- Election of members to St Albans Deanery Synod
- Election of members to the PCC
- Election of St Mary's sub-committee
- Election of Stewards (Sidesmen)
- Election of Assistant Churchwarden(s) for St Michael's
- To receive the Annual Report of the PCC including Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2019
- Appointment of Reviewing Accountant
- Chairman's remarks
- Matters arising from minutes of 28th April 2019 or discussion of matters of general parochial interest – to be received in advance at kennethpadley@gmail.com
- Date of Next Meeting
- Grace

Introduction

Introduction:
A Week in the Life of
our Parish

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An Annual Report summarises activity over a twelve-month period. It is a legal requirement and a helpful point of review. However, a high-level overview can fail to capture human story, a story which in the case of a parish is about the interweaving of God's love into the everyday life of a local community. That is why the individual contributions to this report are so important; they are a permanent record of faithful service and witness. To set the scene and by way of introduction, here is an imaginary (but not unrepresentative) week in the life of St Michael's and St Mary's.

The week begins on Sunday (a revolutionary idea to the secular world!) as the faithful congregation gathers for the 8am service. This is followed by a lively Parish Communion; the choir are on top form, and two siblings are baptised. There is no Climbers group for pre-schoolers but a handful of the younger children are thoughtfully engaged in the children's corner. Pauline Wiley and Jo Fabian are busy leading Children's Church with support from junior leaders who help out as part of their Duke of Edinburgh's award. After the service, several new faces are welcomed over coffee in the Parish Centre. That afternoon, the Curate leads a burial of ashes in the churchyard before meeting with a couple to discuss their marriage later in the year. That evening, Mike Ford takes Evensong at St Mary's, while Jenny Tarvet hosts a youth group 'Jelly' in her home.

Monday in St Michael's begins with Morning Prayer at 9am. Two rough sleepers hastily pack up their belongings and stuff them into one of the yew trees where they think the Vicar won't notice. After the service, the Vicar and Curate meet for an hour of supervision. Over in the Parish Office, the Parish Administrator is trawling through the weekend's emails and answerphone messages, while out on the east side of town Jim Mann drops off the parish's donations to FEED foodbank; two other members of St Michael's congregation are on site as part of the team of foodbank helpers. Mid-morning sees Bronwen and Phillip Parr arrive at Fosse House for the monthly service of Communion; 15 residents, 2 relatives and 2 carers attend. Bronwen leads the service with bread and wine blessed the day before, while Phillip fights the temperamental electronic keyboard to orchestrate the singing. Later in the day, Di Edworthy heads over to St Michael's Primary School for a meeting of the Governors' Curriculum Committee, while Ann Dean is rooting through the archives' cupboard in the vestry, trying to answer a knotty question from a local history researcher.

Come Tuesday, Jacqueline Voyce is in the Parish Centre setting up for another Tiny Tots session, an important meeting point for toddlers, parents and carers. Over at the Portland Arms, Jo Swire is working with the other end of the age spectrum, coordinating the monthly gathering of Lunch Club. Is there someone in your street who might appreciate joining them next month? Later in the day, one of the four people, who regularly use St Michael's organ, calls in for his weekly practice after school. In his home, 'No-Plastic' Peter Lindeman is preparing his latest Eco-Evening, a regular encouragement to individuals, community, and Church to improve our performance on what the Church of England calls the Fifth Mark of Mission, our duty of care for God's world. The day finishes as the Sacristans crack open a bottle or three in the vestry as they wield the Brasso during the termly 'wine and shine'.

Wednesday morning is busy as 150 children plus staff from St Michael's Primary plus 15 parents and carers pour into church for the 9am School Service. These numbers will only grow in the next few years as the school roster rises to 210 pupils. Once the service is finished, 10 parents and pre-schoolers stay for a friendly natter over coffee in the Tower Room, reflecting on the Curate's presentation about the Good Samaritan. Coffee is sluiced away as punters drift in for the 10.30am Holy Communion. Up at St Mary's, Deputy Warden Paul Barnes, our longest-serving parish officer, breathes a sigh of relief as building work on the toilet extension nears completion. This new resource is intended to significantly increase the number of weekday hirers in St Mary's Schoolroom. Meanwhile on the Verulam Estate, Alison Ferreira visits a parishioner to arrange their DBS check and book them in for basic safeguarding training. Further south, the Vicar is heading towards a hospital visit in Watford. He takes his

Introduction

mind off the traffic by mulling through the agenda for the evening's PCC meeting. PCC proceeds constructively, accompanied in the background by the pealing of bells during ringing practice.

Later that night, at 02:34 GMT, former Churchwarden Mike Golding is taking his lunch break in Melbourne, Australia and visits our parish website to reflect on last Sunday's sermon. Thursday having arrived in the UK, the Curate is in Townsend Secondary, leading a session for the Sixth Form on why science and religion might not be such uncomfortable bedfellows as the media implies. Over in the Memorial Hall on Branch Road, the day is starting for Toddlers-In Nursery, one of the thirty or so regular hirers that use our three halls every month. Back in the Parish Office, the Halls Administrator is sending out invoices to schools who use the Parish Centre for refreshments during the visit to Verulamium Museum. Meanwhile in church, Roy Brooks is repairing some woodwork while David Fletcher undertakes a Health and Safety Risk Assessment. A group of tourists meanders around, looking at the leaflet translated into their language by one of our congregation a few years ago. Thanks to our open church policy these tourists are some of the 5000+ visitors who call into St Michael's every year, share their prayers, occasionally their roubles, and who contribute to our outward-looking ethos. One of them will go on to leave a positive review on TripAdvisor. That afternoon, Bronwen Hewer picks up the phone to a lady recently bereaved: the woman is still in the early stages of grief; maybe they should meet for a coffee in a few weeks' time? After school, the Curate meets a couple of children for server training ahead of the Sunday service. Over in Marshalswick, Barbara and Ken Young have returned from work and are preparing their living room and reflections for a home group meeting that evening.

Come Friday and the Treasurer is in the Parish Office checking some figures towards the annual accounts, while in church Billy Pither and Jane Larman are totting up cash from the last fortnight before going to the bank. A Churchwarden checks her watch, awaiting the arrival of Smiths of Derby to undertake the annual service on St Michael's clock. Her Co-Warden is at home, sitting at the computer with the Chalice Assistants' rota for the next quarter. That afternoon, the monthly email pings out highlights of services, and events in the month ahead, to the 514 addresses now on our mailing list. Attached to the email is the *Parish News*, another 28 pages of reviews, notices and local adverts, all carefully collated by the magazine committee. Come the evening and the Director of Music welcomes a new Choral Scholar before putting the choir through their paces towards a tricky piece of Byrd for a forthcoming anthem.

The week is nearly over as on Saturday at 9am the lock on the church door at St Mary's pings open, the same as it does every morning on its new electronically-timed mechanism, permitting locals and visitors to find a haven of peace seven days a week. Over at St Michael's, the cleaning team are tackling an unpleasantness found in the Lady Chapel while the noise of strimming from the Churchyard Working Party can be heard in the background. Bob May pulls up to drop off a beautiful pedestal of flowers, lovingly prepared by Wendy. Beyond St Albans, the Curate has a training session in Flitwick; some of his cohort are starting to discuss hopes for first incumbencies. Later that day, Sue Dyson prepares the children's corner for the following morning. That evening the Friends' of St Michael's Church hold a fundraiser at Kingsbury Barn for the imminent works on our crumbling plasterwork. Reclining in his lounge, the Vicar pours himself a beer and muses on the old adage that only the parson does anything in the parish, and then only on one day a week.

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Church Wardens' Report

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and

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We started the year with the changing of the guard as Graham stepped down after six years of active service. He has, however, always been ready to answer questions or fill in the gaps in our knowledge, so we hope nothing drastic has fallen through the gap. If it has, no one has told us - yet!

This year has been a busy one, seeing the completion of the re-ordering of the west end of the Nave when the faculty was granted for this change to become permanent. Colin Hamling and Roy Brooks sanded and varnished the floor, which added the final touch to the rearrangement of the pews. The change has been much appreciated by the choir, congregation and visitors and we thank everyone who worked hard to achieve it, particularly Colin and Roy.

Work has begun on the detailed planning for the redecoration of the main body of St Michael's. The first stage of what will be a two to three-year project is to strip plaster up to about a metre from the floor in some parts of the church, not all of which are immediately visible. After the damaged plaster is stripped away, the walls must be left to dry out for at least a year because the materials used for a previous refurbishment were inappropriate, and trapped damp. Permission to go ahead with this first phase has been granted by the Diocese and the work is scheduled to start immediately after Easter 2020. If any paintings are found under the plaster during this phase, there may be a delay; exciting in its way, but it would make life more complicated! Kevin Keenan has led on planning this phase with great enthusiasm.

We have also had our quinquennial inspection of the electrical system and wiring, resulting in some recommendations for improvement and updating, especially in the Tower. Bob May has produced a plan for the electrical and heating contractors to carry out the most urgent improvements, as well as the temporary removal and reinstallation of the heaters before and after the plaster removal. We are immensely grateful to Bob for his expertise, and to Roy Brooks and John Mathews, who stripped out redundant wiring as well as preparing the fixed pews that will be moved during the plaster removal. Only when this first stage of work is completed can we start to think about planning the redecoration project itself.

On things quinquennial, the insurance assessor from Ecclesiastical Insurance visited to carry out a new valuation and report on the condition of the Church and Parish Centre. Although we haven't received her report yet, she was very positive about the condition of the church and the churchyard, commenting on how clean and well-kept everything was. This would not be the case without Jim Mann and his outdoor working party and Jane Larman and the church cleaning group, in particular those that relish working at height. Our special thanks to John Mathews and Steve Walsh for taking on the parts that other people cannot reach, to complete Jane's deep clean. Thank you to all, in whatever capacity, who contribute to keeping St Michael's and St Mary's so well maintained, clean and in good order.

Our thanks also to David Fletcher who continues to keep us up to the mark on risk assessment and Health and Safety requirements. He recently recommissioned and replaced the fire extinguishers in all our premises, ensuring we can worship and carry out other activities in safety. David has been working with our Steeple Keeper, Neil Evans, to ensure that maintenance carried out on the bells and ringing chamber can be carried out safely. The bell-ringers perform a vital role in calling us to worship every Sunday, and on special occasions, and perform all aspects of maintenance themselves. We are grateful for their continued support of our worship here at St Michael's, so keeping them safe is paramount. A heartfelt thank you to Alison, our Tower Captain, and all the bell-ringers for their skill and devotion.

Sue, Chris, Rachel and Steve have provided excellent support to us as Assistant Wardens, allowing greater flexibility of the Sunday 9.30am rota. Georgie and Danielle continue to run the office and hall hiring schedule as efficiently and seamlessly as always.

This year has been a particularly busy year at St Mary's as the loo building project

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nears completion. Paul as Deputy Warden has put in a huge amount of time in overseeing the build at St Mary's, with support from Carolyn and Danielle in keeping workmen and hirers happy. The work is almost finished and looking stunning; we look forward to the official opening at the end of February 2020.

Nigel as Treasurer has got us all working with online banking to streamline payment processes and we have seen the introduction of contactless payment. Embracing technology allows greater efficiency and reduces paperwork, hopefully making everyone's jobs simpler and St Michael's and St Mary's more cost effective.

Our wonderful clergy have continued to inspire; we are so lucky to have an amazing team led by Kenneth, John, Charles and Mike. Our thanks as always for their dedication and leadership.

From Val ...it has been a steep learning curve starting as a new warden, and not just because I went up the Tower to the bell chamber. Steph has been ever helpful and supportive and it's great working together. I have been amazed at the amount of work people do year on year, not just to keep things going but to help us move in new directions.

As always, our grateful thanks for the support and dedication of all our teams at St Michael's and St Mary's.

The past year has business as usual with some delightful highlights and the ever-present "loo project".

Attendance at St Mary's has broadly held up with some very welcome folk from St Michael's and some other churches coming quite regularly. The traditional Evensong is still a most beautiful and peaceful service.

We are delighted to have held two weddings at St Mary's this year; it is such a special place and so suitable for a small to medium-sized wedding. We hope to continue the trend for future years and it is already looking good for 2020.

We took back control of the garden behind the church and held a BBQ there in the summer. It requires a little more work on it, but will complement and enhance events at St Mary's, and has great potential as a community asset.

We enjoyed some "special" services, and can count a Bishop and an Archdeacon as welcome guests who came to lead and preach. We continue to be supported by Kenneth, Charles, John and Mike, and are extremely fortunate to enjoy such a high quality of preaching and leadership.

The themed series approach which Kenneth started with the Seven Churches was followed with Charles' subject of the minor prophets; well supported and well delivered, thank you.

St Michael's choir made the long trip north and with every visit they get both better and bigger; we are still just about keeping the congregation numbers ahead of the choir numbers! Thank you, Colin and all the members of the choir and your increasing repertoire.

The non-worship side of things has seen a lot of activity, first in fund raising and then in the actual project development and implementation of the 'loo project' and associated works.

The first part that was visible (and then mainly underground) was the required underpinning to the School Room.

St Mary's
Deputy Warden's
Report

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After some back and forth with the planning department, work on the main project got underway a few weeks later than hoped, and just in time for some seriously wet weather. All in the past! Now we are nearly there with a new building and loo, and a School Room that looks fresh and inviting.

Although always referred to as the “loo” project, it is much more than that and the proper title we used for fund raising was “2020 vision” - far more exciting and accurate. We look forward with some confidence and excitement to the new and revitalised facilities being a magnet for community activity and church involvement, providing both a need and a financial benefit.

Curate's Report

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As I write this, I realise I am now halfway through my time with you as a curate – a very speedy 18 months indeed have passed! Reflecting with my colleagues at a similar stage, I know I am hugely blessed to be ministering and learning here.

A significant highlight of my second year was my priesting on 29th June. It was a real thrill that so many were able to come and support me in a packed Cathedral on yet another gloriously hot and sunny day. A very special occasion: thank you. And the following Sunday morning, it was a privilege to preside at the Eucharist for the first time at the 9.30am All-Age service.

Since then, there have, of course, been many more opportunities in all sorts of different contexts as I continue to settle into my identity as a priest – a lifelong journey. I wrote last year of a driving analogy: graduating from ‘L’ at college to ‘P’ plates. Well, that now perhaps stands for “Watch out, Priest about!” But more seriously, the second year of curacy means a new set of challenges. I have experienced everything in the parish calendar once, and so, as curates, the Bishop encourages us to grow into our roles and begin to explore those areas of particular interest, or where more work can be done, all the while against the steady rhythm of parish life: worship; schools work; funerals; weddings; personal prayer and reflection; things pastoral, and things administrative.

Indeed, a question I'm often asked at Morning Prayer goes something along the lines of: “What does your day look like?” In my last office-based job, this was a question which was fairly straightforward to answer. But now, in amongst the fixed appointments of the week, things are far less predictable, and the nature of parish life means that God's work is to be done in all sorts of ways: planning music choices offers a counterpoint to that week's sermon preparation; simply spending time listening to someone in need is just as valid as delivering a PSHE session to sixth-formers on marriage; a meeting with fellow clergy might be followed by a commitment beyond the parish such as a trustees' meeting for the Living Room Charity.

But if life is varied and full, there still needs to be space. I would never want to be in a situation where people think they can't mention something because they think the clergy are too 'busy' to listen. There needs to be space for others; there needs to be space for prayer – for God.

Throughout all this I continue to be supported in many ways by Kenneth as my 'training incumbent'. I remain hugely grateful to him for regular supervision meetings and much else besides, and likewise for all the support from wardens and people from many parts of church life. Thank you.

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PCC Members 2019 Members of the Parochial Church Council and Trustees of the Charity during 2019 were:

Ex Officio

Paul Barnes, Deputy Churchwarden
Val Chiesa, Churchwarden (from APCM 2019)
Charles King
Kenneth Padley, Chair
Stephanie Rainbow, Churchwarden, Lay Vice Chair
Graham Willey, Churchwarden (until APCM 2019)

Elected to Deanery Synod

3 elected triennially at APCM and sit on PCC also:

Sandra North
Graham Willey (from APCM 2019)
1 vacancy

Elected to PCC

elected at APCM to serve on a rolling triennial basis:

Chris Allen (until APCM 2020)
Lynn Ashmore (until APCM 2020)
Imogen Broad (until APCM 2019)
David Carter (from APCM 2019, until APCM 2022)
Sue Dyson (until APCM 2021)
David Fletcher (until APCM 2021)
Gill Huckerby, Treasurer (until APCM 2019)
Kevin Keenan (from APCM 2019, until APCM 2022)
Jane Larman (until APCM 2021)
Fiona Males, Secretary (until APCM 2022)
Alexander McJannet (until APCM 2021)
Rachel Naylor (until APCM 2021)
Bronwen Parr (until APCM 2022)
Colin Roberts (until APCM 2020)
Joanna Tarvet (until APCM 2019)
Michael Tutt (until APCM 2020)
Sue Vaughan (from APCM 2019, until APCM 2022)
Nigel Voyce, Treasurer (until APCM 2020)

Co-opted

John Hayton (until APCM 2019)

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Parochial Church Council Report 2019

Fiona Males,
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The PCC has held 6 meetings during the past year with an average attendance of 13 people. These meetings are alternated each month by those of the 3 sub-committees.

- Pastoral and Worship
- Mission and Community
- Stewardship

The PCC also includes members of the Standing Committee (clergy and wardens), the St Mary's Committee, the Deanery, Diocesan Synod and Friends of St Michael's. These committees report back to and participate in decision making for the PCC at the six meetings held during the year.

Many repairs and maintenance projects have been successfully completed this year.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners Minutes 28th April 2019 10.15 a.m.

Fiona Males,
PCC Secretary
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Kenneth prefaced the meetings with an explanation about the different franchise for electing churchwardens – hence, formally, two meetings.

10.00am

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

1. Appointment of Clerk

Fiona Males

2. Election of Church Wardens

Stephanie Rainbow

Val Chiesa

Graham Willey was stepping down after six years in post. Kenneth gave Graham a small thank you and praised his hard work for all that he has put into the role and responsibility of church management and day to day running.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Minutes 28th April 2019 10.20 a.m.

Fiona Males,
PCC Secretary
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10.10am

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

1. Apologies

Lynn Ashmore, Peter Lindeman, Natasha Elliott-Deflo, Gillian and Godfrey Davey

2. To Receive the Revised Electoral Roll

Fiona Males presented the Electoral Roll for 2019 – defined as a list of eligible people to vote at such meetings.

179 total number on the Electoral Roll. There is an indication with a few applications still to come. The roll was 194 at the last APCM and often drops at the six-year revision -31% in 2013 compared with -8% this time.

High level of turnover: 20% of the new roll was not on the previous roll and 45% was not on the roll which lapsed in 2013.

Under CofE rules, there should be 12 lay elected members where there are not more than 200 on the roll and 15 lay elected members where there are more than 200 on the roll. With a roll just a little below 200, the clergy and wardens proposed to retain an elected membership of 15 (5 per year on a triennial cycle).

Proposed : Kenneth Padley: seconded: David Fletcher: nem con

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3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 29th April 2018

Accurate record

nem con

4. Delegation of Churchwardens' power in respect of St. Mary, Childwick Green , to those elected as Deputy Churchwarden/s

Delegation of Churchwardens power in respect of St. Marys' has been for 30 years.

To continue the smooth running of the fabric by the deputy warden/s.

Proposed: Kenneth Padley

nem con

5. Election of Deputy Churchwarden/s

Paul Barnes elected nem con

Kenneth gave grateful thanks to Paul, without whom St Marys' would not function.

6. Election of members to St Albans Deanery Synod (2 casual vacancies)

2017-20 triennium. Sandie continues to serve. Appointed to serve with Sandie is Graham Willey. We still have one vacancy.

7. Election of members to the PCC

Thanks to Imogen Broad, Gill Huckerby, Fiona Males, Bronwen Parr and Jo Tarvet whose terms had finished. Particular thanks to Gill who has been an absolutely fabulous Treasurer for 7 years and for moving things forwards and establishing the day to day overview – instrumenting financial transitions to electronic. Gill has a fantastic tenacity to get things done. Amazing.

Stephanie Rainbow presented Gill with a bouquet of flowers

Members of the Parochial Church Council (elected for 2019-22)

David Carter, Kevin Keenan, Bronwen Parr, Sue Vaughan and one vacancy nem con

In addition, the following continue to serve as elected members of the PCC:

Until April 2020: Chris Allen, Lynn Ashmore, Colin Roberts, Michael Tutt, and Nigel Voyce

Until April 2021: Sue Dyson, David Fletcher, Jane Larman, Alex McJannet, and Rachel Naylor

Sub-committee members have given intention to continue.

8. Elections of St Mary's sub-committee

The following lay members were elected:

Carolyn Barnes, Eike Davis, William Davis, Charmian Highstead, Mike Highstead, Dick Rushman, Rod Woodward, Sarah Worth

The Vicar and Deputy Warden continue to serve *ex officio*.

9. Election of Stewards (Sidesmen)

Some stewards are involved in weddings and funerals. They are the welcome embrace especially for people who attend for the first time. They provide a soft ministry and so we need to think about our own experience of welcome - what does that say? Maybe named badges gives a more personal interaction. Kenneth thanked those who were involved in this ministry.

The following were elected nem con

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Chris Allen	Amy Smith
Ginny Allkins	Jenny Tarvet
Roy Brooks	Anthony Taylor
Margaret Brooks	Sue Thompson
Anne Brown	Michael Tutt
Malcolm Brown	Maureen Voyce
Val Carberry	Nigel Voyce
Val Chiesa	Graham Willey
Ann Dean	
Gina Dunstan	
Alison Ferreira	
David Fletcher [presently suspended]	
Elizabeth Fletcher [presently suspended]	
Geoff Goodall	
Bronwen Hewer	
Jacqueline Hoddy	
Gill Huckerby	
John Hughes	
Margaret Hughes	
Penny Kent	
Wendy Klein	
Jane Larman	
Cornelia Lawrence	
Fiona Males	
Kathryn Matthews	
John Matthews	
Bob May	
Sarah McJannet	
Sarah Mescal	
Richard North	
Russell Palmer	
Yolissa Palmer	
Berit Pebody-Muller	
David Spencer	

10. Election of Assistant Churchwardens for St Michael's

Chris Allen, Steve Argent, Sue Dyson and Rachel Naylor

nem con

11. To receive the Annual Report of the PCC including Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2018

Both documents had been approved by the PCC and distributed ahead of the meeting. No questions with regards either.

received nem con

Nigel Voyce has indicated a willingness to take over from Gill Huckerby. Again huge thanks to Gill.

12. Appointment of Reviewing Accountant

Brendan Chambers has reviewed the accounts for the past two years and he has indicated he will stand again.

Proposed: Colin Roberts; Seconded: Russell Palmer: nem con

13. Chairman's remarks

Annual meetings are not an easy sell. They are often associated with procedure such as elections and accounts, the back-office necessities so any charity or society can flourish in the year ahead. At worst, annual meetings can be boring or argumentative.

Annual Church meetings could and should be about more. They are a unique opportunity to talk together about where we are, what has been going on, and our priorities for the future.

I. So, first of all we look back. The details of our ministry and mission together are to be found in the annual report and accounts. I won't repeat in detail what is in these because of course we have all read them from cover to cover having just voted to receive them.

In summary, there is much to celebrate:

- The positive trends which I identified two years ago have continued and, generally strengthened.
 - Our fringe has continued to grow: by the end of 2019, our email circulation will cross the symbolic threshold of 500 recipients.
 - And this interest in keeping in touch with what is going on at St Michael's and St Mary's has fed into strong attendance at major festivals – e.g. last Sunday.
 - When observing these trends two years ago, I hoped that fringe growth might transfer into growing *regular* attendance. At the time, this seemed wistfully optimistic. But lo and behold, through the grace of God it has come to pass: the last two years have seen strengthening adult attendance, both at the 8am and 9.30am services at St Michael's. 2017 and 2018 showed growth of about 5% per annum – but the first third of this year suggests that the trend might have accelerated to above 10% – and please note that the figures I am working from discount anomalies like baptism guests and the snow Sunday which we suffered in early 2018.
 - Our financial situation has, by and large, tracked these human patterns, with the year-end position on the general fund improving year-on-year for the last four years.

Alongside these general trends, I note three one-off achievements in 2018:

- the arrival of Charles as curate. We are all benefitting from his sensitivity and wisdom – as well as the warmth and friendship of Anke and Hannah; on a personal note, I must record my gratitude and delight at his collegiality.
- the community weekend: history, flowers, fete, festival service

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- the successful completion of the plan to expand St Michael's primary school ; >£1M across both sites; the most significant enhancements at the school for two generations. This will benefit the future of our children, the vibrancy of community life, and draw new families within the ambit of St Michael's mission in years ahead.

2. As we look back **we give thanks**

- We have talked already about Graham and Gill and Fiona
- Colin Roberts – quiet but necessary ministry as Gift Aid office
- Ann Dean – sacristan coord
- Liz Warren - Reader
- Louise Savory – Climbers coord

This is more than normal turnover but turnover is part of parish life – both a chance for thank you and for fresh involvement and initiative. It does create a transition but transitions are always happening.

3. To return to my earlier point, overall we are in a good place at present. This is joyous and exciting – but carries inherent dangers. I'd flag three:

complacency

- *missional* complacency: each new person matters – esp if you are that new person; witness, service, welcome are ongoing tasks for us all
- *spiritual* complacency – attendance at midweek events in Holy Week did not mirror the exceptional attendance seen last Sunday; worship on Good Friday was down across the board; we welcome everyone to worship with joy but must not shun the more challenging truths of the faith; it is a strange inversion of Narnia under Queen Jadis to think we can live in a land where it is always Easter and never Good Friday.
- *Financial* complacency: we are not able to ease up the stewardship message of the need for generous giving from *all* our members: last year saw some exceptional one-off generosity which may not be repeated in 2019; meanwhile the pressure of the diocesan quota, our fair share of the costs of ministry across the diocese, continues to rise above inflation per congregant.

distracting conflicts that take our eye off what is really important. Little worries become unduly magnified when big worries disappear. A striking example last year was the Sunday when I announced the appointment of Charles as curate; however, on the door at the end of the service there was less positive reception of this news than chuntering about the removal from the Lady Chapel of the almost entirely redundant pigeon holes. It is important that we keep the main thing the main thing.

I am not saying that we have no issues or that conflict should be avoided; sometimes conflict is healthy and helpful - our maturity is measured by how we handle it. So... if matters of our life together are concerning you:

- get your facts straight; chuntering can occur because someone has misheard or misrepresented the truth;
- direct your concern to the right person – remember that this might not be the Vicar but could be wardens, a group leader or a PCC rep;
- bring a solution with your concern, ideally an offer to *be* the solution or to help the solution

unrealistic expectations - how much bandwidth do we have?

- See this occasionally in terms of projects (cf. Stewardship); also expectations of pastoral care – the Vicar's capacity for visiting is very, very limited; I have written about this twice in the magazine in the last three years but there is a small

Parish

minority who are still struggling to appreciate the art of the possible; pastoral support for one another is a duty of us all – keep an eye out for those in your pews whom you have not recently seen; in addition we have a newly expanded PVT that can offer targeted support at times of particular need.

In all three areas above, I would urge a sense of perspective. Look over the parish fence. When I do this, I see churches which worry about declining attendance, buildings that are liabilities not assets, and financial deficits; St Michael's and St Mary's are far from perfect but we are in calmer waters when measured by all three of these bars. Don't be like the Israelites in the wilderness – grumbling because they have forgotten that they have come from slavery in Egypt. It is spiritually vital that we press through such moments, and reach for a broader perspective on God's purposes and our commitments – look, like the Israelites, with renewed vigour to the Promised Land.

4. Developmental priorities for the year ahead

Our new Mission Action Plan – we will continue to prioritise the targets on the MAP through the principles which underlie it: going deeper into God, making new disciples and transforming communities – the MAP is from us all and for us all, and it means that we can make decisions that are right (not necessarily easy) and for the long term not just a flash in the pan. To this end, two things:

- We continue to put our **buildings** on the front foot:
 - St Mary's loo – biggest project this year; an investment to draw in new people; also the front door and garden projects
 - MemHall - ongoing refurb; still c.4 years off the point where it will make a contribution to parish finance
 - St Michael's redec – increasingly thinking this should include new audio-visual
- **People** side: Sue, Charles and I went to LYCIG (Leading Your Church into Growth) conference. Flowing from that I want to talk about an opportunity for more people to be involved in house groups that will be coming after Easter – house group/s
 - What
 - meet in people's homes – frequency as appropriate
 - what they might do – material would be bible study, prayer, mutual support, friendship; its not just a social group – its intentional – help us grow our faith; you have had a little taster of this in our other small groups – autumn programme, Lent groups, confirmation groups – its nothing new, ongoing thing...
 - lay-led; in addition to the existing group there are putative leaders in place for other groups; termly meeting with Vicar
 - missional and organic – grow and split – not cliques and clubs, or lobbying groups or alternative to parish structures
 - conscious that not everyone will have capacity or interest in these but I would encourage you to think of them as resources and opportunities for mutual support and spiritual growth, not another 'thing' to do
 - Why and why now?
 - size of congregation – need for smaller group associations
 - people are asking for it
 - less clericalised format for nurture – now is the time to do this while we are over-clericalised

Charles will be saying more about this on May 12th; enquiries of interest to him or me

5. And finally...

It is a besetting temptation in churches with history like St Michael's and St Mary's to be trapped by the past. When this happens, Christians become caught between the Scylla of trying to recover what they think they remember of the past, or the Charybdis of bemoaning the passing of such halcyon days. Our heritage is important. But we

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must not look back with the result that we see ourselves as the end of a long tradition. I love that line in *Master and Commander* where Captain John Aubrey announces that his ship is not old, she's in her prime. His ship is not old, she's in her prime. Turn the perspective on its head. Don't think of yourself as the end of a long tradition; imagine instead what St Michael's and St Mary's might be like in 100, 1000, 2000 years' time. It won't be the same; but can we lay today the best foundations for what is yet to be?

14. Matters arising from minutes of 29th April 2018 or discussion of matters of general parochial interest – to be received in advance at kennethpadley@gmail.com

No matters arising had been submitted in advance.

- Chris Allen mentioned lost property box now in the porch
- Saturday working party – Kenneth mentioned it was great to new people getting involved
- If anyone could help clean St Michael's please see Jane Larman

Date of Next Meeting – April 26th 2020

nem con

15. Grace

Meeting closed with the Grace at 11.00

Parish

Public Benefit Statement The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Albans St Michael (UK Registered Charity 1132915) exists to offer Christian worship, teaching and pastoral care. Our provisions are open to those of all faiths and none, and are free at the point of delivery. (Some occasional offices do incur statutory fees, although we strive to ensure that none are excluded on the grounds of economic or other disadvantage.)

Kenneth Padley
01727 835037
kennethpadley@gmail.com

During the past year, public benefit has been advanced in many ways, including:

1. the provision of regular and seasonal worship in sacrament, liturgy and song;
2. the provision of occasional offices - baptisms, weddings, funerals - to mark important stages in the journey of life;
3. the provision of opportunities to engage with Christian doctrine in public preaching, teaching, small groups and children's activities, both inside and outside of church, including in and for local schools;
4. the provision of services to vulnerable groups, including our Lunch Club for elderly parishioners and the Tiny Tots play group for pre-school children and their parents/carers;
5. the provision of training in musical performance and theory through our choir, organ scholarship, choral scholarships and bell-ringing;
6. the provision of numerous formal and informal acts of pastoral care;
7. the maintenance of St Michael's and St Mary's as buildings of listed heritage in stone, wood, glass and metal;
8. the supply of St Michael's and St Mary's as a venue for reflection, prayer, and tourism, open most days of the year;
9. the maintenance and supply of the Parish Centre, Memorial Hall, and Childwick Schoolroom as spaces for community gathering and hire, including at discounted rates to partner charities;
10. the raising of funds for partner charities and donations in kind for FEED, St Albans Foodbank

Subsequent entries in this Annual Report expand on the above.

Parish

Patterns of Church Life

This chart gives some comparison of our current life against societal trends and attendance patterns in earlier years.

Kenneth Padley
01727 835037

kennethpadley@gmail.com

In terms of direction of travel, 2019 was probably the best year this parish has had in a generation: usual Sunday attendance continues to rise, and there was growth at the periphery as seen by very strong attendance on Easter Day (the biggest Sunday morning service here in 30 years) and the best attended Christmas Day Parish Communion for 25 years.

This is vital stuff – not for the flourishing of our churches but (much more importantly) for the joy it brings as we grow in God together. Well done on encouraging friends, neighbours, colleagues to attend worship and events, and to send their email contacts to the Parish Office to join our mailing list, and for welcoming the unfamiliar. Keep up the good work as we head into a new decade!

		1993	2003	2008	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Weekly Services												
Sunday 8am	Communicants	19	17	9	10	9	8	8	7	7	8	9
Sunday 9.30am	Communicants	92	69	77	72	76	76	75	69	75	76	79
	Attendance <16	N/A	16	24	19	23	25	24	19	21	17	22
	Attendance ≥16	N/A	75	90	79	86	83	82	76	83	83	89
Sunday 6pm	Attendance	22	18	17	14	15	13	11	13	12	12	13
Whole parish	'Usual Sunday Adult Attendance' ¹			142	98	100	95	93	89	96	97	101
Weds 10am	Communicants	11	12	11	7	7	8	8	8	8	7	8
Festivals												
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day	Total all age attendance				270	434	417	517	512	520	489	561
Easter Day	Total all age attendance				202	241	206	229	242	276	259	356
Occasional offices												
Baptisms	Parish	30	26	12	12	13	13	16	7	11	12	16
Confirmations	Parish	14	0	0	8	9	5	5	6	4	4	8
Admissions to Communion	Parish	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	8	6	8	4	9	0	8
Weddings	St Michael's	19	13	10	8	12	9	6	7	2	9	3
	St Mary's	2	2	1	1	3	2	0	1	0	1	2
Other indicators												
Electoral Roll at APCM						199	199	197	196	189	194	179
Recipients of email at 31 st December		N/A	N/A	N/A	95	c.215	c.270	c.340	375	430	466	512

Notes

Averages are rounded to the nearest whole

1. The 'Usual Sunday Adult Attendance' is the figure on which our Parish Share to the diocese is calculated. It does not include guests for services such as baptisms or burial of ashes, and it does not include those who attend at more than one service. The USA for 2008 looks like a miscalculation.

Pastoral and Worship

Pastoral and Worship Committee Report

Bronwen Parr
01727 864645
bronwenparr@hotmail.com

The P&W endeavours to support the Vicar in the provision of pastoral care and appropriate worship opportunities within the parish of St Michael with St Mary.

Regular Sunday services are held at both churches; these range from formal said Communion to interactive all-age worship. Additional weekday services of Morning Prayer and Holy Communion are held at St Michael's. Full details of all services are given on our website, which also includes the text of a number of sermons. Services and opportunities for study and reflection are planned with careful consideration to the seasons of the Christian year and to be accessible and meaningful.

Music forms an integral part of our worship and we are grateful for the major contribution and thoughtful guidance given by the Director of Music, Colin Hamling. His report presents the musical activities of the year in more detail.

The focus of the Lent Studies in 2019 was the "Inspired to Follow" course from St Martin-in-the-Fields based on paintings in the National Gallery. A different facilitator each week led discussion about the significance of a painting and a related bible passage. It was particularly encouraging that members of the congregation took on this leadership role. Dandy the Donkey again led the pilgrimage on Palm Sunday from Prae Wood School to St Michael's. The services during Holy Week and Easter were well attended.

The Autumn Programme of evening meetings focused on the complicated themes of death and bereavement. The Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving on All Saints' Sunday was attended by many who were thinking of friends and loved ones. Bronwen Hewer and her team continue to give much appreciated support those who have been bereaved.

With Advent came the start of the new church year and the preparation for Christmas. Quiet Evenings during Advent gave a chance for reflection in what can be a busy period. The many different services at Christmas included Carol Services, a Nativity Play and Crib Service.

At Christmas, as at other times during the year, our churches are beautifully decorated. We are grateful to Wendy May and Carolyn Barnes and their teams for their floral creativity and activity.

Each service in church needs preparation and some of this is done by a group of Sacristans whose assistance is greatly appreciated.

The PCC is mindful of its responsibilities with regard to Safeguarding and is grateful to Alison Ferreira for her work as Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator.

Pauline Wiley and a team of committed and enthusiastic volunteers ably run Children's Church and Jellies, the youth group. We thank them for their efforts in the planning and leadership of worship and activities for our young people.

Jo Swire has co-ordinated the Lunch Club this year and we thank her for enabling this important parish activity to continue.

Alison Evans and her team of bell-ringers have continued to welcome people to St Michael's for the main services. She has been encouraging a number of children to try out their skills in the tower room.

The following reports give some idea of the roles of pastoral groups in the parish. Many volunteers are involved in many different ways and their work is greatly appreciated. In addition we acknowledge the invaluable support given quietly by individuals to members of the church community in offering friendship and practical help.

Pastoral and Worship

Children's Church Climbers is a pre-school Sunday School group which meets in the Parish Centre. All children from birth to school age are welcome to join the group (accompanied by a parent or carer) until such time as they move up to Explorers Sunday School. Climbers takes place on three or four Sundays during each term. Sunday School dates for each term are pre-agreed in light of the wider Church schedule of events and then circulated to relevant parents or carers at the start of that term. Reminders of Climbers dates are sent during the course of each term. Climbers sessions start at 9.30am, alongside the Church service, with the group joining the main Church congregation at 10.15am for Holy Communion.

Climbers
Rebecca Anderson

Climbers is co-ordinated by one key volunteer. This key volunteer, as well as a few other parent volunteers, takes it in turns to deliver Sunday School lessons. The theme for each session is, where possible and if easily translatable, based on the same theme as that of the relevant Church service. The group starts with an opening prayer and a story and/or discussion about a specific topic, followed by an arts and crafts activity. Activities over the past year have included making angels, kindness flowers, and a Jonah and the whale peg puppet, as well as decorating hanging rainbows. After the activity, the children say a closing prayer before joining the main Church service.

Attendance numbers at Climbers are currently fairly low: on average, 2 or 3 children attend, however on occasion, 4 or 5 children have attended. The congregation does include a fair number of families who have young, pre-school aged children. However, it is understood that these children do not attend Climbers due to other commitments (for example, there is a new baby in the family), or, the relevant parents or carers prefer to attend the main Church service. Children are well catered for during the main service through the provision of toys in the North Aisle at the back of the Church.

Servers My name is Amy and I am part of Children's Church at St Michael's in St Albans. I have been going to St Michael's since I was a baby and I am now 11 years old. There are three groups for children in the church family, as well as a place for small babies to play at the back of the church so mums and dads can hear the service.

Amy Wells

When you first start off you are in Climbers if you don't go to school yet and then you go to Explorers if you are in Infants at school. In Explorers, kids can do colouring and crafting and learn the Bible stories we read, to do with the time of the year.

Then, when you are around 8 or 9, you go to Seekers and you do more things about learning what the Bible tells us and you have more important roles like when you are in Year 4 in school you start helping carry the candles in church. Kenneth teaches us how to carry the candle and help with the service and then we can go on to the rota to have a turn at helping.

When you are a bit older you can choose to learn how to help with the book (the Gospel). That's a nice way to help because you don't only hold the book and bring it in and out of church, but you also get to help set up for Communion. There are 22 of us who share serving and helping. I enjoy it because you get responsibilities that you don't get to do in other places.

When I am older, I will go to the group for older kids called Jellies for kids in senior school. They meet in the evening and do activities together.

Sometimes there is a Children's Church family service and we don't go to Sunday school on those days but we go into church to listen to Kenneth or Charles and the kids do the prayers and welcoming and give out the pew sheets and also serve coffee and biscuits afterwards.

Explorers and Seekers The older children in Seekers (Years 3 to 6) thoroughly enjoy taking part in the family services by acting as stewards, making coffee, reading the gospel and taking part in the intercessions.

Pauline Wiley

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pwiley@stmichaels.herts.sch.uk

At the Remembrance service this year it was a delight for the younger children to also take part. They all made a poppy on a card which then became part of a large wreath

Pastoral and Worship

Jo Fabian
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which they presented at the altar and displayed hanging from the pulpit, looking stunning.

We were also able to involve all ages of children from reception upwards in the Nativity this year. Our play was based on the old TV show Charlie's Angels and was called God's Angels. The three angels used the telephone to speak to God, who directed them to relay parts of the Christmas message to Mary, Joseph and the shepherds. While our older children took the speaking roles the younger children looked delightful as angels and shepherds, singing very tunefully in the musical interludes.

Explorers (Reception age to Year 2) have enjoyed lots of craft activities during 2019, including toilet roll sheep, 3D temples, crowns, fish and poppies, examples of which are often displayed on the children's board at the back of the North Aisle in church. Hopefully they have also learned the accompanying New Testament stories as well.

Good Friday saw Children's activities in the Parish Centre. This was well attended by both Explorers and Seekers. The children had great fun making chocolate crowns of thorns, pretty wool wrapped crosses and assembling a large wall hanging made up of a large cross, surrounded by the children's pictures and tied together. This was on display during the following children's service where the Easter Garden was constructed.

Also well attended was the traditional summer party, marking the end of the school year with games and party food in the school playground.

Coming back in September, numbers were consistently healthy as we worked towards the Nativity play in December.

We continue to meet in the school every Sunday during term time, except for the family service days. All children of primary age are very welcome to join us.

Jellies
Jenny Tarvet

There are currently 2 Jelly Groups – a Senior and Junior. There are approximately 10 teenagers in the Seniors and six in the Junior. Numbers look extremely optimistic for the coming two years as there are several children who are regular church attendees.

Each session begins with a warm up game. We then move to a group prayer in which each member nominates someone they wish to pray for then we move onto the main body of the session. This year we have discussed Gay Marriage, Forgiveness, Morality and Food Banks. We try to make each topic relevant to particular issues of the day. We are now looking to see if the groups can continue more to the community by exploring opportunities to volunteer with local food banks and the homeless.

House Groups
Ken and Barbara
Young

Are you interested in learning more about our faith, praying with others and getting to know fellow worshippers more deeply? If so a House group could be for you. If that conjures up images of bespectacled people discussing the declension of obscure Hebrew in Leviticus please think again! Think informal meetings in someone's home, usually about 90 minutes every 3 weeks or so, with varied discussion, laughter and shared concerns. Think learning from other people's journeys of faith: think growing your understanding of God.

There are currently three groups which meet at a variety of times. A long-established group lead by Anthony Taylor continues to meet and works out an interesting programme that suits its membership.

In 2019 two additional groups were formed which meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. These groups formed partly to allow those who had attended confirmation classes to continue to learn and grow, and partly to accommodate others in the congregation who wanted to explore their faith. All the groups are lay-lead, but have excellent support from the Ministry Team. Two groups are using the same material which is drawn from the Church of England series "Pilgrim". This gives the opportunity for wider discussion amongst group members after church, with our clergy and at joint social events.

A new day time group has been formed which will start to meet in early 2020.

Pastoral and Worship

House groups meet regularly for fellowship, Bible study and prayer and are an invaluable way to make sure Church isn't just for Sundays. If you would be interested in joining a group please speak to Kenneth or Charles.

Church Music
Colin Hamling
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colin@hamlingmail.com

The main role of the choir is to support the weekly Sunday 9.30am service; our established pattern of a motet or anthem during communion, and a portion of a psalm (either sung to Anglican Chant or Responsorial), alongside the leading of the hymns, continues. For the singing of the Communion Service (Kyrie Eleison, Gloria, Sanctus, Benedictus and Agnus Dei) we use five settings which we sing across the various seasons of the church year.

Other services during the year supported by the choir included:

- an Epiphany Carol service at Mary's;
- Harvest Evensong at St Mary's;
- Festal Eucharist for Michaelmas (the communion setting was sung to Darke in F);
- Holy Day services – Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and the Ascension;
- Choral Evensong on 4th Sundays.

Our pattern of Carol Services for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany continued, providing liturgical continuity across these seasons and the opportunity to sing a wide range of music.

In March we sang for the marriage of Liz Warren (lay-reader and member of the choir). It was a joyous occasion with a full choir attendance, and 'the roof was raised' with the singing of "I was glad" by Parry.

Our choral scholars, Louisa, Tomas, Vanessa and Emma, and our organ scholar, George, completed their time at St Michael's, and all started university or music college courses in September.

Joining Katie, Clare and Mia we have appointed Rosie, Oscar and Colin as Choral Scholars, making a current total of six. I remain grateful to our sponsors who generously support the scheme.

A number of young people and adults continue to use the organ for practice, which the Vicar and I are keen to encourage as part of our educational outreach.

Music is important to enhancing the liturgy of the church, and the atmosphere whether that be reflective, uplifting, penitential, or praise. It is a pleasure to work with Rev'd Kenneth Padley, and our curate, Charles King, in planning our services, and ensuring the cohesion of the hymns, psalms and music with the readings and seasons.

I thank the choir who have given loyal commitment throughout the year in preparing and singing a wide range of music to enhance our worship. And especially, I thank Rev'd Kenneth Padley for his unerring support.

Bell-ringers
Alison Evans
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alison.evans@btinternet.com

We are delighted to be able to report that the band gained two new members in 2019, bringing our number up to seven resident ringers. As we continue to enjoy support from ringers from other local towers, we are often able to ring all eight bells on Sundays now. We missed only two Sunday morning services this year and rang for all but one Evensong.

The increase in our number contributed to practices being well attended and we didn't miss a practice night all year. In the first six months, we concentrated mainly on six-bell ringing but, from June onwards, the number of people attending meant we were able to expand our repertoire of methods on seven and eight bells, which was both challenging and enjoyable.

Sadly, the two adult learners we had been teaching for the last couple of years both gave up within a fortnight of each other at the end of the summer holidays. However, at the end of the year, we were teaching one new adult learner and three youngsters.

Pastoral and Worship

Our finances remain stable and, at our AGM in December, we agreed a donation towards the church rewiring project and one to Centre 33, the local charity for homeless and disadvantaged people.

We continue to take our turn on the coffee rota. We rang for three weddings, and welcomed seven visiting bands. With the help of some other local ringers, we rang again at the start of the Folk Evening in July.

We had dinner together at the Six Bells in February and held an enjoyable outing in October to five towers in Buckinghamshire.

Sacristan Team I write as half of the new leadership team, together with Margaret Brooks, of the Sacristan group.

Wendy Klein

We have a wonderful team who set out the communion table, clear away at the end of the service, wash the linen and steward at weddings and funerals. We have also instigated a bi-annual brass and silver polishing and altar covers washing session!

A WhatsApp group has also been formed which makes organisation so much easier.

Margaret and I would like to thank the group hugely for being so efficient and hard-working during the past year.

Flowers

Bob and Wendy May

01727 853695

postmaster@i-c-a.demon.co.uk

Flower and foliage decoration has been provided and maintained at the main altar throughout the year apart from the Advent and Lenten seasons. Costs have been kept to a minimum through use of garden foliage and flowers when available.

There were good responses to the calls for arrangements, flowers and foliage for decorating the church at Christmas, Easter and Harvest.

Pastoral Visiting Team

Bronwen Parr

01727 864645

bronwenparr@hotmail.com

The Pastoral Visiting Team has expanded and now consists of five members. It has become possible for more people who find it difficult to worship in church to be visited in their own homes. Nevertheless, it is easy for people to “fall off the radar”. If someone hasn’t been to church for a while, it can be that it is purely by choice, or it may be that a person is unwell or frail. We would always encourage attendance in church when possible, and transport may sometimes be available. We hope that those who have been church members continue to feel part of the church community even if they find attendance a problem. Please let the Vicar know of any individuals who would appreciate a visit at home.

We continue to visit residents in Fosse House frequently and Bronwen has organised simplified services approximately monthly. There is a Bible reading and singing of familiar hymns, accompanied by Phillip on an electric organ. The opportunity to share in worship, and to receive Holy Communion, is clearly valued by the residents and some of their relatives. There has been an increase in the number attending, now on average attendance in the upper teens. Fosse residents have also attended services at St Michael’s on occasions.

Bereavement Support Team

Bronwen Hewer

01727 864224

j_hewer@sky.com

Jenny Hehl

Our team is available for people in the parish who have been bereaved. When one of the clergy visits a family to arrange a funeral, it is ascertained whether further contact from the church might be welcomed or helpful. If so, our group is notified and we follow this up with a phone call and a visit, if requested.

This year we have made contact with a number of people, usually by phone, but have also invited them to have a chat over a cup of coffee, which has always seemed to be beneficial. We are mainly offering a listening ear and a little companionship.

Each year in early November, the Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving is held in church, offering an opportunity for recently bereaved persons to come to church to remember and reflect on their loved ones. This service is now followed by the chance for those attending to chat with members of the team over a glass of wine, and this appears to have been well-received - even if the bereavement was many years before - and that cups of coffee and reflection at a later date, can prove to be very useful.

Pastoral and Worship

- Luncheon Club** The St Michael's lunch club had run for many years at the Parish Centre and since February 2018 it is held at the Portland Arms public house.
- Jo Swire**
joswire@hotmail.com We currently average approximately 16 attendees although we have about 24 members. Each October we attend Burstons Garden Centre for a set lunch to which the church contributes in the region of £4.95 per head.
- Normal lunch at the Portland is £8 for two courses and tea or coffee. We also hold a raffle at each lunch, the proceeds of which are used to pay for the next month's raffle prizes.
- Safeguarding** St Michael's Church is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of the children and young people within our church community. We are also committed to providing an environment where all people, especially those who may be vulnerable, are able to worship and pursue their faith journey with encouragement and safety.
- Alison Ferreira**
01727 860459
allferreiras@hotmail.com The PCC has adopted the House of Bishops Safeguarding Policy Statement together with the supporting safeguarding policies and practice guidance. All PCC members as charity trustees, along with the incumbent, have a duty of care to ensure the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults within our church community.
- St Michael's Church ensures that:
- an annual review of our safeguarding policy is undertaken. This is approved at PCC level and may be viewed on our church website.
 - the Church of England policy for safe recruitment is adopted.
 - all PCC members, in view of their positions as trustees of the church, are vetted through the Disclosure and Barring Service DBS and have undertaken relevant safeguarding training through the Diocese.
 - DBS clearances for volunteers and paid employees working with children and vulnerable groups are obtained, when appropriate. In addition, these people have participated in safeguarding training provided by the Diocese.
 - All groups, who book or hire church premises on a regular basis, are required to either adopt our safeguarding policy, or provide evidence of their own safeguarding procedures, which they implement.

Mission and Community

Mission and Community Committee Report

Charles King
cking.curate@gmail.com

The principal aim of the Mission and Community Committee (M&C) remains to encourage, support and initiate activities which raise the profile of St Michael's and enable us to connect and engage with, and make welcome, the wider community within our parish.

During 2019, M&C continued to run the two main community events that we usually take on; the St Michael's Folk Evening in July, and the church Bonfire Party in November. However, we're very conscious not just to be a 'catering' or 'organising' group, and we always ensure that at each meeting across the year we also address one aspect of M&C's contribution to the parish Mission Action Plan (MAP).

St Michael's Folk Evening:

- This was opened as in previous years by the bell ringers. This was very well received, and we record our thanks to them and hope they will continue to do so in future years.
- Swanvesta Social Club returned, playing in the churchyard. This was a great draw and played a significant role in attracting people beyond St Michael's Street into the church area.
- Local brewery, The 3 Brewers, provided a selection of beers, and we are grateful also to David Worcester at the Lower Red Lion for running the hog roast stand.
- Inn on the Park, one of our neighbours from Verulamium Park, sold ice creams, and we welcomed a paella stand for the first time, which was very popular.
- M&C ourselves sold a range of other drinks and refreshments.
- This is a successful format added to this year by having the church itself open, and the Friends' of St Michael's enhancing their presence with a membership stall.

Church Bonfire Party

- This was held again in the Paddock, and despite a clash with half term and many from St Michael's School being away, the event proved very popular, and a great way to engage with the wider community. It has a strong following reputationally, with new people coming having heard about it on social media.
- Our thanks to the churchyard working party and those who stacked the bonfire for keeping us well supplied with material to burn!

In addition:

- We served refreshments after the Advent Carol Service, to build on and complement the growth seen at that service, so linking mission directly to worship.
- Organised the distribution of Easter and Christmas cards within the parish.

In November we reviewed progress on the MAP; initial contact has been made with a local scout group; we are making good progress on identifying and offering appropriate support to those who may be lonely or vulnerable. Plans for 2020 include turning our attention to digital communications, and school links.

This year we were delighted to welcome Kate Berry to our group. The M&C committee would like to thank everyone who has supported our various events this year, and, of course, all those who serve in any kind of capacity to make them happen. We couldn't manage without your help. Further members are always welcome: please contact Charles King.

Mission and Community

Welcome, Visitors and Stewards

Sue Dyson
01727 833524
sue.dyson2@gmail.com

As members of St Michael's congregation, we are all responsible for the welcome we extend to each other and in particular to newcomers or visitors. I am extremely lucky as Welcome Coordinator in being able to welcome people to church on Sunday mornings and at special events. I introduce new people to existing members and I arrange books and toys for Sunday mornings in the North Aisle, to welcome young children with their parents.

As a congregation, we welcomed many people to the Folk Evening in July, the Pilgrim Churches Walk in August, the Churches Together St Albans Prayer Walk in September and St Albans Brass Band concert in December.

I am very grateful to the Stewards and Church Guides who are the face of welcome when they carry out their duties. We are all part of the St Michael's welcome, so thank you everyone.

Tiny Tots

Jacqueline Voyce
jsvoyce@hotmail.com

Tiny Tots has continued to prove popular and has welcomed many families throughout the year. We have continued to maintain and develop our selection of toys and are encouraging greater role-play activities. A number of strong storage boxes have been purchased in order to make organizing and lifting all the toys easier. We have also arranged the use of a cupboard upstairs.

Tiny Tots had another lovely Christmas party and used some of the funds from donations to pay Hartbeeps to provide an activity session. We recently suggested that a £2 is appropriate.

Snack time continues to be successful and children sit down together to enjoy a healthy range of fruit, carbohydrate and protein-based foods.

Our numbers were very high during the summer and we think this may be due to the links we fostered with St Michael's School. After discussions with the school, we arranged that we could use the Paddock for the children to play in during the nice weather.

Schools

Kenneth Padley
01727 835037
kennethpadley@gmail.com

There are three schools in this parish.

St Michael's Church of England Primary has now completed its transition to single-form entry and is gradually expanding into seven full classes. Mrs Rafferty the Headteacher instills a strong Christian lead in staffroom and classroom alike. The school has renewed its RE Gold Mark in 2019 and is due a SIAMS (Church inspection) in 2020. The PCC makes five nominations to the Governing Body of this school, and uses school facilities for our Sunday morning children's groups. The weekly collective worship in church on a Wednesday morning has been enhanced in the last twelve months by the addition of refreshments for parents and pre-school children who wish to stay afterwards. This is building a supportive and reflective network and has also benefitted the Wednesday communion congregation, some of whom find their later 10.30am service a more convenient start time.

We have occasional opportunities to lead lessons and assemblies in **Prae Wood Primary**. St Michael's Church continues to host a Christmas service for this school and we are grateful to use Prae Wood's hall at the start of our Palm Sunday procession.

We have occasional opportunities to lead lessons and assemblies in **Townsend Church of England Secondary**, especially with the Sixth Form.

FEED

Jim Mann
07770 324375
jimmann147@sky.com

This year Heather Ryan, the FEED representative from the Vineyard Care Centre, gave a talk at St Michael's on the progress of FEED and its support over the last 3 years since she gave an introductory talk that started the donation collections from St Michael's.

She also gave a talk at St Mary's which has started the donation process from them, also on a regular basis.

She sent this message: "St Michael's and St Mary's have donated 2619 items in 2019 being 100 more than 2018 which is fantastic support. We are so grateful of the contin-

Mission and Community

ued support of St Michael's and St Mary's both with donations but also with members of the congregation volunteering with us on the team. We love that we can serve together as the body of Christ."

Thank you for your support and may it continue in 2020

Website
www.stmichaels-
parishchurch.org.uk

St Michael's Church website has been maintained by Russell and Yolissa Palmer since 2017.

**Russell and Yolissa
Palmer**
info@allantica.com

yolissa.palmer@gmail.com

Additionally, in 2019 the following actions and more have been achieved:

- Pew Sheet uploaded to website on a weekly basis and the Parish Magazine on a monthly basis.
- Menu has been made more prominent and 'signposting' to the website on Google has been made clearer i.e. that St Michael's appears as St Albans, Hertfordshire UK and not another part of the country or the world.
- Roll over links completed for users to be able to contact us regarding Ladies & Men's night and other 'arms' of the wider St Michael's community.
- Continuing to modernise and build a new photo gallery with photos indexed in a standard way to view on the website event by event. (Completion by Easter 2020)

Thanks are given to Graham and Pauline Willey (and other members of our congregation) for the continued supply of excellent photographs of parish activity.

**Parish News
Magazine**

Sandie North
sandrich2@btinternet.com

We have now been printing Parish News in hard copy for just over one year and have the same number of subscribers as last year. Thanks to all our readers who are so supportive of the new printing initiative. We have received lots of positive comments which are greatly appreciated. The monthly email letter sent from the Parish Office is sent to over 500 people which is a reflection of the spread of news within and beyond the parish.

We welcome new advertisers for Parish News and if anybody knows of any potential advertisers, please let any of the team have further details. We are delighted to welcome Jo Nelson to the team who will also be a link for St Michael's Primary School. Thanks are due to the wonderful team of John Mole, Kerry Wells, Kyna Mason, Sue Dyson, Lynn Ashmore and Peter Limebear, without whom there would be no Parish News.

Stewardship

Stewardship Committee Report

Kenneth Padley
01727 835037
kennethpadley@gmail.com

I am *pro-tem* chair of this committee which has oversight of the finance, fabric and personnel of the parish, devolved where appropriate to the Halls Committee and St Mary's Committee.

2019 marked a transition in our treasural team as we gave thanks for the very hard work and considerable achievements of Gill Huckerby as Treasurer and Colin Roberts as Regular Giving Officer, welcoming in turn Nigel Voyce and Kath Teal into these important roles. Following handover, we chose to make adoption of the Parish Giving Scheme the focus for our November giving campaign.

The parish benefits from the ministries of over 100 volunteers. Throughout 2019 we continued to employ Georgie Ray as Parish Administrator, Danielle Argent as Halls Administrator, and Colin Hamling as Director of Music, each experts in their field and whose professional skills bring countless blessings to the parish.

The major fabric project of 2019, the realisation of an accessible toilet and baby change facility at St Mary's, was heading towards completion at the year's end. The decision of the PCC in November 2018 to underwrite this project with the cash reserve from Mr Goldhawk's legacy has been richly rewarded, attracting a further £55K in grants and public donations. We are particularly grateful for £27K from Veolia Environmental Trust.

Under the attentive oversight of Kevin Keenan, Stewardship continues to work towards internal refurbishment at St Michael's. Minor works were undertaken in 2019 with the replacement of the church security system. Activity will ramp up in 2020 with the removal of blown plasterwork, prior to re-plastering and redecoration in 2021/22.

We were in a fortunate position over the summer to freshen both the Parish Office and Vicar's study with new paint and flooring, a considerable improvement to these high traffic areas.

It is now two years since St Albans District Council (SADC) deemed part of St Michael's churchyard wall to be leaning dangerously. At the time of writing we were still waiting for SADC to fulfil their statutory obligation under the 1855 Burial Act to repair this perimeter.

Halls in St Michael's Parish

Danielle Argent
01727 836041
hallbooking17@gmail.com

The Memorial Hall:

The Memorial Hall currently has 10 regular hirers ranging from a full time Nursery, Theatre Groups, Sporting Clubs, 12th St Albans Brownies and an early morning Box fit class.

Ad hoc bookings have been popular throughout 2019 with more consistent and less seasonal trend. October is still the most popular month by a small margin. The total numbers are up by 8% on 2018.

The Hall is still working its way through a maintenance plan. The year saw a full corridor refurbishment including new flooring and decoration. The remaining single pane windows have also been replaced with double glazing, completing that section of the refurbishment.

The Parish Centre:

The Parish Centre currently has 10 regular hirers ranging from baby and toddler groups, writing groups, breakfast club and the St Albans Beekeepers Association.

Ad hoc bookings were slightly down in 2019 on the previous year, however the busier months bookings had increased by 30%.

St Mary's School Room:

St Mary's School Room currently has 7 regular hirers which make up 99% of the hire income. The garden area adjoining the school room is now an asset for hire within this space.

Stewardship

Wedding hire of the school room and outside garden area has been successfully used for the first time this year. This will be a growth area for hire next year.

The hire space will be much improved by the completion of the project to construct brand new wash room facilities within the building. This has been ongoing since November 2019.

School House Flat

The tenant has occupied the flat since July 2019. The flat is in good repair, and there are no current issues.

Sevan Dymond

The skylight above the stairs was replaced with a fixed Velux window and panelling to the roof void at the end of March / early April, as well as the bathroom window and bathroom extractor fan.

Unfortunately, the new roof light leaked badly through May and June, which was caused by leaves in the guttering forcing water to flow through the roof. Claridge & Hall came back to fit a preventative 'hedgehog' and mesh to the guttering to prevent it reoccurring.

This seems to have resolved the issue, and there was no long-term damage internally.

St Michael's Churchyard

Thank you to all the volunteers who supported the Churchyard Working Group throughout the year.

Jim Mann
07770 324375
jimmann147@sky.com

A special thank you to the newly formed grass mowing team of Geoff Goodall, Richard North, Ken Young and Roy Brooks who maintained the grass throughout the churchyard exceptionally well.

Additionally, a huge thank you to Marcus who single handedly edged all the grass around the paths, gravestones and tombs and gave a pristine look to the churchyard. He has set a new standard/target for next year!!!!

The footpath between the Ladies Gate and Parish Centre and area around the Parish Centre was re-graveled.

Leaf clearing was easy this year!! Agreement was given for O'Connors to clear and remove all the leaves from the churchyard which they did exceptionally well, given the wet conditions. Thank you to Kevin Keenan for organising this.

We have had a well-supported Churchyard Working Group throughout the year that has maintained the churchyard in really good order; thank you to you all.

St Michael's church cleaning

Jane Larman
01727 868349
janelarman@sky.com

We have two groups of volunteer cleaners - 1 meeting on the first Saturday morning of the month and the other on the 3rd Thursday morning of the month. Additionally, we carried out 4 extra sessions to coordinate with Christmas and Harvest church decorations.

Tasks include hoovering, dusting, polishing, cleaning the floors, tidying hymn books and sweeping the porch. One group ends the session with Coffee, cakes or biscuits in the Tower room. This is a wonderful way for the teams to catch up and chat.

We are very grateful to all volunteers for helping to keep our beautiful church clean and tidy. We are always looking for new helpers to swell our ranks, just half an hour can make a huge difference.

St Albans Deanery

I would like to say a big thank you to Geoff and Jan Goodall who after more than 30 years of church cleaning are taking a well-earned rest. Thank you so much Geoff and Jan.

Partners

Graham Willey
01727 868532
gdw451@gmail.com

Our deanery is a grouping of 16 Church of England parishes with 19 churches stretching from North St Albans to Radlett and Aldenham in the South. The Deanery Synod provides a forum for sharing and working together for the well-being of all. It is a little like our PCC but one level up in church governance. The Synod meets three times a year and various initiatives and activities are ongoing throughout the year.

I joined Sandie North this last year as our church representatives at the Synod. There is typically one or two guest speakers at each meeting in addition to the usual business. On 2nd February, Rev'd David Jones spoke on Reaching New People (RNP). On 12th June, Carolyn Godden explained the new exciting resources and opportunities at the Cathedral. On 22nd October Chris Birch-Evans led us through his work with STEP, a Christian charity that links with local secondary schools. Also at that meeting Kath Clough, Reader at St Luke's, gave a vivid talk on Climate Change and led a lively discussion. In 2020 this is going to be a hot topic in the deanery and we were all encouraged to be active.

Two notable ongoing initiatives in the deanery are X:Site which is for year 3 to 6 children (ages 7 to 11) and the Beautiful Burial Ground (BBG) Initiative. More can be found on the deanery website <http://www.stalbansdeanerysynod.online/> which also includes the deanery MAP (DMAP) and Vision.

Churches Together in St
Albans (CTSA)

Bronwen Parr
01727 864645
bronwenparr@hotmail.com

CTSA was first convened over 25 years ago and more than 30 churches of different Christian denominations are currently listed as being involved. A variety of events is organised to promote discussion and understanding within the wider Christian community. Meetings are held at different venues and activities such as a Sports Day, Good Friday Walk of Witness, Easter Pilgrimage and a Prayer Walk are supported by Christians from a range of backgrounds.

The CTSA website, www.ctstalbans.org.uk gives news of past and future events and publicity posters are often displayed in St Michael's and St Mary's



Treasurer's Review for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	1st	January	2019		31st	December	2019

I present the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2019 of St Michael's Church with St Mary's, Childwick Green for consideration and reception by the APCM, having been approved by the PCC at their meeting on 11th March. The accounts have been inspected by Brendan Chambers and his report is annexed to these accounts. The PCC express their grateful thanks to him for his undertaking.

These accounts have been prepared under the Charities Commission Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2005 for Accrual Accounts using the format of the Charity Accounting Templates and accompanying notes.

Review of Financial position at year end

Overall Funds reduced by £57,410 principally due to the underwriting of the St Mary's Refurbishment Project.

Our General (operating) Unrestricted fund showed a £(2,249) deficit in the year, however, income through donations remains consistent with the previous year and with the introduction of electronic banking, cash less donations and the Parish Giving Scheme has each contributed to cash flow advantages.

Designated Funds

Our Designated Unrestricted Funds were reduced by £54,884 as a result of the Provision of £40,000 for the completion of the refurbishment works at St Mary's (before anticipated recovery of VAT, gift aid and outstanding grants). Upgrades made to the School House Flat and higher demands made upon the rental income reduced this fund by £17,789. Income from our halls lettings continues to improve whilst we maintain a planned expenditure program of quality upgrades.

Reserves Policy

Our long term investments in Note 6 comprise of 5 separate investments of income, investment and property units. These investments are stated in the Balance Sheet (Note 17) with combined market values as at 31st December 2019 of £393,761. The market value of these investments increased during 2019 by £43,225. The cumulative unrealised revaluation reserve over original cost is £178,592.

Financial impact in 2020

At the time of writing this review Covid-19 is virulent and the loss of 2020 income is already apparent. Whilst we have sufficient short term reserves to overcome this, the expectation is that funds will be depleted in the order of £50,000.

Nigel Voyce ACMA
PCC Treasurer



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

St Michael's Parochial Church Council

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st December 2019

**Charity no
(if any)**

1132915

Set out on pages

1 to 2

**Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent
examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**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 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 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.

Signed:

Date:

14/4/2020

Name:

BRENDAN CHAMBERS

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body**

A.F.A.

(if any):

Address:

Section B

Disclosure

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

Throughout my independent examination of the Church accounts, it was not possible for the treasurer to gain access to all of the bookkeeping records. The coronavirus lockdown rules were firmly in place for the duration of the examination and in some areas we have had to rely on emails and electronic evidence to enable me to complete my review. I am however satisfied that all material evidence has been provided and I am happy to sign this report.



St Michael's Parochial Church Council		Charity No (if any)	1132915
Annual accounts for the period			
Period start date	01/01/2019	To	Period end date 31/12/2019

Section A Statement of financial activities

Recommended categories by activity	Guidance Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year funds
		£ F01	£ F02	£ F03	£ F04	£ F05
Incoming resources (Note 3)						
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	S01	152,350	-	-	152,350	160,457
Charitable activities	S02	8,302	-	-	8,302	6,195
Other trading activities	S03	8,900	1,395	-	10,295	13,058
Investments	S04	90,485	-	-	90,485	93,350
Separate material item of income	S05	-	-	-	-	-
Other	S06	-	-	-	-	-
Total	S07	260,037	1,395	-	261,432	273,060
Resources expended (Note 6)						
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	S08	175,413	1,672	-	177,085	98,874
Charitable activities	S09	141,757	-	-	141,757	153,743
Separate material item of expense	S10	-	-	-	-	-
Other	S11	-	-	-	-	-
Total	S12	317,170	1,672	-	318,842	252,617
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)						
	S13	- 57,133	- 277	-	- 57,410	20,443
Net gains/(losses) on investments	S14	-	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)	S15	- 57,133	- 277	-	- 57,410	20,443
Extraordinary items	S16	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers between funds	S17	-	-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use	S18	-	-	-	-	-
Other gains/(losses)	S19	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	S20	- 57,133	- 277	-	- 57,410	20,443
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	S21	394,959	883	-	395,842	375,399
Total funds carried forward	S22	337,826	606	-	338,432	395,842

Section B

Balance sheet

		Guidance Notes	Unrestricted funds £ F01	Restricted income funds £ F02	Endowment funds £ F03	Total this year £ F04	Total last year £ F05
Fixed assets							
Intangible assets	(Note 15)	B01	-	-	-	-	-
Tangible assets	(Note 14)	B02	-	-	-	-	-
Heritage assets	(Note 16)	B03	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	(Note 17)	B04	393,761	-	-	393,761	350,536
Total fixed assets		B05	393,761	-	-	393,761	350,536
Current assets							
Stocks	(Note 18)	B06	-	599	-	599	1,199
Debtors	(Note 19)	B07	2,120	-	-	2,120	12,305
Investments	(Note 17.4)	B08	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	(Note 24)	B09	162,417	2,440	-	164,857	169,209
Total current assets		B10	164,537	3,039	-	167,576	182,713
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year							
	(Note 20)	B11	4,312	-	-	4,312	2,039
Net current assets/(liabilities)		B12	160,225	3,039	-	163,264	180,674
Total assets less current liabilities		B13	553,986	3,039	-	557,025	531,210
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year							
	(Note 20)	B14	-	-	-	-	-
Provisions for liabilities		B15	40,000	-	-	40,000	-
Total net assets or liabilities		B16	513,986	3,039	-	517,025	531,210
Funds of the Charity							
Endowment funds	(Note 27)	B17	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted income funds	(Note 27)	B18	-	606	-	606	-
Unrestricted funds		B19	337,826	-	-	337,826	395,842
Revaluation reserve		B20	178,593	-	-	178,593	135,368
Total funds		B21	516,419	606	-	517,025	531,210

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval dd/mm/yyyy
	REVD Dr Kenneth Padley Vicar	14/04/2020
	Nigel Voyce ACMA PCC Treasurer	14/04/2020

Section C

Notes to the accounts

Here follows Notes 1-29 to the accounts. nb. Not all notes are applicable.

Note 1 Basis of preparation - Treatment of accounts when using accrual accounting.

Note 2 Accounting policies - Treatment of income, expenditure, liabilities and assets

Further detailed information on notes 1 and 2 is available from the Parish office

Note 3 Analysis of income

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds £	Prior year £
Analysis					
Donations and legacies:					
Donations and gifts	131,479	-	-	131,479	132,809
Gift Aid	18,292	-	-	18,292	19,703
Legacies	1,000	-	-	1,000	5,576
General grants provided by government/other charities	1,579	-	-	1,579	2,369
Membership subscriptions and sponsorships which are in substance donations	-	-	-	-	-
Donated goods, facilities and services	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	152,350	-	-	152,350	160,457
Charitable activities:					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Activities for generating/raising funds	8,302	-	-	8,302	6,195
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	8,302	-	-	8,302	6,195
Other trading activities:					
	-	-	-	-	-
Traidcraft	-	1,395	-	1,395	-
PCC Fees	8,900	-	-	8,900	13,058
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	8,900	1,395	-	10,295	13,058
Income from investments:					
Interest income	704	-	-	704	429
Dividend income	15,157	-	-	15,157	14,876
Rental and letting income	74,624	-	-	74,624	78,045
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	90,485	-	-	90,485	93,350
Separate material item of income:					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-
Other:					
Conversion of endowment funds into income	-	-	-	-	-
Gain on disposal of a tangible fixed asset held for charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
Gain on disposal of a programme related investment	-	-	-	-	-
Royalties from the exploitation of intellectual property rights	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME	260,037	1,395	-	261,432	273,060

Other information:

All income in the prior year was unrestricted except for: (please provide description and amounts)

Not Applicable

Where any endowment fund is converted into income in the reporting period, please give the reason for the conversion.

Not Applicable

Within the income items above the following items are material: (please disclose the nature, amount and any prior year amounts)

Not Applicable

Note 4 Analysis of receipts of government grants

Not Applicable

Note 5 Donated goods, facilities and services

Not Applicable

Note 6

Analysis of expenditure

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds £	Prior year £
Analysis					
Expenditure on raising funds:					
Incurring seeking donations	-	-	-	-	-
Incurring seeking legacies	-	-	-	-	-
Incurring seeking grants	-	-	-	-	-
Operating membership schemes and social lotteries	-	-	-	-	-
Staging fundraising events	6,648	1,672	-	8,320	8,725
Fundraising agents	-	-	-	-	-
Operating charity shops	-	-	-	-	-
Operating a trading company undertaking non-charitable trading	-	-	-	-	573
Advertising, marketing, direct mail and publicity	1,486	-	-	1,486	865
Start up costs incurred in generating new source of future income	-	-	-	-	-
Database development costs	-	-	-	-	-
Other trading activities	152,407	-	-	152,407	74,420
Investment management costs:	-	-	-	-	-
Portfolio management costs	-	-	-	-	-
Cost of obtaining investment advice	-	-	-	-	-
Investment administration costs	-	-	-	-	-
Intellectual property licencing costs	-	-	-	-	-
Rent collection, property repairs and maintenance charges	14,872	-	-	14,872	14,291
	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure on raising funds	175,413	1,672	-	177,085	98,874
Expenditure on charitable activities					
Missionary and Charitable Giving	2,004	-	-	2,004	3,577
Parish Share	94,009	-	-	94,009	90,876
Ministry	14,901	-	-	14,901	24,645
Worship/Choir/Organ	17,143	-	-	17,143	22,861
Administration	13,700	-	-	13,700	11,784
Total expenditure on charitable activities	141,757	-	-	141,757	153,743
Separate material item of expense					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-
Other					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Total other expenditure	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	317,170	1,672	-	318,842	252,617

Other information:

Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Activity or programme	Activities undertaken directly £	Grant funding of activities £	Support Costs £	Total this year	Total prior year
				£	£
Activity 1	Missionary and Charitable Giving - UK		1,165	1,165	2,424
Activity 2	Missionary and Charitable Giving - Overseas		839	839	1,153
Other	Parish, Ministry, Worship and Administration		139,753	139,753	150,166
Total			141,757	141,757	153,743

Prior year expenditure on charitable activities can be analysed as follows:

Giving to recognised Registered Charities

Within the expenditure items above the following items are material: (please disclose the nature, amount and any prior year amounts)

A Work in Progress Provision of £40,000 has been made for the completion of the St Mary's Refurbishment Project.

Note 7	Extraordinary items	Not Applicable
Note 8	Funds received as agent	Not Applicable
Note 9	Support Costs	Not Applicable

Note 10 Details of certain items of expenditure

10.1 Fees for examination of the accounts

Independent examiner's fees

Assurance services other

Tax advisory fees

Other fees (for example:

This year £	Last year £
200	200
-	-
-	-
-	-

Note 11 Paid employees

11.1 Staff Costs

	This year £	Last year £
Salaries and wages	27,043	27,126
Social security costs	-	-
Pension costs (defined)	-	-
Other employee benefits	-	-
Total staff costs	27,043	27,126

Please provide details of expenditure on staff working for the charity whose contracts are with and are paid by a related party

Not Applicable

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000

TRUE

11.2 Average head count in the year

The parts of the charity in which the employees work

	This year Number	Last year Number
Fundraising	-	-
Grantmaking	-	-
Activities	-	-
Governance	-	-
Other	3	3
Total	3	3

Note 12	Defined contribution pension scheme or defined benefit scheme accounted for as a defined contribution scheme. -	N/A
Note 13	Grantmaking	Not Applicable
Note 14	Tangible fixed assets	Not Applicable
Note 15	Intangible assets	Not Applicable
Note 16	Heritage assets	Not Applicable

Note 17 Investment assets

17.1 Fixed assets investments (please provide for each class of investment)

	Cash & cash equivalents	Listed investments	Investment properties	Social investments	Other	Total
Carrying (fair) value at	-	350,536	-	-	-	350,536
Add: additions to investments during period*	-	-	-	-	-	-
Less: disposals at carrying value	-	-	-	-	-	-
Less: impairments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Add: Reversal of impairments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Add/(deduct): transfer in/(out) in the period	-	-	-	-	-	-
Add/(deduct): net gain/(loss)	-	43,225	-	-	-	43,225
Carrying (fair) value at end of year	-	393,761	-	-	-	393,761

Please note that Fair Value in this context is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable and willing parties in an arm's length transaction. For traded securities, the fair value is the value of the security quoted on the London Stock Exchange Daily Official List or equivalent. For other assets

17.2 Please provide a breakdown of investments shown above agreeing with the balance sheet row B04 differentiating between those held at fair value and those held at cost less impairment.

Analysis of investments

	Fair value at year end £	Cost less impairment £
Cash or cash equivalents	-	-
Listed investments	393,761	-
Investment properties	-	-
Social investments	-	-
Other investments	-	-
Total	393,761	-
Grand total (Fair value at year end+Cost less impairment)	393,761	-

Note 18 Stocks

18.1 Please state the carrying amount of stock and work in progress analysed between activities.

	Stock		Donated goods		Work in progress
	For distribution	For resale	For distribution	For resale	
	£	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities:					
Opening	-	-	-	-	-
Added in period	-	-	-	-	-
Expensed in period	-	-	-	-	-
Impaired	-	-	-	-	-
Closing	-	-	-	-	-
Other trading activities:					
Opening	-	1,199	-	-	-
Added in period	-	-	-	-	-
Expensed in period	-	600	-	-	-
Impaired	-	-	-	-	-
Closing	-	599	-	-	-
Other:					
Opening	-	-	-	-	-
Added in period	-	-	-	-	-
Expensed in period	-	-	-	-	-
Impaired	-	-	-	-	-
Closing	-	-	-	-	-
Total this year	-	599	-	-	-
Total previous year	-	1,199	-	-	-

18.2 Please specify the carrying amount of any stocks pledged as security for liabilities

Not Applicable

Note 19 Debtors and prepayments

19.1 Analysis of debtors

Trade debtors
Prepayments and accrued income
Other debtors

Total

	This year	Last year
	£	£
Trade debtors	2,120	12,305
Prepayments and accrued income	0	0
Other debtors	0	0
Total	2,120	12,305

Note 20 Creditors and accruals

20.1 Analysis of creditors

Accruals for grants payable
Bank loans and overdrafts
Trade creditors
Payments received on account for contracts or performance-related grants
Accruals and deferred income
Taxation and social security
Other creditors
Total

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year	Last year	This year	Last year
	£	£	£	£
Accruals for grants payable	-	-	-	-
Bank loans and overdrafts	-	-	-	-
Trade creditors	4,002	2,039	-	-
Payments received on account for contracts or performance-related grants	-	-	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	310	-	-	-
Taxation and social security	-	-	-	-
Other creditors	-	-	-	-
Total	4,312	2,039	-	-

Note 21 Provisions for liabilities and charges

21.1 Please provide:

- a brief description of any obligations on the balance sheet and the expected amount and timing of resulting payments;
- an indication of the uncertainties about the amount or timing of those outflows; and
- the amount of any expected reimbursement, stating the amount of any asset that has been recognised for that expected reimbursement.

St Mary's refurbishment Project. Provision made for £40,000 with final payments expected to be made in 2020 on completion of build.

In 2020 we anticipate income from Gift Aid donations (£2,500); VAT reclaim (£14,400); Final Grant donation (£15,000).

21.2 Movements in recognised provisions and funding commitment during the period

Balance at the start of the reporting period
Amounts added in current period
Amounts charged against the provision in the current period
Unused amounts reversed during the period
Balance at the end of the reporting period

	This year	Last year
	£	£
Balance at the start of the reporting period	-	-
Amounts added in current period	40,000	-
Amounts charged against the provision in the current period	-	-
Unused amounts reversed during the period	-	-
Balance at the end of the reporting period	40,000	-

21.3 For any funding commitment that is not recognised as a liability or provision, provide details of commitment made, the time frame of that commitment, any performance-related conditions and details of how the commitment will be funded (with contracts for capital expenditure separately identified).

Not Applicable

21.4 Where unrestricted funds have been designated to a fund commitment, please disclose the nature of any amounts designated and the likely timing of that expenditure.

The Funding of the £40,000 provision will be made from Short Term Cash Investments (Note 24) in 2020

Note 22 Other disclosures for debtors, creditors and other basic financial instruments Not Applicable

Note 23 Contingent liabilities and contingent assets Not Applicable

Note 24 Cash at bank and in hand

Short term cash investments (less than 3 months maturity date)
 Short term deposits
 Cash at bank and on hand
 Other Deposit Accounts

This year £	Last year £
-	-
132,254	154,077
29,199	11,917
3,404	3,215
Total	169,209

Total

Note 25 Fair value of assets and liabilities Not Applicable

Note 26 Events after the end of the reporting period

Please provide details of the nature of the event

The Covid-19 Virus is currently prevalent imposing severe restrictions on our hall lettings, thereby no longer providing a regular income stream. Donations, other than regular giving, are likely to be severely reduced.

Provide an estimate of the financial effect of the event or a statement that such an estimate cannot be made

The financial effect during the first 6 months of the restrictions is likely to be in the order of £50,000. This will be financed through our short term deposits (note 24). If the Virus continues beyond this period we may expect further financial deficits.

Note 27 Charity funds

27.1 Details of material funds held and movements during the CURRENT reporting period

* Key: PE - permanent endowment funds; EE - expendible endowment funds; R - restricted income funds, including special trusts, of the charity; and U - unrestricted funds

Fund names	Type PE, EE R or UR *	Purpose and Restrictions	Fund balances brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Fund balances carried forward £
General Fund	UR	General Operating Fund	67,479	128,936	131,185	-	-	69,728
Parish Centre	UR	Operation/Lettings	12,379	23,599	25,208	-	-	10,770
Organ Fund	UR	Organ Maintenance	9,730	998	467	1,000	-	9,261
Tower West - Grimthorpe	UR	Tower Maintenance	3,351	461	-	-	-	3,812
Churchyard - Forrester	UR	Churchyard Maintenance	9,025	420	-	-	-	9,445
Change Ringers	UR	Society of Change Ringers	3,474	380	372	-	-	3,482
School House Flat	UR	Rental and maintenance of Flat	16,412	7,173	24,962	-	-	1,377
Goldhawk Capital Fund	UR	Specific Church Maintenance	353,467	-	-	-	-	353,467
Goldhawk Woodwork Fund	UR	Restore woodwork in church	3,428	-	75	-	-	3,353
Outreach	UR	Outreach	592	-	-	-	-	592
Lunch Club	UR	Pastoral Society	742	-	79	-	-	663
Choral Scholarship	UR	Encourage Choral Scholars	1,972	2,360	1,801	-	-	2,531
Choristers Fund	UR	Choir	742	1,161	1,200	1,000	-	1,703
Vicar's Discretionary Fund	UR	Vicar's Discretion	1,995	-	1,167	-	-	828
Flower Fund	UR	Church Flowers	156	-	250	-	-	94
St Michael's Tiny Tots	UR	Pre-School Playgroup	1,226	704	836	-	-	1,094
Parish Magazine	UR	Communication Magazine	981	2,017	1,318	-	-	1,680
Education Fund	UR	Further Religious Teachings	1,933	250	600	-	-	1,583
Memorial Hall	UR	Lettings	6,565	41,719	35,518	-	-	12,766
Redecoration Fund	UR	Church Redecoration	22,660	5,123	2,612	-	-	25,171
St Mary's Fund	UR	Church Maintenance	7,067	9,306	15,883	-	-	490
St Mary's Friends	UR	Upkeep of historical buildings	420	-	-	-	-	420
St Mary's Refurbishment	UR	Major project	4,121	35,430	73,637	-	-	34,086
Traidcraft	R	Trading of Eco Conscious goods	883	1,395	1,672	-	-	606
Total Funds			395,842	261,432	318,842			338,432

27.2 Details of material funds held and movements during the PREVIOUS reporting period

* Key: PE - permanent endowment funds; EE - expendible endowment funds; R - restricted income funds, including special trusts, of the charity; and U - unrestricted funds

Fund names	Type PE, EE R or UR *	Purpose and Restrictions	Fund balances brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Fund balances carried forward £
General Fund	UR	General Operating Fund	73,791	144,338	128,749	14,000	5,606	66,596
Parish Centre	UR	Lettings/Maintenance	10,274	22,243	20,138	-	-	12,379
School House Flat	UR	Lettings/Maintenance	19,520	8,167	15,275	4,000	-	16,412
Redecoration Fund	UR	Church Redecoration	3,991	17,387	3,718	5,000	-	22,660
Memorial Hall	UR	Lettings/Maintenance	2,812	38,587	34,834	-	-	6,565
St Mary's Refurbishment	UR	Major Build Project	425	20,120	21,424	5,000	-	4,121
Goldhawk Capital Fund	UR	Church Maintenance	359,073	-	-	-	5,606	353,467
			-	-	-	-	-	-
			-	-	-	-	-	-
			-	-	-	-	-	-
Other funds	N/a	N/a	53,095	22,218	28,479	-	-	46,834
Total Funds			375,399	273,060	252,617	-	-	395,842

Note 28 Transactions with trustees and related parties

Not Applicable

Note 29 Additional Disclosures

The following are significant matters which are not covered in other notes and need to be included to provide a proper understanding of the accounts.

Endowment Fund Assets - Held in trust for the PCC

These assets have been left to St Michael's PCC by our benefactors in trust for the invested income to be used for designated purposes by the church

The PCC can change the investment but is not authorised to spend the capital comprising those funds

(i) Capital

The market value of such Endowment funds at the balance sheet date was as follows:

	CBF Investmnt Fund (UK equity stocks	Withdrawn	CBF Investmnt Fund (UK equity stocks	Total 2019 Unrealised Gain	CBF Deposit Accrued Interest 31/12/18	2019 Interest rec'd and withdrawn	CBF Deposit Accrued Interest 31/12/19
	Value at 31/12/18 £		Value at 31/12/19 £	£	£	£	£
St Michael's							
Chancel Fund	999		1,186	187			
Dashwood bequest (Upkeep Gdn of Remembrance)	4,833		5,738	905			
Forrester bequest (Churchyard Upkeep)	16,389		19,457	3,068			
Grimthorpe bequest (Church)	13,306		15,798	2,492			
	35,527		42,179				
St Mary's							
Joel bequest	49,891		59,232	9,341	5,423	-3,690	1,733
Repair Fund	612	-612	-	-			
Total at 31/12/19	121,557		143,590	15,993			

(ii) Income

Dividends from equity investments are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on Section C Note 3

Interest on the St Mary's CBF Deposit Account is held by the Diocesan Office and does not form part of the capital

(iii) Joshua Lomax (For a Sermon)

The value at 31/12/19 was £254 (2018 £215)