



St. Michael & All Angels

CHURCH IN THE PARK | LIVING, LOVING, SERVING

ANNUAL VESTRY

&

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

SUNDAY 24th APRIL 2016

REPORT BOOKLET

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WHO'S WHO

Our Mission is

“To enable all to follow Jesus Christ”

We shall live out this mission through Prayer, Presence, Persuasion and Proclamation by:

i) Leading lives centred on Jesus Christ –

- That is steadfastly based on the Bible and prayer
- That is based on Jesus’ example
- By being ambassadors of Christ to our friends, families, neighbours and work and school colleagues.

ii) Being seen and known in the wider Community by

- Understanding the communities in which we live and seeking to be fully involved in those communities
- Building appropriate bridges between our Church and our community
- Taking every opportunity to share the Good news about Jesus Christ

iii) Offering and receiving spiritual and practical support and development –

- That is appropriate to wherever people are on their spiritual journey
- That is based on worship that is honouring to God and accessible and relevant to all
- And that is led by prayer that engages with the will of God and his purposes

ASSOCIATE MINISTER'S REPORT

June 2015 saw the announcement from Simon he would be leaving to take on a new role as rector of three parishes east of Oxford: Great & Little Milton & Great Haseley. In the September Outlook Simon wrote how very sad both he and Cath were to be leaving Hughenden Valley and St. Michael's. Simon has encouraged many new and fruitful initiatives over his fourteen years of ministry and he, Cath, Ellie & Becca made many good friends. Simon's final service was a joint event on 20th September 2015 followed by a shared lunch which many enjoyed. It was great encouragement to Simon and the family to see so many from St. Michael's at Simon's licensing service in Great Milton in October.

Having said our goodbyes, we entered time of 'vacancy'. It was acknowledged from the start that a priority during this time was prayer. Prayer has occurred in many places at different times including monthly prayer breakfasts held on the 2nd Saturday of each month. These have been encouraging times.

In a time of vacancy responsibility falls heavily on 'other' shoulders – namely the Church Wardens. I would like to thank Brian and Christopher for their leadership during the vacancy so far. I would especially like to acknowledge Brian's contribution – as he is stepping down from this role after six years. Thank you too to the leadership team and the PCC for steering the St. Michael's ship in a forward direction.

Sunday services are very much the 'shop window' of any church. Thank you to Melvyn, David, Christopher, Arthur and Lin for leading/preaching/presiding on Sundays and other times during the major festivals. Also thanks to Revd. Tina Stirling and Revd. Peter Wainwright who have stepped in when necessary.

In order to advertise for a new vicar, a 'Parish Profile' needed to be written. A big undertaking, especially with a church as diverse as St. Michael's. A huge thank you to the whole team who worked on this – Brian, Christopher, Clare and Richard.

Having placed an advert, we were able to invite four candidates for interview. The interviewing panel was unanimous in its decision to invite Revd. Keith Johnson to join us, and we are delighted he has accepted.

Keith, his wife Rachel and sons Luke and Sam will be moving to Hughenden in June with Keith being licenced on 13th July 2016.

As Associate Minister, a little more responsibility has fallen to me, which I have enjoyed taking up (knowing it's for a season). Thank you for everyone who has supported and encouraged me during the vacancy. I am very much looking forward to having Keith as a colleague.

In last year's report Simon commented on the importance of a culture of welcome and helping people feel a part of the church community. I want to give thanks for where we do this well, highlighting a few:

Thank you to all meeters/ greeters and sides people who welcome on a Sunday. This year we have seen the launch of our new 'Hi-Viz' Car Park Team. It's a challenging role, but appreciated by all who have at some stage struggled to park.

Simon & Cath hosted a 'new comers' Bar-B Q' in the vicarage garden in July 2015 which was well attended, and positively received.

September 2015 saw the start of another Alpha course. Most of those who attended are now in a new home group, led by Peter Joy, which is a great encouragement. Thanks to all Home Group leaders and those who open their homes to host mid-week groups.

Other areas of church life that offer hospitality and welcome include the monthly Friendship group. We have missed Judith Camplisson who sadly died in May – and who led Friendship morning for many years. Our thanks go to Penny Austin who has stepped up to lead during Judith's illness, and to all the Friendship helpers on a monthly basis.

The Mother's Union continues to go from strength to strength. In a recent sermon I talked about them being scandalously extravagant in their love of others, shown in the support they give to families in need.

Thanks to all those who provided cakes, served and welcomed our community at Church house teas in 2015

Thank you to the worship Band who supported Napfest 2015 and everyone who took our welcome into the heart of the community that Saturday.

Thank you to the Tiny Tots Team and the youth and children's teams – covered in other reports.

God has given gifts and talents to us all – we are grateful for all who offer themselves and give up their own time to serve us in so many ways. Simon concluded his report last year with a wonderful list of 'thank yous', I can't better it- so I repeat:

Thank you to leaders, readers, wardens, sidemen and servers. To administrators, magazine editors and photo-copyists, to readers and prayers (and prayer coordinators) and those who meet and greet. To teas organisers, bakers, food makers and refreshment servers, to bell ringers, flower arrangers, lawn cutters and garden up keepers. To crèche, children and youth workers, house group leaders, to PCC, Leadership and Standing and Finance team members. To musicians, choir, verger. To PCC Secretary and Lay Chair. Thank you to God, who gives us gifts, and enables us to do all for him.

Rev'd. Helen Peters

ELECTORAL ROLL

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 22nd March, 2015 I declared that there were 177 members on the Roll after the annual Revision in preparation for that meeting, there having been six deletions and six additions up to and including that Revision. No new names have been added during the year up to the start of the 2016 Revision, which is

taking place as this report is going to press. Deletions and additions made during the current Revision (ending on 9th April 2016) will be announced at the APCM, and the final figure and Roll posted in the porch on 10th April.

Arthur Johnson, Electoral Roll Officer

DIOCESAN AND DEANERY SYNOD REPORTS

Diocesan Synod

One of our Churchwardens, Christopher Tyrer is our representative on the Oxford Diocesan Synod, having been re-elected last June for a further three years. Our Vicar, Simon, did not offer himself for re-election, having decided that being Area Dean and on the Diocesan Synod was too heavy a burden when coupled with being a parish priest.

In one sense it has been an extremely frustrating year at Synod. The failure of the Crown Nominations Commission to choose two candidates for the See of Oxford has meant that the Bishop of Dorchester, the Rt. Rev'd. Colin Fletcher has been Acting Bishop of Oxford since November 2014. At the time of writing, we still do not know who will be our new Diocesan Bishop although it is clear that the CNC has agreed now – at its March meeting – on its choices. Assuming that to be so, the nominations have to be submitted, first, to the Prime Minister for his formal approval of the first name on the list [the days are gone, now, when the Prime Minister could select either] and, then, the nominations go to Her Majesty The Queen, as Supreme Governor of the Church of England, for her approval. We hope for an announcement in the summer and enthronement in the autumn.

The work of the Diocesan Synod continues to be varied and interesting. Some, but by no means all, is directed at finances since the financing of a Diocese, Deanery and parish is central to mission. The 2015 financial results were encouraging: 96.5% of Parish Share was paid, a 3% uplift from 2014. A higher than usual level of clergy vacancies also enabled a decent surplus to be achieved: £620K; investment income improved by £200K. The surplus is to be invested in the four Archdeaconry Plans, poor parishes and rural parishes.

Topics for debate and presentation have included work on the outreach being undertaken in the areas of new housing across the Diocese, especially in Aylesbury, Bicester and Finchhamstead; the movement of Diocesan Church House from North Hinksey to Kidlington [on budget] where there will be more scope for meetings as well as better facilities for staff; and three matters of importance to us:

1. Quinquennial Reports: Parishes will now, themselves be responsible for arranging and paying for these reports and they become compulsory. The current cost is about £1000 and Deaneries may be able to help spread the cost. Archdeacon's Inspections will now cover this and a production of the current report and a progress report will be required.

2. Burglar and roof alarms are being urged following a spate of thefts and the refusal of the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company to reimburse for loss – especially in roof cases – if there is not one installed and operative.
3. Archdeaconry Plans are being updated and so are Parish Mission Action Plans: there will be work for us as a parish on this soon.

Wycombe Deanery Synod

The departure of the Area Dean, our Vicar Simon, was filled by the appointment of the Rev'd. Dave Bull, Team Rector of Marlow, who is now getting into his stride. The Deanery Mission Plan is being revisited and all parishes are being asked to review and update theirs. A questionnaire will be circulating shortly.

The Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group of which I am a member has had a significant increase in its work come about as a result of the decision to end the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee's work and subsume it into Bishop's Council.

A Motion was passed at Deanery Synod lamenting the slow process of appointing a Diocesan Bishop to the See of Oxford. It was debated at Diocesan Synod at its March meeting and overwhelmingly approved. It read:

'That this Synod invites the Archbishops to initiate a review into the role of the Crown Nominations Commission, including consideration of alternative methods of appointment for diocesan bishops.'

A reminder that Brian Clark, Arthur Johnson, the Rev'd. Helen Peters and Christopher Tyrer are our representatives on Deanery Synod and report to every PCC Meeting on what is going on.

Christopher Tyrer

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

No one can deny that this has been a year of considerable upheaval. Yet, we can draw considerable strength and comfort from the way in which the whole congregation has pulled together and maintained its commitment to GOD and to one another during this last year. It bodes well for the future, although being complacent is and would be foolishness indeed.

As we all know, after nearly fourteen years, Simon, Cath, Ellie and Becca left us for their new parish in Oxfordshire. Many of us were able to attend Simon's Licensing to his new parish and, thanks to Arthur Johnson, a large coach carried many of us there and back. We continue to pray for them and for their new life in Oxfordshire.

The process for the appointment of a new Vicar is long, demanding and time consuming. We have been so fortunate in having Helen as our Associate Minister. She has blossomed

and flourished and has been a tower of strength all times, especially in times of stress. We owe her and her family an immeasurable debt of gratitude. Melvyn Bleakley has also been stalwart and generous in his continuing support of us and our parish and we are so grateful to him too. His unselfish willingness to volunteer and help out has been deeply impressive. David Tester, as our invaluable Licensed Lay Reader, has also come to be a much cherished and appreciated member of the team. His ministry at Matins, for instance, and his erudite and interesting sermons are a pleasure to hear. All our clergy preach so well: thanks to their learning and scholarship and their selfless commitment, we have been blessed hugely during this time of Vacancy.

You will all know by now of the appointment of the Rev'd. Keith Johnson to be our new Vicar. Information about him appeared in the April Magazine and will not be repeated here. We look forward to welcoming Keith, his wife Rachel and their sons, Samuel and Luke to Hughenden. Licensing will take place on Wednesday the 13th July at 7.30pm by the Bishop of Buckingham, followed by refreshments in Hughenden Village Hall.

We also have another daunting prospect to face: after six years my fellow Churchwarden, Brian Clark, completes his term of office. He – and Sylvia – have been part of the fabric of this Church for a very long time – despite looking and being so young!! Few aspects of our parish life – if any – have escaped enrichment by and from them. Fortunately it is not 'goodbye' – they will continue to be an active and vital part of the worship and witness that we offer and those who follow will be wise to seek and to heed the sensible and sound advice that they will, we trust, continue to offer. Brian's knowledge of the building, its maintenance, the Churchyard [which he has mowed many times!], Churchyard clear-ups, magazine printing and, of course, faithful worship – to name but some of his activities is huge. As a Church and as individuals, we are very fortunate and very grateful.

We continue to seek support for activities: sides-men and women are needed, especially at the 0800 and the 0900 services; mowers for the grass and gardeners for the general tidiness of the Churchyard, being two examples. Church finances are in good shape thanks to the careful oversight of Ian Faulkner, our Treasurer. We are particularly grateful to Mike Dean who has come alongside us to grasp car parking issues for all our services and has indeed put a rota of helpers together to support him. A new General Manager has been appointed at the National Trust at Hughenden and a meeting has been arranged between him, Mike and Brian in April.

We are somewhat fortunate that this year there were only a small number of items to be attended to on the church fabric. However, next year we will have a larger programme. We need to address the problem of the lighting at the east end of the Church as the existing lighting is deteriorating. We have been looking at ways to improve the entrance to the Church and reduce the cold air coming in when people enter. The suggestion is that we fit the existing door to the outside of the porch and put a substantial glass door on the inside. For this we will need a faculty and we are putting together a proposal which will be presented to the PCC for their approval. The notice board at the bottom of the path needs an upgrade which will give us the opportunity to inform the public of the service times and also the names of our Clergy.

Thank you very much to one and all for the efforts made and the support given during this last year and we look forward with confidence to the arrival of our new Vicar and the way forward that he will lead.

Brian Clark and Christopher Tyrer, Churchwardens

PCC REPORT

During 2015 – 2016 the PCC was constituted as follows:

Clergy and Area Dean: Revd. Simon Cronk (until September 2016)

Assistant Minister: Revd. Helen Peters

Diocesan Synod: Revd. Simon Cronk and Christopher Tyrer

Deanery Synod: Arthur Johnson and the Churchwardens

Churchwardens: Brian Clark and Christopher Tyrer

Treasurer: Ian Faulkner

Elected Members: ***Clare Godfrey, **Beryl Doran, *Penny Austin, Cath Cronk, Ian Faulkner, Frank Hawkins, Will Hurrell, Mark Sherrington, Richard Turner, Julia Grant.

Co-Opted: Sara Badrick, Rob Innes

*** Lay Vice Chair, ** Secretary, *Assistant Secretary

Sadly Rev'd. Simon Cronk left us in September for a new post in Great Milton and we lost Cath Cronk from the PCC at the same time. Penny Austin has served valiantly for twelve years, mostly as secretary and retires this year. Richard Turner resigned in November so with one existing vacancy we have four potential gaps in our PCC. Thanks to all those who gave up their evenings and attended meetings.

Rev'd. Helen Peters has done a wonderful job in guiding us during the vacancy and Clare Godfrey has been a valuable leader. We have held six meetings since the last APCM and three extra meetings in connection with the vacancy. Many issues have been discussed during the year. The introduction of the new church logo designed by the Communications Group was debated and agreed and is now being widely used. Plans to modify the porch were delayed but fortunately the swallows were less of a problem this year. The work on the noticeboard at the bottom of the churchyard is still in the pipeline. The new sound system was installed and is very successful. Jane Tucker has been confirmed as our Child Protection Officer. Visits to the new housing estate to welcome newcomers to church have been well received.

In September we were visited by Andrew Gear, Parish Development Advisor for the Archdeaconry of Buckingham. He gave us guidance and offered support for the production of a Parish Profile. Christopher Tyrer, Brian Clark, Clare Godfrey and Richard Turner then undertook this arduous task and produced a splendid profile. When the Rt. Revd. Bishop

Alan visited us with Canon Rosie Harper at the end of November he said it was one of the best he had seen. As he suggested an advertisement was prepared for use in February and we now look forward to the installation of our new incumbent, Rev'd. Keith Johnson.

Beryl Doran, PCC Secretary

PARISH MAGAZINE – *Outlook*

It's hard to believe that another year of *Outlook* editions has passed. We do thank all those who have contributed to its content during the past twelve months and hope that we will receive even more items, e.g. stories about life, visits to interesting places, holidays, anecdotes (amusing or otherwise!) etc for the coming year. We are always looking for more articles to make our parish magazine a good read. Items can be sent by email to mag@hughendenparishchurch.org.uk or given to one of the team in church.

The editorial team, Christopher and Jane Tyrer, Bob and Jane Tucker and Sylvia Clark, has met from time to time and had good discussions. We would love to have another co-editor (or couple) to join us with some fresh ideas.

Of course, since Simon left us last September, we are in a period of Vacancy and we are grateful to the various members of Clergy and the Churchwardens who have filled the 'Not from the Vicarage' slot. We hope that we will soon have a new Vicar and that he or she will be a contributor to *Outlook*.

Our thanks to the printing team, Brian Clark, Keith Dean and George Wilson who have churned out the copies each month. Special thanks also to Hilary Farrar-Hockley who delivers bundles of magazines to distributors and who, despite having had a new hip recently, only took two months off from his duties. Thank you to the individual distributors and also to Stan Cole for posting copies to readers from outside our area.

Ours is one of the few parish magazines that does not contain lots of commercial advertisements. Our aim is to keep it that way and to produce pages filled with interesting items. We would love to hear from new contributors.

Sylvia Clark, Editor

MOTHERS' UNION REPORT

Mothers' Union has seen another busy year go by, we are committee led and this is working very well, we have different skills and gifts as do all our branch members as we try and live up to the work and aims of Mothers' Union.

We were very sorry to have to say farewell to Revd Simon Cronk as he fully supported us in all we did, but we wish him well in his new Parish. We continue to be supported by Helen Peters.

This year has been a busy one with coffee mornings and our well known Ploughmans Lunch. We raised £210 for Literacy Fund, £780 for Away from it all Holidays, and £550 for the Wheels Appeal.

In 2015 we took the decision with Simon's approval to support Wedding couples as we do baptisms, one of us attends the rehearsal and gives a card wishing them well, it is very rewarding and has been much appreciated by the couples. We continue to support within the Church, Toddlers group Tiny Tots picnic, Creche, also Christmas Unwrapped, and Easter Eggsplained this involves both local schools, and has been a great success.

Helping to support families through good times and bad times. The Womens Refuge and One Can Trust, also gifts at Christmas to let folk know they are in our prayers and not forgotten as many are not able to attend Church.

Norma Clarke one of our members is this year to be enrolled as Area Vice President a big job we wish Norma every success, congratulations Norma.

We have a very varied programme for 2016, anybody is welcome to come to any meeting you do not have to be a member, we often have gentlemen as well.

All of this adds up to us living out both aims the Mothers' Union to uphold Marriage and Family Life, and the four aims of the Church: Prayer, Presence, Persuasion, and Proclamation.

Mothers' Union Committee

ALPHA COURSE

The Alpha Course this year ran from 30th September until the 2nd of December 2015 with some 14/15 people including the leaders attending. We got to know more about Jesus Christ and the many aspects of our faith and this is always interesting, exciting, challenging and remarkable.

The group with their leaders get to know one another quite well after a few sessions and the love and care that grows and develops helps everyone to get to know each other better and helps develop their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our attendees in 2015 were primarily from our current congregation. We used sessions given by many different speakers but we had one highlight in that Nicky Gumbal sent us a personal DVD with a message for everyone who came. The fact that he was unsure how to pronounce Hughenden and it came over as Hug-en-den made it even more endearing.

During the course we were able to learn more about prayer and the joy of perhaps being able to express our fears, hopes, sadnesses and joys and to come closer to Jesus. This can be a life changing experience for some. It was the first year that Helen Peters gave the talks on the weekend day and her sincerity and the gracefulness of her talks was inspiring.

Does it take people forward in their faith? Most definitely yes. This group has gone on now to form a new house group so that is really great news.

We hope to have another course starting in late September 2016 and it is never too early to express your interest in it so please let Frank or Diane Hawkins know on 01494 565050 if you would like more details. We are discussing ways to possibly have a simple hot supper on every evening of the course so we would love volunteers to contact us if they would be willing to help on just one evening out of the 10 sessions we will be having.

Frank Hawkins

REGULAR GIVING REPORT

I start my report by thanking all those who have worked with me in keeping expenditure down, thank you.

I would also like to thank the Church House Teas team for the time and effort they put into raising funds for the Church (as well as providing an excellent service for our visitors) without which our accounts would be in deficit. Thank you.

The decline in our service income appears to have reached a point of stability, which is encouraging. Let's pray that it continues to be so.

For 2015 I shall be reporting a surplus of £1361. When we take into consideration all the ongoing works to update the lighting both in the Church and Church House, together with ongoing repairs, it's an excellent position that we are in, that does not however mean we should be complacent .

Standing Orders and yes here we go again. Both Arthur and I thank all of you who over the past year have moved to standing orders, (saves a lot of work) there is however still more that could be done, so yet again I ask you to at least consider moving your giving to standing orders, which will make both Arthur's and my work a lot easier. Should you like more details on how to set up standing orders please see Arthur or myself, we will be only to pleased to assist. Thank you.

For those of you who make payments by cheque, please ensure that cheques are made out to HUGHENDEN P.C.C. Thank you.

Ian Faulkner, Treasurer

SIDESMEN AND WOMEN

We are extremely grateful to many people who offer themselves as sides-persons at all our services. This is an invaluable part of our outreach and welcome. Sides-people are the first point of contact that members of the congregation will have when they arrive and, especially, the same is the case with visitors. We have a well-deserved reputation for our friendly welcome to all comers and it is so important that everyone is made to feel special, cared for and at ease when they come to a service. Thank you for all the hard work that goes on – in the car park, at the door of the Church, as Meeters and Greeters and as

handers-out of forms of worship and announcements, collection gatherers and so on. There is always room for more volunteers so please speak to either of us, if you feel that you, too, can undertake this vital contact point to everyone that comes to Church.

A list of all sidespeople will be available at the AVM and APCM for election and re-election.

Brian Clark and Christopher Tyrer

TINY TOTS REPORT

The Tiny Tots Informal Service moved mid-year from the third Thursday of each month in church, to the second Thursday. The move was so that this event did not coincide with Friendship morning (also on third Thursday of the month). The move allows Helen Peters to support both Friendship group and Tiny Tots more fully.

The Tiny Tots 'Thursday' continues to attract good numbers. The 'host team' provides a warm welcome from 9.30am offering delicious refreshments for both the children and adults. This extravagant hospitality is a key part of the morning and hugely appreciated by all who attend.

The North Room is laid out with toys and provides a weekly craft activity linked to the theme of the week, for both children and carers to participate in.

At 10.30am everyone is invited into the Church for the Tiny Tots informal Service, including songs, story time, celebrating birthdays and prayers. We continue to be delighted by how engaged the children are and how much the parents/carers appear to enjoy this time.

One little girl who attends the Tiny Tots service was overheard describing it to her mother as 'piano – cake - church' – an apt description!

As always, the annual June Teddy Bear's Picnic, in the Mothers' Union Garden, was a highlight of the year. We thank the Mothers' Union again for their extravagant hospitality providing a delicious picnic lunch for everyone. Simon told the story of the 'calming of the storm' and we were blessed again with fair weather, and once again the MU garden felt incredibly full.

Members of Tiny Tots were encouraged to attend the Crib Service on Christmas Eve. Several mothers have fed back again how much they enjoyed that specific service.

Relationships continue to grow between the team and those who attend, enabling love and care to be shown and practical support offered where appropriate. Helen has had the delight and privilege of preparing several children from the group for baptism.

Special thanks goes to the Tiny Tots Team: Kirstie Brewer, Helen Collins, Nicola Fairbairn, Helen Peters, Charlotte Tester, Jane Tyrer and Barbara Willson.

Prayer: Prayer is integral to our planning and preparation. Parents and children are encouraged to join in simple prayers through word and song during our Tiny Tots service. There have been opportunities also to offer prayer to individuals at particular times.

Presence: The Tiny Tots Team and additional helpers make God 'present' at this monthly event, demonstrating God's love through hospitality, care and simple teaching.

Persuasion: This comes through conversation from gently building relationships and developing trust of both adults and children.

Proclamation: The monthly Tiny Tots service aims to make God's love known to all who attend, by informal conversation and more formal Bible teaching.

Rev'd. Helen Peters

MONDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP & BIBLE STUDY

We meet at the home of Audrey Todd in Downley at 10.15am for coffee followed by Bible study from 10.30am until midday. At present there are 6 of us in the group and we would greatly welcome more to join us. During Advent we studied a York Course 'Making Room' which we found very helpful in the lead up to Christmas. Since Christmas we began studying John's gospel but had a break from this during Lent when we used the Open Doors publication 'Live like a Refugee'.

Ann Long

PRAYER CO-ORDINATOR REPORT

Prayer continues to be an active part of life at St. Michael's; from formal Intercessions created by a team of Intercessors as part of both 9.00 and 10.45 services; through the Prayer Chain; our 24 hour period as part of Wycombe 24/7 each month; the monthly Prayer Topics table in the parish magazine and, since October 2015, our monthly Prayer Breakfasts, targeting all aspects of managing our period of Vacancy.

The team of Intercessors continue to cheerfully accept their slots on the rota and, more importantly, do a great job creating thought provoking and Spirit-led Intercessions. We were delighted to welcome Peter Joy to the 10.45 team recently, but if anyone else feels that perhaps they are being challenged to give Intercessions a try, I would be more than happy to talk through what the role involves.

We are all indebted to Yvonne Cook who is pivotal to the Prayer Chain and 24/7 Prayer. Yvonne not only acts as the central contact point for the Prayer Chain, but also aims to keep us updated with the progress of the people for whom we are praying. She is also the mainstay of our contribution to Wycombe 24/7. She organises the 24 hour rota in one hour slots and displays it in Church so that we can all choose the time-slot that is most convenient for us; as well as setting up the Prayer Room so that those praying during the daytime can retreat to somewhere quiet to pray. Finding a consistent location for the Prayer Room became a real problem on Thursdays, so from March 2016 our regular slot

has moved to the 2nd Monday of each month, with Church House as the location for the Prayer Room.

The Parish Prayer Cycle, which ensures that within every month we will cover every aspect of the parish in prayer, was updated in February. This Prayer Cycle is the source of the topics which are targeted for specific prayer requests to populate the monthly Prayer Topics table in Outlook each month.

The Parish Prayer Breakfasts for the Vacancy have been taking place on the 2nd Saturday of each month, since October 2015, with Helen Peters as the organiser. At 8.00 we gather for a very healthy cereal and fruit breakfast, accompanied by coffee or tea as preferred. By 8.30 we aim to be clearing the food away and concentrating on addressing in prayer the current stage of the process to select a new Vicar, and any challenges that the Vacancy is generating.

During the past year I have been aiming to get more of our 'Prayer posters' out around the Parish. They aim to inform anyone who is feeling in need of support that they can email our Prayer email address, or call us, and someone will offer to pray for them or with them, as they wish.

If you have any ideas of ways that our Prayer-life can be enhanced please do let me know.

Jane Tucker

janetucker7@gmail.com

BAPTISMS 2015, 2016

St Michael and All Angels saw another busy year for baptisms. Over the course of the last year, up until 7 February 2016, 11 baptism services had been held at the Church (6 of which were within the 10.45am Family Service). 13 children were baptised in total aged from 3 months to 7 years. This is down from 20 children being baptised 2014. Two families had more than one child baptised.

A member of the Mothers' Union presented each child with a card and an age appropriate gift, normally a 'Baptism cube'. The Baptism Cube explains in an easy to understand language and illustrations, the importance of baptism.

Prayer: We pray for all of the children and families of those being baptised.

Presence: We attend each child's baptism to offer Christian love and support for all aspects of their family life.

Persuasion: Each cube is accompanied by a baptism card inviting the child and their parents to be involved with the Church at other children's services, such as the Tiny Tots Service and the 10.45am Family Service (creche & JC Club). Also included is a small card explaining the wider role of Mothers' Union and an invitation to join.

Proclamation: The MU member presenting the gift briefly explains what Mothers' Union is, our involvement worldwide, our service to Hughenden Church and our offer of Christian love and support to the family.

Helen Collins

BELL RINGING REPORT

Ringling for Sunday services was well supported throughout 2015, although our group could be better served by increased membership. The number of members has declined in the past few years for various reasons beyond our control and is now at a critical level. With only nine ringers it leaves little room for absences. We are however most grateful to have some regular (almost guest members) visitors from local towers, both at our Tuesday practice evenings and Sunday morning, something we all value enormously.

There were 20 peal attempts during the year which was nearing the maximum level since there is a restriction of two per month. Weddings, where ringing was requested, totalled 11 for the year; this was three less than the previous year.

David Cornwall remains our captain. He welcomes all to our tower and gives tremendous encouragement to ringers of all ability; this is a quality which we must treasure since it adds to the enjoyment of being part of the team serving our church with pride and commitment.

There has been limited success in recruiting new members with the last recruitment being almost two years ago. Anyone interested in coming to see the skill of bell ringing will assuredly be made most welcome and individual tuition will be given over a number of months. This is normally at 6.30 pm for an hour prior to our Tuesday 7.30 pm – 9.00 pm practices.

We hope that those attending Sunday services enjoy the sound of bells as they make their way from the car park up to the church entrance – long may it be so.

Ian J. Desborough

CHRISTIANS IN THE COMMUNITY

This has been an eventful year for this small group. We are made up of members of St Michael's, Naphill Methodist Church and the Kings Church. We welcome Christians living in the community to join us as we unite to plan outreach events and join in community events. This year we have taken part in the Naphill Village Fete, joining in the Fancy Dress Procession all dressed up in our wild west gear and then coming alongside our Worship Group in the Church marquee.

At Christmas we held our Carols by Candlelight service in Naphill Village Hall, which took a different format this year. This event is well attended and we were well supported by Mike

Hill, the Methodist Minister, and David Tester, Lay Preacher from St Michael's, Frank Hawkins led the musicians and we were all in fine voice for the carols. As always mulled wine, ably made by John Blunden, and mince pies were served at the end of the service. The retiring collection for Action for Children amounted to £182.85, which was amazing.

As always we are involved in preparing the Christmas and Easter Service Cards and these are delivered to around 2,200 homes in the parish. Funding has become an issue over the years and we decided to apply to the Hughenden Parish Council for a grant which would have helped sustain us for 2-3 years. Regrettably, we were not successful but we are not deterred. We will continue to offer our Coffee Mornings at the Naphill Methodist Church Hall, and offering a little sustenance to the Ladies Running Group at St Michael's. These two events have become part of the fabric of our group and we all enjoy being involved.

We also have a Prayer Chain comprising around 20 people, one or two of them now out of the area but still involved in offering prayer for those requesting it. Mostly we are all kept informed by email but if you do not have internet services there's always the telephone or the Royal Mail. If you wish to become part of that chain do not hesitate to contact either Norma or Yvonne. Likewise if you would like to be involved in Christians in the Community you will be most welcome; extra hands are always an asset.

Norma Clarke

24/7 PRAYER FOR WYCOMBE

This prayer initiative is now into its sixth year and there are, at the last count, 35 churches in Wycombe and the surrounding area taking part in covering all the ministries and aspects of life in our town in prayer. Each church is committed to praying for 24 hours on their chosen day of the month, although inevitably there will be periods during the early hours of the morning when this may be difficult. At present here at St Michael's we cover on average 11 hours on our committed day.

Recently our day of prayer has changed to the second Monday in the month. Over the course of the last few months Church House has been required for other reasons and it seemed appropriate to change our day so that we did not clash. This change of day started in March and will continue for the future. So on the second Monday in the month our prayer day will commence at 8 am until 8 am on Tuesday. The Prayer Space will be set up in Church House with all the usual facilities available. Please remember that the last hour of prayer will be from 4 – 5 pm, enabling me to come in and dismantle everything leaving the space clear for any events that may take place in the evening. Tea and coffee are always available in the kitchen and you will find milk in the fridge, so please help yourselves if you would like a hot drink. The sign-up sheet will appear on the table at the back of the church two weekends before our committed prayer day and the Prayer Points will join it close to the beginning of the month. Please prayerfully consider joining us in prayer for one hour, or part of an hour if that's all you are able to manage either in the Prayer Space or at home, bringing our town and the ministries taking place in it before the Lord.

The Prayer Space belongs to us all so if you have a prayer that inspires you don't be shy please share it with us, we all like to be inspired.

Yvonne Cook

BOOKSTALL REPORT

The bookstall, found at the back of the church, is available for all who wish to use it; church members and visitors. It is divided into three sections.

The section on the left is the library. Books, all donated, appear and disappear as people donate or take a book to read. I know of several people who are not members of the church but have popped in to look around, looked at the library and then taken a book. It's lovely that we have this facility and can provide a Christian book for free for those who wish to use it. There is no signing in or out, books can just be taken and returned if convenient, or kept. Every now and then, when the stock becomes too large, I take the older books, or those that have been there a long time and recycle them through the charity shops.

The middle section contains the past examples of bible reading notes and is helpful to look at for those who are thinking of changing their daily notes. There are also prayer cards and leaflets which offer spiritual support and are free for those who would like one. These do go and need to be replaced regularly and again are free for the whole community.

The right hand section contains the books for sale. These are changed approximately every month. Normally, as in the past, two or three books a month are sold, not always to church members but also to people who are visiting. Some disappear without any obvious payment but it is possible that cash payments are put directly into the wall safe.

The bookstall generally runs quite well, serving church members and the wider community including visiting tourists. The free resources of the library and prayer cards give us a good opportunity to share our faith with others and the books for sale section can be a useful facility for those who do not wish to travel to Great Missenden to the bookshop there. I am, of course, happy to order and collect any book from St Andrews if I am asked. Just email me at elainemorley2@sky.com.

Poppy Laight now organizes the Bible reading notes. Numbers of books ordered are down, possibly as people read their notes online and in fact some of these are free. It is also cheaper to order them directly and have them delivered straight to your door. Poppy will be happy to order any of the usual Bible reading notes for anyone who wishes. Her email address for such a request is poppylaight@gmail.com. She will leave any notes ordered, named and with the appropriate price required, on a small brown envelope attached to the book, at the back of the church under the Outlook magazines. The money should then be put into the envelope and the envelope put into the wall safe.

Elaine Morley

LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT

The Leadership Team have met 5 times since the 2015 Annual Meeting and aim to meet approximately once or twice a term. The Team currently comprises of Helen Peters, The Churchwardens, Task Group Leaders, Will Hurrell and the PCC Chair.

The Team continues to embrace the 'Leading Your Church into Growth' initiative which the Oxford Diocese has used. They have focused on furthering the Mission Statement by developing and incorporating the principles of the Four 'Ps' (Prayer, Presence, Proclamation and Persuasion) into the lifeblood of the church. The Team devote part of their meetings to prayer. The Team continues to receive development updates from all the Task Groups.

The mandate for the Leadership Team approved by the PCC is as follows:

The PCC delegates to the Leadership Team the responsibility for defining the vision and setting the Objectives for the Church. The Task Groups will present their proposals to the Leadership Team to discuss and seek approval. The Leadership Team will report back to the PCC.

The aims, objectives and events for 2015 were:

- To continue and nurture our welcome on Sunday mornings
- To encourage people to engage with the church and take an active part during services.
- To have a presence at Naphill Fete
- To continue to organise and host an Alpha course
- To continue to organise and host Christmas Unwrapped/Easter Eggsplained/Moving On
- To hold a Barn Dance on 3rd October
- To hold a St George's Day event on 25th April
- To support a Church camping weekend away
-

The aims, objectives and events for 2016 include:

- To continue and nurture our welcome on Sunday mornings
- To encourage people to engage with the church and take an active part during services.
- To welcome and support The Revd Keith Johnson and his family to St Michaels.
- To encourage attendance at and support the Parish Weekend Away 14th-16th October.

- To have a presence at Naphill Village Fete, 11th June and Hughenden Village Day, 16th July.
- To hold a Harvest Barn Dance and Supper on 1st October.

Helen Byrne

MUSIC REPORT

Firstly, a big thank you to Neil Brice (who plays 3 services each Sunday) and the choir who continue to ensure that the 9.00 am service has the highest musical standards.

The music at the 10.45 service has benefitted from a new PA which means no buzzing (well not too often!) and the sound quality is markedly better.

The church band - including the newest members Richard (mandolin) Turner & Antony (cajon) Rippon –have now played together so often that changes in time signatures & keys are seamlessly incorporated even without prior warning from the worship leader!

We continue to ensure there is still a mix of old & new hymns and at least one incorporates our wonderful church organ.

We are keen to encourage more young members of the congregation to be part of the Worship group vocally at the Family Service.

Will Hurrell

COMMUNICATIONS GROUP REPORT

Last year we reported as follows:

The gate notice board improvement is still to be achieved,

The development of a house style is still being worked on, but I am pleased that at last some movement has been made on the development of a new logo for the Church, which is the first stage.

We are glad to report that the Church logo (below) has been agreed and is being rolled out. Can we remind group co-ordinators and those responsible for development of materials to try and incorporate the logo (black and white or colour) wherever possible, please?



St. Michael & All Angels

CHURCH IN THE PARK | LIVING, LOVING, SERVING

Ben Brice has done sterling work incorporating the logo into the website, and generally continuing to improve the look of the website. In addition he has made it easily accessible from mobile phones, where many 'hits' come from.

Updates to the gate notice board have been agreed and are awaiting implementation. We hope that the improvements to the porch and back of church notice boards can be seen, though the table is again becoming cluttered. Can brochures be removed when they are out of date please?

Many thanks as always to the members of the communications group.

Anyone who has any comments, concerns or ideas about the mechanics or content of communication, please contact me on 01844 344650 or mjanetyrer@btinternet.com.

Jane Tyrer, Co-ordinator Communications Group

MISSION PROMOTION GROUP

The present membership consists of Norma Clarke, Yvonne Cook, Sue Newton, Rita Pulley and Ann Way. Susan Turner stood down following the birth of Chloe. We are still looking for new members and new contacts to widen the scope of our activities and to promote new ideas and contacts.

We have continued to support, principally, five main charities: The Ebenezer Children's Home in Kisese, Uganda, which has seen considerable changes in its leadership this year with the departure of Pastor Samson and the new leadership of his daughter, Betty, and her husband; MAF [Mission Aviation Fellowship] where we are fortunate to have David Tester, the Regional Coordinator, as our Licensed Lay Reader; a couple working for Wycliffe Bible Translators, linked though Sue Newton, Child and Family Aid Pro Deo, linked – along with Ebenezer – through Rita Pulley and Open Doors, linked through Yvonne Cook. We also support, as a parish through the efforts of individuals, ROPE, Compassion UK, The Children's Society, African Dream and the Persecuted Church, among others.

At the back of the Church, we maintain a board with details of the particular charities and their news. Newsletters and items of interest are available on the table at the main door. Articles appear regularly in the parish magazine, updating and providing news and information. There is a prayer cycle so that we pray regularly at Sunday services for the charities that we support as a parish.

One of the highlights of this past year was the Third Sunday Service devoted to Open Doors. On Sunday the 17th January, the Reverend Roger Faulkner and his wife Janet came and Roger spoke at our Service. It was very successful and well received. As a result, a number of people made donations and St Michael and All Angels became a "Partner Church."

Christopher Tyrer

YOUTH TASK GROUP REPORT

With the grand title of 'Youth Task Group Leader', I need to emphasise the hard work is done by an amazing team made up of Lucy Rippon (representing the Bubbles team), Debs O'Brien (representing the JC Club team), Bex (representing the Bell Tower team & CYFA) and Helen Byrne who co-ordinates us all and acts as our vital administrator. Helen is stepping down from that role as of Easter 2016 –thank you Helen for all you've done, we wish you well in your new role.

A huge thanks to all who make up these 'teams' enabling the smooth running of children's groups on Sunday, including Jane Lomas and her crèche team. Enabling all children to enjoy their experience of being church is a vital ministry, one we should never take for granted. This year we especially thank Claire, Leanna & Roger, Charlotte & Emma for stepping up into new leadership roles.

Being 'church' involves RELATIONSHIP, with EACH OTHER, GOD and THOSE OUTSIDE. Last year the Youth Task Group set specific goals:

- For every individual to have a strong friendship (peer) group within the church family, where they feel valued and safe.
- For every individual to be encouraged on their journey of faith.
- For every individual to be encouraged and given opportunities to serve and use gifts & energy.

These goals are being developed across all age groups for example Lucy reports:

"Bubbles" meet on Sunday morning during the 10.45 services. The session is aimed at Preschoolers and Reception aged children. Through a range of arts and craft and other activities we hope to nurture and develop the children's early awareness of the Christian faith and encourage the beginnings of a lifelong relationship with God. We like the sessions to be fun and flexible and although we have a regular format using the "Wow bag" and special songs we adjust the session to suit the children that join us. We have a number of regular attendees and would always welcome new Bubblers, new ideas and new adult leaders!

JC Club continues to flourish with overall increased numbers this year which is great encouragement. In reality numbers attending Bell Tower fluctuate – something we are aware of and a work in progress!

Bex has developed new monthly youth groups aimed at deepening relationships with the children/young people. Sometimes meeting in Church House, also enjoying bowling, pizza/film - Bex, Matt Dean & I enjoyed a trip to Chessington with 8 of the youngsters last May, and look forward to a return on 7th May this year.

This year we have again hosted successful 'Christmas Unwrapped' and 'Easter Eggplained' programs for Great Kingshill and Hughenden Valley Schools. Thank you to all who volunteered to make these welcoming and fun experiences for the children and staff.

In September Bex and a small group took part in 'The Noise' - a day of social action serving the local community. In December, Debs and Lucy lead a beautiful Christingle service, our thanks goes to all involved in that.

We are delighted that we have secured finances to employ Bex as part-time children/youth leader from September 2016.

Rev'd. Helen Peters

PRAYER MINISTRY

'Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God' (Philippians 4:5)

During most Communion Services at 10.45 am there is an opportunity for people who would like prayer for themselves or anyone else, to be prayed for by members of the Prayer Ministry team in the North Chapel. It is a great privilege to share in prayer with members of the congregation. We know that many find it uncomfortable to come for prayer, please don't feel anxious. As the verse above says we should pray about everything so we invite all to bring anything on mind or heart to give to God.

As a team we try to have at least three of us available in the North Chapel at each 10.45 am Communion Service.

SOCIAL AND OUTREACH REPORT

This has been a year with some delightful events that a committee of enthusiastic church members has put together to provide some social activities that would benefit church members and those in the communities round about us.

St Georges Day 2015 had a great supper with entertainment in Church House with some 50 people enjoying a real traditional English supper. We had great support from local villagers and the church with St George in costume together with a dragon attending!

In the summer there was good support for Naphill Village Fete and we are already working on activities for this years as well as the Hughenden Village day. Families had an opportunity to camp out with others joining them for some great barbeque feasts.

In the autumn a quizz night held in the Village hall was a great success with prizes even awarded for the best table decorations and Christmas jumper worn.

In December Papa Truck gave a concert in Church with the church band also participating making for a really joyous pre-Christmas event including some really upbeat carols.

February 2016 saw a Pre-Lenten supper in Church House again with some villagers also joining in and the theme here was Italy. We had some fine Italian Food and the three

Hughenden Tenors really gave the Italian ones a run for their money. It proved to be a most enjoyable night all round.

My thanks to everyone who works so hard to make these events so successful.

This Year coming please be available if possible to come and support our Church projects at Naphill Fete on 11th June, Hughenden Day on 16th July and other events including the Barn Dance on 1st October and some other really interesting events still on the drawing board.

If you would like to join the committee do please let me know.

Frank Hawkins, Tel 07850 150462

WHO'S WHO AT ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

VICAR AND AREA DEAN OF WYCOMBE	Vacant	
ASSOCIATE MINISTER	The Rev'd Helen Peters	716772
CHURCHWARDENS	Brian Clark Christopher Tyrer	562801 01844 344650
PARISH CLERK & VERGER	Arthur Johnson	521471
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR	Lin Smit	462094
CHURCH NOTICES/WEBSITE	Ben Brice	445899
PCC LAY CHAIRMAN	Clare Godfrey	563296
PCC SECRETARY	Beryl Doran	711909
PCC ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Penny Austin	529596
PCC TREASURER	Ian Faulkner	07795 823914
PCC ASSISTANT TREASURER	Arthur Johnson	521471
PLANNED GIVING SECRETARY	Arthur Johnson	521471
TASK GROUP LEADERS: COMMUNICATIONS	Jane Tyrer	01844 344650
PRAYER	Jane Tucker	534989
YOUTH	Mike Dean Helen Byrne (Co-ordinator)	463376 564342
MISSION	Christopher Tyrer	01844 344650
OUTREACH & SOCIAL	Frank Hawkins	565050
ALPHA COURSE - ADMINISTRATOR	Diane Hawkins	565050
ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER	David Cornwall	714718
DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES	Arthur Johnson Brian Clark Christopher Tyrer	521471 562801 01844 344650
DIOCESAN SYNOD REPRESENTATIVE	Christopher Tyrer	01844 344650
ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER	Neil Brice	445899
WORSHIP LEADER	Tony Sackville	446035
TINY TOTS FUN WORSHIP	The Rev'd Helen Peters	716772
AV AND SOUND SYSTEM	Frank Hawkins	565050
SERVERS	Andrew Cole	442191
MOTHERS' UNION PARISH LINK	Ann McCarthy	712004
CAPTAIN OF BELLRINGERS	David Cornwall	714718
VALLEY FRIENDS	Jill Graves	563813
CRECHE ROTA	Jane Lomas	563629
HUGHENDEN BABY AND TODDLER GROUP	The Rev'd Helen Peters	716772
CHRISTIANS IN THE COMMUNITY	Norma Clarke	563116
FRIENDSHIP MORNING	Penny Austin	529596
CHURCH HOUSE TEAS BOOKINGS	Julia Grant	711939
CHURCH COFFEE ROTA	Sylvia Clark	562801
CHURCH FLOWERS	Jean Godfrey	522198
CHURCH BOOKSTALL	Elaine Morley	562714
CHURCH HOUSE BOOKINGS	Parish Administrator	462094
HUGHENDEN VILLAGE HALL	Christine Powell	07815 163269
NAPHILL VILLAGE HALL	Norma Clark	563116
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MAGAZINE PRINTING	Brian Clark & Team	562801
MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTION	Hilary Farrar-Hockley	528236
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER	Jane Tucker	534989