



**St. Michael & All Angels**

CHURCH IN THE PARK | LIVING, LOVING, SERVING

***ANNUAL VESTRY***

**&**

***ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS***

SUNDAY 22nd MARCH 2015

**REPORT BOOKLET**

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## **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

## VICAR'S ANNUAL REPORT

I always approach this particular task, writing the Vicar's annual report, with enormous trepidation. I wish I had a systematic and objective approach to this, which would provide a knock down definitive 'state of the nation' summary. I don't. All I can do is comment as I see things, the good and the sometimes not so good. The other problem I have is a sense that there might be an underlying expectation that the assessment of what went on last year has to be bigger, better and bolder than the year before, just as next year will be bigger better and bolder than this! Sometimes though we have to acknowledge that it is not so easy and that there is shrinkage as well as growth, or perhaps a sense of being in the same place, though some might call that comfortably stuck!

We had very well attended major festival services. I always find it a strange experience on Christmas morning to look out to see a host of faces, many of whom I don't recognise, whilst many of those I do have gone to spend the festival elsewhere. We work hard to make these services open and accessible and it shows; people return for more the following year. It has been wonderful to see new faces coming and staying of course, particularly with a growth in younger families coming to the Church, and liking what they experience and sharing the word with others. One of the conversations that we have been having in the Leadership Team has been about our culture of welcome and helping people to feel a part of the Church Community. Last year we had an abortive attempt to gather newcomers together for a garden party. It inevitably fell foul of date clashes, nonetheless we think this is a good idea, to be intentional in our invitation to newcomers to come to something social and welcoming, so we will be re-visiting this idea again this year.

There was another trip to Spring Harvest last year, smaller in number but big in spirit. It has to be acknowledged that for some the price has become prohibitive, nonetheless for those who did go it proved to be very enriching. We also had a very successful parish weekend in October at High Leigh in Hertfordshire, a somewhat easier venue to get to than Ashburnham House near Hastings, wonderful setting though that was.

We said goodbye this year to people who stepped down from key positions in the Church. Mike Dean, for very good reason felt he needed to step back from Church activities and so stepped down from Youth activities, PCC and leadership. Penny Austin stepped down from her role as PCC Secretary and Anne Dean stepped down as PCC Lay Chair and her role on the Leadership Team. However, Helen Peters has taken on the co-ordination of children and Youth, Clare Godfrey has taken over from Anne Dean and has quickly shown herself to be a very able Lay Chair of the PCC and Leadership Team member and Beryl Doran has quickly shown herself to be a very able PCC Secretary. As well as Clare Godfrey, Will Hurrell has joined the Leadership Team; both have brought welcome fresh vision. We have had discussions on the Leadership Team of future proofing key roles, particularly Churchwardens and the Treasurer, always difficult roles to fill. Our able Churchwardens will be standing again this year, but for Brian Clark it will be his final year and we need to look for a replacement sooner rather than later. Chris Tyrer

will follow (if he is willing to go the full distance) the following year. We also continue to look at our famous 4 'P's (Prayer Presence Proclamation and Persuasion) when assessing what we do. I have always said these should be a useful servant rather than a tyrannical master; nonetheless we do need to keep our assessment of what we do measuring against these principles on the boil.

We have really missed Fred Friend who sadly died shortly after Easter last year. Much has been said elsewhere about Fred's contribution to this Church and parish over the years, he continues to be missed. We have been committed to maintain the variety and pattern of worship that seems to be a distinguishing feature of St Michael's (as Area Dean I can confirm that there really is not another church quite like St Michael's, at least not in these parts)! Nothing is set in stone of course but at the moment this can continue. I have been so pleased to welcome Melvyn Bleakley as a regular feature of the Church particularly as he takes a monthly 9.00am service, and also has assisted and preached at the 10.45 am service a couple of times. Melvyn has been extremely well received and has become a highly valued member of the team. The day of the APCM will also mark a change for Helen Peters when she stops being our curate and becomes our associate minister. I am delighted about this development and that Helen wants (and is being allowed) to stay on with us. I have come to see Helen very much as a trusted right and valued colleague and it has been a joy to see how she has grown and thrived in her ministry.

Helen of course headed up a team who put together the excellent 'taste and see that the Lord is good' events at Naphill fete and the Village Day. We are discussing what to do at Naphill this year, we hope it will be good but it won't be quite as elaborate (or extravagant)! Helen has also taken a leading role together with Nicky Fairbairn, Helen Collins, Kirsty Brewer, Charlotte Tester, Jane Tyrer, Barbara Willson, Joan Steel and Rebecca Hawes (Bex) in planning and running and serving the monthly tiny tots service in church. This has taken on a new lease of life since the Hughenden Mums and Toddlers group started to meet at the Church. We are also hosting a weekly running club! All this is good community stuff.

Having chaired the Mothers Union AGM in February I can affirm that they continue to do great work. They are led by a committee, which seems to work. Thanks to Susan Devereux for her seven years of service as treasure and thanks also to Jane Tucker for taking this on!

It has been a delight to see more people leading our worship. Neil Brice and the Choir so ably lead us of course with Tony and Jacky Sackville at our 10.45 am service. It has also been wonderful to see Will Hurrell grow as he leads worship with new blood being nurtured, thanks Anthony and Richard and Nina and also Tony Dodds and Nia Sherrington. Thanks also to Clive and Nicky Fairbairn for their assistance and bringing a different flavour with you when they have helped lead.

We continue to be a popular setting for weddings. I constantly have to make clear that there are certain conditions necessary for marrying at any parish church and that we are

simply not allowed to be a pretty venue for all comers, over the years I have had to develop a ministry in graciously saying no as well as delighting to say yes!

Once again we ran another Alpha Course. Whilst this was good, it was disappointing that there was only one newcomer on this particular course, all the others were on their second (or third) course. The course has changed, for the better in my opinion, and it was useful for those who did it again. We hope to see more new first time course members in the autumn. An existing house group has been beefed up from the 2014 course and is now being run by David and Charlotte Tester, my thanks to them.

The Standing and Finance committee worked hard to stick to a very tight budget. There were some technical difficulties with Ian Faulkner's computer in the autumn. This led to a mistake at our final Standing and Finance meeting last year when we thought that we were heading into a deficit. The good news is that once this issue was sorted out Ian discovered that we have not only balanced the budget but made a gain! As we did not know this at the time we made the very hard decision to review our charity giving. Hopefully we can now redress this. This does not mean that all is well financially. Last year we did not hold a charity auction. It was felt that after so many years of keeping this going, very much with Frank Hawkins' direction and oversight, people were simply tired, and there was not enough enthusiastic new blood to take it on. This has of course led to a dent in our budget of nearly £5,000. Combine this with what I pessimistically anticipate (at least at time of writing) will be a reduced amount from church teas due to a shorter season. To counter these pressures we have decided to hold an annual gift day, which will hopefully help the situation. In recent years this has been bi-annual. Our aim is to halt the trend of the last few years when we have had to dip into our reserves. I want to thank Ian Faulkner for continuing with the very difficult job of treasurer and being very astute in noticing what we spend, and finding ways that we can cut costs, and for picking up the recent anomaly!

There is one area where I believe we are facing a growing challenge. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find people to do the jobs that have to be done. For instance my heart sinks every year when we come round to getting enough volunteers to help organise church teas, thanks Julia Grant for so cheerfully taking on the challenge of coordinating this. This year we have lost quite a few teas organisers and face an uphill struggle to replace them. In the end we will have to cut our coat according to the cloth we have and I have made it clear that the length of season will have to match the numbers we have to run the teas. Teas is one example, it is becoming increasingly hard to find people to step up and take on the various voluntary roles that are needed to keep us at the level of activity that we have now. We are always on the look out for appropriate people to help maintain our youth and children's work.

But I do want to end on an upbeat note. We continue to work on our culture of welcome, something I believe to be so important. While we do need more people to volunteer, yet I am so thankful for those who do. We are only what we are because people offer themselves for service in God's church. So here goes for my annual, and very genuine 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 upkeepers. To crèche, children and youth workers, (a special thanks here to Rebecca Hawes “Bex” for the excellent work you have done). To administrators and house group leaders, to PCC, Leadership and Standing and Finance team members. To musicians, choir, verger and curate. To PCC Secretary and Lay Chair. Of course most of all to the Lord God who in Christ has given himself for us, who meets with us to calls us back to him, and has done everything to make this possible. It is very easy to forget in all our activity why we do this? We do it for him.

**Simon**

## **DIOCESAN AND DEANERY SYNOD REPORTS**

### **Diocesan Synod**

Our Vicar, Simon and Christopher Tyrer are the current elected Diocesan Synod members, elections being conducted at Deanery level. There will be an election this year for the next triennium. The Diocesan Synod meets quarterly and its work is underpinned by Living Faith. All Diocesan Synod members are automatically members of the Diocesan Board of Finance. Simon and Christopher are also members of both the Diocesan and Archdeaconry Mission and Pastoral Committees, which also meet quarterly.

It has been a momentous year at Diocesan Synod. The Diocesan Bishop of Oxford, the Rt. Rev'd John Pritchard, retired at the end of October and the Area Bishop of Dorchester, the Rt. Rev'd Colin Fletcher is acting as Bishop of Oxford additionally to his own area responsibilities during the Vacancy in See and for the second time, as he stood in during the previous Vacancy seven years ago. The Vacancy in See Committee has met and held public consultations and private discussions about the successor. There has been inevitable speculation in the media that Oxford might see the first Diocesan female appointment. Christians prayerfully await the decision of the Holy Spirit.

Synod was obliged to undertake a debate and the historical vote on the Ordination of Women Bishops. A brief note on the background might assist. It will be recalled that, in 2011, dioceses considered draft legislation designed to enable women to become bishops. All but two Dioceses voted in favour – Oxford being in favour – but the proposal failed at the General Synod by underachieving on the required two thirds majority in all three houses. There was bitter disappointment but, in the time that followed, better proposals were brought forward largely through the fresh approach by the new Archbishop of Canterbury. Facilitated discussions brought forth a new set of legislative proposals. Under Article 8 of the Constitution of the General Synod, these new proposals had to be voted upon by the Dioceses again. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2014, the Diocese of Oxford overwhelmingly voted in favour and, subsequently, the necessary two thirds

majorities were achieved at General Synod. The Rt. Rev'd Libby Lane was consecrated the first woman Bishop in the Church of England, as Suffragan Bishop of Stockport, on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

Financial support to the Diocese and beyond has been a constant theme and much has been written about it in the Parish Magazine and in presentations in our Church. Many Deaneries and, therefore, individual Parishes are not paying their share and the Diocese is trying to encourage full and regular payment through standing order by offering a small payback for prompt and regular payers. St Michael's is one such prompt and regular payer. This discussion occupied much of the meeting in June 2014.

In November 2014, we had a full discussion and debate on fossil fuels. The proposers of the Motion wanted General Synod to debate a Motion on disinvestment from companies whose activities included coal, tar sand, oil and natural gas and to promote faster action on climate change. The basis of the argument centred around our Christian responsibility to care for our planet. There was a counter Motion from the Chair of the ODBF. After a spirited debate the Motion was carried and the counter Motion lost.

## **Deanery Synod**

It has been a demanding year and Simon, as Area Dean, has had a challenging time. Contrary to his own far too modest appraisal, he has kept the "show on the road" but it must have been exhausting at times.

The election for our representatives at Deanery resulted in the re election of Brian Clark, Arthur Johnson and Christopher Tyrer. Simon – as Area Dean – and Helen attend in their own right. The meetings are open and Ian Faulkner invariably attends to help us with the economics.

Unsurprisingly, the principle and dominant focus has been on Parish Share. A new scheme came down from the Diocese and had to be voted upon. The background is one of simple economics! In 2013, 3.74% of Parish Share [£44,418] was unpaid. The rebate to Deanery from Diocese for prompt and regular payers was £35,676. In 2014, six parishes created an even larger deficit [£72,362], against a rebate of £69,232, further reducing Deanery funds. Another similar deficit for 2015 will exhaust them. The new scheme designed to encourage more contributions being paid in full involved a new formula and a direct rebate to individual Parishes which paid their share in full, as we do. The original vote was supposed to have been taken in July 2014 but, despite more than ample forewarning, several Parishes announced that they had not read the papers nor had they discussed the proposals in their PCCs. Simon generously deferred the vote until last October. He was wise to do so, although the writer was more than a little irritated! An amendment to the original scheme was put forward by Loudwater which, when analysed, made sense. After much debate it was carried. Issues still remain which are for the future.

**Christopher Tyrer**



## PCC REPORT

During 2014 – 2015 the PCC was constituted as follows :

Clergy and Area Dean: Revd. Simon Cronk

Curate: 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, Anne Dean, Ian Faulkner, Frank Hawkins, Will Hurrell, Arthur Johnson, Cerys Seys Llewellyn, Mike Morgan, Mark Sherrington, Richard Turner

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

At the APCM last year Penny Austin announced that after eight years she would like to step down from being PCC secretary. Penny is a very hard act to follow and I've been very grateful for her help and advice in her role as Assistant Secretary. Then in September Anne Dean resigned from the PCC and from her role as Lay Vice Chair. Another hard act to follow, but Clare Godfrey has made a splendid job of stepping into her shoes.

We are delighted that Helen Peters will be staying with us as Assistant Priest and thank her for all her work especially with our young people.

The PCC has met four times this year with attendances ranging from a full house in September to only nine in November. The dates are published in advance and it would really be appreciated if members could ensure they are available. There was an extra meeting for the election of officers shortly after the APCM.

The PCC works closely alongside the leadership team to look at the ministry and mission of the Church and ratifies what the leadership team looks at. The PCC has consistently looked at what the experience of coming to the Church is like for all who are involved. Many issues have been discussed including a possible re-ordering of the Church. It was considered that major work involving the removal of pews and new flooring was unfeasible at this time, however the PCC was concerned that the pews should be made more comfortable. Brian Clark was charged to look into the matter and this resulted in the new cushions to make the pews more comfortable and the money for these was raised entirely by the congregation.

The problem of the mess made by the swallows nesting in the porch, and the distress caused when a bird gets into Church gave rise to the idea that we might have some form of doors on the porch, possibly glass. This has been discussed with the Diocese and plans are being drawn up by the churchwardens. Some form of electronic device to deter the birds from flying into the building is being reviewed for the short term.

Maintenance is always an ongoing issue and this year amongst other things we are planning to have a new sound system which will improve the experience of attending Church. This will be entirely funded from a private donation.

If you would like to read more details of our meetings the minutes are always available in the porch.

**Beryl Doran, PCC Secretary**

### **PARISH MAGAZINE – *OUTLOOK***

Another year of *Outlook* production has passed and the editorial team continues to work well together, discussing ideas for content and layout. We are always ready to welcome another member to the team. Fresh blood brings new ideas!

On occasions we would have liked some more articles to include, so as mentioned previously, we would urge readers to contribute anything which may be of interest, either to the magazine email which is: [mag@hughendenparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:mag@hughendenparishchurch.org.uk), or through the post. Alternatively items could be given to one of the editors at church. Having said that, we do thank all who have contributed over the past year.

The printing team has continued to work well and we thank them very much. Thanks also go to Hilary Farrar-Hockley and the team of magazine distributors, also to Stan Cole who faithfully posts copies to readers outside the area.

The editorial team, Christopher and Jane Tyrer, Bob and Jane Tucker and myself will continue our efforts to produce an interesting and informative parish magazine.

**Sylvia Clark, Editor**

## ELECTION OF SIDESMEN

We propose the following people as Sidesmen  
for the year 2015/2016

Name	8:00 am	9:00 am	10:45 am	6:00 pm
Penny <b>Austin</b>				
Sylvia & Brian Clark				
John <b>Babb</b>				
Sara <b>Badrick</b>				
Denise <b>Barrow</b>				
Anne & Mike <b>Dean</b>				
Keith & Eileen <b>Dean</b>				
Trish & Nick <b>Devlin</b>				
Ian & Kathy <b>Faulkner</b>				
Clare <b>Godfrey</b>				
Jean <b>Godfrey</b>				
Frank & Diane <b>Hawkins</b>				
Grantley <b>Hoath</b>				
Philip <b>Hynard</b>				
Chris & Amanda <b>Janes</b>				
Ann <b>Moore</b>				
Rosemary <b>Petty</b>				
Christine <b>Powell</b>				
Roger & Ann <b>Gee</b>				
Louise & Richard <b>Stallwood</b>				
Jane & Christopher <b>Tyrer</b>				
Judy & George <b>Wilson</b>				

We are very grateful to those who offer this invaluable service of welcome to all who come to worship at St. Michael's. As you will see from the list above, **we are in urgent need of new volunteers, particularly at the 9:00 am service.**

The ministry of meeting and greeting and serving one another is not onerous and can be undertaken by anyone. If you are interested in volunteering please talk to one of us. If you are considering offering yourself, please look at the list of tasks that you will be requested to undertake which is on the board at the back of the Church.

**Christopher Tyrer**

## **MOTHERS' UNION REPORT**

Another year has gone and we are still committee led, but it is proving to work well, with the members support, and being united in prayer gives us strength to carry out the work of the Mothers Union.

One of our very sad losses this year to both MU and the whole of our church was the death of Rev. Fred Friend. Fred always supported us in all our work, he is very much missed by us all but we are very fortunate to have the full support of our clergy Simon and Helen.

We give a big thank you to Susan Devereux who is standing down as Treasurer after 5 years. Susan stepped into the breach at a very difficult time. Jane Tucker is taking on this role.

Our outreach into the wider church community is very rewarding. At all Baptisms we have an MU member present and also helping with crèche at 10.45 service.

We also help with Tiny Tots service and very involved in Teddy Bears Picnic. This enables us to show our support for Family Life.

Christmas Unwrapped and Easter Eggsplained which involves local schools are also helped by MU.

Our meetings are very well attended and we welcome visitors at any time and our speakers have been varied. Coffee Mornings along with the Bring and Buy are very popular and the proceeds go to funds for various MU projects.

Locally we continue to support the One Can trust along with the wider church, and also the Womens' Refuge.

This year our Ploughman's Lunch raised a considerable amount of money and this was distributed to various projects.

We have enrolled 4 new members this year and new comers are always very welcome and as we continue to grow together. Prayer is at the heart of all we do.

**Sara Badrick**

## **ALPHA COURSE 2014**

The Alpha Course this year ran from 1<sup>st</sup> October until the beginning of December and had some 15 people on it. Getting to know more about Jesus Christ and many aspects of our faith is always interesting, exciting, challenging and remarkable. The people in 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 so much more about themselves and their relationship with Jesus Christ. This year it was great to welcome Charlotte and David Tester as part of the Leadership group.

Our attendees in 2014 were primarily from our current congregation. The new exciting format of tuning in live to the broadcasts from Holy Trinity Brompton works well with a good mixture of speakers that adds challenge and wide experience to the sessions. Behind it however the guiding hand of the founder Nicky Gumbal keeps the programme well on track. During the course we are 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.

Yes Alpha does take people forward in their faith. 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 2015 and it 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

**Frank Hawkins**

### **REGULAR GIVING REPORT 2014**

This year we saw the re- introduction of a gift day, which I am pleased to report raised £4510, for which we are very grateful and bless you all for your generosity. In addition to the gift day we also received £8189 in gifts to the church.

Our Service income however is still in decline, this year we have seen a drop of £400 on 2013.

The PCC are very mindful of the ever increasing pressures on the costs of running our church and continue to look at ways of reducing these costs.

For 2014 I shall be reporting a surplus of £5900, which was only achieved due to the gift day and the additional gifts received, without which I would be reporting a loss of £6800. With this in mind I would ask you to look to your stewardship, to see what, (if any) additional contribution you can afford to give.

For the third year of asking (and I am not giving up) I do ask that you reconsider your approach to the use of standing orders. I am very grateful for those who have changed to standing orders; it does save a lot of work.

Standing orders are easy to set up; they can also be changed or cancelled at any time. A considerable amount of time and effort is spent opening envelopes and recording the individual's giving; by using standing orders the workload will be greatly reduced. If you are considering changing to this method, please contact me or take a form from the table at the rear of the church.

For those of you who make payments by cheque, please ensure that cheques are made out to **HUGHENDEN P.C.C.** Cheques containing any other narrative, such as St Michael and All Angels Church, will be rejected by the bank

**Ian Faulkner, Treasurer**

## BAPTISMS

It has been a very busy year for baptisms. As of 20 January 2015, there had been 15 baptism services (6 of which were within the 10.45am Family Service) with 20 children aged from 3 months to 7 years baptised at St Michaels. By comparison only 8 children and one adult were baptised in the previous year. Five families had more than one child baptised. One family had gorgeous 1 year old twin girls baptised together with their 4 year old big brother.

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.

In Year 1 (5 & 6 year old children) at Great Kingshill Church of England Combined School, the children learn about baptisms. To help the teachers talk about baptisms with their children, the teacher of each class uses Baptism Cubes that have been presented to them by the Mothers' Union.

***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 contains a personalised message just inside the box and each baptism card invites 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**

## CHURCH FLOWERS

Thanks to a flower fund provided by the PCC and generous donations from members of the congregation and those named on the flower rota, there are always flowers in church except for Advent and Lent.

The flower rota is on the noticeboard on the lefthand side of the porch near the entrance and anyone is welcome to add their name, especially if you wish to celebrate a special date.

A special thank you to Arthur for providing a lovely display each year for Candlemas.

**Jean Godfrey**

## **BELL RINGERS' REPORT**

Ringling for Sunday service has been well supported throughout 2014. Ideally our group could be better served by increased membership since with only 11 members it leaves little room for absences in order to complete a full complement for our beautiful and much coveted ring of eight. We are however blessed with having some regular (almost guest members) visitors from local towers, both at our Tuesday practice evenings and Sunday morning, something we all value enormously.

Groups are always keen to attempt peals on our bells and all the available (maximum 2 per month) dates were taken during the year. Weddings, when ringling was requested, totalled 14 for the year, this was slightly up on the previous year.

In David Cornwall we have an extraordinary 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 a team serving our church with pride and commitment.

Currently we have one individual who is learning basic bell control and it is most encouraging to see her commitment and enthusiasm. Latest intelligence at the time of writing would indicate that an additional recruit may well begin learning in the coming weeks. Anyone interested in coming to see the skill of bell ringling will assuredly be made most welcome and individual tuition will be given over a number of months. This is normally at 6.30pm for an hour prior to our Tuesday 7.30pm – 9pm practices.

Throughout 2014 the membership at Hughenden has been very appreciative of the support from High Wycombe and Amersham ringers together with one individual from Aston Clinton. It makes an immense difference since it allows personal progress and more variation in the methods which can be attempted.

I believe that our congregations can be confident of enjoying the sound of the bells as they make their way from the car park up the path towards the church porch – long may it be so.

**Ian J. Desborough**

## TINY TOTS SERVICE REPORT

The Tiny Tots Informal Service takes place on the third Thursday of each month in church. The 'host team' provides a warm welcome from 9.30am to the Hughenden Toddler Group, 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 Kirstie 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.

As always, the annual June Teddy Bear's Picnic, in the Mothers' Union Garden, was a highlight. We thank the Mothers' Union for their extravagant hospitality providing a delicious picnic lunch. We were blessed this year with fair weather, and the MU garden felt incredibly full!

Members of Tiny Tots were encouraged to attend and take part in the Crib Service on Christmas Eve. It was lovely to see many participate in the 'Christmas Present Song', and look so at home in the church building. Several mothers have fed back 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. Simon and Helen are delighted that a number of children have been brought for baptism - who already have links with the church through attendance at Tiny Tots.

Special thanks goes to the Tiny Tots Team: Kirstie Brewer, Helen Collins, Nicola Fairbairn, Helen Peters, Charlotte Tester, Jane Tyrer, Barbara Willson and Rebecca Hawes. We would be delighted to welcome new people on to the team - please talk to Helen Peters initially.

**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. Helen Peters**



## PRAYER CO-ORDINATOR REPORT

I am happy to report that the prayer-life of St. Michael's is alive and well!

I updated the Parish Prayer Rota in the September 2014 edition of Outlook, to amend a couple of entries and add more Naphill references. I use that Rota and approach a selection of 5-6 of those groups/people/organisations identified each month, to ask for 2-3 specific prayer points to include in the Prayer Topics table in Outlook. I am getting more and more effective responses when I request specific prayer points from people. Those outside the Church such as Village Shop, local businesses, National Trust etc. really do seem to appreciate knowing that we want to pray for them. The Prayer Topics table also now includes prayer points from one of our selected Mission groups each month. If you have any suggestions as to how the rota and/or the Prayer Topics table can be improved please do let me know.

We have an experienced, and effective, team of Intercessors for both 9.00 and 10.45 services. At 9.00 the intercessors work on a monthly rota, but at 10.45 intercessors will be on duty once every 6 months. At 10.45 service those Intercessions (for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays) will cover a specific Mission topic and also make reference to any Monthly Prayer Topic items from Outlook that are relevant by date. On 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays at Family Service (10.45) the Intercessions are led by either families, or one of our children or young people's groups, each one doing duty once a year.

Emergency prayer requests are often passed around among the congregation by phone or email using designated lists; with another prayer chain also operating across the membership of Mothers' Union.

If you would be interested in joining the emergency prayer chain, or learning more about being an Intercessor please do contact me. We often 'break-in' new Intercessors by having them partner with a more experienced Intercessor until they are confident enough to 'go solo'. We also have a small library of books to use when creating Intercessions, with helpful and useful ideas, which many Intercessors regularly use, when writing their Intercessions.

During the past year we have also opened up a Prayer Hot Line email address (Thanks to Ben Brice for his help) and are advertising it via posters around the Church and the Parish. Anyone who feels in need of prayer, but is not in touch with any members of the church, can now approach us by email. Also it may sometimes be easier to send an email, than to vocalise the prayer need face to face. If you have access to a suitable display point for a poster please do let me know and I can print (and laminate if necessary) a copy of the poster and pass it onto you.

If you have any ideas about additional ways we can further develop our parish prayer life please do contact me, I would be delighted to hear any suggestions.

**Jane Tucker**

## **CHRISTIANS IN THE COMMUNITY**

We have had a very successful year. We had many members of both churches (Hughenden and Naphill Methodist) delivering Christmas and Easter cards to about 95% of the parish homes.

We enjoyed the annual Candles by Candlelight service at the Naphill Village Hall supported by Simon Cronk and Mike Hill and Frank Hawkins' 'Naphill' string section.

And the coffee mornings went well – particularly the one attended by the running group which we held in Church House in February.

We were on hand at the Naphill Fete and Hughenden Village Day when we joined in with the Churches marquee, offering sweets and beer and wine to try.

**Norma Clarke**

## **HOUSE GROUP LEADERS FORUM**

The House Group Leaders Forum meets each term and each House Group is represented by either the leader or a member. The aim of the group is to share ideas and information on study literature and courses. The group also looks at membership and identification of new groups and leaders, and ensures those finishing Alpha are linked in to a House Group. Where possible details of the groups and the courses they are studying are published in the Parish Magazine.

There is currently one daytime group for ladies and four evening groups. Throughout the year there is a wide variety of books and courses studied. This year during Lent the house groups have been encouraged to come together to watch a series of DVDs in church for all.

## **24/7 PRAYER FOR WYCOMBE**

24/7 Prayer is international, national and in our case local. St Michael's, along with approximately 40 other churches in Wycombe and the surrounding area are now in the fifth year of this prayer initiative and we come from various denominations to unite in prayer for our town and the ministries which take place there. Each church commits to praying on a specific day, in our case the second Thursday of the month, and endeavours to cover 24 hours. On average, over this last year, St Michael's have covered 13 hours on our prayer days.

There are numerous ministries taking place in Wycombe now, some of them are supported in various ways by St Michael's and more than a few of you are engaged in volunteering with them. Over the last year Wycombe's CAP Centre commenced at the King's Centre in March, Wycombe Workplace Chaplaincy was re-launched in September and Whycome, a project started by Pastor Robert Layman and a group of Christians, began to appear on the Prayer Points in April when they were able to set up in the Wesley Methodist Church on the last Saturday in the month; the list of ministries is growing. As well as praying for ministries, we are also encouraged to pray for Local Government, the Thames Valley Police, our hospital and local schools just to name a few. We need to take our prayers and petitions to the Lord; he has to be at the centre of everything we do in his name and all who work and volunteer in the ministries need his wisdom, guidance and protection as they seek to help and exhibit his love to those who may not be aware of him and what he offers to those who believe and trust in him.

On the second Thursday in the month the Prayer Space is set up in the North Room. It begins at 8 am and runs through to Friday at 8 am. Usually after 6 pm on Thursday, people tend to pray at home and I dismantle the Prayer Space until the next month. We are asked to prayerfully consider signing up for one hour, or part of an hour, bringing Wycombe and all the ministries taking place there before God. The sign-up sheet is on the table at the back of the church two weekends before our promised prayer day and all I ask is that you make it clear whether you are praying in the North Room or at home. The Prayer Points arrive by email at the end of the month and they join the sign-up sheet on the last weekend before our prayer day. Please join us for this much needed time of prayer for Wycombe.

**Yvonne Cook**

### **CHURCH BOOKSTALL**

The bookstall is being managed temporarily by Cath Cronk. Please contact her if there is anything you require.

## **CHURCH MUSIC**

The worship band playing for the 10.45 service has evolved considerably over the last 12 months or so. As opposed to Tony & Jackie leading every week, Will Hurrell now leads at least once a month, sometimes more dependent on availability.

A rotation in the leading of worship has also resulted in other members of the congregation getting involved, namely: Antony Rippon - percussion, Richard Turner - mandolin, Louise Murphy - vocals, Nina Sparks - trumpet.

We also encourage the younger members of the congregation to be part of the Worship group, vocally, in the Family Service.

There are also plans to utilise more classically trained members of the congregation, (e.g. Nicky and Clive Fairbairn) to play on a regular basis too!

Thanks as always go to Neil Brice who plays for three out of four of our Sunday services. The choir are always present when needed and it is a great pleasure to have such varied music available to enhance our services.

**Will Hurrell**

## **FRIENDSHIP MORNING**

Our Members of Fellowship are a really special group of people and when we meet on the third Thursday of each month there is much chatter and laughter. We are looking forward to our hot soup and French bread Lunch which will be in March. The winter time is often a challenge and this Lunch is very popular. Alan Jaycock is hoping to give us his annual photographic presentation in February – and so the year progresses.

We would welcome another able-bodied Helper to join our little team and we continue to promote the 4Ps.

**Judith Camplisson**

## LEADERSHIP TEAM ANNUAL REPORT

The Leadership Team has met 4 times since the 2014 Annual Meeting and aim to meet approximately once or twice a term. The Team comprises of Simon, 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/Events for 2015 are:**

- 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 hold a Lent Course for all in church.
- 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 3<sup>rd</sup> October
- To hold a St George's Day event on 25<sup>th</sup> April
- To support a Church camping weekend away

**Helen Byrne**

## COMMUNICATIONS GROUP REPORT

Last year we reported as follows:

*'In hand are the following:*

- *Improvement to the appearance of the table at the entrance (we are already trying to keep it tidy and up to date) by a better display unit for different size leaflets and a reorganisation of the area to give better access.*
- *Reducing sign-up sheets to the minimum (using the notice boards where appropriate).*
- *Rationalisation of the use of large notice boards at the rear*
- *Improvements to the notice board at the gate, and better use of the rear of the sign.'*

We hope that the first three of these objectives have been satisfactorily achieved, but, we would ask that all those who do display items try to remove them when they are no longer required.

We are grateful to Brian Clark for obtaining the leaflet display and general 'furniture removing service'.

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. More on this will be reported through Outlook.

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](mailto:mjanetyrer@btinternet.com).

**Jane Tyrer, Co-ordinator Communications Group**

## MISSION PROMOTION GROUP

The current membership comprises Susan Chon, Norma Clarke, Yvonne Cook, Sue Newton, Rita Pulley, Ann Way and Christopher Tyrer. We give thanks for the work of Jim Long, a stalwart of this Group until he and Ann stepped down in 2012. Jim's death on the 24<sup>th</sup> December last was keenly felt in and far beyond this parish. His Funeral on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2015 was packed out. Their hard work over the years was inspirational. We are looking for new members.

We are grounded in the 4 Ps - Prayer, Presence, Persuasion and Proclamation:

**Prayer:** we support, principally, five charities by prayer and action: the Ebenezer Children's Home, in Kasese, Uganda, MAF [Mission Aviation Fellowship], a couple working for the Wycliffe Bible Translators, Child and Family Aid Pro Deo and Open Doors. Others that the Parish supports in various ways include ROPE, African Dream and the Persecuted Church. A prayer rota is followed at the main Sunday Services for all these to be included in the Intercessions;

**Presence:** we maintain a board at the back of the Church with materials from our supported charities and encourage members of the congregation to follow what is happening from the regular newsletters that are available. Members also submit articles of interest to the Parish Magazine for inclusion.

**Persuasion:** by these means and by word of mouth we try and encourage members of the Church family to be informed and understanding of the work of our supported charities. There are a number of other charities, serving at home and abroad, that are supported by individuals and the Group tries to encourage interest in and involvement with charitable organisations by word of mouth and by written offerings. The written offerings, particularly, are through the Parish Magazine.

**Proclamation:** as a Church community and particularly through the PCC, we support the idea of neighbourliness near and far. We are all members of one Body and, if we are to live within the letter and the spirit of the Commandments, we must care for all our neighbours in Christ. Every one of us has the obligation to promote the work of our Church through Mission.

We are meeting as and when we have something to discuss and to review progress and our activities. We are attempting to have specific contacts at the supported charities – Rita Pulley is our contact with Ebenezer and Child and Family Aid Pro Deo, Sue Newton with Wycliff Bible Translators, Yvonne Cook with Open Doors, David Tester is the local link with MAF – to enable us to be more closely involved in their work. We hope that we might be permitted to invite speakers from the charities to come and inform our congregation about the work that they do and which we support.

**Christopher Tyrer**

## YOUTH TASK GROUP

We want to begin by acknowledging the huge investment of time and energy Mike Dean has put into the youth work at St. Michael's over many years. Mike stepped down as 'Youth Task Group Leader' in September 2014. So at the start of this report we want to say an enormous 'Thank you' to Mike on behalf of the whole church. Mike and Anne continue to be an invaluable support to Bex, our children's/youth worker, and Mike has continued his role as host at both Christmas Unwrapped and Easter Explained events.

Helen Peters took on the role of 'Youth Task Group Leader' in September 2014, working closely with Lucy Rippon (representing Bubbles), Debs O'Brien (representing JC Club), Bex (representing Bell Tower, D-Cyfa and CYFA) and Helen Byrne who co-ordinates us all and acts as our vital administrator.

Another big thank you goes to all those involved in running the children's groups on a Sunday. Jane Lomas and her crèche helpers, the Bubbles team, all the JC Club leaders and assistants, the Bell Tower Leaders - all overseen by Bex. It is a delight to see Bex develop in confidence and ability.

All Youth Task Group activities are motivated by the 4 'P's of Prayer, Presence, Proclamation and Persuasion. As well as the ongoing weekly input, this year we have again hosted a successful 'Christmas Unwrapped' program for Great Kingshill year 6 and Hughenden Valley year 5&6. Thank you to all who volunteered their time and energy to make these welcoming and fun experiences for the children and staff. We are in the process of securing dates for Easter Explained and will be aiming to offer the 'Moving On' sessions to both schools.

In September a group from CYFA took part in 'The Noise' - a day of social action serving the local community. Our group spent the morning outside Hughenden Valley Community Shop, sanding down and re-staining the two benches. Local people were delighted to find local youth from their community working very hard free of charge and with no strings attached! We will be looking for one or two more projects for 2015.

In December, Debs and Lucy led a beautiful Christingle service, planned by the YTG, involving children & youth from all groups. Our thanks go to all involved in that.

Being 'church' involves RELATIONSHIP, with EACH OTHER, GOD and THOSE OUTSIDE. With that in mind the Youth Task Group has developed specific goals for this coming year:



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Long Term Goals</b> (where we are aiming)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Short term goals</b> (how we are planning to get there this year)</p>
<p><b>Belonging</b> - for every individual to have a strong friendship (peer) group within the church family, where they feel valued and safe.</p>	<p>CYFA - Socials (quiz / sleep over etc ) D-CYFA / yrs 4,5,6 (Bowling/pizza evening / Chessington / bell ringing / movie nights/sleep over)</p>
<p><b>Grow closer to God</b>- for every individual to be encouraged on their journey of faith.</p>	<p>Sunday sessions (Bubbles; JC Club; Bell Tower) Sunday evenings (CYFA) (D-CYFA?). Confirmation Group Attending Services</p>
<p><b>Service</b> - for every individual to be encouraged and given opportunities to serve and use gifts &amp; energy.</p>	<p>Involvement in Sunday services ( reading/ singing / prayers / welcoming/PA) Getting involved in Fresh Noise Helping on team at Lighthouse Helping at Village Days Helping to deliver Church Leaflets at Christmas / Easter.</p>

### **MONDAY MORNING LADIES' BIBLE STUDY**

Our Little group continue to meet during term time, but if there are other ladies who are interested in joining us we would make you most welcome.

We have recently been studying 'Transformed by the presence of Jesus' – a CWR publication. This booklet invites us to go beyond the traditional Bible Study. Through a meditative approach we are encouraged to step into the shoes of well-known Bible characters.

We meet at approximately 10.15 am.

**Judith Camplisson**

## **SOCIAL AND OUTREACH TASK GROUP**

2014 started with a very happy and enjoyable Burns night in Hughenden Village Hall. We then decided that as we had been running it for several years that it needed a rest and hence it was decided to have a different event in 2015. This will take the form of a St George's celebration and this is being held on the nearest Saturday to 23<sup>rd</sup> April that being Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April and will be in Church House.

In 2014 the team supported the Naphill Fete and the Hughenden Day where the presence of St Michael's made a significant contribution.

It was decided then that the Church Auction in September needed a rest. The barn dance was a great success as per usual.

In 2015 there will be some new events and we are welcoming some new committee members and some of their new ideas will hopefully be incorporated.

Thanks to everyone on the committee and to all those who have helped and those who have supported the activities.

**Frank Hawkins**

## **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 are in need of prayer for themselves or anyone else, to be prayed for by members of the Prayer Ministry team in the North Chapel. We generally have two or three people wanting prayer at each of these services and it has been a great privilege to share in prayer with members of the congregation.

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

## **CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL**

Arthur Johnson is now our Electoral Roll Officer and is in the process of revising the Roll. The approximate number is 170 and the accurate figure will be available at the APCM.

## WHO'S WHO AT ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

<b>VICAR AND AREA DEAN OF WYCOMBE</b>	The Rev'd Simon Cronk	563439
<b>NON STIPENDIARY PRIEST</b>	The Rev'd Fred Friend	563168
<b>CURATE</b>	The Rev'd Helen Peters	716772
<b>CHURCHWARDENS</b>	Brian Clark Christopher Tyrer	562801 01844 344650
<b>PARISH CLERK &amp; VERGER</b>	Arthur Johnson	521471
<b>PARISH ADMINISTRATOR</b>	Lin Smit	462094
<b>CHURCH NOTICES/WEBSITE</b>	Ben Brice	445899
<b>PCC LAY VICE CHAIRMAN</b>	Anne Dean	463376
<b>PCC SECRETARY</b>	Penny Austin	529596
<b>PCC ASSISTANT SECRETARY</b>	Anne Dean	463376
<b>PCC TREASURER</b>	Ian Faulkner	07795 823914
<b>PCC ASSISTANT TREASURER</b>	David Cornwall	714718
<b>PLANNED GIVING SECRETARY</b>	David Cornwall	714718
<b>TASK GROUP LEADERS: WORSHIP</b>	The Rev'd Simon Cronk	563439
<b>PASTORAL SUPPORT</b>	Anne Dean	463376
<b>YOUTH</b>	Mike Dean Norma Clarke (Administrator) Helen Byrne (Co-ordinator)	463376 563116 564342
<b>MISSION</b>	Christopher Tyrer	01844 344650
<b>OUTREACH &amp; SOCIAL</b>	Frank Hawkins	565050
<b>ALPHA COURSE - ADMINISTRATOR</b>	Diane Hawkins	565050
<b>ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER</b>	David Cornwall	714718
<b>DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES</b>	Arthur Johnson Brian Clark Christopher Tyrer	521471 562801 01844 344650
<b>DIOCESAN SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES</b>	The Rev'd Simon Cronk Christopher Tyrer	563439 01844 344650
<b>ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER</b>	Neil Brice	445899
<b>WORSHIP LEADER</b>	Tony Sackville	446035
<b>AV AND SOUND SYSTEM</b>	Frank Hawkins	565050
<b>SERVERS</b>	Andrew Cole	442191
<b>MOTHERS' UNION PARISH LINK</b>	Ann McCarthy	712004
<b>CAPTAIN OF BELLRINGERS</b>	David Cornwall	714718
<b>VALLEY WIVES</b>	Jill Graves	563813
<b>CRECHE ROTA</b>	Jane Lomas	563629
<b>CHRISTIANS IN THE COMMUNITY</b>	Norma Clarke	563116
<b>FRIENDSHIP MORNING</b>	Judith Camplisson	565108
<b>CHURCH HOUSE TEAS BOOKINGS</b>	Julia Grant	711939
<b>CHURCH COFFEE ROTA</b>	Sylvia Clark	562801
<b>CHURCH FLOWERS</b>	Jean Godfrey	522198
<b>CHURCH BOOKSTALL</b>	Elaine Morley	562714
<b>CHURCH HOUSE BOOKINGS</b>	Parish Administrator	462094
<b>HUGHENDEN VILLAGE HALL</b>	Christine Powell	565942
<b>NAPHILL VILLAGE HALL</b>	Norma Clarke	563116
<b>OUTLOOK MAGAZINE EDITORS</b>	Sylvia Clark Bob & Jane Tucker Christopher & Jane Tyrer	562801 534989 01844 344650
<b>MAGAZINE PRINTING</b>	Brian Clark & Team	562801
<b>MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTION</b>	Hilary Farrar-Hockley	528236