

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, MIDDLEWICH

England & Wales · Charity number 1127335

Details

Other names MIDDLEWICH PCC

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2008-12-30

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

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Activities

Objects: Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Activities: The aim and purpose of the Church is "to glorify God and enjoy him for ever". The Rector, supported enthusiastically by the PCC and the lay and ordained staff, prayerfully pursues this objective in planning the services, outreach and pastoral ministry of the Church in the community, We hope the activities during 2024 brought us nearer to meeting our objective throughout Middlewich.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED
- Cheshire East

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£177,226	£175,351	-	-
2023-12-31	£167,014	£168,669	-	-
2022-12-31	£156,404	£158,364	-	-
2021-12-31	£258,578	£151,859	-	-
2020-12-31	£148,878	£144,301	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Anne Latham		2021-04-18
Elaine Reynolds		2020-10-18
Fiona Tarry		2023-04-23
Graham Ikin		2022-04-24
Grant Stanning		2025-04-27
Ian Jeffery		2019-04-07
Ivan Smith		2024-04-23
JOHN CURRIE		2023-04-23
Joanne Wilson		2021-04-18
Josie Margaret Clewes		2022-04-24
Keith Yearley		2013-07-18
NEIL CLEWES		2017-04-23
Patricia Smith		2022-04-24
Paul Hassall		2024-04-23
Rev Alison Boulton		2019-04-07
Rev Julie Hassall		2022-04-24
Robert Reed		2025-04-27
STEVE BAILEY		2017-04-23
Stewart Prentice		2024-04-23
Sue Ikin		2021-04-18

Accounts

St Michael and All Angels Church Middlewich

Annual Report and Accounts Year ending 31st December 2024

Registered Charity No. 1127335

All For Christ + Christ For All

Bible Golf 2024



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Introduction by the Rector, Simon Drew

2024 was another busy year with the usual round of events and activities and several changes to the church family. At Easter we said farewell to Rev Lorraine Reed, and her husband Mike but we then welcomed back Rev Gill Stanning and her husband Grant, Gill having just retired from parish ministry in Wales. In the summer Jeremy Coles (our Director of Music and Family Work) moved on to take up a new role with another church. Then in the autumn Tony Woode, a long-standing Reader and team member died. We are grateful to them all for their service to this parish.

Due to the ongoing pressure on our church finances, we held another stewardship campaign during 2024. My thanks to our treasurer (Neil) and to all who responded prayerfully financially to that campaign although we still ended 2024 with a small deficit. (Details of this are in the Financial Statements).

In June we once again participated in Middlewich's FAB festival hosting a new bible Mini-Golf course with artwork by our local primary schools. It was a great success drawing many families into the church building and offering many opportunities to talk with people about Christian faith. Our thanks to the team who worked hard to create the 'holes', and to Woodside Golf Course who help us with the project. We will be repeating it again in 2025!

My personal thanks go to the staff team and the PCC for their ongoing support during 2024, as we continue to work on being 'All for Christ & Christ for All'. Particular thanks also to the children's work team who have rallied round to continue the good work of Smilers. KingdomKids and Messy Church during the later half of the year.

Section 1: Trustee's Report (for Charity Commission):

The contents of this section are specifically required by the Charity Commission.

Aim and purposes

St Michael & All Angels, is the only Anglican Church in the mid Cheshire town of Middlewich. Due to its prominent and imposing position in the centre of the town, St Michael's is a landmark when approaching from any direction.

Middlewich Parish has a population of 15,000 and is part of a benefice joined with Byley-cum-Lees a nearby small country parish with 900 inhabitants.

Our incumbent is the Revd Simon Drew. The incumbent at St Michael's is supported by Revd Liz Woode (Associate Priest), Revd Thia Hughes (Associate Priest) Revd Alison Boulton (NSM Curate) and Revd Julie Hassall (NSM Curate & Minister in Secular Employment), Revd John Hughes (a retired minister), Jeremy Coles (Director of Music & Family Work – Until July 2024) and Beth Deakin (Office Manager). Our Readers, Christine Hamill-Stewart and Anne Latham along with Sue Ikin and Elaine Reynolds (Pastoral Care Workers) form our team of four lay workers. We are thankful for all they do to support the work of our church.

The aim and purpose of the Church according to the Westminster Catechism is 'to glorify God and enjoy him forever'. The Rector, supported enthusiastically by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and the lay and ordained staff, prayerfully pursues this objective in planning the services, outreach and pastoral ministry of the Church in the community. We hope that our restricted and varied activities during 2024 have still brought us nearer to meeting our objective.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC and staff team are committed to sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with the community of Middlewich through word and action – **All for Christ + Christ for All!** As such our mission statement is: *Committed to Discipleship, effective in Mission, and faithful in Stewardship.*

The following goals were agreed in October 2023:

1. Review pastoral care for the church family. Develop a system of support for all church members.
2. Review the planning & delivery of sermons/teaching to grow disciples of Jesus Christ.
3. Review children and young people's work to intentionally grow a new generation of disciples.
4. Review what can be done with current funds to improve kitchen & toilet facilities in the church building.

Achievements and performance

Worship and prayer

We have two morning services on a Sunday, in the church building, as the focus of our corporate worship. During the summer holiday period we again held the 11am service outside in the churchyard. Our midweek services include a Healing Service on Tuesdays and a Communion on Thursdays.

At 31 December 2024 there were 116 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. The weekly average attendance for services which took place during October was 109 adults and children, and a total of 339 people joined us for our services on Christmas Eve/Day.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. This year baptisms and weddings were significantly curtailed by the pandemic.

We have celebrated 11 baptisms, 6 weddings and held 25 funerals in our church this year. However the ministry team also conducted 4 funeral services at various local crematoria.

Deanery Synod

The Middlewich Deanery Synod met three times during 2024. The February meeting gave an update on the Diocesan Vision Process, in June there was a Deanery Songs of Praise at Moulton. And in November the Diocesan 'Families, Children & youth Advisor' spoke about her work in the diocese. St Michael and All Angels were well represented by both ordained and lay representatives.

Pastoral care

Pastoral Care remains an important and integral part of ministry at St Michael's and comes under our Circle of Care initiative. It is about living our faith in action as we care for one another, and that includes people in our wider community. We are grateful to those in the team who offer support and care to others in the name of Jesus Christ.

Mission and Evangelism

As part of its commitment to mission, St Michael's Church continues to be actively engaged in mission and evangelism. Further details are given in sections 2 & 3 of this report.

Ecumenical relationships

Churches Together in Middlewich continued to meet together during 2024. Once again we were able to meet together for prayer and worship, to share in the Good Friday Walk of Witness and work together during the FAB Festival in the town.

Financial Review

The accounts show a deficit for 2024 of £1,498 on the operating account, but overall there was a small surplus of £1,875 across all the accounts. In the unrestricted accounts voluntary income stayed roughly the same compared to 2023. There was an increase in money received through Parish Activities (including fees from weddings and funerals) of £8,095 and a small increase in investment income of £155.

No 28, our parish centre, produced a net deficit of £1,869 in the year (compared to a deficit of £3,296 in 2023). Total charitable giving to our four charities was £2,853 and represents 2.4% of our voluntary income.

Fixed assets in the shape of No 28 Hightown stand at £295,000, the property being revalued in May 2015. Total funds available to the PCC were £11,345 higher than at the end of 2023 at a year-end value of £450,321. The restricted funds, which are not available to the PCC, were £1,902 higher than 2023. The year-end value of these funds stood at £75,985.

Reserves Policy

See table 3 in Appendix 1: The PCC has allocated £319,000 to church development to improve the interior of the church. £81,401 has been kept in reserve to cover 6 months running costs for church and No 28. £12,920 is allocated for further refurbishment work to No 28, and we propose the remaining £37,000 for ongoing outreach and spreading the gospel in Middlewich.

Volunteers

Once again, heartfelt thanks to all our amazing volunteers, too numerous to mention by name, who enable our church to be such a key and vibrant part of community life.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of Parochial Church Council (PCC) members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Michael's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our Rector), Churchwardens, Deanery Synod representatives, members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church, plus co-options as required. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. In Middlewich the policy is to require elected members to stand down every three years for at least one year.

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent, updating policies on safeguarding, health & safety and GDPR, and also the Church's strategy. The Standing Committee (SC) – a sub-committee of the PCC - has delegated financial authority, provides a forum for detailed discussion on some complex issues and makes decisions on matters which do not require a full PCC discussion. All SC proceedings are reported to the PCC.

Safeguarding

St Michael's Church recognises its responsibilities for the safeguarding of staff, volunteers, church members and visitors. Our parish safeguarding officer is Rev Alison Boulton. The PCC have adopted the recommended policies and procedures of the Diocese of Chester with regard to safeguarding. New members of the PCC, children's work team and pastoral care team are all required to undertake safeguarding training and have a DBS check. Safeguarding remains as a standing item on the PCC agenda.

Administrative Information

The PCC and the SC usually meet on alternate months and sometimes have additional meetings as required. The PCC met 6 times during the year with an average attendance level of 85%. The Standing Committee met 5 times to deal with various matters relating to church life over the year, with an average attendance level of 90%.

PCC members who served during 2024 were:

Ex Officio members:

Incumbent and Chairman:	Reverend Simon Drew
NSM Curate:	Reverend Alison Boulton
NSM Curate:	Reverend Julie Hassall
Pastoral Worker:	Sue Ikin

Churchwardens: Elaine Reynolds, Ian Jeffrey & Steve Bailey (were re-elected as Churchwardens at the AMP in April 2024).

Deanery Synod Representatives: Anne Latham, Joanne Wilson

Readers Representatives: Tony Woode (until October 2024)

Co-opted members: None

Elected Members:

Neil Clewes (Treasurer), Graham Ikin, Josie Clewes, Keith Yearley, John Currie, Katy Drew & Fiona Tarry were members throughout the year.

Joanne Wilson & Tony Bishop were elected members until April 2024 but retired in rotation. We thank them for their important service to the church. The following people were elected at the APCM in April 2024 to serve on the PCC for three years: Paul Hassall, Stewart Prentice & Ivan Smith.

Standing Committee members who served during 2024 were:

Simon Drew (Chairman), Neil Clewes (Treasurer), Trish Smith (Secretary), Ian Jeffrey (Churchwarden), Steve Bailey (Churchwarden), Elaine Reynolds (Churchwarden) and Graham Ikin.

Other Committees:

Working groups drawn not only from the PCC also met during the year to consider work to the church building, fundraising, stewardship, safeguarding and health & safety.

Staff Team:

Throughout the year, the day to day activities of the Church are coordinated through a weekly meeting of the Staff Team. This is an informal meeting to which the ordained and lay staff are invited. The maximum possible attendance is 12, and the average attendance is about 9.

Section 2: Achievements and Performance

These reports are presented in addition to the Charity commission's statutory requirements

Church Wardens' Fabric Report.

Considering the age of the Church it is generally in good overall condition. There are inevitably areas of concern with buildings of this age and always issues to address. The very fact that we worship in a Grade 2, listed building will always pose challenges for those responsible for such a building.

The Buildings and Maintenance Group oversee the care of both the Church and No28 meeting regularly. As we reported last year, the impact of COVID hangs on and there is still much 'catching-up' to be done, due to items being placed on hold during that period. Examples of this include the 'defects' logbook and Church 'Terrier'. Readers will also note that there are a number of items listed again on the 'Planned Work'. In short with a limited number of volunteers it is hard to keep up with all that needs doing.

The Church Building

- ❖ Early in the year, Simon and the Church Wardens made an assessment" of a number of old items that have not been used for many years in Church but still remained on the Church Property Register. Some of these items required DAC (Diocese Advisory Committee) approval before they could be disposed of. This was finally received and the items have now been disposed of.
- ❖ The Church is required to keep a list of and regularly test electrical items. known as PAT testing. This has been carried out for a number of years. However, by the nature of portable appliances, which can find themselves returned to different parts of the building!! It is possible to miss certain items from the testing process. The Buildings Group had identified that this is exactly what has happened over a number of years. Therefore, a new register of all electrical equipment has been created and every item of portable electrical equipment now has its own, unique 'Asset Number'. This will make it easy to spot items not tested. Obviously, such a list needs to be kept up to date, so as items are added or disposed of, then the list must be updated. The current record is almost completed and will soon be stored on the Church Office IT system.
- ❖ We identified a damp and unsafe area on the North side of the Dais. it is not exactly clear how this may have happened, however, the area was opened up, inspected and then repaired. The Dais is now safe to use again, but we will keep monitoring this area.
- ❖ For insurance purposes it is necessary to have a Roof Alarm fitted to our Church roof. This was installed when the North Church roof was repaired. Generally, this has worked well, but during some 6 months of last year, an increasing number of 'false alarms' occurred. This came down to a faulty detector, which has now been replaced and normal working practice has resumed.
- ❖ Service and inspection of the boiler was carried out.
- ❖ During the storms of last winter, the Marquee was damaged beyond repair. We know we should have taken it down but missed our opportunity when the weather was dry. Following discussions, it has been decided to replace the marquee, with the help of an insurance claim, on the understanding that it is packed away each winter.

No 28

The general fabric of Number 28 remains in good condition. However, the condition of the Cafe floor is a growing cause for concern. There would appear to be woodworm in the floor tiles. During the coming year, the extent of the problem will need to be assessed and

appropriate surveys carried out to determine the necessary course of action that will be required.

- ❖ Boiler and gas inspections and maintenance were carried out

Future Planned Work for Church and No28

- ❖ Bring 'defects log' up to date
- ❖ To update the Church Terrier
- ❖ To finish the 'update' to the PAT register
- ❖ Boiler House internal light, access steps, path and gutter
- ❖ To consult, plan and then reorganise the use of space under the Tower
- ❖ The Church Notice Boards (nr main road and traffic lights), need to repair or replacement.
- ❖ To try and 'Draft-proof' some of the external doors.
- ❖ To finish last remaining items of No28 Kitchen improvements
- ❖ To get quotes for a 'top to bottom' cleaning of No28

Thank you to our resident team of volunteers who look after the day to day maintenance and smooth running of both the Church building and No 28. Special thanks go to Graham, Paul, and Steve who have carried out so much of this work and to the team of Church Cleaners. However, our team of helpers are not getting any younger! The time will come, and it is not far away, when climbing high on ladders will be less appealing. New faces and volunteers will always be welcomed with open arms, so please come and speak to one of the team.

(Churchwardens - Elaine, Steve and Ian)

Number 28 Activities

Number 28 is open for 3 days each week – Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, between 10am and 1pm. We are supported by a team of volunteers, 2 people are always working each shift. We serve hot drinks, tea, toast and teacakes and a selection of delicious home-baked cakes at all times with the added provision of soup, sandwiches and toasties on Tuesdays which is a very popular offering.

As always, we would love more volunteers to come on board, especially those willing to undertake food hygiene training so they can assist with food provision too.

Number 28 continues to be a very well used hub – it is regularly booked out for various meetings of different Church groups.

The u3a meet here every Wednesday morning for Bridge club and seem to be a very popular group, with more members coming on board each year. The MU hold monthly meetings in the café area, with a bi-annual coffee morning – hot cross buns and mince pies!

The Wednesday Art Group who meet in the café area every week also grew in both number and talent, and we particularly enjoy looking at the work they are producing week on week. Craft and Chat meet monthly on a Wednesday afternoon, this is also a very well-established group with a committed following.

May 2024 saw our second outdoor plant sale in the Churchyard, a very successful event which was also supported by the café. This was once again, another very successful event for us and will be repeated next month.

No 28 is also used for various events over the course of the year. We held a couple of Charity coffee mornings which were well supported and raised much needed funds for our Church charities.

The FAB weekend in June is always a huge event in the Church calendar and No. 28 was once again open for the duration of the weekend with a full menu selection. With the help of many willing volunteers, we baked, cooked, fried, toasted and served our way through 3 extremely hectic days and hopefully, reached out to many members of the community. We also held a Christmas Fair in November 2024 and No. 28 was once again open serving food. It's always an excellent opportunity to engage with the local community.

We were fortunate this year in securing some additional room hire bookings from private children's parties, 'We Buy Vintage' antique valuation company and Cheshire East mediation services. All of these have expressed satisfaction with the facilities on offer and have made subsequent bookings so we are hopeful that this may continue.

We hold a Level 5 Food Hygiene certification from Cheshire East which is currently displayed in the window and we are also registered as a "Warm Place" hub. We are listed on the Cheshire East website so that people who are looking for somewhere where they are assured of a warm welcome, hot drink and some warmth, know they can come here.

On a personal note, I continue to be so very grateful for the team of people who make Number 28 what it is, a place which is full of God's love for us all. We continue to ask for God's blessing upon No. 28 and the work and fellowship which takes place here.

(Beth Deakin).

Schools, Families and Young Peoples Work

Our Family Worker, Jeremy Coles, left us for a new post elsewhere in July 2024. We are grateful for his 18 years of work with children and families within the church and the wider community. We are also grateful to the children's work team who have taken responsibility for leading and planning for KingdomKids, Smilers and Messy Church.

SCHOOLS:

We continued to build upon our relationship with the school families through assemblies, R.E. lessons and school visits to the church building. During the first half of 2024 there were collective acts of worship every week in Cledford and Middlewich Primary Schools, from September 2024 this dropped to fortnightly. St Michaels welcomed Cledford Primary School to Easter, Harvest and Christmas Celebrations in church. We also welcomed Middlewich Primary and Wimboldsley School to church for Christmas celebrations to end the year.

Our thanks to Gill Stanning who has stepped in to help the Rector (Simon) to maintain the work with schools while the PCC look to recruit a new family worker.

KINGDOM KIDS:

Sundays 11am

Children attending the 11am service with their parents are withdrawn, usually three times a month, for their own age-related activities across in No.28. Many thanks to Jo, Nicky and Libby for preparing and leading these sessions. We still have just one primary-aged group at the moment. Special thanks also to Elaine, Sue & Trish for providing an activities and toys area for preschoolers during the service.

SMILERS (St Michael's Early Years):

Mondays 1.15-3.00pm

A time for playing, singing, art and craft with refreshments. We listen to, care for and support Mums, Dads and other carers in bringing up their children. Parents often comment on how welcome and relaxed they feel in church and clearly appreciate the faith input and experience. This ministry clearly establishes some families within the Christian faith, where otherwise they would have little or no regular contact with local Christians.

Special thanks to those who have assisted in leading sessions, and for stepping in to keep Smilers going after Jeremy left. Thanks to Elaine, Jo, Thia, Trish, Sue, Keyna and Janet for their help, and leadership during the later part of 2024.

Messy Church

This takes place every couple of months, often linked to a festival like Harvest or Christmas. While we are without a family worker we wanted to provide a regular opportunity for families to come together and celebrate their shared Christian faith. It uses craft, games, songs and food to engage with families in a creative and fun way. Thanks to all those who have helped with the planning, preparation and delivery of these events: Elaine, Sue, Alison, John, Neil, Josie, Nicky, Jo, Libby, Trish. Thanks also to the Mothers Union members who come and assist with the food element of the sessions.

(Simon Drew – Rector)

Worship, Services and Music

Our Director of Music, Jeremy Coles, left us in July 2024 to take up a new role elsewhere. We are grateful to him for leading the music of the church for the last 18 years.

CHOIR

Rehearsals – Thursdays at 7.15pm

The Robed Choir lead the worship at the 9.15 am service, Confirmations, Bereavement Services, Weddings and occasionally over this past year at funerals. Music choices reflect the background of those who attend the services.

Many thanks to all the choir members for their service over the year. But particularly to our organist, Anne Hardy and Stewart and Christine who have stepped in to help run the choir in the short term. We are always very happy for others to join in at rehearsals (*please speak to Stewart or Christine*) - please do consider coming along and joining in.

WORSHIP GROUP

The Worship Group continues to serve at the 11am service and occasionally at other joint events. Music choices reflect a more contemporary worship style, including Children's songs, while keeping in touch with the best of traditional hymns. Many thanks to the team for stepping up and developing the group since Jeremy left. PA and Projection by Paul & Dave, piano lead by Katy & Kate, and we even have two new guitarists playing on Sundays now.

We are very happy for others to join us for rehearsals (*please speak to Katy or Kate*) with no obligation to sing or play on Sundays.

FESTIVAL CHOIR

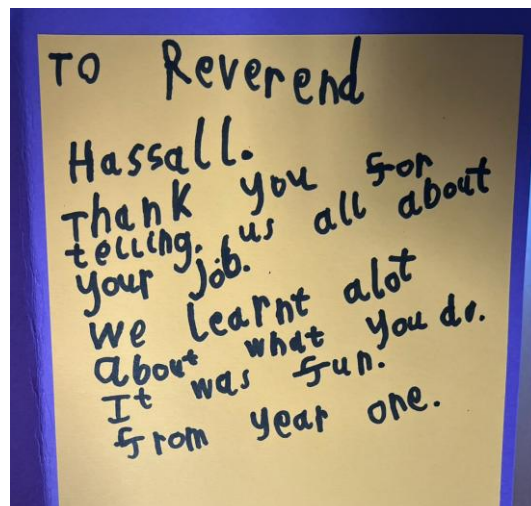
The festival choir sang once again at the town's Folk & Boat Festival on the Sunday morning main stage. The choir provided an opportunity for people from the locality to come and try us out. Many people commented upon how welcome they feel and how they have experienced renewed and newly-found faith. Sadly the festival choir was one of the activities we were no longer able to sustain after Jeremy left us.

(Simon Drew - Rector)

Section 3: Evangelism, Ecumenical Relationships and Mission

Minister in Secular Employment

The Bible is abundantly clear that love is at the center of what it is to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus says the greatest commandment is to love God with everything we are (Matt 22:36-40)



Ministry, like faith, involves a person's whole life, somewhat similar to the vocation of teaching. When I responded to God's call to an ordained life as a minister, it was not a call out of the life I was living, working as a teaching assistant in one of our local schools. But rather a call to continue working alongside those in a secular work setting, in addition to those in the church. It was a call to go deeper into a personal relationship with God, in order that God's love, forgiveness and restoration might be experienced by others both within and beyond our gathered setting.



Serving God involves heart and actions. Thankfully, several years of intense theological training has equipped me well, to respond to the various requests and invitations now coming my way.

We may not be recognised by our knowledge of the Bible, the career paths we take, or the amount of time spent at church. Yet whilst these are all valid, Jesus says that the most important quality, is how we love others. In John 13:35 Jesus says that people will know we're His disciples because of the way that we love others.

Christopher Adlington, School Principal recently offered his perspective on my ministry to date... *"Having Julie working as a teaching assistant/minister in secular employment at Cledford brings a unique blend of compassion, moral guidance, and emotional support to the classroom and wider school setting. Her presence positively influences the school environment, offering a steady, ethical foundation that benefits both pupils and staff. By embodying values of kindness, patience, and integrity, Julie helps foster a nurturing and inclusive atmosphere, where children not only learn academically but also grow in character and empathy. I hope that our partnership continues long into the future and continues to grow and develop over time."*

I too share this hope and sense God does as well! Therefore, I remain thankful to be sharing in the Church's mission; God's mission to make Jesus known to an ever-widening audience. Serving as a minister in secular employment, through authentic and attentive ways, positions me well to do so. Loving and serving from within the Church but primarily based on the parish borders, through a full-time ministry incorporating pastoral care, teaching, reconciliation and a bountiful supply of joy, peace and hope.

It's a ministry which compliments, rather than competes with traditional ministries, and one through which God's glory is glimpsed in new and exciting ways for all to share. Ways which contribute to the building of God's Kingdom.

(Julie Hassall)



Mothers' Union

We were pleased to admit Judith Brayne to the Mothers' Union following last year's AGM.

As predicted last year our first meeting of the year was a get together at the White Bear so it looks as though this might be an annual event. Speakers included Deanery Leader, Diana Bancroft as well as Derek Buckthorpe and Penny Allen, Chester Diocese Mothers' Union speakers.

For our June meeting we were again invited to Higher Daleacre Farm by Jo Wilson which everyone enjoyed and was a chance for some social time together. For our annual outing in July members visited High Legh Garden Centre. Our October meeting was spent preparing shoe boxes for Blythswood Care, a church project and we later heard that they had been taken to Serbia.

The Hot Cross Bun and mince pie coffee mornings were held as usual and raised £233.77 between them.

Chris Overton has been busy organising the knitting projects and has given three large Double Blankets of squares to Leighton for distribution and the 4th is waiting for her to finish sewing up. We have had six woolly hats which were sold towards MU funds at the Rainbow Sale organised by Weaverham Mothers' Union.

I sent out five newsletters to keep members up to date with events and meetings etc..

(Susan Hawkes)

St Michael and All Angels Ringing Team (SMAART)

We gave four concerts during the year, three at various Womens Institutes and once again for the Stroke and Asphasia group in Hartford. A concert booked for Astbury Mere Care Home had to be cancelled at the last minutes due to an outbreak of flu within the home and the consequent prohibition of visitors. We hope to rearrange it for some time during 2025. As usual we participated in a carol service led by the Rev. Liz Woode at Willowmere in December.

We had decided, with the consent of the PCC, to have all the bells refurbished and that we will fund it. Unfortunately for us there was a big influx of work for the solitary man who deals with handbells at Taylors bell foundry and we have had to settle for a date in 2025. Not part of the plan!

We lost two players during the year. Glenys Richardson died after a short illness. She played with Brereton Handbell Ringers for many years and, with Kate Hayden, was instrumental in guiding SMAART in our first year. Eventually she left the Brereton team and came back to us on a permanent basis. She took over the bulk of the conducting and is sorely missed. Pam Jackson was one of the original members of SMAART when the team was formed in 2000. However, with other commitments, she decided to retire at the Willowmere service. A presentation was made to mark her retirement after 25 years with the team. She had made the Ringer 3 position her own and was a great asset.

Our numbers being reduced to nine players we were pleased to learn that three ladies would be interested in 'having a go' in 2025. We will see what happens. (Actually, I know, but you will have to wait until next year's report to find out!)

Developing and maintaining hand / eye / ear co-ordination and interacting with others are key parts of the joys and complexity of handbell ringing. Although it helps to have some musical knowledge, it is not necessary. In fact most of the team cannot read music. However, it is useful to be able to count to three, four, or even six, and occasionally the dizzying heights of nine! We practise at Willowmere at 7 p.m. on Tuesday evenings. If you wish to accept the challenge to have a go please ring me on 01606 832148.

(David Hawkes)

Home and Overseas Mission Support

CRISIS (Homelessness Charity)

CRISIS is one of the charities supported by St. Michael and All Angels Church. It is the third year that I have been a champion for CRISIS at our church. My period for fundraising for this charity is January – March. There was a display in the window of No.28 which highlighted the plight of the homeless. Sleeping rough is a main concern, but with this goes not being able to get financial help because of not having an address. Also, poor self-esteem and despair. CRISIS helps these people to find a way out of homelessness – help with accommodation, help with filling in forms, help with training to gain employment. CRISIS is a charity which fights for the homelessness!

The main fundraising event was a social event in No.28. It was an evening of Channel Island Cricket and puddings. This “no running” and “no batting” game is great fun, and everyone enjoyed the event. During half time we also enjoyed delicious puddings!

For 2024, a total of £984.64 was donated to CRISIS. This amount came from the fundraising event (£419.64), the charity donation from St. Michael's (£550.00), and a share of the Charity Christmas card display board (£15).

Many thanks to all who have supported me and CRISIS – “Together we can beat Homelessness”

(Josie Clewes)

St Luke's Hospice

St. Luke's is one of our chosen charities , which we support in whatever way we can throughout the year. This year we were able to send a total of £ 565 to the Hospice; this was made up of £15 from a share of the Christmas card charity board in church at Christmas 2023 (this was banked in Jan. 2024) and £ 550 being St. Luke's share of the sum donated by the PCC and divided between the charities we support.

Many families in our parish have reason to be grateful for the caring work of St Luke's Hospice, and in today's difficult financial times it is more important than ever that we continue to support them in any way we can. Please go on holding the Hospice, it's Staff and those it cares for in your prayers.

(Elaine and Sylvia)

Christian Service Unit - Khammam

No report available.

The PCC donated £550 to support the ABC Link in 2024

Congo – ABC Link & IPASC

No report available.

The PCC donated £550 to support the ABC Link in 2024

Appendix 1 – Financial Statements Year Ended 31st Dec 2024

(To be printed separately)



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

for the year ending

31st DECEMBER 2024

INCUMBENT

The Reverend Simon Drew

BANKERS

Barclays Bank PLC

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mrs Fatima Perriman

Registered Charity No. 1127335

St Michael & all Angels, Middlewich

Annual report and accounts for the financial year ending 31st December 2024

Financial Overview

1) Table 1 Receipts and Payment Account 2024

The accounts are split between **Unrestricted Funds** (Operating and Designated) and **Restricted Funds**. The Unrestricted General Funds cover the day-to-day income and costs of the Church and Number 28. The Unrestricted Designated Funds are those that the PCC has designated to be used in a particular way.

The Restricted Funds are those that have a restriction, usually specified by the donor of the money, on how the PCC can spend the money.

Summary of 2024 Results - Unrestricted

Unrestricted (Operating)

Income	£167,528
Expenditure	£169,026
(Deficit)	(£1,498)

Designated Funds

Restoration Project

Income	£0
Expenditure	£0
	£0

Minor Projects

Income	£3,903
Expenditure	£2,354
Surplus	£1,549

Bracegirdle Bequest

Income	£1,520
Expenditure	£0
Surplus	£1,520

Total Unrestricted

Income	£172,951
Expenditure	£171,380
Surplus	£1,571

Budget (Unrestricted Operating) for 2024

The Budget included an Income Challenge of £6,000 (to be addressed by the Stewardship Campaign and Fund Raising event(s)).

The Budget was not a 'break even' budget and it included a forecast deficit of (£6,000). If necessary, this would be funded from PCC Reserves.

Actuals (Unrestricted Operating)

During the year our Operating income benefited from the Stewardship Campaign (increased monthly giving and one-off donations) and from Events including the Plant Sale, Folk and Boat activities, the Christmas Fair and other donations. Unfortunately, we have seen some reductions of Standing Orders during the year.

Our costs increased, year on year, including the Parish Share and Utilities costs (especially Gas for Church). We have had some Salary and associated costs savings in the latter part of the year. These are associated with the departure of the Director of Music and Children's Work. The Salary savings, which were not known at the time of setting of our budget. These have helped to reduce the forecast deficit which was included in the budget.

The Full Year ended up as a deficit of (£1,498). Compared to the budget forecast deficit of (£6,000), and given the challenges we have faced, this is a good result.

Charitable donations in 2024 of £2,853 were lower than 2023 by £276. The Donations represent 2.4% of Voluntary Income compared to 2.5% in 2023. The donations in 2024 included £2,200 from PCC Funds.

Number 28 had a deficit of £1,869 in 2024 compared to a deficit of £3,296 in 2023. Our income increased in 2024 by £1,071 to £6,687 and our costs decreased by £357 to £8,556.

Actuals (Unrestricted Designated Funds)

The Designated Funds total income was £5,423. Of this, £3,903 was a donation of £2,000 into the Minor Projects Fund income for the I.T. Improvement Project and £1,903 from donations from 3 Funerals. The Bracegirdle Fund had an income of £1,520.

The Designated Funds expenditure of £2,354. This was from the Minor Projects Fund and was £1,966 for the I.T. Improvement Project (new computers for the Office) and £388 being the final payment for the new Church Website.

The Full Year was a Surplus of £3,069.

Summary of 2024 Results - Restricted Funds

Restoration Project (Restricted), Minor Projects (Restricted), Organ Fund (Restricted), Flower Guild (Restricted) and Moreton Bequest (Endowment)

Income	£4,275
Expenditure	£3,971
Surplus	£304

The Restricted Funds income of £4,275 included Donations of £3,010 and Investment income of £1,265.

The Restricted Fund Expenditure of £3,971 included £3,300 for new Coping Stones for the rebuilt Church Boundary Wall. Other costs of £672 included £195 for Materials and Resources for Children's Work and £234 for Flowers for Church and No 28.

Table 2 Statement of Assets & Liabilities

The assets are split in two main sections: fixed assets which are not easily converted into cash (property and equipment) and monetary assets which are easily converted into cash (cash, stocks and investment funds).

The fixed asset section represents the current value of No 28 which stands at £295,000, this valuation is based on survey carried by Mellor Braggins in May of 2015.

The monetary assets are then split into three sections total cash and bank, working designated funds and restricted funds (definitions can be found within the accounting policies section).

The Total Net Assets as at 31st December 2024 stood at £821,306. This represents a increase of £13,247 compared to 31st December 2023. This is mainly due to an increase in the valuation of our Investments of £11,372.

The Unrestricted Funds (Unrestricted and Designated) as at 31st December 2024 were £450,321. This is a increase of £11,345 on 2023 and is mainly due to an increase in the value of our investments of £9,874.

The Restricted Funds as at 31st December 2024 were £75,985. This is an increase of £1,902 on 2023 and includes an increase in the valuation of our investments of £2,902.

As stated, the PCC have no known liabilities.

2) Table 3 Allocation of Reserves

The third financial table illustrates how the reserves available to the PCC could be employed in the future in line with the strategy of the PCC. The £319,000 allocated to Church Development is to bring the interior of the church into compliance with current legislation and good practice, to repair utilities and to improve the facilities for the congregation and local community to facilitate worship, community activities and access to the heritage of the building.

The running costs reserve £81,401 is a prudent level to cover six months potential Working Capital for both the Church and No 28.

The allocation of £12,920 allows for further refurbishment of No 28.

Finally, we propose £37,000 for ongoing outreach and spreading the Gospel in Middlewich.

Table 1									
Receipts and Payment Accounts		Unrestricted		Restricted			Unrestricted	Restricted	
	Unrestricted (Operating) General & Stocks Fund Investment Income	Designated: Restoration Project, Minor Projects, Bracegirdle Bequest	Total Unrestricted 2024	Total Restricted & Endowment 2024	Total Unrestricted & Restricted 2024		Total Unrestricted 2023	Total Restricted & Endowment 2023	Total Unrestricted & Restricted 2023
£									
Receipts									
Voluntary Income	120,186	3,903	124,089	1,569	125,658		124,011	1,045	125,056
Planned Giving	83,187		83,187	0	83,187		83,720	0	83,720
Collections and other giving	13,863	3,881	17,743	1,544	19,287		16,494	1,045	17,539
Income tax recovered	23,136	23	23,158	25	23,183		23,797	0	23,797
Parish Activities	32,098		32,098	0	32,098		24,003	251	24,254
Events	4,492		4,492		4,492		6,042	0	6,042
Sales Proceeds	320		320		320		783	0	783
Charity Activities	510		510		510		1,048	0	1,048
Occasional Offices	19,059		19,059		19,059		15,116	0	15,116
Miscellaneous	7,717		7,717	0	7,717		1,014	251	1,265
28 Hightown	6,687		6,687		6,687		5,616	0	5,616
Investment Income	8,440	1,520	9,960	1,230	11,190		9,805	1,071	10,875
Grants/Community Projects	118		118	1,476	1,594		250	962	1,212
Total Receipts	167,528	5,423	172,951	4,275	177,226		163,684	3,329	167,014
Payments									
Parish Activities	23,501		23,501	0	23,501		23,926	0	23,926
Events	2,218		2,218		2,218		3,747	0	3,747
Purchase Costs	0		0		0		352	0	352
Charity Giving	2,853		2,853		2,853		3,129	0	3,129
Occasional Offices	10,747		10,747		10,747		9,196	0	9,196
Ministry Activities	4,438		4,438		4,438		3,654	0	3,654
Office Costs	3,244		3,244		3,244		3,849	0	3,849
28 Hightown	8,555		8,555	0	8,555		8,912	0	8,912
28 Operating Costs	7,683		7,683		7,683		7,691	0	7,691
28 Maintenance Costs	873		873		873		1,221	0	1,221
Church Building	30,042		30,042	0	30,042		19,303	0	19,303
Church Operating Costs	20,982		20,982		20,982		15,170	0	15,170
Church Maintenance Costs	9,060		9,060		9,060		4,133	0	4,133
Ministry	106,928		106,928	0	106,928		112,388	0	112,388
Ordained Staff	70,338		70,338		70,338		67,177	0	67,177
Lay Staff	36,590		36,590		36,590		45,211	0	45,211
Projects	0	2,354	2,354	125	2,479		0	0	0
Materials	0	0	0	3,847	3,847		2,396	472	2,868
Contracts	0	0	0	0	0		600	672	1,272
Total Payments	169,026	2,354	171,380	3,972	175,351		167,526	1,144	168,669
Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,498)	3,070	1,571	304	1,875		(3,841)	2,185	(1,656)

Further Analysis of Receipts and Payment Accounts		Unrestricted				
£		Unrestricted (Operating)General and Stocks Fund Investment Income	Restoration Project Designated	Minor Projects Designated	Bracegirdle Bequest Designated	Total Unrestricted 2024
Receipts						
Category Group	Category	Actual Income	Actual Income	Actual Income	Actual Income	Actual Income
Voluntary Income		120,186	-	3,903	-	124,089
Planned Giving	Pledge Envelopes	3,110				3,110
Planned Giving	Standing Orders	80,077				80,077
Planned Giving		83,187				83,187
Collections and Other	Donations	7,191		2,000		9,191
Collections and Other	Occasional Offices	1,547		1,881		3,427
Collections and Other	Online Giving	943				943
Collections and Other	Plate Giving	4,182				4,182
Collections and Other		13,863	-	3,881	-	17,743
Income Tax Recovered	GASDS	659				659
Income Tax Recovered	Gift Aid	22,476		23		22,499
Income Tax Recovered		23,136		23		23,158
Parish Activities		32,098				32,098
Events	Other Events	4,073				
Events	Parish Weekend	418				
Events		4,492				4,492
						-
Sales Proceeds	Other Sales Income	320				320
Sales Proceeds		320				320
Charity Activities	Christian Service Unit	15				15
Charity Activities	Congo Charities	15				15
Charity Activities	Other Charities	30				30
Charity Activities	St Luke's Hospice	15				15
Charity Activities	Crisis	435				435
Charity Activities		510				510
Occasional Offices	Funeral Fees	12,299				12,299
Occasional Offices	Wedding Fees	6,760				6,760
Occasional Offices		19,059				19,059
Miscellaneous		7,717				
Miscellaneous	Byley Contributions	953				
Miscellaneous	Other Activities	6,763				
Miscellaneous		7,717				
28 Hightown		6,687				6,687
28 Hightown	Other No 28 Income	335				335
28 Hightown	Room Hire	1,028				1,028
28 Hightown	Sales and Donations	5,324				5,324
28 Hightown		6,687				6,687
Investment Income		8,440			1,520	9,960
Dividends - Stocks Fund	Dividends - Stocks Fund	7,845				7,845
Interest - Stocks Fund	Interest - Stocks Fund	595			1,520	2,115
Dividends & Interest		8,440			1,520	9,960
Grants		118				118
Unrestricted	VAT Recovered	118				118
Grants (Furlough)		118				118
Total Receipts		167,528	-	3,903	1,520	172,951

Further Analysis of Receipts and Payment Accounts		Unrestricted				
£		Unrestricted (Operating)General and Stocks Fund Investment Income	Restoration Project Designated	Minor Projects Designated	Bracegirdle Bequest Designated	Total Unrestricted 2024
Payments						
Category Group	Category	Actual Expenditure	Actual Expenditure	Actual Expenditure	Actual Expenditure	Actual Expenditure
Parish Activities		23,501				23,501
Events	Other Events	1,717				
Events	Parish Weekend	501				
Events		2,218				2,218
Charity Giving	Christian Service Unit	565				565
Charity Giving	Congo Charities	565				565
Charity Giving	Other Charity Giving	173				173
Charity Giving	St Luke's Hospice	565				565
Charity Giving	Crisis	985				985
Charity Giving		2,853				2,853
Occasional Offices	Assigned Fees	3,354				3,354
Occasional Offices	Disbursements	7,393				7,393
Occasional Offices		10,747				10,747
Ministry Activities	Mission	792				792
Ministry Activities	Music	1,390				1,390
Ministry Activities	Pastoral Care	246				246
Ministry Activities	Training and Compliance	104				104
Ministry Activities	Worship and Teaching	1,217				1,217
Ministry Activities	Young People	690				690
Ministry Activities		4,438				4,438
Office Costs	Office Contracts	1,613				1,613
Office Costs	Office Materials	1,175				1,175
Office Costs	Other Office Costs	457				457
Office Costs		3,244				3,244
28 Hightown		8,555				8,555
28 Operating Costs	28 Electricity	1,961				1,961
28 Operating Costs	28 Gas	742				742
28 Operating Costs	28 Insurance	1,509				1,509
29 Operating Costs	Other	2,882				2,882
28 Operating Costs	28 Water	589				589
28 Operating Costs		7,683				7,683
28 Maintenance Costs	28 Mtce Contracts	741				741
28 Maintenance Costs	28 Mtce Materials	132				132
28 Maintenance Costs		873				873
Church Building		30,042				30,042
Church Operating Costs	Church Electricity	2,139				2,139
Church Operating Costs	Church Gas	10,204				10,204
Church Operating Costs	Church Insurance	7,368				7,368
Church Operating Costs	Church Other	977				977
Church Operating Costs	Church Water	294				294
Church Operating Costs		20,982				20,982
Church Maintenance Costs	Church Mtce Contracts	8,081				8,081
Church Maintenance Costs	Church Mtce Materials	979				979
Church Maintenance Costs		9,060				9,060
Ministry		106,928				106,928
Ordained Staff	Ordained Staff Expenses	1,315				1,315
Ordained Staff	Parish Share	64,796				64,796
Ordained Staff	Rectory Costs	4,227				4,227
Ordained Staff		70,338				70,338
Lay Staff	Lay Staff Other Costs	868				868
Lay Staff	Pensions	2,899				2,899
Lay Staff	Salaries	29,575				29,575
Lay Staff	Tax and NI	3,248				3,248
Lay Staff		36,590				36,590
Projects		-	-	2,354		2,354
Total Payments		169,026	-	2,354	-	171,380

£	2024	2023	2024 vs 2023
Charitable Giving	2,853	3,129	(276)
Made up of the following:			
Christian Service Unit	565	533	33
Congo Charities	565	533	33
Other Charity Giving	173	660	(486)
St Luke's Hospice	565	533	33
Crisis	985	872	113
Donation % of Voluntary Income	2.37%	2.53%	-0.16%
£	2024	2023	2024 vs 2023
No 28 Receipts & Payments			
Income	6,687	5,616	1,071
Insurance	(1,509)	(1,438)	(71)
Utilities	(3,292)	(3,054)	(239)
Other Running Costs	(3,754)	(4,421)	667
Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,869)	(3,296)	1,428

Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments	Restricted and Endowment					
£	Restoration Project Restricted	Minor Projects Restricted	Organ Fund Restricted	Flower Guild Restricted	Bert Moreton Bequest (Endowment)	Restricted & Endowment Total 2024
Receipts	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
Voluntary Income	1,569	0	0	0	0	1,569
<i>Planned Giving</i>						0
<i>Collections and other giving</i>	1,544					1,544
<i>Income tax recovered</i>	25					25
Investment Income			107		1,158	1,265
Childrens Work/Community Projects		1,441				1,441
Total Receipts	1,569	1,441	107	0	1,158	4,275
Payments						
Projects	3,425	312		234		3,972
Total Payments	3,425	312	0	234	0	3,972
Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,856)	1,129	107	(234)	1,158	304

Table 2			
Balance Sheet	2024	2023	Movement 2024 vs 2023
	£	£	£
Current Assets			
Cash	140,777	139,781	997
Accounts Receivable	2,151	912	1,239
Prepayments	0	0	0
Total Current Assets	142,928	140,693	2,235
Non-Current Assets			
Fixed Assets	295,000	295,000	0
Investments	387,594	376,222	11,372
Total Non-Current Assets	682,594	671,222	11,372
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	4,216	3,856	360
Deferred Income	0	0	0
Total Current Liabilities	4,216	3,856	360
Non-Current Liabilities			
Long Term Loan / Mortgage	0	0	0
Total Non-Current Liabilities	0	0	0
Total Net Assets (Assets Minus Liabilities)	821,306	808,059	13,247
Represented By			
General (Unrestricted)	715	2,213	(1,498)
Buildings (Unrestricted)	295,000	295,000	0
Restoration Project - Restricted (Restricted)	1,665	3,521	(1,856)
Restoration Project - Designated (Designated)	1,630	1,630	0
Minor Projects - Restricted (Restricted)	3,980	2,851	1,129
Minor Projects - Designated (Designated)	1,980	431	1,549
Stocks Fund (Unrestricted)	343,428	333,553	9,874
Bert Moreton Bequest (Endowment)	39,917	38,069	1,848
ET Earl Legacy (Endowment)	17,986	17,583	402
Bracegirdle Bequest (Designated)	102,568	101,048	1,520
Organ Fund (Restricted)	11,198	10,686	513
Flower Guild (Restricted)	1,239	1,473	(234)
Total Net Assets	821,306	808,059	13,247
Fixed Assets	295,000	295,000	0
Unrestricted and Designated Funds			
Barclays Current Account Unrestricted & Stocks Fund Cash	14,976	18,178	(3,202)
Accounts Receivable	2,151	912	1,239
Accounts Payable	(4,216)	(3,856)	(360)
Barclaycard	(69)	(230)	162
Petty Cash	863	300	563
Stocks Fund Investment	320,519	312,524	7,995
HSBC Shares	9,918	8,039	1,879
Barclays Current Account Designated	3,610	2,061	1,549
Barclays Premium Account Designated	102,568	101,048	1,520
Total Unrestricted and Designated Funds	450,321	438,976	11,345
Restricted Funds			
Barclays Current Account Restricted (Restoration Fund)	1,665	3,521	(1,856)
Barclays Current Account Minor Projects - Restricted (Restricted)	3,980	2,851	1,129
Bert Moreton Bequest Investment	30,826	30,136	690
Moreton Bequest Income Fund	9,091	7,830	1,261
E T Earl Legacy Investment	17,986	17,583	402
Organ Fund Investment	8,346	7,941	405
Organ Fund Cash	2,852	2,709	144
Flower Guild (Restricted)	1,239	1,512	(274)
Total Restricted Funds	75,985	74,083	1,902
All Assets	821,306	808,059	13,247

Table 3			
Allocation of Reserves			2024
a) Church Development			319,000
b) Financial Working Capital			81,401
c) No 28 General Fabric			12,920
d) Outreach and Spreading the Gospel			37,000
Total			450,321

Notes to the Financial Statements

Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards from the SORP 2005 and the Charities Act 2011 unless otherwise stated.

This is the eighth year that the accounts have been prepared using the accrual accounting method.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups (such as the Mothers' Union and Bell ringers society) who owe their main affiliation to the national organisation, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided by the terms of the trust or bequest and (b) donations received for a specific object.

Designated funds are funds set aside by the PCC for a particular purpose. The PCC may subsequently decide to spend the fund for any other purpose.

Unrestricted funds are general funds that can be used for the PCC's ordinary purposes.

Income

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. All income is accounted for gross including that from Charitable collections and Occasional Offices.

Expenditure

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognized when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993. Movable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected at any reasonable time. Such property is written off when purchased.

Other functional assets (in our case No.28, the Parish Centre & office) are not valued in Receipts and Payments Accounting but are noted in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value as at 31st December 2024.

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of St Michael & All Angels Church on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024. Charity No.1127335. Set Out on Pages 1 to 11.

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination. I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that, any material in respect to:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act: or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records: or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair" view which is not a matter considered as part an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Fatima Perriman

18th April 2025

50 Thrush Way, Winsford, Cheshire. CW7 3LN

Accounts

**St Michael and All Angels Church
Middlewich**

Annual Report and Accounts

Year ending 31st December 2023

Registered Charity No. 1127335

All For Christ + Christ For All



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Introduction by the Rector, Simon Drew

2023 has been a busy year as we settled back into our stride as a parish church post-Covid. I am grateful to the staff, ministry team and the countless volunteers who have helped us get No28, church services, children's work and pastoral care back to 'normal'.

A lingering effect of Covid19 is the ongoing pressure on our church finances. We held another stewardship campaign during 2023. My thanks to our treasurer (Neil) and to all who responded prayerfully financially to that campaign although we still ended 2023 with a small deficit. (Details of this are in the Financial Statements).

There were several highlights during the year. In June we were participated in Middlewich's FAB festival hosting an excellent concert by the Birmingham Community Gospel Choir. It was a great opportunity to bring the gospel into this annual festival. In June Julie Hassall was ordained priest at Chester Cathedral. Julie is training as a Minister in Secular Employment and she has offered a few reflections on this in section 3 of the report.

During the summer we were privileged to host a visit by Franklin from the Christian Service Unit in Khammam (India). You can read more about this in section 3 of the report. As a church family it was also a great joy to be able to fund the restoration of a church building in Kothapalem by CSU, despite our own financial struggles.

I would also like to note the loss to our church family of Christine Malkin who died at the very beginning of 2023. Christine had been our faithful PCC secretary from the time I arrived, right up to the end of 2022. She also helped to run our Kingdom Kids groups on a Sunday morning. We give thanks for her life and her example of Christian faith:

God sent his Son (Jesus) so that those who believe in him shall not perish but shall have eternal life (John 3:16)

My personal thanks go to the staff team and the PCC for their ongoing support during 2023. We will as always continue to work on being 'All for Christ & Christ for All' through our new goals agreed in October 2023 (see below).

Section 1: Trustee's Report (for Charity Commission):

The contents of this section are specifically required by the Charity Commission.

Aim and purposes

St Michael & All Angels, is the only Anglican Church in the mid Cheshire town of Middlewich. Due to its prominent and imposing position in the centre of the town, St Michael's is a landmark when approaching from any direction.

Middlewich Parish has a population of 15,000 and is part of a benefice joined with Byley-cum-Lees a nearby small country parish with 900 inhabitants.

Our incumbent is the Revd Simon Drew. The incumbent at St Michael's is supported by Revd Liz Woode (Associate Priest), Revd Thia Hughes (Associate Priest) Revd Lorraine Reed (Associate Priest) Revd Alison Boulton (NSM Curate) and Revd Julie Hassall (NSM Curate), Revd John Hughes (a retired minister), Jeremy Coles (Director of Music & Family Work) and Beth Deakin (Office Manager).

Our five Readers, Steve Broadfoot, Christine Hamill-Stewart, Tony Woode, Anne Latham, and Duncan Goodwin along with Sylvia Bosomworth, Sue Ikin and Elaine Reynolds (Pastoral Care Workers) form our team of eight lay workers at the beginning of the year. However during 2023 Duncan has left, and Steve and Sylvia have stepped back from active ministry. We are thankful to them for all they have done for the church.

The aim and purpose of the Church according to the Westminster Catechism is 'to glorify God and enjoy him forever'. The Rector, supported enthusiastically by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and the lay and ordained staff, prayerfully pursues this objective in planning the services, outreach and pastoral ministry of the Church in the community. We hope that our restricted and varied activities during 2023 have still brought us nearer to meeting our objective.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC and staff team are committed to sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with the community of Middlewich through word and action – **All for Christ + Christ for All!** As such our mission statement is: *Committed to Discipleship, effective in Mission, and faithful in Stewardship.*

The following goals were agreed in October 2023:

1. Review pastoral care for the church family. Develop a system of support for all church members.
2. Review the planning & delivery of sermons/teaching to grow disciples of Jesus Christ.
3. Review children and young people's work to intentionally grow a new generation of disciples.
4. Review what can be done with current funds to improve kitchen & toilet facilities in the church building.

Achievements and performance

Worship and prayer

We have two morning services on a Sunday, in the church building, as the focus of our corporate worship. During the summer holiday period we again held the 11am service outside in the churchyard. Our midweek services include a Healing Service on Tuesdays and a Communion on Thursdays.

At 31 December 2022 there were 119 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. The weekly average attendance for services which took place during October was 123 adults and children, and a total of 323 people joined us for our services on Christmas Eve/Day.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. This year baptisms and weddings were significantly curtailed by the pandemic.

We have celebrated 16 baptisms, 5 weddings and held 24 funerals in our church this year. However the ministry team also conducted 4 funeral services at various local crematoria.

Deanery Synod

The Middlewich Deanery Synod met three times during 2023. The February meeting was a Vision Café, speakers at subsequent meetings Archdeacon of Macclesfield (Ian Bishop) in June, and the Bishop of Stockport (Sam Corley) in October. St Michael and All Angels were well represented by both ordained and lay representatives.

Pastoral care

Pastoral Care remains an important and integral part of ministry at St Michael's and comes under our Circle of Care initiative. It is about living our faith in action as we care for one another, and that includes people in our wider community. This year we were pleased to be able to return to a pattern of visiting people face to face.

Mission and Evangelism

As part of its commitment to mission, St Michael's Church continues to be actively engaged in mission and evangelism. Further details are given in sections 2 & 3 of this report. Sadly the COVID19 pandemic curtailed many of our outreach activities and we are slowly rebuilding this area of church life.

Ecumenical relationships

Churches Together in Middlewich continued to meet together during 2023. Once again we were able to meet together for prayer and worship, to share in the Good Friday Walk of Witness and work together during the FAB Festival in the town.

Financial Review

The accounts show a deficit for 2023 of £2,178 with total receipts up by £12,085 on 2022, but overall payments also increased by £12,343 on 2022. There was an increase of £7,081 in voluntary income, an increase in money received through Parish Activities (including fees from weddings and funerals) of £4,067 and an increase in investment income of £933.

No 28, our parish centre, produced a net deficit of £3,296 in the year (compared to a deficit of £2,808 in 2022). Total charitable giving to our four charities was £3,129 and represents 2.5% of our voluntary income.

Fixed assets in the shape of No 28 Hightown stand at £295,000, the property being revalued in May 2015. Total funds available to the PCC were £25,401 higher than at the end of 2022 at a year-end value of £438,976. The restricted funds, which are not available to the PCC, were £7,108 higher than 2022. The year-end value of these funds stood at £74,083.

Reserves Policy

See table 3 in Appendix 1: The PCC has allocated £308,000 to church development to improve the interior of the church. £82,265 has been kept in reserve to cover 6 months running costs for church and No 28. £12,711 is allocated for further refurbishment work to No 28, and we propose the remaining £36,000 for ongoing outreach and spreading the gospel in Middlewich.

Volunteers

Once again, heartfelt thanks to all our amazing volunteers, too numerous to mention by name, who, now that the Covid19 pandemic is well behind us are once again enabling our church to be such a key and vibrant part of community life.

Structure, governance and management?

The method of appointment of Parochial Church Council (PCC) members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Michael's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our Rector), Churchwardens, Deanery Synod representatives, two of the Readers selected from amongst the five of them, members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church, plus co-options as required. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

In Middlewich the policy is to require elected members to stand down every three years for at least one year. This enables fresh ideas to be put forward, which in our opinion more than offsets the possible disadvantage of some members not having a longstanding exposure to detailed PCC procedures.

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent, updating policies on safeguarding, health & safety and GDPR, and also the Church's strategy. The Standing Committee (SC) – a sub-committee of the PCC - has delegated financial authority, provides a forum for detailed discussion on some complex issues and makes decisions on matters which do not require a full PCC discussion. All SC proceedings are reported to the PCC.

Safeguarding

St Michael's Church recognises it's responsibilities for the safeguarding of staff, volunteers, church members and visitors. Our parish safeguarding officer is Rev Alison Boulton. The PCC have adopted the recommended policies and procedures of the Diocese of Chester with regard to safeguarding. New members of the PCC, children's work team and pastoral care team are all required to undertake safeguarding training and have a DBS check. Although safeguarding remains as a standing item on the PCC agenda there were no safeguarding issues reported to the PCC during 2023.

Administrative Information

The PCC and the SC usually meet on alternate months and sometimes have additional meetings as required. The PCC met 6 times during the year with an average attendance level of 80%. The Standing Committee met 5 times to deal with various matters relating to church life over the year, with an average attendance level of 90%.

PCC members who served during 2023 were:

Ex Officio members:

Incumbent and Chairman:	Reverend Simon Drew
NSM Curate:	Reverend Alison Boulton
NSM Curate:	Reverend Julie Hassall
Pastoral Worker:	Sue Ikin

Churchwardens: Chris Coney served as CW until the AMP in April 2023, when he was replaced by Elaine Reynolds. Chris Coney Ian Jeffrey & Steve Bailey (were re-elected as Churchwardens at the AMP in April 2023).

Deanery Synod Representatives: Anne Latham

Readers Representatives: Tony Woode

Co-opted members:

Mike Reed served as Vice-chairman, and as a co-opted member until the APCM in April 2023.

Elected Members:

Tony Bishop, Neil Clewes (Treasurer), Joanne Wilson, Graham Ikin, Josie Clewes & Keith Yearley were members throughout the year.

Paul Hassall, Rachel Pendleton, Elaine Reynolds & Bret Ritchie were elected members until April 2023 but retired in rotation. We thank them for their important service to the church.

The following people were elected at the APCM in April 2023 to serve on the PCC for three years: John Curry, Katy Drew, Trish Smith & Fiona Tarry

Standing Committee members who served during 2023 were:

Simon Drew (Chairman), Neil Clewes (Treasurer), Trish Smith (Secretary), Chris Coney (Churchwarden until April 2023), Ian Jeffrey (Churchwarden), Steve Bailey (Churchwarden), Elaine Reynolds (Churchwarden from April 2023), Mike Reed (Vice Chairman until April 2023), and Graham Ikin.

Other Committees:

Working groups drawn not only from the PCC also met during the year to consider work to the church building, fundraising, stewardship, organ repairs, safeguarding and health & safety.

Staff Team:

Throughout the year, the day to day activities of the Church are coordinated through a weekly meeting of the Staff Team. This is an informal meeting to which the ordained and lay staff and churchwardens are invited. The maximum possible attendance is 15, and the average attendance is about 10.

Section 2: Achievements and Performance

These reports are presented in addition to the Charity commission's statutory requirements

Church Wardens' Fabric Report.

The fabric of the Church is generally in good overall condition. Work continues on both the Church and No28, overseen by the Buildings and Maintenance committee. There are inevitably areas of concern with buildings of this age and always issues to address. The very fact that we worship in a Grade 2, listed building will always pose challenges for those responsible for such a beautiful building, but we have much to be thankful for.

The buildings and maintenance committee meet regularly, however, the impact of COVID hangs on and there is still much 'catching-up' to be done, due to items being placed on hold during that period. Examples of this include the 'defects' logbook. This book is kept in the office at No 28 and should be completed whenever a fault or a maintenance task is requested, either in church or in No 28. It is essential that this is done to keep a handle on tasks that need doing. Another example of such tasks put on hold, is the Church 'Terrier', an inventory of all the main items within the Church building, it is now back on our radar and will hopefully be completed in the coming months.

The Church wall was damaged at some point during the summer of 2023 by an unknown driver. Insurance claims have been made, quotations received, and a firm appointed. There were two cost for us, the insurance excess, which was £250.00 and the decision to replace the old coping stones with new ones (approved by the PCC and funding via the Restoration funds) making a total repair cost to the Church of £3,599.40 - (Ecclesiastical Insurance funded £5,925.60 of the repair). As you will probably have seen, the wall has now just been restored, and replacement coping stones fitted.

Accepting that there is still much to do, we hope that the following shows that we have not been idle. In our last report to the APCM we identified a major storage issue in the Church boiler house and 'usability' issues in No28 Kitchen; good progress has been made with both of these areas. Therefore, please see below some of the key items that have been dealt with during 2023:

Church building

❖ The Church Boiler House floor has now been completely relayed. A massive job, for the buildings and maintenance team. This required the total emptying of the boiler house, storing items either under the tower or in No28 yard, with numerous trips to the tip and the removal of much rotten and damp rubbish. Then restoring and improving the internal floor drainage system, adding over 5 tonnes of gravel, followed by the laying of a slab floor, and finally the rebuilding of the metal storage shelving. Much has now been relocated back down into the boiler house, helping to clear No28 yard the space under the Tower again. So, a very big thank you to all who were involved. Some work still remains - the fitting of an additional light in the boiler house / improvements to and relaying of the steps and slabs outside the boiler house door / the repair and rerouting of the down pipe from the roof gutter near the boiler house door.

❖ Possibly, due to the clearance of the Boiler House, we experience some rodent activity in

Church! Pest control was consulted, traps set and the consequent removal of bodies followed!! Some points of entry were identified and blocked up, however, it is impossible to check all likely points of entry, therefore we should remain vigilant. Thankfully our visitors, affectionately named Roland', have decided to move on to pastures new, for the moment anyway.

- ❖ All electrical works highlighted by the last electrical safety survey have been completed by Paul Hassall contractors; we are just awaiting our Certificate of Compliance. There remains a small item of work associated with the external floodlighting over the South door.

- ❖ Debris and gutters were cleared on the Church roof and pigeon detritus cleared from the South roof area.

- ❖ Service and inspection of the boiler was carried out.

No 28

- ❖ Additional shelving has been added to the kitchen walls and worktop space improved.

- ❖ Boiler and gas inspections and maintenance were carried out.

- ❖ All main carpets have been clean, except the office. (Thank you Graham).

The general fabric of Number 28 remains in good condition. However, a major clean from 'top to bottom' is long overdue. One or two smaller items are still outstanding from the kitchen 'up-grade'.

Planned Work - in addition to all usual maintenance work, we intend to address the following:

- ❖ Certificate of Electrical Compliance
- ❖ Finish last remaining items of No28 Kitchen improvements
- ❖ Boiler House internal light, access steps, path and gutter
- ❖ To consult, plan and then reorganise the use of space under the Tower
- ❖ Improve and update PAT register
- ❖ Bring 'defects log' up to date.
- ❖ The Church Notice Boards (near main road and traffic lights), are in need of repair or replacement.

As always, we would like to thank our resident team of volunteers who look after the day to day maintenance and smooth running of both the Church building and No 28. Special thanks go to Graham, Paul, and Steve who have carried out so much of this work as well as thanks to others who have assisted from time to time. It must be said however, that our team of helpers are not getting any younger! The time will come, and is not far away, when climbing high on ladders will be less appealing. So, new faces and volunteers will always be welcomed with open arms, so please come and speak to one of the team.

(Churchwardens, Elaine, Steve and Ian)

Number 28 Activities

2023 marks our first “back to normal” year following the upheaval of the past 4 years. As we are all acutely aware, the period of Covid has changed the way people socialise, congregate and behave but we have now settled into a new pattern. Number 28 continues to open on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, between 10am and 1pm. We are fortunate to have a wonderful team of volunteers who support us in this and are ready to engage with members of our Church and community who visit.

We serve hot drinks, tea, toast and teacakes and a selection of delicious home-baked cakes at all times with the added provision of soup, sandwiches and toasties on Tuesdays which is a very popular offering. As always, we would love more volunteers to come on board, especially those willing to undertake food hygiene training so they can assist with food provision too.

Number 28 continues to be a very well used hub – it is regularly booked out for various meetings of different Church groups. The u3a meet here every Wednesday morning for Bridge club and seem to be a well-established group now. The MU holds monthly meetings in the café area, with a bi-annual coffee morning – hot cross buns and mince pies! The Wednesday Art Group who meets in the café area every week also grew in both number and talent, and we particularly enjoy looking at the work they are producing week on week. Craft and Chat meet monthly on a Wednesday afternoon, this is also a very well established group with a committed following.

No 28 is also used for various events over the course of the year. We held a very successful Harvest Supper and Quiz in October which was very well attended. The FAB weekend in June is always a huge event in the Church calendar and No. 28 was once again open for the duration of the weekend with a full menu selection. With the help of many willing volunteers, we baked, cooked, fried, toasted and served our way through 3 extremely hectic days and hopefully, reached out to many members of the community. We also held a Christmas Fair in 2023 and No. 28 was once again open serving food. Another very successful event!

We would like to secure some more room hire bookings and this would give us a steady income stream which would be beneficial.

We hold a Level 5 Food Hygiene certification from Cheshire East which is currently displayed in the window and we are also registered as a “Warm Place” hub. We are listed on the Cheshire East website so that people, who are looking for somewhere where they are assured of a warm welcome, hot drink and some warmth, know they can come here.

On a personal note, I continue to be so very grateful for the team of people who make Number 28 what it is, a place which is full of God’s love for us all. We continue to ask for God’s blessing upon No. 28 and the work and fellowship which takes place here.

(Beth Deakin).

Pastoral Care – the Circle of Care

Pastoral Care remains an integral part of ministry at St Michael's.

It is about living our faith in action as we care for one another, including those in our wider community. That may be by listening, by sharing a cup of tea, by visiting someone, or just noticing that someone has been missing for a while. It is about looking out for each other. The 2nd Commandment is, "Love your neighbour as yourself." (Matt 22:39) Jesus said, "Love each other as I have loved you." (John 15:12)

Visiting

The number of pastoral contacts and visits completed this year has been significantly higher post-Pandemic. Some contact has had to remain by telephone and has involved more people - perhaps highlighting the growing needs of people in our community. Home-visiting has increased as the year has progressed.

Our services of Holy Communion with hymns at 3.30 pm on the last Sunday of the month continue to be appreciated and recently we have welcomed back some people who haven't been to church since Covid. A big "thank you" to all who have helped and supported this service in practical ways. Music, refreshments, fellowship are valued and appreciated.

Monthly Communion Services in our Care Homes and Willowmere continue to grow in numbers. Learning to pray with others is an extremely important part of pastoral care, and is what sets us apart from secular visiting as we visit on behalf of the church.

Baptism

We are revisiting our Baptism Policy in view of recent changes and are committed to encouraging others to join our team.

Middlewich Good Neighbours

This has undergone a complete restructure with a new team complementing some of the existing trustees. There are exciting plans ahead to address social isolation and reintegration into the community for those who are struggling. MGN will continue to work in partnership with the other churches in Middlewich and other relevant bodies.

Bereavement

Bereavement Visiting continues to be a very important role of the Circle of Care. Sylvia Bosomworth has taken on the ministry of contacting all bereaved families within a few days of notification. Relatives have been so grateful that someone has been in touch with them – thank you Sylvia. This has proved to be a much valued ministry.

We were able to hold two "Memorial and Thanksgiving" services in the last year. We were encouraged that, at the last service in November, many people felt they could stay for refreshments and to share their stories. The number of people attending these services is an indication of the need to draw alongside those struggling to come to terms with their grief, pain and loneliness. They have found the services give them comfort, reassurance and hope for the future. We are looking to revisit the way we manage bereavement visiting in the light of more funerals going to the Crematorium instead of Church, and the rise of secular 'services' led by civil celebrants. Our concern remains the post-funeral care and ongoing pastoral support of those in need and we are exploring ways in which we can address this. We now have a "bereavement bag" that we can give to families, containing a leaflet with prayers, Bible readings, artwork, reflections and contact numbers. A cross, candle, a packet of Forget-me-Not seeds and some prayer cards.

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances and even more changes in legislation, especially regarding “Safeguarding”, all our policies need adjusting and upgrading. The Diocese issued further recommendations regarding Home Visiting and Pastoral Care in October. Our Safeguarding Officer will be advising and guiding us through the implementation of the current policies. As a church we are committed to keeping all people safe; those visited and those who are visiting on behalf of the Circle of Care of St Michael’s.

If you feel Pastoral Care is an area of ministry that God may be calling you to, please do get in touch with myself, Sylvia, Elaine, Sue, or any of the Clergy. We need more people to come on board.

I would like to thank all that have been involved in the Circle of Care this year, for their care and compassion. It is a great privilege to be a part of this important ministry of sharing our faith and God’s love in action, reaching out and meeting people where they are in their need, Matt 25:35 – “for I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, a stranger, clothing, sick, in prison...”. V40 – “whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

(Thia Hughes)

Schools, Families and Young Peoples Work

The role of family worker was created to support, develop, coordinate and add value to existing ministries within St Michaels and develop new opportunities within the wider community. In August this year (2023) I had been in post for 18 years.

SCHOOLS:

Middlewich Primary School

Cledford Primary School

Byley County Primary School

Wimboldsley Community Primary School

St Mary's (R.C.) Primary School

It has been a privilege to build upon our relationship with the school families through assemblies, R.E. lessons and school visits to the church building. There are collective acts of worship every week in Cledford and Middlewich Primary Schools where I represent the Churches Together in Middlewich. St Michaels welcomed Cledford Primary School to Easter, Harvest and Christmas Celebrations in church. We extended our input from Middlewich Primary to a Key Stage 1 Easter celebration and Key Stage 2 Christmas celebration. Wimboldsley School brought their Christmas Celebration into Church once again.

Many of the schools have sent year groups to both of our churches to investigate Christianity in the community; one poignant day was the act of remembrance by some of the pupils and staff from Middlewich Primary School at the War Memorial, followed by a visit to church. We have made good use of the No.28 facilities in offering hospitality to pupils, parents and staff. Thank you to all those who have facilitated this.

In the Autumn term I attended 3 days training for the 'Walk Through the Bible' schools initiative and was able to deliver a 5 week pilot programme for year 5 at St Mary's RC Primary School. This was very well received. I have also discussed this with other primary school RE leads with a view to the possibility of introducing this in 2024.

The schools continue to be extremely welcoming and appreciative of the church's input.

If you would like to support your local schools in any way or would like to come along to an assembly to see what I do (or join in!) then please speak to me.

DAY NURSERIES:

Early Learners

Tommy Thumbs @ Cledford

I continue to support Christian input into local Nurseries through the leading of singing and Bible story sessions usually at Easter, Harvest & Christmas.

KINGDOM KIDS:

Sundays 11am

Children attending the 11am service with their parents are withdrawn, usually three times a month, for their own age-related activities across in No.28. Many thanks to Fiona Loney for continuing to lead these sessions with assistance from Jo Wilson, Nicky Parsons and myself. Numbers of children have improved slightly as new families connect with church. We still have just one primary-aged group at the moment. Special thanks also to Elaine and Sue for providing an activities and toys area for preschoolers during the service.

SMILERS (St Michael's Early Years):

Mondays 1.15-3.00pm

Amid the playing, singing, art and craft time and refreshments we listen to, care for and support Mums, Dads and other carers in bringing up their children. We introduce children, and their carers, to the importance of Bible Reading, Prayer, Worship and above all things a personal relationship with Father God through Jesus. Parents often comment on how welcome and relaxed they feel in church and clearly appreciate the faith input and experience. We have welcomed many new families over the last year, with a noticeable increase in young families moving into the area. This ministry clearly establishes some families within the Christian faith, where otherwise they would have little or no regular contact with local Christians.

This is still a vital ministry to those connecting with St Michaels often for the first time. Our 'babies area' has been well received by the increasing number of parents with new-borns. This area is still in need of extending to accommodate our activities.

Special thanks to those who have assisted in leading sessions, Elaine, Jo, Thia and Sue and to Keyna, Janet, Trish for their help as assistants. We have been able to expand the team of volunteers once again and are grateful for those who have helped in setting the building up, particularly Ken and Graham.

BEING IN THE OFFICE

The ministry in and from No.28 continues to grow, as we have been able to open the doors once more to the community. Being based in No.28 enables me to support this ministry. Every day I have opportunity to speak to people who access this wonderful hub of activity. Many of these people are existing church members or contacts, both with ministry-related enquiries and also in need of prayer, chat or counselling support. Increasingly with people who are 'passing through' there are wonderful opportunities to share faith with them.

Being based in Number 28 enables me to support the wider administration of the church as well, particularly outside the normal advertised office hours. Making time to be among people, both in church and 28 but also 'where they are', is central to the continuing vision of St Michaels.

***"From the shifting shadows of the earth, we will lift our eyes to Him,
Where steady arms of mercy reach to gather children in."***

from the song 'Come people of the Risen King – Getty/Townend

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel.

(Jeremy Coles - Director of Music and Family Work)

Worship, Services and Music

CHOIR

Leader: Jeremy Coles Assistants: Christine Hamill-Stewart and Stewart Prentice
Organist: Ann Hardy

Rehearsals – Thursdays at 7.00pm

Members: Steve Bailey, Sue Barsby, John English, Christine Hamill-Stewart, Margaret Hardy, John Hughes, Thia Hughes, Hugh Malkin, Jack Mayne, Kate Mayne, Lottie Mayne, Nicky Parsons, Cameron Prentice, Stewart Prentice, Fiona Tarry, Jo Wilson, Liz Woode, Tony Woode.

The Robed Choir lead the worship at the 9.15 am service, Confirmations, Bereavement Services, Weddings and occasionally over this past year at funerals. Music choices reflect the background of those who attend the services, benefiting from more contemporary worship material but leaning towards the traditional. We are able to give a strong lead to the congregation and introduce new music on a regular basis. There have been occasions where we were able to blend these styles by sharing the responsibility for the services with the church Worship Group.

Many thanks to our organist, Anne Hardy with occasional support from Stewart and Christine. I am grateful for the support given by Jo and Margaret with the administration work. We are very happy for others to join in at rehearsals (*please speak to Jeremy*) with no obligation to sing on Sundays. Please do consider coming along and joining in.

Thank you to everyone who has regularly given us feedback and commented upon how much they appreciate the Choir all that we are seeking to develop.

WORSHIP GROUP

Leader: Jeremy Coles
P.A/Visuals: Dave Pinney, Paul Hassall

Rehearsals – Wednesdays at 7.30pm

Members: Carl Birkenhead, Helen Cox, Katy Drew, Paul Hassall, Graham Ikin, Kate Mayne, David Pinney, Fiona Tarry

The Worship Group continues to serve at the 11am service and occasionally at other joint events, e.g. leading worship in a barn for the Agricultural Chaplaincy event later on in the year at Richard Atkin's Farm. Music choices reflect a more contemporary worship style, including Children's songs, while keeping in touch with the best of traditional hymns. Some newer songs have been introduced and become firm favourites over the last year. There seems to be a growing desire among the congregation to spend more time in worship and praise, recognising the need for songs of intimacy and openness to the Holy Spirit alongside songs that build faith/theology and express celebration. Many thanks to the team for developing and maintaining the PA and Projection. Plans are underway to add further screens to the system to make it more accessible for larger congregations.

We are very happy for others to join us for rehearsals (*please speak to Jeremy*) with no obligation to sing or play on Sundays. One of my aims during this last year was to continue to develop a stronger sense of the Choir and Worship Group being part of the same Worship Team.

Thank you to everyone who has regularly given us feedback and commented upon how much they appreciate the Worship Group and all that we are seeking to develop.

FESTIVAL CHOIR

The choir continues to bring a freshness and vibrancy to our collective worship, which compliments the existing music in church. We were able to sing once again at the town's Folk & Boat Festival on the Sunday morning main stage and also at the Annual Carol Service. The choir provides an opportunity for people from the locality to come and try us out without the pressure of auditions. Many people comment upon how welcome they feel and how they have experienced renewed and newly-found faith. Gentle prayer at the beginning and end of the rehearsals reinforces this, together with the opportunity to sing truth through the wonderful Bible based lyrics of the songs.

St Michael's Community Choir is a faith based choir open to anyone from high school age upwards. (*No initial commitment is required – newcomers are always welcome at rehearsals.*)

LEADING AND PREACHING

I continue to lead and preach at worship services in the church and further afield. I am also involved in putting services together and helping with the administration associated with this.

Many thanks for your participation, love and encouragement during the year in my role as Director of Music.

***“No work too hard for Him, in faith receive from Him.
Be still for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.”***
From the song, ‘Be still for the presence’ – David Evans

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel.

(Jeremy Coles - Director of Music and Family Work)

Section 3: Evangelism, Ecumenical Relationships and Mission

Minister in Secular Employment

Since my ordination as a priest in June 2023, I have become increasingly aware how my employed status, positions me well to represent the church in the wider world. Consequently providing great encouragement, as I repeatedly witness God's love in action, beyond the established traditional structures. Whilst my employment does not depend upon me being ordained, God nevertheless continues to draw on every element of my training to equip me to exercise a full & faithful ministry. Drawing alongside others, whilst collectively being drawn into a deeper relationship with God.

Recent reflections on the various opportunities and experiences of the past year, continually remind me never to underestimate the power of God. It remains a privilege to serve the church's mission, through prayer, teaching, community engagement and pastoral work. I cherish the ability to work out my calling within a secular work environment and remain committed to encouraging other to do the same.

As someone fascinated by God's activity on 'the borders 'I can confidently testify that the borders of our parish are indeed fruitful. So let's all be encouraged as the manifestation of God's Holy Spirit continues to be acknowledged. May God receive all the glory!

(Julie Hassall)

Church@28

In 2023 we only had one service - but it was a good one! We very much enjoyed having Bishop Sam along and he was, as we knew he would be, an excellent speaker. The service was live steamed via YouTube and received 134 views. I am hugely grateful to Paul Humphreys for his incredible technical work to make the livestream happen. We managed to improve on some of the technical challenges we faced in 2022 and whilst not perfect, it was a good step forward.

We got lots of positive feedback but this was perhaps my favourite;

Excellent...loved it.....I was interested the whole way through. I don't know if you know but I started going to church groups just before Christmas. It was a big step for me! That service really confirmed we are on the right track. Loved the people who took part they all gave me a warm feeling!

The online offering opened up the service to those previously unable to attend, with obvious examples being parents with young children, folk who are unwell, those nervous of entering a Church service or people who cannot physically get to the service for one reason or another. The main challenge of Church@28 is that is incredibly time consuming to put together and I would never want to compromise on quality. With two young children, I have found it increasingly difficult to devote time to the preparation, hence the lack of services. The additional challenges we now face are Paul's understandable lack of availability as he supports family and right up to date Mum and Dad's departure, as they both helped me a lot behind the scenes.

So, I'd love to get it going again but in the short term I don't think this is very likely. However, don't rule out a comeback one day!

(Robert Reed)

Mothers' Union

It was good to get back to a normal year last year after the problems with the pandemic. We were pleased to admit Jean Clement and Claire Dutton to the Mothers' Union on the 19th March during the Mothering Sunday 11.00 am service.

We had a variety of speakers at our meetings last year, and were very pleased to welcome Nicky Harris from the Food Bank. It was interesting to hear how they organise the support system and she was able to go away with a plentiful supply of donations from our members. Other speakers included Brenda Beesley and Jo Whittall from our Deanery and Rev Kate Pwaisiho from St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall.

In June we had our first outing of the year when we visited Goostrey Home and Leisure. It was so successful, we will certainly return there in the future. For our second outing we were invited to Higher Daleacre Farm by Jo Wilson and Claire Dutton and enjoyed ourselves very much. Everyone appreciated the refreshments and also the opportunity to sit and chat to each other.

We were also able to run both our coffee mornings last year.

Apart from our meetings, Chris Overton did a good job of organising the knitting and "Educational Red Bags for children in Eastern Europe". I continued sending out the newsletters which have been well received and is a good way of members having access to confirmation of arrangements.

(Susan Hawkes)

St Michael and All Angels Ringing Team (SMAART)

As last year we gave five concerts, two for the Sandbach Dementia Group, two at Weston Park Care Home in Macclesfield and one for the Stroke and Asphasia group in Hartford. Although it was nice to be invited to play we enjoyed some occasions more than others. Once again we participated in a carol service led by the Rev. Liz Woode at Willowmere in December.

It was decided during the summer that we should move our practice night from Monday to Tuesday. We made the change in September. One benefit is that we will avoid most of the Bank Holidays.

We continue to be grateful to be able to use the 21 bells owned by the church, to which we have added 15, almost enough to make three octaves. However, it has become noticeable to us that the overall sound has become less satisfactory. For 2024 we hope to have the

complete set refurbished. Depending on the cost we may also be able to buy some proper cases to house our bells and even another bell to complete the three octaves.

Inevitably we are all getting older and would love to introduce more people to the joys and complexity of handbell ringing, so if you would like to join us we would be pleased to see you. Although it would help to have some musical knowledge, it is not necessary. However, being able to count to three, four, or even six, and occasionally the dizzying heights of nine, is essential! We practise at Willowmere at 7 p.m. on Tuesday evenings. If you wish to accept the challenge to have a go please ring me on 01606 832148.

(David Hawkes)

Home and Overseas Mission Support

CRISIS (Homelessness Charity)

This is the second year that CRISIS has been one of the four charities supported by St. Michael's Church. The months of January, February and March are the months for me to champion my charity. I again put a display in the window of No.28. This included posters about the Charity, a Bible text about helping others and in that way serving the Lord Jesus, and a sleeping bag with plastic bags and a cap with coins in it to symbolize someone "sleeping rough".

My birthday is in January, and as it was a milestone birthday, I decided to have a party. This was held in No.28 and guests included family, friends, and church family. It was a Hot Pot Supper and Quiz evening. Thank you to Graham Ikin – Quizmaster extraordinaire, and to Sue Ikin and Elaine Reynolds for serving food and washing up. Also, to Neil and others for setting up and clearing up at the end. The reason I mention this event is that when I sent out the invitations, I asked people to give a donation to CRISIS in lieu of a birthday present. I was quite overwhelmed when I later opened all my cards and saw how generous people had been. The event raised an amazing £300.

In addition to this, CRISIS has received £125 each quarter from the church's planned donations to its chosen charities. Also, over the year, various other donations were given amounting to £ 71.50. This resulted in a grand total of £ 871.50.

Thank you to St. Michael's Church family for your support for this well deserving charity. As CRISIS says "TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT HOMELESSNESS".

(Josie Clewes)

Christian Service Unit - Khammam

Introduction

The work of the Christian Service Unit continues, despite increasing Government restrictions. We reported last year that CSU had had its operating licence renewed for another five years, after a rigorous government inspection. We give thanks for this licence, which permits the CSU to receive funds, such as our gifts, from overseas.

However, the government is very concerned to improve the international image of India and actively restricts CSU from publishing information which shows the country in a bad light. They are not permitted to send pictures of sick or needy people, nor to directly appeal for funds to help such people. The directors of CSU have been warned that they are under surveillance (including monitoring of email and social media) to ensure that they comply with all the requirements.

The motivation for the restrictions is partly religious, but mainly a matter of national pride. Several well-respected international charities have been refused licences. Because of these restrictions, Franklin has not been able to speak as freely or to send as much news from India as he would like, but the work continues and continues to prosper, under God's guidance.

Visit by Franklin

We were privileged to receive a visit from Franklin last summer and to hear from him, first-hand, about the work. Thank you Rod and Pinney for your hospitality during his visit. Franklin had been trying to visit the UK for some time, and his fare was paid by a former student at the school, who now runs a successful business. During his visit, Franklin was also able to visit some of the original members of "Christ for All", one of whom is now in a residential home in Chester.

The Work

Schools & Children's Homes

Most of the work in Khammam has now restarted but the children's homes are not yet up to full strength, partly because some children started work to support their families during the Covid problems and partly because the government will not allow children to attend privately run homes while there are vacancies at government homes. The only children permitted are those who are boarders at the school. However, the government homes are overwhelmed with street children, and numbers at CVU homes are gradually returning to normal.

Home for the Aged

This home was allowed to remain open and still cares for 17 elderly people. Medical teams from the CSU hospital look after their physical needs, and students from the School of Evangelism look after their spiritual welfare.



School of Evangelism

The number of young people volunteering for training as evangelists continues to increase, and CSU is pleased to be able to train them. Between 15 & 20 students (men and women) pass through the school each year and are sent to work in remote villages around Khammam.

Buildings

Village churches around Khammam continue to grow, and existing buildings are becoming inadequate. One example is the church at Kothapalem, which has been refurbished and extended with money sent by St Michael's Church. Every penny we send is gratefully appreciated and is put to good use. Franklin has sent us some pictures of the re-dedication of the building.



Preparing the new building for its opening ceremony.

Note the new well pump, provided by friends in America.

Wells are provided at as many churches as possible as an expression of Christian love to villagers and travellers and as parable of the "Living Water" which can be found inside.



Cutting The Ribbon



The congregation gather in the new building

"Your gifts fulfilled the Kothapalem congregation's long wish of renovation as the congregation grows. They are very grateful for your kind gifts and prayer support."

And finally ... Some facts and figures.

The cost of a new well is about £1000

The cost per student for a course at the School of Evangelism is about £600.

Annual cost of running the school:

Wages for teaching staff, domestic staff & security staff	£6480
Furniture, book and equipment to Government Standards	£4360
Accommodation for 50 boarders in the Children's Home	£9000

CSU are forbidden by the Indian Government from asking directly for contributions, but they may pray that God will nudge his people to assist!

Let Franklin have the last word.

Greetings from the Christian Service Unit family! - Thank you for your continuous support and prayers for the ministry.

With your great support we became a beacon of light for many deprived and downtrodden. Our intervention for physical and spiritually weak, developing them holistically. Empowered many orphaned & poor children, special needs children, surgeries done to the needed, support to poor and marginalized, housewives, addressing the needs of Lepers and HIV infected and affected.

In continuation of the transformation of various spheres of life, the above projects equip & enable the individuals to preach the gospel to the unreached and to hug the children in need. Please, be part of the projects even in small manner. Requesting your prayers and support.

(Steve & Ruth Broadfoot)

Congo – ABC Link & IPASC

In November with Bishop William from Boga visited Chester Diocese. It was good to hear all that was going on in their diocese. Their main concern is for protection and that is their prayer request. There is huge displacement in Boga diocese and makeshift camps. They are subject to frequent attacks from ISIS and others who cross the border and kidnap villagers. Sadly last year, one of their recently ordained deacons was murdered in his church.

Aru diocese is not suffering in the same way and has recently held 2 Christian conferences, and has confirmed over 1000 people. How amazing is this and what a challenge it represents for all of us!

IPASC (INSTITUT PANAFRICAIN DE SANTE COMMUNAUTAIRE) working in the Congo:

Health Promotion: Safe water sources built, with educational panels installed near water sources. Radio programs broadcast on RTK (Aru station) on themes relating to the fight against malaria and water-borne diseases, Coronavirus vaccination and diarrhoea; 7,565 students and teachers were reached by awareness-raising in schools. Water Source Management Teams were trained in the management of water sources. 75 fruit trees were made available and planted, and 576 improved stoves (using low quantity charcoal) were distributed within Aru households to help fight global warming.

Safe Motherhood: Briefing sessions organised for the Nurses and midwives, 11 Maternities were equipped with delivery kits and mattresses, and 6 Maternities have benefited from solar kits for lighting. Radio programs were broadcast on RTK (Aru radio station) on topics related to various aspects of reproductive health, and 8 health facilities supplied with Family Planning products.

Combating HIV & AIDS: Awareness raising through direct contact on the importance of HIV prevention, voluntary and early screening. 8 educational talks were organized within various hospitals. 902 volunteers were trained for Voluntary Counselling and Screening. Radio programs were broadcast on RTK (Aru radio station) on various themes relating to the fight against HIV and AIDS.

Health Diploma Course: 110 students attended schools, and 20 students ended studies (6 Midwives and 14 Community Health Visitors)

(Thia Hughes)

St Luke's Hospice

We were able to donate £532.50 to St Luke's Hospice (Winsford) this year as the quarter share of the money donated by the PCC to our nominated charities, unfortunately there were no other fundraising events this year. We would urge you to continue to give St. Luke's your support in any way you can with both your time, money and prayers, because as a local charity they rely heavily on our support for their caring work.

(Elaine and Sylvia)

Appendix 1 – Financial Statements Year Ended 31st Dec 2023

(To be printed separately)



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

for the year ending

31st DECEMBER 2023

INCUMBENT

The Reverend Simon Drew

BANKERS

Barclays Bank PLC

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mrs Fatima Perriman

Registered Charity No. 1127335

St Michael & all Angels, Middlewich
Annual report and accounts for the financial year ending 31st December 2023

Financial Overview

1) Table 1 Receipts and Payment Account 2023

The accounts are split between **Unrestricted Funds** (Operating and Designated) and **Restricted Funds**. The Unrestricted General Funds cover the day-to-day income and costs of the Church and Number 28. The Unrestricted Designated Funds are those that the PCC has designated to be used in a particular way.

The Restricted Funds are those that have a restriction, usually specified by the donor of the money, on how the PCC can spend the money.

Summary of 2023 Results - Unrestricted

Unrestricted (Operating)

Income	£162,351
Expenditure	£164,529
(Deficit)	(£2,178)

Designated Funds

Restoration Project

Income	£130
Expenditure	£0
Surplus	£130

Minor Projects

Income	£250
Expenditure	£2,996
(Deficit)	(£2,746)

Bracegirdle Bequest

Income	£953
Expenditure	£0
Surplus	£953

Total Unrestricted

Income	£163,684
Expenditure	£167,526
Deficit	(£3,841)

Budget (Unrestricted Operating) for 2023

A breakeven Budget was set for 2023 and this included an Income Challenge of £7,216. (ie. without any benefits from the Stewardship Campaign or other fundraising).

Actuals (Unrestricted Operating)

During the year our Operating income benefited from the Stewardship Campaign (increased monthly giving and one-off donations) and from Events including the Plant Sale, Folk and Boat activities (including the Gospel Concert), the Christmas Fair and other donations.

Our costs increased (including Salaries and associated costs, the Parish Share and Utilities costs) and there were some one-off costs.

Although the Full Year ended up as a deficit of (£2,178), it is a good result given the challenges we have faced.

Charitable donations in 2023 of £3,129 were lower than 2022 by £2,928. The Donations represent 2.5% of Voluntary Income compared to 5.2% in 2022. The donations in 2023 included £2,000 from PCC Funds.

Number 28 had a deficit of £3,296 in 2023 compared to a deficit of £2,808 in 2022. Our income increased in 2023 by £742 to £5,616 and our costs, including some one-off costs, increased by £1,231 to £8,912.

Actuals (Unrestricted Designated Funds)

The Restoration Project received donations of £130 and the Bracegirdle Bequest received Investment income of £953. There was no expenditure from either of the Funds.

The Minor Projects Fund income was £250 made up of donations of £200 and Gift Aid of £50. The expenditure of £2,996 included £1,499 for No 28 Kitchen improvements, £850 for Church Boiler Room improvements, £600 deposit for new Church Website and other costs of £47.

Summary of 2023 Results - Restricted Funds

Restoration Project (Restricted), Minor Projects (Restricted), Organ Fund (Restricted), Flower Guild (Restricted) and Moreton Bequest (Endowment)

Income	£3,329
Expenditure	£1,144
Surplus	£2,185

The Restricted Funds income of £3,329 included Donations of £2,259 and Investment income of £1,070.

The Restricted Fund Expenditure of £1,144 included £672 for Church electrical repairs and outside lighting and other costs of £472. The other costs included materials for the Holiday Club and a wheelchair for Church.

Table 2 Statement of Assets & Liabilities

The assets are split in two main sections: fixed assets which are not easily converted into cash (property and equipment) and monetary assets which are easily converted into cash (cash, stocks and investment funds).

The fixed asset section represents the current value of No 28 which stands at £295,000, this valuation is based on survey carried by Mellor Braggins in May of 2015.

The monetary assets are then split into three sections total cash and bank, working designated funds and restricted funds (definitions can be found within the accounting policies section).

The Total Net Assets as at 31st December 2023 stood at £808,059. This represents a increase of £32,508 compared to 31st December 2022. This is mainly due to an increase in the valuation of our Investments of £34,164.

The Unrestricted Funds (Unrestricted and Designated) as at 31st December 2023 were £438,976. This is a increase of £25,401 on 2022 and is mainly due to an increase in the value of our investments of £29,141.

The Restricted Funds as at 31st December 2023 were £74,083. This is an increase of £7,108 on 2022 and includes an increase in the valuation of our investments of £6,157.

As stated, the PCC have no known liabilities.

2) Table 3 Allocation of Reserves

The third financial table illustrates how the reserves available to the PCC could be employed in the future in line with the strategy of the PCC. The £308,000 allocated to Church Development is to bring the interior of the church into compliance with current legislation and good practice, to repair utilities and to improve the facilities for the congregation and local community to facilitate worship, community activities and access to the heritage of the building.

The running costs reserve £82,265 is a prudent level to cover six months potential Working Capital for both the Church and No 28.

The allocation of £12,711 allows for further refurbishment of No 28.

Finally, we propose £36,000 for ongoing outreach and spreading the Gospel in Middlewich.

Table 1									
Receipts and Payments		Unrestricted		Restricted			Unrestricted	Restricted	
	Unrestricted (Operating) General & Stocks Fund Investment Income	Designated: Restoration Project, Minor Projects, Bracegirdle Bequest	Total Unrestricted 2023	Total Restricted & Endowment 2023	Total Unrestricted & Restricted 2023		Total Unrestricted 2022	Total Restricted & Endowment 2022	Total Unrestricted & Restricted 2022
£									
Receipts									
Voluntary Income	123,631	380	124,011	1,045	125,056		116,550	4,629	121,179
<i>Planned Giving</i>	83,720		83,720	0	83,720		81,529	0	81,529
<i>Collections and other giving</i>	16,164	330	16,494	1,045	17,539		13,949	4,080	18,029
<i>Income tax recovered</i>	23,747	50	23,797	0	23,797		21,072	548	21,620
Parish Activities	24,003		24,003	251	24,254		19,936	0	19,936
<i>Events</i>	6,042		6,042		6,042		2,585	0	2,585
<i>Sales Proceeds</i>	783		783		783		85	0	85
<i>Charity Activities</i>	1,048		1,048		1,048		3,843	0	3,843
<i>Occasional Offices</i>	15,116		15,116		15,116		12,496	0	12,496
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	1,014		1,014	251	1,265		927	0	927
28 Hightown	5,616		5,616		5,616		4,874	0	4,874
Investment Income	8,852	953	9,805	1,071	10,875		8,016	938	8,954
Grants/Community Projects	250		250	962	1,212		986	475	1,461
Total Receipts	162,351	1,333	163,684	3,329	167,014		150,362	6,041	156,404
Payments									
Parish Activities	23,926		23,926		23,926		22,176	0	22,176
<i>Events</i>	3,747		3,747		3,747		2,230	0	2,230
<i>Purchase Costs</i>	352		352		352		0	0	0
<i>Charity Giving</i>	3,129		3,129		3,129		6,057	0	6,057
<i>Occasional Offices</i>	9,196		9,196		9,196		7,356	0	7,356
<i>Ministry Activities</i>	3,654		3,654		3,654		3,308	0	3,308
<i>Office Costs</i>	3,849		3,849		3,849		3,225	0	3,225
28 Hightown	8,912		8,912		8,912		7,682	0	7,682
<i>28 Operating Costs</i>	7,691		7,691		7,691		5,871	0	5,871
<i>28 Maintenance Costs</i>	1,221		1,221		1,221		1,812	0	1,812
Church Building	19,303		19,303		19,303		14,227	0	14,227
<i>Church Operating Costs</i>	15,170		15,170		15,170		12,293	0	12,293
<i>Church Maintenance Costs</i>	4,133		4,133		4,133		1,934	0	1,934
Ministry	112,388		112,388		112,388		108,101	0	108,101
<i>Ordained Staff</i>	67,177		67,177		67,177		65,163	0	65,163
<i>Lay Staff</i>	45,211		45,211		45,211		42,939	0	42,939
Projects	0		0		0		784	1,824	2,608
Materials	0	2,396	2,396	472	2,868		3,570	0	3,570
Contracts	0	600	600	672	1,272		0	0	0
Total Payments	164,529	2,996	167,526	1,144	168,669		156,540	1,824	158,364
Surplus/(Deficit)	(2,178)	(1,663)	(3,841)	2,185	(1,656)		(6,178)	4,217	(1,960)

Further Analysis of Receipts and Payment Accounts		Unrestricted				
		Act YTD Dec	Act YTD Dec	Act YTD Dec	Act YTD Dec	Act YTD Dec
		Unrestricted (Operating) General & Stocks Fund Investment Income	Restoration Project Designated	Minor Projects Designated	Bracegirdle Bequest Designated	Total Unrestricted
£						
Receipts						
Category Group	Category	Actual Income	Actual Income	Actual Income	Actual Income	Actual Income
Voluntary Income		123,631	130	250	-	124,011
Planned Giving	Pledge Envelopes	3,361				3,361
Planned Giving	Standing Orders	80,359				80,359
Planned Giving		83,720	-	-	-	83,720
Collections and Other	Donations	7,193	130	200		7,523
Collections and Other	Occasional Offices	885				885
Collections and Other	Online Giving	1,898				1,898
Collections and Other	Plate Giving	6,187				6,187
Collections and Other		16,164	130	200	-	16,494
Income Tax Recovered	GASDS	1,121				1,121
Income Tax Recovered	Gift Aid	22,626		50		22,676
Income Tax Recovered		23,747	-	50	-	23,797
Parish Activities		24,003	-	-	-	22,989
Events	Other Events	6,042				6,042
Events		6,042	-	-	-	6,042
Sales Proceeds	Other Sales Income	783				783
Sales Proceeds		783	-	-	-	783
Charity Activities	Christian Service Unit	33				33
Charity Activities	Congo Charities	33				33
Charity Activities	Other Charities	594				594
Charity Activities	St Luke's Hospice	33				33
Charity Activities	Crisis	357				357
Charity Activities		1,048	-	-	-	1,048
Occasional Offices	Funeral Fees	10,179				10,179
Occasional Offices	Wedding Fees	4,938				4,938
Occasional Offices		15,116	-	-	-	15,116
Miscellaneous		1,014				
Miscellaneous	Byley Contributions	959				959
Miscellaneous	Other Activities	55				55
Miscellaneous		1,014	-	-	-	1,014
28 Hightown		5,616	-	-	-	5,616
28 Hightown	Other No 28 Income	152				152
28 Hightown	Room Hire	560				560
28 Hightown	Sales and Donations	4,904				4,904
28 Hightown		5,616	-	-	-	5,616
Investment Income		8,852	-	-	953	9,805
Dividends - Stocks Fund	Dividends - Stocks Fund	7,725				7,725
Interest - Stocks Fund	Interest - Stocks Fund	1,127			953	2,079
Dividends & Interest		8,852	-	-	953	9,805
Grants		250	-	-	-	250
Unrestricted	Grants	250				250
Grants		250	-	-	-	250
Total Receipts		162,351	130	250	953	163,684

Further Analysis of Receipts and Payment Accounts				Unrestricted		
		Act YTD Dec	Act YTD Dec	Act YTD Dec	Act YTD Dec	Act YTD Dec
		Unrestricted (Operating) General & Stocks Fund Investment Income	Restoration Project Designated	Minor Projects Designated	Bracegirdle Bequest Designated	Total Unrestricted
£						
Payments						
Category Group	Category	Actual Expenditure	Actual Expenditure	Actual Expenditure	Actual Expenditure	Actual Expenditure
Parish Activities		23,926	-	-	-	23,926
Events	Other Events	3,747				3,747
Events		3,747	-	-	-	3,747
Purchase Costs	Other Purchase Costs	352				352
Purchase Costs		352				352
Charity Giving	Christian Service Unit	533				533
Charity Giving	Congo Charities	533				533
Charity Giving	Other Charity Giving	660				660
Charity Giving	St Luke's Hospice	533				533
Charity Giving		3,129	-	-	-	3,129
Occasional Offices	Assigned Fees	2,086				2,086
Occasional Offices	Disbursements	7,110				7,110
Occasional Offices		9,196	-	-	-	9,196
Ministry Activities	Mission	363				363
Ministry Activities	Music	1,331				1,331
Ministry Activities	Pastoral Care	251				251
Ministry Activities	Training and Compliance	591				591
Ministry Activities	Worship and Teaching	699				699
Ministry Activities	Young People	420				420
Ministry Activities		3,654	-	-	-	3,654
Office Costs	Office Contracts	2,256				2,256
Office Costs	Office Materials	916				916
Office Costs	Other Office Costs	677				677
Office Costs		3,849	-	-	-	3,849
28 Hightown		8,912	-	-	-	8,912
28 Operating Costs	28 Electricity	1,981				1,981
28 Operating Costs	28 Gas	648				648
28 Operating Costs	28 Insurance	1,438				1,438
29 Operating Costs	Other	3,200				3,200
28 Operating Costs	28 Water	425				425
28 Operating Costs		7,691	-	-	-	7,691
28 Maintenance Costs	28 Mtce Contracts	794				794
28 Maintenance Costs	28 Mtce Materials	427				427
28 Maintenance Costs		1,221	-	-	-	1,221
Church Building		19,303	-	-	-	19,303
Church Operating Costs	Church Electricity	1,575				1,575
Church Operating Costs	Church Gas	5,138				5,138
Church Operating Costs	Church Insurance	7,019				7,019
Church Operating Costs	Church Other	847				847
Church Operating Costs	Church Water	591				591
Church Operating Costs		15,170	-	-	-	15,170
Church Maintenance Costs	Church Mtce Contracts	4,091				4,091
Church Maintenance Costs	Church Mtce Materials	42				42
Church Maintenance Costs		4,133	-	-	-	4,133
Ministry		112,388	-	-	-	112,388
Ordained Staff	Ordained Staff Expenses	1,478				1,478
Ordained Staff	Parish Share	61,711				61,711
Ordained Staff	Rectory Costs	3,988				3,988
Ordained Staff		67,177	-	-	-	67,177
Lay Staff	Lay Staff Expenses	18				18
Lay Staff	Lay Staff Other Costs	845				845
Lay Staff	Pensions	4,043				4,043
Lay Staff	Salaries	34,957				34,957
Lay Staff	Tax and NI	5,348				5,348
Lay Staff		45,211	-	-	-	45,211
Materials		-	-	2,396		2,396
Contracts		-	-	600		600
Total Payments		164,529	-	2,996	-	167,526

£	2023	2022	2023 vs 2022
Charitable Giving	3,129	6,057	(2,928)
Made up of the following:			
Christian Service Unit	533	1,775	(1,243)
Congo Charities	533	1,251	(718)
Other Charity Giving	660	260	400
Save the Family	-	-	-
St Luke's Hospice	533	1,251	(718)
Crisis	872	1,520	(649)
Donation % of Voluntary Income	2.5%	5.2%	-2.7%
£	2023	2022	2023 vs 2022
No 28 Receipts & Payments			
Income	5,616	4,874	742
Insurance	(1,438)	(1,357)	(80)
Utilities	(3,054)	(2,426)	(628)
Other Running Costs	(4,421)	(3,899)	(522)
Surplus/(Deficit)	(3,296)	(2,808)	(489)

Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments						
	Restricted and Endowment					
	Act YTD Dec	Act YTD Dec	Act YTD Dec	Act YTD Dec	Act YTD Dec	Act YTD Dec
£	Restoration Project Restricted	Minor Projects Restricted	Organ Fund Restricted	Flower Guild Restricted	Bert Moreton Bequest (Endowment)	Restricted & Endowment Total
Receipts	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
Voluntary Income	831	0	0	11	204	1,045
<i>Collections and other giving</i>	831			11	204	1,045
Investment Income	0	0	120	0	950	1,071
Community Projects	0	1,214	0	0	0	1,214
Total Receipts	831	1,214	120	11	1,154	3,329
Payments						
Materials	0	422	0	50	0	472
Contracts	672	0	0	0	0	672
Total Payments	672	422	0	50	0	1,144
Surplus/(Deficit)	159	792	120	(39)	1,154	2,185

Table 2

Balance Sheet	2023	2022	Movement 2023 vs 2022
	£	£	£
Current Assets			
Cash	139,781	138,936	844
Accounts Receivable	912	1,439	(527)
Prepayments	0	0	0
Total Current Assets	140,693	140,375	317
Non-Current Assets			
Fixed Assets	295,000	295,000	0
Investments	376,222	342,058	34,164
Total Non-Current Assets	671,222	637,058	34,164
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	3,856	1,883	1,973
Deferred Income	0	0	0
Total Current Liabilities	3,856	1,883	1,973
Non-Current Liabilities			
Long Term Loan / Mortgage	0	0	0
Total Non-Current Liabilities	0	0	0
Total Net Assets (Assets Minus Liabilities)	808,059	775,551	32,508
Represented By			
General (Unrestricted)	2,213	4,391	(2,178)
Buildings (Unrestricted)	295,000	295,000	0
Restoration Project - Restricted (Restricted)	3,521	3,363	159
Restoration Project - Designated (Designated)	1,630	1,500	130
Minor Projects - Restricted (Restricted)	2,851	2,060	792
Minor Projects - Designated (Designated)	431	3,177	(2,746)
Stocks Fund (Unrestricted)	333,553	304,412	29,141
Bert Moreton Bequest (Endowment)	38,069	34,303	3,766
ET Earl Legacy (Endowment)	17,583	16,059	1,524
Bracegirdle Bequest (Designated)	101,048	100,095	953
Organ Fund (Restricted)	10,686	9,679	1,007
Flower Guild (Restricted)	1,473	1,512	-39
Total Net Assets	808,059	775,551	32,508
Fixed Assets	295,000	295,000	0
Unrestricted and Designated Funds			
Barclays Current Account Unrestricted & Stocks Fund Cash	18,178	17,843	335
Accounts Receivable	912	1,439	(527)
Accounts Payable	(3,856)	(1,883)	(1,973)
Barclaycard	(230)	(308)	78
Petty Cash	300	290	10
Stocks Fund Investment	312,524	284,882	27,641
HSBC Shares	8,039	6,539	1,500
Barclays Current Account Designated	2,061	4,677	(2,616)
Barclays Premium Account Designated	101,048	100,095	953
Total Unrestricted and Designated Funds	438,976	413,575	25,401
Restricted Funds			
Barclays Current Account Restricted (Restoration Fund)	3,521	3,363	159
Barclays Current Account Minor Projects - Restricted (Restricted)	2,851	2,060	792
Bert Moreton Bequest Investment	30,136	27,524	2,612
Moreton Bequest Income Fund	7,830	6,780	1,051
E T Earl Legacy Investment	17,583	16,059	1,524
Organ Fund Investment	7,941	7,054	886
Organ Fund Cash	2,709	2,624	84
Flower Guild (Restricted)	1,512	1,512	0
Total Restricted Funds	74,083	66,976	7,108
All Assets	808,059	775,551	32,508

Table 3			
Allocation of Reserves			2023
a) Church Development			308,000
b) Financial Working Capital			82,265
c) No 28 General Fabric			12,711
d) Outreach and Spreading the Gospel			36,000
Total			438,976

Notes to the Financial Statements

Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards from the SORP 2005 and the Charities Act 2011 unless otherwise stated.

This is the seventh year that the accounts have been prepared using the accrual accounting method.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups (such as the Mothers' Union and Bell ringers society) who owe their main affiliation to the national organisation, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided by the terms of the trust or bequest and (b) donations received for a specific object.

Designated funds are funds set aside by the PCC for a particular purpose. The PCC may subsequently decide to spend the fund for any other purpose.

Unrestricted funds are general funds that can be used for the PCC's ordinary purposes.

Income

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. All income is accounted for gross including that from Charitable collections and Occasional Offices.

Expenditure

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognized when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993. Movable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected at any reasonable time. Such property is written off when purchased.

Other functional assets (in our case No.28, the Parish Centre & office) are not valued in Receipts and Payments Accounting but are noted in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value as at 31st December 2023.

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of St Michael & All Angels Church on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023. Charity No.1127335. Set Out on Pages 1 to 11.

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination. I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act: or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records: or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair" view which is not a matter considered as part an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Fatima Perriman

24th April 2024

50 Thrush Way, Winsford, Cheshire. CW7 3LN

Accounts

St Michael and All Angels Church Middlewich

Annual Report and Accounts

Year ending 31st December 2022

Registered Charity No. 1127335

All For Christ + Christ For All



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Introduction by the Rector, Simon Drew

2022 has in many ways been the first 'post Covid' year, but the ongoing effects of the pandemic still continued to influence our church life in various ways. It was however, wonderful to be able to celebrate Easter and Christmas together fully once more.

One of the lingering effects of Covid19 was pressure on our church finances. In response we held another stewardship campaign during 2022. My thanks to all who responded financially to that campaign although we did end 2022 with a small deficit.

There were several highlights during the year. In June we were able to once again create the Bible Labyrinth in church for the FAB Festival in Middlewich. It was a great opportunity to share the gospel story with around 3,000 visitors. In July we celebrated the ordination of Julie Hassall at Chester Cathedral. Julie is training as a Minister in Secular Employment and ministers within Cledford Primary School as well as being part of the team at St Michael's. In August we held another St Michael's Church Charities Half-Marathon, organised as a joint venture with Run Middlewich. It was another great event and many church members helped as stewards.

On a personal note I had the opportunity for a sabbatical during September-November, which included a pilgrimage to the Holy Land (Israel) with my wife. I am grateful to the ministry team who willingly 'held the fort' to make this possible.

My thanks go to the staff team and the PCC for their ongoing support during 2022. We will as always continue to work on being 'All for Christ & Christ for All' through our goals: Committed to Discipleship, Effective in Mission and Faithful in Stewardship.

Section 1: Trustee's Report (for Charity Commission):

The contents of this section are specifically required by the Charity Commission.

Aim and purposes

St Michael & All Angels, is the only Anglican Church in the mid Cheshire town of Middlewich. Due to its prominent and imposing position in the centre of the town, St Michael's is a landmark when approaching from any direction.

Middlewich Parish has a population of 15,000 and is part of a benefice joined with Byley-cum-Lees a nearby small country parish with 900 inhabitants.

Our incumbent is the Revd Simon Drew. The incumbent at St Michael's is supported by Revd Liz Woode (Associate Priest), Revd Thia Hughes (Associate Priest) Revd Lorraine Reed (Associate Priest) Revd Alison Boulton (NSM Curate) and Revd Julie Hassall (NSM Curate), Revd John Hughes (a retired minister), Jeremy Coles (Director of Music & Family Work) and Beth Deakin (Office Manager).

Our five Readers, Steve Broadfoot, Christine Hamill-Stewart, Tony Woode, Anne Latham, and Duncan Goodwin along with Sylvia Bosomworth, Sue Ikin and Elaine Reynolds (Pastoral Care Workers) form our team of eight lay workers.

The aim and purpose of the Church according to the Westminster Catechism is 'to glorify God and enjoy him forever'. The Rector, supported enthusiastically by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and the lay and ordained staff, prayerfully pursues this objective in planning the services,

outreach and pastoral ministry of the Church in the community. We hope that our restricted and varied activities during 2022 have still brought us nearer to meeting our objective.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC and staff team are committed to sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with the community of Middlewich through word and action – **All for Christ + Christ for All!** As such our mission statement is: *Committed to Discipleship, effective in Mission, and faithful in Stewardship.*

The following were still our objectives for 2022:

DISCIPLESHIP: Implement a programme of teaching and training on discipleship, using a mixture of different styles/formats.

MISSION: Strengthen and/or re-establish areas of community engagement: No28, Smilers, Street Pastors, Festival Choir, Song Stars, Card Group, Church@28, Foodbank, Good Neighbours, and developing mission in the Cledford area, building on Messy Church@Cledford.

RESOURCES: Move forward with the Restoration Project Phase 2. Maintain a healthy level of financial stewardship

To facilitate these objectives St Michael's seeks to maintain a committed team of staff and volunteers, and usable and effective resources in the shape of the church building and No 28, our parish centre.

Achievements and performance

Worship and prayer

Our patterns of worship and prayer continued to reflect the effects of Covid19. We have two morning services on a Sunday, in the church building, as the focus of our corporate worship. During the summer holiday period we held the 11am service outside in the churchyard, following on from the positive experience of doing this during Covid19. We continue to offer a weekly written reflection by email. Our midweek services include a Healing Service on Tuesdays and a Communion on Thursdays.

At 31 December 2022 there were 123 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. The weekly average attendance for services which took place during October was 120 adults and children, and a total of 410 people joined us for our services on Christmas Eve/Day.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. This year baptisms and weddings were significantly curtailed by the pandemic.

We have celebrated 18 baptisms, 3 weddings and held 23 funerals in our church this year. However the ministry team also conducted 10 funeral services at various local crematoria.

Deanery Synod

The Middlewich Deanery Synod met three times during 2022. The speakers were the new Bishop of Birkenhead in February (Julie Conalty), the Diocesan Director of Outreach in June, and the Diocesan Director of Ministry in October. St Michael and All Angels were well

represented by both ordained and lay representatives. Our Rector, Simon Drew, retired as Rural Dean in September 2022, and was replaced by Rev Ruth Mock.

Pastoral care

Pastoral Care remains an important and integral part of ministry at St Michael's and comes under our Circle of Care initiative. It is about living our faith in action as we care for one another, and that includes people in our wider community. This year we were pleased to be able to return to a pattern of visiting people face to face.

Mission and Evangelism

As part of its commitment to mission, St Michael's Church continues to be actively engaged in mission and evangelism. Further details are given in sections 2 & 3 of this report. Sadly the pandemic curtailed many of our outreach activities and we are still rebuilding this area of church life.

Ecumenical relationships

Churches Together in Middlewich continued to meet together during 2022. Once again we were able to meet together for prayer and worship, to share in the Good Friday Walk of Witness and work together during the FAB Festival in the town.

Financial Review

The accounts show a deficit for 2022 of £1,920 with total receipts up by £2,532 on 2021, but overall payments also increased by £8,103 on 2021. There was an increase of £1,861 in voluntary income, an increase in money received through Parish Activities (including fees from weddings and funerals) of £2,196 and an increase in investment income of £485.

No 28, our parish centre, produced a net deficit of £2,807 in the year (compared to a deficit of £3,846 in 2021). Total charitable giving to our four charities was £6,057 (£317 higher than in 2021), and represents 5.2% of our voluntary income.

Fixed assets in the shape of No 28 Hightown stand at £295,000, the property being revalued in May 2015. Total funds available to the PCC were £42,473 lower than at the end of 2021 at a year-end value of £413,575. The restricted funds, which are not available to the PCC, were £2,280 lower than 2021. The year-end value of these funds stood at £66,976.

Reserves Policy

See table 3 in Appendix 1: The PCC has allocated £290,000 to church development to improve the interior of the church. £77,522 has been kept in reserve to cover 6 months running costs for church and No 28. £13,053 is allocated for further refurbishment work to No 28, and we propose the remaining £33,000 for ongoing outreach and spreading the gospel in Middlewich.

Volunteers

Once again, heartfelt thanks to all our amazing volunteers, too numerous to mention by name, who, now that the Covid19 pandemic is behind us are once again enabling our church to be such a key and vibrant part of community life.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of Parochial Church Council (PCC) members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Michael's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our Rector), Churchwardens, Deanery Synod representatives, two of the Readers selected from amongst the five of them, members elected by those members of the

congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church, plus co-options as required. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

In Middlewich sufficient parishioners are prepared to stand for the PCC so that it is sometimes necessary to hold elections. It has therefore been possible to require members to stand down every three years for at least one year. This enables fresh ideas to be put forward, which in our opinion more than offsets the possible disadvantage of some members not having a longstanding exposure to detailed PCC procedures.

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent, updating policies on safeguarding, health & safety and GDPR, and also the Church's strategy. The Standing Committee (SC) – a sub-committee of the PCC - has delegated financial authority, provides a forum for detailed discussion on some complex issues and makes decisions on matters which do not require a full PCC discussion. All SC proceedings are reported to the PCC.

Safeguarding

St Michael's Church recognises its responsibilities for the safeguarding of staff, volunteers, church members and visitors. Our parish safeguarding officer is Rev Alison Boulton. The PCC have adopted the recommended policies and procedures of the Diocese of Chester with regard to safeguarding. New members of the PCC, children's work team and pastoral care team are all required to undertake safeguarding training and have a DBS check. Although safeguarding remains as a standing item on the PCC agenda there were no safeguarding issues reported to the PCC during 2022.

Administrative Information

The PCC and the SC usually meet on alternate months and sometimes have additional meetings as required. The PCC met 6 times during the year with an average attendance level of 85%. The Standing Committee met 5 times to deal with various matters relating to church life over the year, with an average attendance level of 90%.

PCC members who served during 2022 were:

Ex Officio members:

Incumbent and Chairman:	Reverend Simon Drew
NSM Curate:	Reverend Alison Boulton
NSM Curate:	Reverend Julie Hassall

Churchwardens:

Keith Yearley served as CW until the AMP in April 2022, when he was replaced by Ian Jeffrey. Chris Coney & Steve Bailey (were re-elected as Churchwardens at the AMP in April 2022).

Deanery Synod Representatives: Anne Latham & Godfrey Davies

Readers Representatives: Tony Woode

Co-opted members:

Christine Malkin (Secretary) & Mike Reed (Vice-chairman) served as a co-opted member from the APCM in April 2022.

Elected Members:

Paul Hassall, Rachel Pendleton, Elaine Reynolds, Bret Ritchie, Tony Bishop, Neil Clewes (Treasurer) and Joanne Wilson were members throughout the year.

Christine Malkin, Mike Reed, Ian Jeffrey & Kate Mayne were elected members until April 2022 but retired in rotation. We thank them for their important service to the church.

The following people were elected at the APCM in April 2022 to serve on the PCC for three years: Josie Clewes, Graham Ikin, Patricia Smith & Keith Yearley

Standing Committee members who served during 2022 were:

Simon Drew (Chairman), Neil Clewes (Treasurer), Christine Malkin (Secretary), Keith Yearley (Churchwarden until April 2022), Chris Coney (Churchwarden), Steve Bailey (Churchwarden), Ian Jeffrey (Churchwarden from April 2022), Mike Reed (Vice Chairman), and Elaine Reynolds

Other Committees:

Working groups drawn not only from the PCC also met during the year to consider work to the church building, fundraising, stewardship, organ repairs, safeguarding and health & safety.

Staff Team:

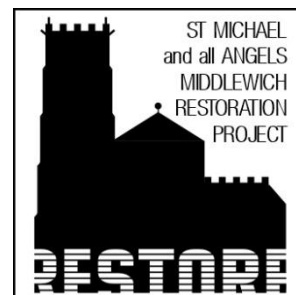
Throughout the year, the day to day activities of the Church are coordinated through a weekly meeting of the Staff Team. This is an informal meeting to which the ordained and lay staff and churchwardens are invited. The maximum possible attendance is 18, and the average attendance is about 10.

Restoration Project

Introduction

The Church Restoration Project was conceived in 2012 as a consequence of the large amount of structural work identified in the 2012 Quinquennial inspection and the PCC's stated intention to develop the interior of the building to improve the facilities for the congregation and community, and to comply with current legislation.

It consists of a major project split into large phases, and a number of minor projects.



The project, including fundraising, has been led by a Restoration Project Group. which should meet once a quarter. Its members are: Mike Reed (Chair); Chris Coney (Warden); Simon Drew (Rector); Elaine Reynolds; Steve Broadfoot; Ian Jeffery. The group did not meet in 2022.

Overall Strategy

We are conscious of the need to coordinate the conservation of the fabric and artefacts with improvements to the interior of the building. We are committed to making the heritage represented by our building more accessible to the public, and are also mindful of the need to press forward with work which enables the mission of the church, and to keep these aspects in balance. The plan, influenced by the 2018 Quinquennial Inspection, looks like this:

Phase 1 Roof, rainwater goods and associated high level stonework – North Side - £290k
 – Completed in 2017

- Phase 2a Medium size scheme comprising the installation of mains drainage and the replacement of the rudimentary refreshment making facilities by a modern facility in keeping with the heritage of the building. The cost will be about £50k: there are no current plans to commence the work.
- Phase 2 Major Scheme incorporating three types of work:
- Conservation Work - mainly to the South Aisle and Bell Tower
 - Heritage Work – restoration of the Venables Screens; opening the bell tower to the public; developing the heritage trail; generally improving the condition of some historical artefacts
 - Internal Development Work, making the building : fully accessible; usable for many purposes; compliant with modern legal requirements; provided with up to date facilities
- This is expected to cost over £1m: there are no current plans to commence the work.
- Phase 3 Lower level exterior stonework and timber repairs (Around £250k; date unknown)

Progress in 2022

Main Project

Apart from one meeting which identified some alternative solutions to the Mains Drainage project, it has not been possible to carry out any work on the main project during the year due to the diversion of effort into the continuing improvement of the Church accounting systems. If progress is to be made it will be necessary to recruit a new Project Coordinator.

Minor Projects

Smaller pieces of work have been carried out as part of the Project.

- Remedial work required by the 2020 five yearly electrical Inspection of the Church building continued and is almost complete. No invoices were received during the year.

Fundraising

The only income to the Restoration Fund was a small number of donations amounting to £321, a collection at a Heritage event of £17 and Gift Aid of £11.25. The balance of the fund at the end of December 2022 was £4,863.

Thanks

The project has several years to run, and is currently stalled. Offers of help would be very welcome.

Mike Reed Project Coordinator

Section 2: Achievements and Performance

These reports are presented in addition to the Charity commission's statutory requirements

Church Wardens' Fabric Report.

The church fabric is generally in good overall condition with work continuing on both the Church and No28, overseen by the Buildings and Maintenance committee. The scaling back of some of the Covid 19 pandemic measures has made life easier for all.

The buildings maintenance committee returned to regular face-to-face meetings during 2022 ensuring that any necessary maintenance and updating of the Church building and No 28 has been carried out when required. However, there is still an element of 'catch-up' to be done, due to items being placed temporarily on hold during the pandemic.

The list of ongoing maintenance tasks continues to be kept up to date by the team and each task is ticked off when successfully completed. The 'defects' logbook was not maintained, due to the lack of general access to the office administrator during the pandemic. This is an example of issues where we need to get 'back-on-track' following the difficulties of the previous years. The book is kept in the office at No 28 and should be completed whenever a fault or a maintenance task is requested, either in church or in No 28. It is essential that this is done to keep a handle on tasks that need doing.

Work has continued on various improvements and ongoing maintenance tasks during 2022. Clearly, one of the big events of 2022 was the wonderfully successful Labyrinth. Yet, for the building maintenance team, this was also something of a reality check! In preparation for work on the Labyrinth, we soon discovered that items stored in the boiler house were, damp / rotting and in some cases unusable. This has led to much discussion about the appropriate action to rectify this situation. In the interim, items that would normally have been returned to the boiler house after the Labyrinth have been stored under the tower. Not helpful for anyone! In addition to this, when a review of wider aspects of the Labyrinth and No28 / FAB weekend was held, it was clear for all to see that the super human efforts of those working in the kitchen and serving in the café, were being hampered by inadequate food preparation space in kitchen. Again, something we have been aware of for some time but is now being fully addressed by the Buildings Maintenance Committee.

Therefore, please see below some of the key items that have been dealt with during 2022:-

Church building

- ❖ The reorganisation of church due to the Covid 19 pandemic has been scaled back in response to changing needs although some changes, such as the table where service sheets and hymn books are made available, are likely to remain as this seems to make for better movement in and around the South door area.
- ❖ Most of the electrical works highlighted by the electrical safety survey have been completed by Paul Hassall contractors, with some assistance from volunteers Steve and Graham. In addition, two lighting circuits have been installed for the North Aisle.
- ❖ An external floodlight with PIR has been installed over the Lady Chapel door and two further floodlights over the South door/ porch which included the repositioning of the porch light switch.
- ❖ Debris was cleared from the Church roof and pigeon detritus cleared from the South roof area. Gutters and downpipes have been inspected and cleared twice during 2022.
- ❖ The Church roof has been inspected via a Drone and by physical inspection.
- ❖ The Church notice board was sanded and treated.

- ❖ The Church Clock was serviced by a clock engineer.
- ❖ Service and inspection of the boiler, which required gas probes in the boiler to be replaced due to calcification, was carried out.
- ❖ A section of the pews by the North door has been temporarily rearranged early in 2022 to allow for a safe enclosed space for smaller children. Following which an area below the tower was reorganised to accommodate the North Aisle pews that had been removed.
- ❖ A Ladder Register has been created. Ladders have been identified, checked and each ladder marked with appropriate identification.
- ❖ Cherry Tree planted as part of green canopy by ANSA, part of the jubilee celebrations.

No 28

- ❖ Gutters and drainpipes were inspected and found to generally in good repair. In addition, the roof was inspected via a Drone.
- ❖ Adhesive labels have been fixed above all tested fire extinguishers.
- ❖ Boiler and gas inspections and maintenance were carried out.
- ❖ In the kitchen the grill and shelving to the left of the cooker have been removed and shelving fitted to the wall on the right of the cooker, all of which improves worktop preparation space.

No 28

The general fabric of Number 28 remains in good condition. Further work in the kitchen is planned for the coming year, hopefully to be finished by Easter. The concern over the raised area of the kitchen floor has receded during the past year but will continue to be monitored.

Planned Work - in addition to all usual maintenance work.

- ❖ Complete all electrical work and issue Certificate of Electrical Compliance
- ❖ No28 Kitchen worktop improvements and shelving to be completed
- ❖ Church Boiler House floor drainage improved
- ❖ Reorganise and clear under tower
- ❖ Improve and update PAT register
- ❖ Bring 'defects log' up to date.

As always, we would like to thank our resident team of volunteers who look after the day to day maintenance and smooth running of both the Church building and No 28. Especial thanks go to Graham, Paul, and Steve who have carried out or assisted with most of the above works. New faces and volunteers will be welcomed with open arms.

Churchwardens, Chris, Ian and Steve

Number 28 Activities

As we rolled over into the start of 2022, Number 28 had only been open 3 months so we were still “finding our feet”, so to speak. As we are all aware, the period of Covid has changed many things, and footfall around the town is not what it once was.

However, during the previous year, Number 28 had benefitted from a wonderful facelift and we have seen the benefits of that this past year. We now have more workspace which has allowed us to increase our food provision. Number 28 is open on Mondays, Tuesday and Thursdays, between 10am and 1pm. We serve hot drinks, cakes, toast and teacakes on Monday and Thursday, increasing the provision to serve delicious soup and sandwiches on Tuesdays.

We are fortunate in that we have gained some wonderful new volunteers this year and we are delighted to have them on the Number 28 team. However, we are still in need of more!

Foodbank operated out of Number 28 on a Friday for most of this year but towards the end of the year, this stopped and they now operate fully from the old Police Station on Queen Street. We ran a food hygiene course in March so we now have more volunteers who are able to help with the soup and sandwiches. We are delighted to say that everybody passed so it was a very successful day!

Room hire has unfortunately tailed off but Bridge Club did return and continue to use the small meeting room on a Wednesday morning. This does give us a small, regular income for which we are very grateful.

Many Church groups take advantage of the comfortable surroundings – we have Church @ 28 in the upstairs room. Downstairs, Mothers’ Union meet monthly, as do Craft and Chat. We saw a new group established this year, an Art group which meets weekly on a Wednesday morning. They have produced some beautiful work!

We also held an Autumn Fair towards the end of the year where Number 28 was open as a café. It was lovely to see it so busy! As usual, we were open for FAB weekend again in June and operation as a café. This year saw the return of the Big Story Labyrinth again so we had many people in and around Church. Number 28 café was busy all weekend!

We were fortunate this year to be awarded “Warm Places” status and be given some funding to help towards this. This means that we are Listed as a “Warm Place” on the Cheshire East website so that people in the community who are struggling during the current cost of living crisis has somewhere to go and sit during the day and be assured of a warm environment and something to eat and drink. We are grateful to Ian Jeffery for his work in submitting the funding bids.

As always, I am so very grateful for the love and support of all the staff team, volunteers and everyone who makes Number 28 the special place it is. Everyone who comes in here is given a warm welcome, free from judgment and an opportunity to have a chat and something to eat and drink.

We hope that in the coming year, Number 28 continues to grow and be a place where members of our Church and community continue to be welcomed with love. We ask for God’s continued blessing upon this place.

(Beth Deakin)

Pastoral Care – the Circle of Care

Pastoral Care remains an integral part of ministry at St Michael's.

It is about living our faith in action as we care for one another, including those in our wider community. That may be by listening, by sharing a cup of tea, by visiting someone, or just noticing that someone has been missing for a while. It is about looking out for each other. The 2nd Commandment is, "Love your neighbour as yourself." (Matt 22:39) Jesus said, "Love each other as I have loved you." (John 15:12)

Visiting

The number of pastoral contacts and visits completed this year has been significantly higher post-Pandemic. Some contact has had to remain by telephone and has involved more people - perhaps highlighting the growing needs of people in our community. Home-visiting has increased as the year has progressed. The biggest challenge still lies ahead as we continue to emerge from the restrictions imposed by Covid. Many people are still fearful and unsure about what "normal" will be like and how they will cope.

We have restarted our services of Holy Communion with hymns at 4.00 o'clock on the fourth Sunday of the month, followed by refreshments in Church. The return of this service has been greatly appreciated.

Care Homes.

Services of Holy Communion have now resumed in Care Homes where it is safe to do so.

Baptism.

We have been able to restart our Baptisms preparation and Lunches, and we look forward to welcoming three more people as part of our Baptism preparation team.

"Middlewich Good Neighbours" is undergoing a complete restructuring. We hope to be up and running again soon.

Bereavement.

"Bereavement Visiting" continues to be a very important role of the Circle of Care. Sylvia Bosomworth has taken on the ministry of contacting all bereaved families within a few days of notification. Relatives have been so grateful that someone has been in touch with them – thank you Sylvia. This has proved to be a much valued ministry; Some Bereavement Visiting has now restarted.

We were able to hold two "Memorial and Thanksgiving" services in the last year. We were encouraged that, at the last service in November, many people felt they could stay for refreshments and to share their stories. The number of people attending these services is an indication of the need to draw alongside those struggling to come to terms with their grief, pain and loneliness. They have found the services give them comfort, reassurance and hope for the future. We are looking to revisit the way we manage bereavement visiting in the light of more funerals going to the Crematorium instead of Church, and the rise of secular 'services' led by civil celebrants. Our concern remains the post-funeral care and ongoing pastoral support of those in need and we are exploring ways in which we can address this. We now have a "bereavement bag" that we can give to families, containing a leaflet with prayers, Bible readings, artwork, reflections and contact numbers. A cross, candle, a packet of Forget-me-Not seeds and some prayer cards.

Learning to pray with others is an extremely important part of pastoral care, and is what sets us apart from secular visiting as we visit on behalf of the church.

In September/October time we started looking at the Circle of Care and the need to revisit some areas in light of the increased pastoral needs of our Community. Updating our policies in line with current legislation, especially 'Safeguarding'. These changes will be implemented in early 2023.

If you feel Pastoral Care is an area of ministry that God may be calling you to, please do get in touch with myself, Sylvia, Elaine, Sue, or any of the Clergy. We need more people to come on board

I would like to thank all that have been involved in the Circle of Care this year, for their care and compassion. It is a great privilege to be a part of this important ministry of sharing our faith and God's love in action, reaching out and meeting people where they are in their need, Matt 25:35 – "for I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, a stranger, clothing, sick, in prison...". V40 – "whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Thia Hughes

Schools, Families and Young Peoples Work

The role of family worker was created to support, develop, coordinate and add value to existing ministries within St Michaels and develop new opportunities within the wider community. In August this year (2022) I had been in post for 17 years.

SCHOOLS

Middlewich Primary School

Cledford Primary School

Byley County Primary School

Wimboldsley Community Primary School

St Mary's (R.C.) Primary School

Warmingham (C.E.) Primary School (neighbouring parish)

It has been a privilege to reconnect and build upon our relationship with the school families through assemblies, R.E. lessons and school visits to the church building. There are collective acts of worship every week in Cledford and Middlewich Primary Schools where I represent the Churches Together in Middlewich. St Michaels were once again host to Easter, Harvest and Christmas Celebrations for Cledford Primary School. Middlewich Primary Key Stage 2 and Wimboldsley School brought their Christmas Celebration into Church once again.

Many of the schools have sent year groups to both of our churches to investigate Christianity in the community; one poignant day was the act of remembrance by some of the pupils and staff from Middlewich Primary School at the War Memorial, followed by a visit to church. We have made good use of the No.28 facilities in offering hospitality to pupils, parents and staff. Thank you to all those who have facilitated this. The schools continue to be extremely welcoming and appreciative of the church's input.

If you would like to support your local schools in any way or would like to come along to an assembly to see what I do (or join in!) then please speak to me.

DAY NURSERIES

Early Learners

Tommy Thumbs @ Cledford

Kids Planet

We have begun to re-establish links with local Nurseries particularly through this year's Labyrinth Art Installation but also occasionally in the leading of singing and Bible story sessions at Easter, Harvest & Christmas.

KINGDOM KIDS

Sundays 11am

Children attending the 11am service with their parents are withdrawn, usually three times a month, for their own age-related activities across in No.28. Many thanks to Fiona Loney for sharing the leading of these sessions with myself and to Tony and Jo for their assistance. Numbers of children have remained very low with just one primary-aged group. There has been little demand for Kingdom Tots during this time, although special thanks particularly to Elaine and Sue for providing an activities and toys area for pre-schoolers to interact during the service.

AWOL – 'A Way of Life'

Youth Discipleship – alternate Sundays 7pm

Simon and I have continued to run sessions for our church youth on a regularly basis in No.28. A large number were confirmed this year at a service taken by Bishop Sam. Thank you to Liz for her preparation of the Confirmation candidates. Particular thanks to Bret and Sarah for their

support of this group. We had a couple of joint sessions with Middlewich Community Church during the year, which were very successful.

YOUTH CAMP – ‘Dreaming the impossible’

July 30th – August 4th 2022

We had a fantastic time at the Youth Summer Camp at Stafford in July, taking 7 young people and three adults. After a break of a number of years it was encouraging to be joining with Middlewich Community Church to facilitate this trip. There was plenty of opportunity to get to know each other and the God that we serve. Food, sports, Bible studies, Worship, Laughter, prayer and the presence of God: what more could we ask for? Nottingham Vineyard were the new hosts this year but very much in the same style and ethos as previous Soul Survivor Camps.

SMILERS (St Michael’s Early Years)

Mondays 1.15-3.00pm

Amid the playing, singing, art and craft time and refreshments we listen to, care for and support Mums, Dads and other carers in bringing up their children. We introduce children, and their carers, to the importance of Bible Reading, Prayer, Worship and above all things a personal relationship with Father God through Jesus. Parents often comment on how welcome and relaxed they feel in church and clearly appreciate the faith input and experience.

We have seen a steady flow of families connecting with us over the last year. This ministry clearly establishes some families within the Christian faith, where otherwise they would have little or no regular contact with local Christians.

This is still a vital ministry to those connecting with St Michaels often for the first time.

Our new ‘babies area’ has been well received by the increasing number of parents with new-borns. This will be reviewed and further developed in the new year.

Special thanks to those who have assisted in leading sessions, Elaine, Jo, Thia and Sue. We have been able to expand the team of volunteers once again and are grateful for those who have helped in setting the building up, particularly Robina, Graham, Steve and Alastair and to Trish and Mary on the refreshment rota.

Numbers at SMILERS continue to be stable.

FAB LABYRINTH – ‘The Big Story’ Art & Gospel Installation

Folk & Boat Festival Weekend

All six local primary schools, alongside our own children’s groups and leaders, contributed spectacular displays to transform the whole of the inside of St Michaels into a ‘walk-through the Bible’ event which was experienced by 1000s of visitors to the church. Many people in the church and wider community gave sacrificially of their time to facilitate this. During FAB Festival week children from local schools and churches also sang on the main stage during the **Festival Praise Event**.

BEING IN THE OFFICE

The ministry in and from No.28 continues to grow, as we have been able to open the doors once more to the community. Being based in No.28 enables me to support this ministry. Every day I have opportunity to speak to people who access this wonderful hub of activity. Many of these people are existing church members or contacts, both with ministry-related enquiries and also in need of prayer, chat or counselling support. Increasingly with people who are ‘passing through’ there are wonderful opportunities to share faith with them.

Being based in Number 28 enables me to support the wider administration of the church as well, particularly outside the normal advertised office hours. Making time to be among people, both in church and 28 but also 'where they are', is central to the continuing vision of St Michaels.

**"From the shifting shadows of the earth, we will lift our eyes to Him,
Where steady arms of mercy reach to gather children in."**
from the song 'Come people of the Risen King – Getty/Townend

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel.

Jeremy

Jeremy Coles - Director of Music and Family Work

Music, Services and Worship

SERVICES

During 2022 we were able to re-establish services in the church building as we moved away from most of the restrictions of the recent Covid pandemic. The All Age services (SHINE) were again transferred outdoors during the summer months.

CHOIR

The Choir continues to lead the musical worship during the 9.15am Sunday Communion services, at memorial services and special events. We have continued to develop the thought that as musicians and singers we have a special role as worship leaders during the services, not only through our singing but also our prayers for the congregation as we sing. As well as the more traditional sacred music we have been able to incorporate contemporary worship, Celtic and World music into our repertoire. There have been occasions where we were able to blend these styles by sharing the responsibility for the services with the church Worship Group.

Many thanks to our organist, Anne Hardy with occasional support from Stewart and Christine. We are very grateful that much of our administration work is undertaken by Margaret and Jo. We are very happy for others to join in at rehearsals (*please speak to Jeremy*) with no obligation to sing on Sundays. Please do consider coming along and joining in!

Thank you to everyone who has regularly given us feedback and commented upon how much they appreciate the Choir all that we are seeking to develop.

WORSHIP GROUP

The Worship Group continues to serve at the 11am service and occasionally at other joint events. Music choices reflect a more contemporary worship style, including Children's songs, while keeping in touch with the best of traditional hymns. Some newer songs have been introduced and become firm favourites over the last year. There seems to be a growing desire among the congregation to spend more time in worship and praise, recognising the need for songs of intimacy and openness to the Holy Spirit alongside songs that build faith/theology and express celebration.

We are very happy for others to join us for rehearsals (*please speak to Jeremy*) with no obligation to sing or play on Sundays. One of my aims during this last year, and looking ahead, is for there to be a stronger sense of the Choir and Worship Group being part of the same Worship Team, where there will be more cross-over between styles of music and those taking part.

Thank you to everyone who has regularly given us feedback and commented upon how much they appreciate the Worship Group and all that we are seeking to develop.

FESTIVAL CHOIR

The choir continues to bring a freshness and vibrancy to our collective worship, which compliments the existing music in church. It was with much expectation that we were able to sing once again at the town's Folk & Boat Festival on the Sunday morning main stage. We also sang at the Annual Carol Service after a number of years off due to the Pandemic. The choir provides an opportunity for people from the locality to come and try us out without the pressure of auditions. Many people comment upon how welcome they feel and how they have experienced renewed and newly-found faith. Gentle prayer at the beginning and end of the rehearsals reinforces this, together with the opportunity to sing truth through the wonderful Bible based lyrics of the songs.

St Michael's Community Choir is a faith based choir open to anyone from high school age upwards. *(no initial commitment is required – newcomers are always welcome at rehearsals.)*

LEADING AND PREACHING

I continue to lead and preach at worship services in the church and further afield. I am also involved in putting services together and helping with the administration associated with this.

Many thanks for your participation, love and encouragement during the year in my role as Director of Music.

***“No work too hard for Him, in faith receive from Him.
Be still for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.”***
From the song, ‘Be still for the presence’ – David Evans

Jeremy

Jeremy Coles - Director of Music and Family Work

Section 3: Evangelism, Ecumenical Relationships and Mission

Church@28

When COVID 19 arrived and the first lockdown started, Church@28 services stopped. In more normal times I may have experimented with an online version. However, on a personal basis 2020 & 2021 were very busy - I launched a new business and Christine gave birth to Joshua in the August of 2020. So, the format was rested and I suppose to a degree, so was I!

February 13th 2022 represented the relaunch of the service, in a new hybrid format. With social distancing in mind, the attendance in person was restricted to 25 people, on a booked in basis. The service was live streamed via YouTube and received 387 views. This was an amazingly high number and whilst it has to be accepted that a fair percentage of these will have been repeat viewings, or perhaps drawn in by the Bishop of Chester Mark Tanner being the interview guest, we can nonetheless be greatly encouraged. I am hugely grateful to Paul Humphreys for his incredible technical work to make the livestream happen. We did encounter some technical challenges, but in the main it went well and provided a good platform and learning experience for future events.

The online offering opened up the service to those previously unable to attend, with obvious examples being parents with young children, folk who are unwell, those nervous of entering a Church service or people who cannot physically get to the service for one reason or another.

We did hope to do three more services in the year, but with an unexpected house move and renovation plus the the birth of our second child Lucy, time quickly ran out and the February service ended up being the one and only in 2022.

Let's see what we can do in 2023! Remember if you would like to take part, please contact me, new volunteers are always most welcome.

Robert Reed

Card Group

We did not have a card group meeting in no28 this year but we did hold after school card-making sessions at Cledford School for the staff on two occasions, one in the summer and one in the autumn.

We continue to be self-financing, relying on donations and the sale of cards we make to finance materials and equipment, and we are very grateful to everyone who has supported us by buying our cards. If you would like a card for a special occasion please let me know.

Lorraine Reed

Mothers' Union

We were pleased that we were able to do more in 2022 than we have managed over the period of the pandemic. In February we were really glad to get together at the White Bear for lunch where they made us very welcome.

Following that we were able to plan more meetings and we were pleased to readmit Ellen and Jill to the Branch at our March meeting. Unfortunately we had to cancel the Hot Cross Bun Coffee Morning due to COVID

We are using the cafe area when possible for our meetings and this has worked very well. Our first meeting downstairs was the AGM and further meetings were held there apart from our celebration of the Platinum Jubilee and this was a royal quiz. We were able to hold this outside in the courtyard at the back of No. 28 and was enjoyed by everyone.

This was followed by afternoon tea at Jo Wilson's farm which was a lovely occasion with lots of lovely cakes and everyone was able to meet Khaya, Jo's grand-daughter.

Visiting speakers included Wendy Sykes, the Diocesan President who was originally booked for 2020 and Rev. Vanessa Layfield who gave us a very interesting talk on her work as a Waterways Chaplain.

It was good to be able to arrange the Mince Pie Coffee Morning again.

Following on from producing newsletters during lock down, we continued with this and produced 9 editions through the year. This has been useful for keeping in touch with members.

Looking to the future the programme has just been finalised and we look forward to a more settled 2023 than the last few years.

Susan Hawkes

St Michael and All Angels Ringing Team (SMAART)

The slow return to something like normality continued through 2022. From July we gave five concerts, two in Northwich and one each in Davenham, Holmes Chapel and Middlewich. We also participated in a carol service led by the Rev. Liz Woode at Willowmere in December. Unfortunately one of the venues in Northwich suffered an arson attack shortly after we played there. We hope the two events were not related!

One of the consequences of the restrictions during the pandemic was the extended use of our set of 15 hand chimes, since we had no access to the hand bells at that time. One of our arrangers has since produced some music integrating the two sets of instruments, the pieces being played with some success at the later concerts. We will now have to decide whether there would be a benefit from expanding the range of hand chimes, perhaps to two octaves. Of course, mixing the instruments brings additional challenges of playing the right one at the right time. Sometimes we struggle just with the bells!

One solution would be to recruit more players, so if you would like to join us we would be pleased to see you. Although it would help to have some musical knowledge, it is not necessary. However, being able to count to four, six, or occasionally nine, is essential! We practise at Willowmere at 7 p.m. on Monday evenings.

David Hawkes

Home and Overseas Mission Support

CRISIS (Homelessness Charity)

At the end of 2021, our church was asked to suggest a charity to support. I put forward the suggestion of CRISIS which is a charity I personally support with a monthly donation. I was delighted when Simon told me that CRISIS was selected as one of the four charities which St. Michael's would support.

I was asked to give a presentation during the 9.15am and 11am church services which I did on 16th January. This was to introduce the charity and its work to the congregation. I also put up a display of posters in church and in the window of No. 28 – where I also added a sleeping bag, a blanket, an empty coffee cup and a cap with a few coins in it.

The months of January, February and March are the months for me to champion my charity. With help from other church members there were fundraising events in No. 28 – a pancake morning on Shrove Tuesday and a coffee morning in March. CRISIS also benefitted from part of the funds raised from the Middlewich Half Marathon event in August. Along with the other three charities, CRISIS received a sum of money from the church over the year.

The total sum donated to CRISIS on behalf of St. Michael's church was £1520.09. Thank you to all who have helped me to support CRISIS in 2022. Together we have helped people out of homelessness!

Josie Clewes

Christian Service Unit - Khammam

Background

The work of the CSU has almost returned to normal following the Covid outbreak. Pastors and evangelists are now conducting services as normal, and people are coming forward for baptism.

Planning and budget meetings have been held with a view to reviving and expanding existing congregations and spreading the Gospel into new areas. Ten new pastors (seven men and three women) were ordained during 2022 to support this work. Nine more are in training.

After a rigorous government audit, CSU has had its government licence renewed for another five years. Receipt of this licence is a recognition of the integrity and hard work of the staff in India and is very difficult to earn. Several reputable organisations have had their applications turned down. Critically, it also authorises them to receive overseas funding for their work.

The Work

Shanthi High School

After lockdown there are 120 children attending the school. The number has been reduced due to the effect of Covid. Many children lost the habit of going to school, some were earning a little money for the family and the bus was unable to pick up others.

Gallapudi Homes

Schools are now taking pupils, but Homes are not yet permitted to open. After a special request to the government, CSU were allowed to take 9th and 10th class students into the homes to enable them to complete their studies. At present there are 16 students in the Home, plus 9 others who are taking their final exams. Please remember them in your prayers. The old school bus was not used for two years and finally died, but a new bus has been provided by friends in America. This now enables pupils to be brought promptly and safely from slum areas and surrounding villages.

Home for the Aged

17 elderly people are in the home at present and doing well. Periodically medical teams visit and check their health and give required medicine. They participate happily in all other routine activities.

Day care centres

The Day Care Centres at Khammam, Chinnakakani village, and Secunderabad are functioning well.

Special needs homes

The two homes in Khammam, and one at Madhira are doing well.

Food packets

Nutritious Food Packets for HIV+ infected are distributed from two centres. CSU organise a monthly meeting at each centre, giving short messages on healing, hope and the love of Christ followed by the distribution of food packets. It is sad that this disease affects so many poor people and little children. The demand is on the rise, and many victims are in dire need. CSU are trying to reach as many of them as possible.

CSU have received an award from the District Medical & Health Office in recognition of this work.

Leper Colony

CSU visit the colony monthly, providing practical and spiritual assistance to the people. Friends in America have raised funds for the provision of Wheelchairs, pushcarts and walking aids for leprosy victims, enabling them to reach sources of income. Franklin briefly explained how God had moved the donor and their love had reached across the world. "All the beneficiaries loudly applauded with fewer fingers on their palms but a big grin in their faces."

Rural Health

Rural Health Education Clinics are conducted in remote villages around Khammam. [There are many tribal groups living in primitive huts in jungle villages within 50 miles of Khammam.] Each week, a team consisting of a Medical Doctor, Nurse and driver will camp in a village, calling at every home to carry out basic medical checks and educate the people in basic health and hygiene. Now many people are aware of the effects of Blood Pressure, Diabetes, seasonal viral infections, and unhygienic water.

Sewing

Sewing training programmes were stopped during Covid but are now restarting. Sewing training will enable a woman (usually a widow) to earn a living. Successful trainees are given a loan to buy a sewing machine and are able repay it out of their earnings.

Buildings

It is CSU policy that a pastor should live with his flock, whenever possible. New parsonages have been built in two villages and, in two other villages; the church and parsonage have been upgraded by the installation of electricity. New wells have been installed in two villages.

Items for Prayer

CSU projects, spiritual staff and staff structures were established at a time when they had generous support from several agencies but some of this stopped in 2018. External support is now limited to one US-based group, and individual donors (including St M) in the UK. The recent increase in cost of living, which we complain about in England, is affecting India as well and making the work more expensive.

They ask prayer for:

- More supporters to facilitate the ministry of CSU.
- Amicable and constructive relationship with diocese of Dornakal for continuity of health ministry at St. Mary's Mission Hospital
- Health & Travel mercies for the servants of God
- For Trainees at the Asian School of Evangelism
- Our donors and Prayer supporters
- All our projects, supervisors and beneficiaries

"On behalf of the board, the Pastoral staff, admin Staff and from all our projects and its beneficiaries, I would like to thank you all for your prayerful financial support to see smile on the faces of many needy". Franklin

(Steve & Ruth Broadfoot)

Congo – ABC Link & IPASC

Although the last diocesan visit to Aru and Boga took place nearly six years ago, there is still regular communication between Chester and the two Congolese dioceses.

The former Bishop Ande became Archbishop of Congo (both DRC and Congo Brazzaville) in January 2022. Archbishops stay in the diocese where they were appointed as bishop so he remains in Aru. Last year, in addition to his many duties, he was standing in for two dioceses where there was an interregnum. He is therefore very busy. Last summer he and Bishop William attended Lambeth; ++Ande also visited the Church of England Synod in July. In August, John and Margaret Owens, representing the Link, met both bishops at the 40th anniversary of Congo Church Association in Leighton Buzzard.

The security situation in the south of Aru and the whole of Boga remains serious. Bishop William tells us that more than 3 million people have been displaced. One of the numerous rebels groups is the Ugandan Islamist group ADF (Allied Democratic Force). They were responsible for the murder of recently deaconed Revd Tibasima Bamakari and a Christian colleague as they were praying in a church in the Semilike Plain last summer.

Revd Peter and Dr Patricia Wyard, who have worked in Aru for 3 years, returned to the UK recently. Peter, amongst other tasks, re-implemented the Rooted in Jesus course and has appointed Revd Etsegeri to head this up. Patricia, consolidated the palliative care unit that Dr Francesca Elloway set up. Revd Madhira continues to direct this as well as his duties as Dean of the cathedral.

Judy and Tim Rous, previously Mission Partners with CMS in DRC moved to Aru at the beginning of 2022. Judy is there specifically to help and support ++Ande. She sends us regular updates on news from the diocese. Foxhill regularly ask us for prayer items regarding the Link and Judy's communications are useful in this respect.

Ven Jean Bagada, Diocesan Secretary for Boga Diocese, has started a project to support young women and girls who have been sexually abused during the unrest. 150 were originally targeted. The aim is to teach them practical skills such as needlework and carpentry, give them appropriate counselling, conduct seminars in forgiveness and peace making and to ease them back into normal life in their communities. Because of lack of funding, only a few have received help; however, Jean is applying to Dorcas Dress Project in this country to see if they could help.

Chester Diocese continues to give a grant of £5,750 each year to each diocese. Looking at this year's application shows where their different priorities lie: Aru's needs are for general development, Boga's are for an area where almost half its churches are in displacement.

Finally, the ABC Link committee met by Zoom or in person three times in 2022. The pandemic has stalled any momentum and we are struggling. Bishop Keith, who was a strong supporter, left some time ago. We need an influx of new members, especially women and younger people, if the Link is to have an effect in Chester Diocese.

There have, sadly, been difficulties with the Diocese of Aru resulting in the closure of the IPASC (Institut Panafricain de Santé Communautaire et Medecine Tropicale) site and the impounding of its vehicle. IPASC is now in rented accommodation and rented classrooms belonging to a local businessman, and a rented house provided by the Charity, "Bread for the World".

There are currently 26 students in Aru and 12 in Bunia, (4 have graduated this year) being sponsored by 16 generous individuals. The hope is that IPASC Trust will be able to take on a full cohort of 40 students over the next 3 years. The Trustees are hoping we might find 20 new sponsors, who will be willing to support a student in DRC for less than £15 /month (50p/day). All the Trustees have recognised that the past few years have been difficult for everyone and peoples' individual finances are likely to be more strained than ever. However, if you might be able to consider sponsoring a student, information is available. Sponsors help to transform primary healthcare in the DRC through the education and training of a student with IPASC.

The water source built recently is being well used by students and local villagers.

(Thia Hughes)

St Luke's Hospice

Due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic it has been another difficult year for fundraising for our chosen charities, however, with your help and generous donations from the Christmas cards and charity run plus the donation of £500 from the PCC we were able to send £1250 to St Luke's Hospice in the last year.

We hope to continue fundraising in the coming year so with your generous help we can continue to support the hospice in their vital and caring work. As they are a charity every penny we raise is important to them in these very difficult times. Thank you for your help.

(Elaine and Sylvia)

Appendix 1 – Financial Statements Year Ended 31 Dec 2022

(To be printed separately)



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

for the year ending

31st DECEMBER 2022

INCUMBENT

The Reverend Simon Drew

BANKERS

Barclays Bank PLC

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mrs Fatima Perriman

Registered Charity No. 1127335

St Michael & all Angels, Middlewich
Annual report and accounts for the financial year ending 31st December 2022

Financial Overview

1) Table 1 Receipts and Payment Account 2022

The accounts are split between **Unrestricted Funds** (Operating and Designated) and **Restricted Funds**. The Unrestricted General Funds cover the day-to-day income and costs of the Church and Number 28. The Unrestricted Designated Funds are those that the PCC has designated to be used in a particular way.

The Restricted Funds are those that have a restriction, usually specified by the donor of the money, on how the PCC can spend the money.

Summary of 2022 Results - Unrestricted

Unrestricted (Operating)

Income	£150,266
Expenditure	£152,186
(Deficit)	(£1,920)

Designated Funds

Restoration Project

Income	£0
Expenditure	£0
	£0

Minor Projects

Income	£0
Expenditure	£784
(Deficit)	(£784)

Bracegirdle Bequest

Income	£97
Expenditure	£3,570
(Deficit)	(£3,473)

Total Unrestricted

Income	£150,363
Expenditure	£156,540
Deficit	(£6,177)

Budget (Unrestricted Operating) for 2022

A breakeven Budget was set for 2022 and this included an Income Challenge of around £9,000. (ie. without any benefits from the Stewardship Campaign or other fundraising).

Actuals

As a result of the good Q1 results (which included some 'one off' donations), our Forecast for 2022 for the Full Year (without any benefits from the Stewardship

Campaign or other fundraising) was revised to a potential deficit of around £6,500 (this value was used in the Stewardship Campaign letters).

During the year our Operating income has benefited from the Stewardship Campaign, No. 28 FAB income, other Donations, the Autumn Fair and the Energy Grant from the Church of England.

Our costs increased and these included some one-off costs and although the Full Year ended up as a deficit of (£1,920), it is a good result given the challenges we have faced.

Charitable donations in 2022 of £6,057 were higher than 2021 by £317. The Donations represent 5.2% of Voluntary Income compared to 5% in 2021. The donations in 2022 included £2,000 from PCC Funds.

In addition to the above, £3,570 was donated to St. Luke's Hospice out of the Bracegirdle Bequest.

Number 28 had a deficit of £2,808 in 2022 compared to a deficit of £3,846 in 2021. During the year, more activities started to resume after the effects of Covid19. Although our income increased significantly compared to 2021, our costs also increased including some one-off costs.

Summary of 2022 Results - Restricted Funds

Restoration Project (Restricted), Minor Projects (Restricted), Organ Fund (Restricted), Flower Guild (Restricted) and Moreton Bequest (Endowment)

Income	£6,041
Expenditure	£1,824
Surplus	£4,217

The **Restricted** Funds income of £6,041 included Disabled Access Donations of £2,130, Flower Guild £1,512 (incorporated into the Church Accounts this year as a Restricted Fund), Income Tax recovered (re Disabled Access donations) £548, Investment Income £938 and other donations £913.

The Restricted Fund Expenditure of £1,824 included £1,473 re Disabled Access and other costs £351.

Table 2 Statement of Assets & Liabilities

The assets are split in two main sections: fixed assets which are not easily converted into cash (property and equipment) and monetary assets which are easily converted into cash (cash, stocks and investment funds).

The fixed asset section represents the current value of No 28 which stands at £295,000, this valuation is based on survey carried by Mellor Braggins in May of 2015.

The monetary assets are then split into three sections total cash and bank, working designated funds and restricted funds (definitions can be found within the accounting policies section).

The Total Net Assets as at 31st December 2022 stood at £775,551. This represents a decrease of £44,754 compared to 31st December 2021. This is mainly due to a decrease in the valuation of our Investments of £42,794.

The Unrestricted Funds (Unrestricted and Designated) as at 31st December 2022 were £413,575. This is a decrease of £42,473 on 2021 and is mainly due to a decrease in the value of our investments of £36,296.

The Restricted Funds as at 31st December 2022 were £66,976. This is a decrease of £2,280 on 2021 and includes a decrease in the valuation of our investments of £6,498.

As stated, the PCC have no known liabilities.

2) Table 3 Allocation of Reserves

The third financial table illustrates how the reserves available to the PCC could be employed in the future in line with the strategy of the PCC. The £290,000 allocated to Church Development is to bring the interior of the church into compliance with current legislation and good practice, to repair utilities and to improve the facilities for the congregation and local community to facilitate worship, community activities and access to the heritage of the building.

The running costs reserve is a prudent level to cover six months potential Working Capital for both the Church and No 28.

The allocation also allows for further refurbishment of No 28.

Finally, we propose £33,000 for ongoing outreach and spreading the Gospel in Middlewich.

Receipts and Payments									
	Unrestricted			Restricted			Unrestricted	Restricted	
	Unrestricted (Operating) General & Stocks Fund Investment Income	Designated: Restoration Project, Minor Projects, Bracegirdle Bequest	Total Unrestricted 2022	Total Restricted & Endowment 2022	Total 2022		Total Unrestricted 2021	Total Restricted & Endowment 2021	Total 2021
£									
Receipts									
Voluntary Income	116,550	0	116,550	4,629	121,179		219,758	414	220,172
Planned Giving	81,529	0	81,529	0	81,529		79,492	0	79,492
Collections and other giving	13,949	0	13,949	4,080	18,029		119,580	224	119,804
Income tax recovered	21,072	0	21,072	548	21,620		20,685	191	20,876
Parish Activities	19,936	0	19,936	0	19,936		17,740	265	18,005
Events	2,585	0	2,585	0	2,585		0	0	0
Sales Proceeds	85	0	85	0	85		70	0	70
Charity Activities	3,843	0	3,843	0	3,843		3,443	0	3,443
Occasional Offices	12,496	0	12,496	0	12,496		14,227	0	14,227
Miscellaneous	927	0	927	0	927		0	265	265
28 Hightown	4,874	0	4,874	0	4,874		553	0	553
Investment Income	7,919	97	8,016	938	8,953		7,434	796	8,230
Grants & Community Projects	986	0	986	475	1,461		7,319	4,300	11,619
Total Receipts	150,266	97	150,362	6,041	156,404		252,803	5,775	258,578
Payments									
Parish Activities	22,176	0	22,176	0	22,176		20,756	0	20,756
Events	2,230	0	2,230	0	2,230		0	0	0
Purchase Costs	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Charity Giving	6,057	0	6,057	0	6,057		5,740	0	5,740
Occasional Offices	7,356	0	7,356	0	7,356		9,105	0	9,105
Ministry Activities	3,308	0	3,308	0	3,308		2,534	0	2,534
Office Costs	3,225	0	3,225	0	3,225		3,377	0	3,377
28 Hightown	7,682	0	7,682	0	7,682		4,398	0	4,398
28 Operating Costs	5,871	0	5,871	0	5,871		3,324	0	3,324
28 Maintenance Costs	1,812	0	1,812	0	1,812		1,074	0	1,074
Church Building	14,227	0	14,227	0	14,227		13,916	2,448	16,364
Church Operating Costs	12,293	0	12,293	0	12,293		11,847	0	11,847
Church Maintenance Costs	1,934	0	1,934	0	1,934		2,069	2,448	4,517
Ministry	108,101	0	108,101	0	108,101		105,013	0	105,013
Ordained Staff	65,163	0	65,163	0	65,163		63,199	0	63,199
Lay Staff	42,939	0	42,939	0	42,939		41,814	0	41,814
Projects	0	784	784	1,824	2,608		1,029	4,300	5,329
Other	0	3,570	3,570	0	3,570		0	0	0
Total Payments	152,186	4,354	156,540	1,824	158,364		145,111	6,748	151,859
Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,920)	(4,257)	(6,178)	4,217	(1,960)		107,691	(973)	106,719

Further Analysis of Receipts and Payment Accounts		Unrestricted				
£		General and Stocks Fund Investment Income	Restoration Project Designated	Minor Projects Designated	Bracegirdle Bequest Designated	Total Unrestricted 2022
Receipts						
Category Group	Category	Actual Income	Actual Income	Actual Income	Actual Income	Actual Income
Voluntary Income		116,550				116,550
Planned Giving	Pledge Envelopes	3,441				3,441
Planned Giving	Standing Orders	78,088				78,088
Planned Giving		81,529				81,529
Collections and Other	Donations	8,655				8,655
Collections and Other	Occasional Offices	1,109				1,109
Collections and Other	Online Giving	910				910
Collections and Other	Plate Giving	3,275				3,275
Collections and Other		13,949	-			13,949
Income Tax Recovered	GASDS	720				720
Income Tax Recovered	Gift Aid	20,352		0		20,352
Income Tax Recovered		21,072		0		21,072
Parish Activities		19,936				19,936
Events	Other Events	2,585				
Events		2,585				2,585
Sales Proceeds	Other Sales Income	85				85
Sales Proceeds		85				85
Charity Activities	Christian Service Unit	1,212				1,212
Charity Activities	Congo Charities	747				747
Charity Activities	Other Charities	122				122
Charity Activities	St Luke's Hospice	747				747
Charity Activities	Crisis	1,016				1,016
Charity Activities		3,843				3,843
Occasional Offices	Funeral Fees	9,471				9,471
Occasional Offices	Wedding Fees	3,025				3,025
Occasional Offices		12,496				12,496
Miscellaneous		927				
Miscellaneous	Byley Contributions	881				
Miscellaneous	Other Activities	46				
Miscellaneous		927				
28 Hightown		4,874				4,874
28 Hightown	Other No 28 Income	1,577				1,577
28 Hightown	Room Hire	1,244				1,244
28 Hightown	Sales and Donations	2,053				2,053
28 Hightown		4,874				4,874
Investment Income		7,919				7,919
Dividends	Stocks Fund	7,683				7,683
Interest	Bracegirdle Bequest	-			97	97
Interest	Stocks Fund	236				236
Dividends & Interest		7,919			97	8,016
Grants		986				986
Unrestricted	Grants	986				986
Unrestricted	VAT Recovered	-				-
Grants		986				986
Total Receipts		150,266	-	-	97	150,363

Further Analysis of Receipts and Payment Accounts		Unrestricted				
£		General and Stocks Fund Investment Income	Restoration Project Designated	Minor Projects Designated	Bracegirdle Bequest Designated	Total Unrestricted 2022
Payments						
Category Group	Category	Actual Expenditure	Actual Expenditure	Actual Expenditure	Actual Expenditure	Actual Expenditure
Parish Activities		22,176				22,176
Events		2,230				2,230
Purchase Costs		-				-
Charity Giving	Christian Service Unit	1,775				1,775
Charity Giving	Congo Charities	1,251				1,251
Charity Giving	Other Charity Giving	260				260
Charity Giving	St Luke's Hospice	1,251			3,570	4,821
Charity Giving	Crisis	1,520				1,520
Charity Giving		6,057			3,570	9,627
Occasional Offices	Assigned Fees	2,322				2,322
Occasional Offices	Disbursements	5,033				5,033
Occasional Offices		7,356				7,356
Ministry Activities	Mission	563				563
Ministry Activities	Music	1,058				1,058
Ministry Activities	Pastoral Care	229				229
Ministry Activities	Training and Compliance	365				365
Ministry Activities	Worship and Teaching	885				885
Ministry Activities	Young People	208				208
Ministry Activities		3,308				3,308
Office Costs	Office Contracts	1,763				1,763
Office Costs	Office Materials	1,032				1,032
Office Costs	Other Office Costs	430				430
Office Costs		3,225				3,225
28 Hightown		7,682				7,682
28 Operating Costs	28 Consumables	2,088				2,088
28 Operating Costs	28 Electricity	1,385				1,385
28 Operating Costs	28 Gas	636				636
28 Operating Costs	28 Insurance	1,357				1,357
28 Operating Costs	28 Water	404				404
28 Operating Costs		5,871				5,871
28 Maintenance Costs	28 Mtce Contracts	1,217				1,217
28 Maintenance Costs	28 Mtce Materials	594				594
28 Maintenance Costs		1,812				1,812
Church Building		14,227				14,227
Church Operating Costs	Church Consumables	223				223
Church Operating Costs	Church Electricity	1,200				1,200
Church Operating Costs	Church Gas	4,003				4,003
Church Operating Costs	Church Insurance	6,626				6,626
Church Operating Costs	Church Water	240				240
Church Operating Costs		12,293				12,293
Church Maintenance Costs	Church Mtce Contracts	1,832				1,832
Church Maintenance Costs	Church Mtce Materials	102				102
Church Maintenance Costs		1,934				1,934
Ministry		108,101				108,101
Ordained Staff	Ordained Staff Expenses	1,144				1,144
Ordained Staff	Parish Share	59,913				59,913
Ordained Staff	Rectory Costs	4,105				4,105
Ordained Staff		65,163				65,163
Lay Staff	Lay Staff Expenses	22				22
Lay Staff	Lay Staff Other Costs	785				785
Lay Staff	Pensions	3,178				3,178
Lay Staff	Salaries	33,732				33,732
Lay Staff	Tax and NI	5,221				5,221
Lay Staff		42,939				42,939
Projects		-		784		784
Total Payments		152,186	-	784	3,570	156,540

£	2022	2021	2022 vs 2021
Charitable Giving	6,057	5,740	317
Made up of the following:			
Christian Service Unit	1,775	1,801	(26)
Congo Charities	1,251	1,276	(25)
Other Charity Giving	260	223	37
Save the Family	-	1,220	(1,220)
St Luke's Hospice (see Note below)	1,251	1,220	31
Crisis	1,520	-	1,520
Donation % of Voluntary Income	5.2%	5.0%	0.2%
Note: An additional £3,570 was given to St. Luke's from the Bracegirdle Bequest.			
£	2022	2021	2022 vs 2021
No 28 Receipts & Payments			
Income	4,874	553	4,322
Insurance	(1,357)	(1,312)	(45)
Utilities	(2,426)	(1,558)	(868)
Other Running Costs	(3,899)	(1,529)	(2,370)
Surplus/(Deficit)	(2,808)	(3,846)	1,038

Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments	Restricted and Endowment					
£	Restoration Project Restricted	Minor Projects Restricted	Organ Fund Restricted	Flower Guild Restricted	Bert Moreton Bequest (Endowment)	Restricted & Endowment Total
Receipts	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
Voluntary Income	349	2,767	0	1,512	0	4,629
<i>Collections and other giving</i>	<i>338</i>	<i>2,230</i>		<i>1,512</i>		<i>4,080</i>
<i>Income tax recovered</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>537</i>				<i>548</i>
Investment Income			<i>34</i>		<i>903</i>	938
Community Projects		475				475
Total Receipts	349	3,242	34	1,512	903	6,041
Payments						
Projects		1,824				1,824
Total Payments	0	1,824	0	0	0	1,824
Surplus/(Deficit)	349	1,419	34	1,512	903	4,217

Table 2			
Balance Sheet	2022	2021	Movement 2022 vs 2021
	£	£	£
Current Assets			
Cash	138,936	141,298	(2,362)
Accounts Receivable	1,439	1,733	(294)
Prepayments	0	0	0
Total Current Assets	140,375	143,031	(2,656)
Non-Current Assets			
Fixed Assets	295,000	295,000	0
Investments	342,058	384,852	(42,794)
Total Non-Current Assets	637,058	679,852	(42,794)
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	1,883	2,579	(696)
Deferred Income	0	0	0
Total Current Liabilities	1,883	2,579	(696)
Non-Current Liabilities			
Long Term Loan / Mortgage	0	0	0
Total Non-Current Liabilities	0	0	0
Total Net Assets (Assets Minus Liabilities)	775,551	820,304	(44,754)
Represented By			
General (Unrestricted)	4,391	6,311	(1,920)
Buildings (Unrestricted)	295,000	295,000	0
Restoration Project - Restricted (Restricted)	3,363	3,014	349
Restoration Project - Designated (Designated)	1,500	1,500	0
Minor Projects - Restricted (Restricted)	2,060	641	1,419
Minor Projects - Designated (Designated)	3,177	3,961	(784)
Stocks Fund (Unrestricted)	304,412	340,708	(36,296)
Bert Moreton Bequest (Endowment)	34,303	37,054	(2,750)
ET Earl Legacy (Endowment)	16,059	18,191	(2,132)
Bracegirdle Bequest (Designated)	100,095	103,569	(3,473)
Organ Fund (Restricted)	9,679	10,357	(678)
Flower Guild (Restricted)	1,512	0	1,512
Total Net Assets	775,551	820,304	(44,754)
Fixed Assets	295,000	295,000	0
Unrestricted and Designated Funds			
Barclays Current Account Unrestricted & Stocks Fund Cash	17,843	20,309	(2,465)
Accounts Receivable	1,439	1,733	(294)
Accounts Payable	(1,883)	(2,579)	696
Barclaycard	(308)	(255)	(53)
Petty Cash	290	94	196
Stocks Fund Investment	284,882	322,029	(37,146)
HSBC Shares	6,539	5,689	850
Barclays Current Account Designated	4,677	5,461	(784)
Barclays Premium Account Designated	100,095	103,569	(3,473)
Total Unrestricted and Designated Funds	413,575	456,049	(42,473)
Restricted Funds			
Barclays Current Account Restricted (Restoration Fund)	3,363	3,014	349
Barclays Current Account Minor Projects - Restricted (Restricted)	2,060	641	1,419
Bert Moreton Bequest Investment	27,524	31,178	(3,654)
Moreton Bequest Income Fund	6,780	5,876	903
E T Earl Legacy Investment	16,059	18,191	(2,132)
Organ Fund Investment	7,054	7,766	(712)
Organ Fund Cash	2,624	2,590	34
Flower Guild (Restricted)	1,512	0	1,512
Total Restricted Funds	66,976	69,256	(2,280)
All Assets	775,551	820,304	(44,754)

Table 3			
Allocation of Reserves			2022
a) Church Development			290,000
b) Financial			
Working Capital			77,522
c) No 28			
General Fabric			13,053
d) Outreach and Spreading the Gospel			33,000
Total			413,575

Notes to the Financial Statements

Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards from the SORP 2005 and the Charities Act 2011 unless otherwise stated.

This is the sixth year that the accounts have been prepared using the accrual accounting method.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups (such as the Mothers' Union and Bell ringers society) who owe their main affiliation to the national organisation, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided by the terms of the trust or bequest and (b) donations received for a specific object.

Designated funds are funds set aside by the PCC for a particular purpose. The PCC may subsequently decide to spend the fund for any other purpose.

Unrestricted funds are general funds that can be used for the PCC's ordinary purposes.

Income

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. All income is accounted for gross including that from Charitable collections and Occasional Offices.

Expenditure

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognized when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993. Movable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected at any reasonable time. Such property is written off when purchased.

Other functional assets (in our case No.28, the Parish Centre & office) are not valued in Receipts and Payments Accounting but are noted in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value as at 31st December 2022.

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of St Michael & All Angels Church on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022. Charity No.1127335. Set Out on Pages 1 to 11.

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31st December 2022.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination. I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act: or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records: or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair" view which is not a matter considered as part an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



7th April 2023

Fatima Perriman

50 Thrush Way, Winsford, Cheshire. CW7 3LN

Accounts

St Michael and All Angels Church Middlewich

Annual Report and Accounts

Year ending 31st December 2021

Registered Charity No. 1127335

All For Christ + Christ For All



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Introduction by the Rector, Simon Drew

2021 proved to be a year in which the effects of the Covid19 virus, and its variants, continued to affect all areas of church life. There was another lock down at the beginning of the year and Easter services were again restricted. The ongoing hard work and dedication of many of our church family members in enabling our worship and ministry to continue during this uncertain time has been greatly appreciated.

We have offered a variety of worship experiences: 'normal' services in the church, live streamed and pre-recorded services online, and when the weather permitted open air services in the church yard. Pastoral care has, with certain precautions, returned to something like normal. With the help of a Covid recovery grant from the local authority we were able to make improvements to the café at No28. As a result we have been able to start to reopen this ministry on a restricted basis, and this has been done in partnership with Middlewich Foodbank.

The ongoing Covid19 restrictions continued to put pressure on our finances. In response we held another stewardship campaign during 2021. My thanks to all who responded financially so that, despite ongoing Covid19, we again ended 2021 with a small surplus.

One particular highlight during the year was our St Michael's Church Charities Half-Marathon, organised as a joint venture between the church and Run Middlewich. It was a great event, many church members helped as stewards, many people from the community signed up to run and we raised approximately £2,700 for our church charities

So we have had to continue to think on our feet and do things differently but slowly and surely the mission and ministry of St Michael's Church is coming back to life. I am very grateful to the staff team and the PCC for their ongoing support during another difficult year. We will as always continue to work on being 'All for Christ & Christ for All' through our goals: Committed to Discipleship, Effective in Mission and Faithful in Stewardship.

Section 1: Trustee's Report (for Charity Commission):

The contents of this section are specifically required by the Charity Commission.

Aim and purposes

St Michael & All Angels, is the only Anglican Church in the mid Cheshire town of Middlewich. Due to its prominent and imposing position in the centre of the town, St Michael's is a landmark when approaching from any direction.

Middlewich Parish has a population of 15,000 and is part of a benefice joined with Byley-cum-Lees a nearby small country parish with 900 inhabitants.

Our incumbent is the Reverend Simon Drew. The incumbent at St Michael's is supported by Reverend Liz Woode (Associate Priest), Reverend Thia Hughes (Associate Priest) Reverend Lorraine Reed (Associate Priest) and Revd Alison Boulton (NSM Curate), Reverend Simon Hamill-Stewart (a retired minister), Revd John Hughes (a retired minister), Jeremy Coles (Director of Music & Family Work) and Beth Deakin (Office Manager).

Our seven Readers, Jacqui Briscoe, Steve Broadfoot, Christine Hamill-Stewart, Tony Woode, Anne Latham, Duncan Goodwin and Julie Hassall along with Sylvia Bosomworth, Sue Ikin and Elaine Reynolds (Pastoral Care Workers) form our team of ten lay workers.

The aim and purpose of the Church according to the Westminster Catechism is 'to glorify God and enjoy him forever'. The Rector, supported enthusiastically by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and the lay and ordained staff, prayerfully pursues this objective in planning the services, outreach and pastoral ministry of the Church in the community. We hope that our restricted and varied activities during 2021 have still brought us nearer to meeting our objective.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC and staff team are committed to sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with the community of Middlewich through word and action – **All for Christ + Christ for All!** As such our mission statement is: *Committed to Discipleship, effective in Mission, and faithful in Stewardship.*

The following are still our objectives but during 2021 we were significantly limited in those that we could actively pursue:

DISCIPLESHIP: Implement a programme of teaching and training on discipleship, using a mixture of different styles/formats.

MISSION: Strengthen our existing areas of community engagement: No28, Smilers, Street Pastors, Festival Choir, Song Stars, Card Group, Church@28, Foodbank, Good Neighbours, and Messy Church@Cledford. Develop mission in the Cledford area, building on Messy Church@Cledford.

RESOURCES: Move forward with the Restoration Project Phase 2. Maintain a healthy level of financial stewardship

To facilitate these objectives St Michael's seeks to maintain a committed team of staff and volunteers, and usable and effective resources in the shape of the church building and No 28, our parish centre.

Achievements and performance

Worship and prayer

Our normal patterns of worship and prayer continued to be disrupted by Covid19. By the end of 2021 we had returned to having two morning services on a Sunday, in the church building, as the focus of our corporate worship. During the summer we held the 11am service outside in the churchyard, but moved inside as the winter set in. We continue to offer a weekly written reflection by email, a weekly Rectors vlog on Facebook, and offer resources for the daily office/readings at home. Our midweek communion on Thursdays has restarted but other midweek worship has not been reintroduced yet. It was a great joy to be able to offer the full range of Christmas services this year.

At 31 December 2021 there were 131 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. The weekly average attendance for services which took place during October was 96 adults and children, and a total of 244 people joined us for our services on Christmas Eve/Day.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in

marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. This year baptisms and weddings were significantly curtailed by the pandemic.

We have celebrated 3 baptisms, 2 weddings and held 25 funerals in our church this year. However the ministry team also conducted 6 funeral services at various local crematoria.

Deanery Synod

The Middlewich Deanery Synod met three times during 2021 and at the June meeting the synod was addressed by the new Bishop of Chester (Mark Tanner). St Michael and All Angels were well represented by both ordained and lay representatives. Our Rector, Simon Drew, is currently the Rural Dean.

Pastoral care

Pastoral Care remains an important and integral part of ministry at St Michael's and comes under our Circle of Care initiative. It is about living our faith in action as we care for one another, and that includes people in our wider community. This year the ongoing effects of Covid19 have made the care we offer to others even more important, even if it is only possible by telephone.

Mission and Evangelism

As part of its commitment to mission, St Michael's Church continues to be actively engaged in mission and evangelism. Further details are given in sections 2 & 3 of this report. Sadly the pandemic has curtailed many of our outreach activities and this is reflected by the reduced number of contributions this year.

Ecumenical relationships

Churches Together in Middlewich continued to meet together during 2021, although our usual round of joint services and activities were unable to take place. We were able to meet together on a couple of occasions and the ministers fraternal maintained an ongoing programme of meetings.

Financial Review

The accounts show a surplus for 2021 of £3,651 with total receipts up by £3,672 on 2020. There was an increase of £847 in voluntary income, an increase in money received through Parish Activities (including fees from weddings and funerals) of £3,258 and an increase in investment income of £249. Overall payments for 2021 increased by £2,790 on 2020.

No 28, our parish centre, produced a net deficit of £3,846 in the year (compared to a deficit of £3,867 in 2020). Total charitable giving to our four charities was £5,740 (£3,424 higher than in 2020, due in part to the Christies Half-marathon in June), and 5% of our voluntary income.

During 2021, the PCC received a very generous legacy of £103,569 from the estate of Mrs V. Bracegirdle. Although there were no restrictions the money has been designated for spending on the fabric of the Church.

Fixed assets in the shape of No 28 Hightown stand at £295,000, the property being revalued in May 2015. Total funds available to the PCC were £149,613 higher than at the end of 2020 at a year-end value of £456,690. The restricted funds, which are not available to the PCC, were £6,342 higher than 2020 due to the revaluing of some funds. The year-end value of these funds stood at £68,615.

Reserves Policy

See table 3 in Appendix 1: The PCC has allocated £330,000 to church development to improve the interior of the church. £74,865 has been kept in reserve to cover 6 months running costs for church and No 28. £13,825 is allocated for further refurbishment work to No 28, and we propose the remaining £38,000 for ongoing outreach and spreading the gospel in Middlewich.

Development of Financial Systems

During 2021 the finance team used ExpensePlus to manage the finances of the church. It was a successful exercise and the objectives mentioned in last year's report were met.

The financial report for 2021 has been produced based upon the information generated from ExpensePlus, and the PCC and treasurer are now working to a budget for 2022 based upon the figures generated by ExpensePlus.

Volunteers

Once again, heartfelt thanks to all our amazing volunteers, too numerous to mention by name, who, despite the Covid19 pandemic have enabled our church to be such a key and vibrant part of community life.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of Parochial Church Council (PCC) members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Michael's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our Rector), Churchwardens, Deanery Synod representatives, two of the Readers selected from amongst the six of them, members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church, plus co-options as required. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

In Middlewich sufficient parishioners are prepared to stand for the PCC so that it is sometimes necessary to hold elections. It has therefore been possible to require members to stand down every three years for at least one year. This enables fresh ideas to be put forward, which in our opinion more than offsets the possible disadvantage of some members not having a longstanding exposure to detailed PCC procedures.

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent, updating policies on safeguarding, health & safety and GDPR, and also the Church's strategy. The Standing Committee (SC) – a sub-committee of the PCC - has delegated financial authority, provides a forum for detailed discussion on some complex issues and makes decisions on matters which do not require a full PCC discussion. All SC proceedings are reported to the PCC.

Administrative Information

The PCC and the SC usually meet on alternate months and sometimes have additional meetings as required. The PCC met 5 times during the year with an average attendance level of 80%. The Standing Committee met 6 times to deal with various matters relating to church life over the year, with an average attendance level of 90%.

PCC members who served during 2021 were:

Ex Officio members:

Incumbent and Chairman:

Reverend Simon Drew

Associate Priest:

Reverend Lorraine Reed

Associate Priest:

Reverend Liz Woode

Associate Priest:

Reverend Thia Hughes

Churchwardens:

Keith Yearley, Chris Coney, Steve Bailey (re-elected as Churchwardens at the AMP in October 2021).

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Anne Latham & Godfrey Davies

Readers Representatives:

Tony Woode

Co-opted members:

Neil Clewes (Treasurer) served as a co-opted member until the APCM in April 2021.

Elected Members:

Christine Malkin (Secretary), Mike Reed (Vice Chairman), Ian Jeffery, Kate Mayne, Paul Hassall, Rachel Pendleton, Elaine Reynolds, and Bret Ritchie. were members throughout the year.

Graham Ikin, Carl Birkenhead and John Currie were members until April 2021 but retired in rotation. We thank them for their important service to the church.

The following people were elected at the APCM in April 2021 to serve on the PCC for three years: Neil Clewes (Treasurer), Tony Bishop, Joanne Wilson

Standing Committee members who served during 2021 were:

Simon Drew (Chairman), Neil Clewes (Treasurer), Christine Malkin (Secretary), Keith Yearley (Churchwarden), Chris Coney (Churchwarden), Steve Bailey (Churchwarden), Mike Reed (Vice Chairman), and Elaine Reynolds .

Other Committees:

Working groups drawn not only from the PCC also met during the year to consider work to the church building, fundraising, stewardship, organ repairs, safeguarding and health & safety.

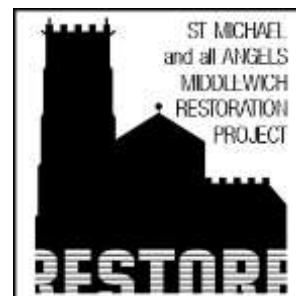
Staff Team:

Throughout the year, the day to day activities of the Church are coordinated through a weekly meeting of the Staff Team. This is an informal meeting to which the ordained and lay staff and churchwardens are invited. The maximum possible attendance is 17, and the average attendance is about 10.

Restoration Project

Introduction

The Church Restoration Project was conceived in 2012 as a consequence of the large amount of structural work identified in the 2012 Quinquennial inspection and the PCC's stated intention to develop the interior of the building to improve the facilities for the congregation and community, and to comply with current legislation. It consists of a major project split into large phases, and a number of minor projects.



The project, including fundraising, is led by a Restoration Project Group, which generally meets once a quarter. Its members are: Mike Reed (Chair); Chris Coney (Warden); Simon Drew (Rector); Elaine Reynolds; Steve Broadfoot; Ian Jeffery. The group did not meet in 2021.

Overall Strategy

We are conscious of the need to coordinate the conservation of the fabric and artefacts with improvements to the interior of the building. We are committed to making the heritage represented by our building more accessible to the public, and are also mindful of the need to press forward with work which enables the mission of the church, and to keep these aspects in balance. The plan, influenced by the 2018 Quinquennial Inspection, looks like this:

- Phase 1 Roof, rainwater goods and associated high level stonework – North Side - £290k – Completed in 2017
- Phase 2a Medium size scheme comprising the installation of mains drainage and the replacement of the rudimentary refreshment making facilities by a modern facility in keeping with the heritage of the building. The cost will be about £50k and the work should be completed early in 2023.
- Phase 2 Major Scheme incorporating three types of work:
- Conservation Work - mainly to the South Aisle and Bell Tower
 - Heritage Work – restoration of the Venables Screens; opening the bell tower to the public; developing the heritage trail; generally improving the condition of some historical artefacts
 - Internal Development Work, making the building : fully accessible; usable for many purposes; compliant with modern legal requirements; provided with up to date facilities
- This is expected to cost over £1m and may start in about 2023
- Phase 3 Lower level exterior stonework and timber repairs (Around £250k; about 2025)

Progress in 2021

Main Project

Progress on Phase 2 of the main project continued to be affected by the need to divert the efforts of members of the team to improving the church financial systems and performance: the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic was also an issue. However, the pandemic raised our awareness of the need to improve hygiene in the building, and this led us to break out the mains drainage aspects of Phase 2 into a minor project which was launched in 2020. However, it was not possible to attract funding and the project did not progress, and no further work was carried out in 2021. At the end of 2021 a legacy of slightly over £100,000 was received and work will start again in 2022.

Minor Projects

Smaller pieces of work have also been carried out as part of the Project.

- Remedial work required by the 2020 five yearly electrical Inspection of the building continued and is almost complete.

Fundraising

Fundraising events have been curtailed by the pandemic, and the only income to the Restoration Fund was a small number of donations amounting to £370, a gift from a local resident of £1,500 and a grant of £265 for VAT recovery.

The balance of the fund at the end of December 2021 was £4,514.

Thanks

Thanks are due to those who have worked on the project over this difficult year: the project has several years to run and your prayers for team stamina and wise decision making would be appreciated. Offers of help would be very welcome.

Mike Reed Project Coordinator

Section 2: Achievements and Performance

These reports are presented in addition to the Charity commission's statutory requirements

Church Wardens' Fabric Report.

The church fabric is in good overall condition and despite the challenges of the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic with social distancing and health and safety regulations regularly changing, work has continued on both the Church building and no28.

The buildings maintenance committee has met regularly on "Teams" during the 2021 ensuring that any necessary maintenance and updating of the Church building and no 28 has been carried out when required. Due to the requirements of covid regulations the Schedule of inspection and maintenance tasks that need to be carried out at regular intervals has remained on hold temporarily as it is still at a stage where face to face meetings and discussions need to be held on site to finalise the health and safety aspects of the schedule.

The list of ongoing maintenance tasks kept by the group continues to be kept up to date and each task is ticked off when successfully completed. The defects logbook has not been maintained due to the lack of general access to the office administrator. The book is kept in the office at no 28. As a reminder to all staff as we come out of the pandemic, this should be completed whenever a fault or a maintenance task is requested, either in church or in number 28. It is essential that this is done to keep a handle on tasks that need doing.

Work has continued on various improvement and ongoing maintenance tasks during 2021, and as in 2020, some of these were easier to complete due to the Church building and no28 being used less during the year. These are highlighted below:

Church building

- ❖ The church has been reorganised a number of times in 2021 to ensure that we operate within the ever changing rules laid down for safe services and prayer during the Covid 19 pandemic. As in 2020 this work has included organising and reorganising safe seating layouts, one way movement within Church along with the necessary signage.
- ❖ Gutters and downpipes have been inspected and cleared twice during 2021.
- ❖ Most of the electrical works highlighted by the electrical safety survey have been completed by Paul Hassall contractors, with some assistance from Volunteers Steve and Graham in the running in of some of the new cabling for the power and lighting.
- ❖ The door on the gas meter shed adjacent to the boiler house has been replaced as the original was badly damaged by vandals.
- ❖ More powerful WIFI transmitters and receivers have been fitted between Church and No28. This alleviates the need to run a permanent cable across Hightown.
- ❖ The church lightning conductor inspection has been carried out.
- ❖ Boiler and gas maintenance inspections carried out.
- ❖ PAT testing has been completed for electrical items in church.

- ❖ A section of the pews by the north door has been temporarily rearranged early in 2022 to allow for a safe enclosed space for smaller children.

No28

- ❖ A new dish washer unit has been fitted and commissioned in the kitchen.
- ❖ The work and serving area in the café has been reorganised to be more user friendly for both volunteers and customers. A chiller cabinet has also been added to the serving area. This has proven helpful with the partial opening of the café area during 2021.
- ❖ The No28 café window area remodelling was completed to give a little more floor space in the cafe
- ❖ Tables and chairs in the café area have been replaced to make the area lighter and more user friendly. This has also allowed for the tables to be better placed for social distancing and ease of service by the volunteers.
- ❖ PAT testing has been completed for electrical items in no28.
- ❖ A leak in the roof was inspected and repairs to the gully on the south side carried out including the replacement or repositioning of three slates. Redecoration of the ceiling area in the large meeting room will be completed when it is dried out.
- ❖ A dedicated safety cage has been built for the gas canisters in the back yard to ensure their safety.
- ❖ Boiler and gas inspections and maintenance carried out.

No 28

The general fabric of Number 28 remains in good condition and the improvements scheduled to be carried out with regards to reopening the café area of the building in a Covid safe manner have been completed.

The concern over the raised area of the kitchen floor has receded during the past year but continues to be monitored.

As always we thank our resident team of volunteers who look after the day to day maintenance and smooth running of both the Church building and no 28. Especial thanks this year go to Graham, Paul, Steve and Ian who have carried out or assisted with most of the above works.

Churchwardens, Chris, Keith and Steve

Number 28 Activities

As we ticked over into January 2021, the country still found itself in the grip of a coronavirus lockdown and Number 28 sadly remained closed. Schools were closed until mid-March and we were all trying to find a way to balance working from home, negotiate online learning for children, help friends and neighbours and keep ourselves and friends and family safe. The vaccine roll out continued at pace, nobody could quite believe that things had continued for such a long time.

During this time, we were very fortunate that Number 28 shop area received a wonderful face lift from Steve Bailey and Graham Ikin who gave it a much needed lick of paint and re varnished the floor. It now looks amazing so our very grateful thanks go to them both. The counter area in Number 28 was also re built, meaning that food can now be displayed and is more protected and can't be touched as easily by members of the public.

We are also grateful to Ian Jeffrey and Mike Reed who worked tirelessly to secure Covid recovery grants for us which bought us PPE equipment in preparation for the café reopening, a new dishwasher for the kitchen, a chiller display unit for the shop area and new tables and chairs for the shop.

As case numbers started to level off over the summer and the Government decided to release some restrictions, it was decided to re-open the café. Foodbank were the first to take advantage of this, they were using No 28 from 18th May on Tuesdays and Fridays between 12 and 2pm to meet people and distribute food parcels.

However, the Church volunteers did not open up until Thursday 2nd September, 10.30am until 1pm. This was then followed by Monday opening and has continued in this manner ever since. Footfall around town has been generally less since pre Covid and people calling into 28 has followed the same pattern.

At the moment, we are only serving hot drinks, cake, biscuits, toast and teacakes but we do hope to expand our range in the not too distant future. Opening days, times and our food provision will be looked at again shortly. We have lost a few volunteers who have decided that they now feel too vulnerable to return to the café but we have been fortunate to gain a few new ones too.

Bridge club has restarted again on a Wednesday morning in the small meeting room, and so has our GA group, on a Wednesday evening so we do have some regular room hire income coming in.

Once again, I am grateful for the love and support of the staff team and the volunteers and all who make Number 28 the place it is. We can only pray that with God's blessing, 2022 will bring renewed growth and more visitors to the building as we seek to love and welcome those in our community.

(Beth Deakin)

Pastoral Care – the Circle of Care

Pastoral Care remains an integral part of ministry at St Michael's.

It is about living our faith in action as we care for one another, including those in our wider community. That may be by listening, by sharing a cup of tea, by visiting someone, or just noticing that someone has been missing for a while. It is about looking out for each other. The 2nd Commandment is, "Love your neighbour as yourself." (Matt 22:39) Jesus said, "Love each other as I have loved you." (John 15:12) If you know of anyone who needs visiting, please would you let us know.

Visiting

The number of pastoral contacts completed this year has been significantly higher than in previous years. Most contact has had to be by telephone and has involved more people - perhaps highlighting the growing needs of people in our community. Where possible and while restrictions have been lifted, we have been very innovative. We have done "window" visits, "garden" visits and "garage" visits. All these have been much appreciated. The biggest challenge still lies ahead as we emerge slowly from the restrictions imposed by Covid. Many people are still fearful and unsure about what "normal" will be like and how they will cope.

We have restarted our services of Holy Communion with hymns at 4.00 o'clock on the fourth Sunday of the month, followed by refreshments in Church. The feed-back, so far, has been really positive and we look forward to welcoming more people to this service.

Care Homes.

Services in Care Homes have restarted where it is safe to do so

Baptism.

We have been able to restart our Baptisms with individual preparation. Lunches are due to restart in the near future.

"Middlewich Good Neighbours" is undergoing a complete restructuring. We hope to be up and running again soon.

Bereavement.

"Bereavement Visiting" continues to be a very important role of the Circle of Care. With the restrictions this has been difficult. Sylvia Bosomworth has taken on the ministry of contacting all bereaved families within a few days of notification. Relatives have been so grateful that someone has got in touch with them – thank you Sylvia. This has proved to be a much valued ministry.

We were able to hold two "Memorial and Thanksgiving" services in the last year, albeit with restricted numbers. We were encouraged that, at the last service in November, many people felt they could stay for refreshments and to share their stories. The number of people attending these services is an indication of the need to draw alongside those struggling to come to terms with their grief, pain and loneliness. They have found the services give them comfort, reassurance and hope for the future. We are looking to revisit the way we manage bereavement visiting in the light of more funerals going to the Crematorium instead of Church, and the rise of secular 'services' led by civil celebrants. Our concern remains the post-funeral care and ongoing pastoral support of those in need. We have now a "bereavement bag" that we can give to families, containing a leaflet with prayers, Bible readings, artwork, reflections and contact numbers. A cross, candle, a packet of Forget-me-Not seeds and some prayer cards are also included.

Learning to pray with others is an extremely important part of pastoral care, and is what sets us apart from secular visiting as we visit on behalf of the church.

If you feel Pastoral Care is an area of ministry that God may be calling you to, please do get in touch with myself, Sylvia, Elaine, Sue, or any of the Clergy. We need more people to come on board

I would like to thank all that have been involved in the Circle of Care this year, for their care and compassion. It is a great privilege to be a part of this important ministry of sharing our faith and God's love in action, reaching out and meeting people where they are in their need, Matt 25:35 – "for I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, a stranger, clothing, sick, in prison...". V40 – "whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

(Thia Hughes)

Schools, Families and Young Peoples Work

The role of family worker was created to support, develop, coordinate and add value to existing ministries within St Michaels and develop new opportunities within the wider community. In August this year (2021) I had been in post for 16 years.

SMILERS (St Michael's Early Years)

Mondays 1.15-3.00pm

Smilers reopened in June 2021 after a Covid break. This initially took place outside with plenty of social distancing, sunshine and fresh air. Numbers were manageable with some returns and also some new faces. This ran successfully until the natural break for the School Summer holidays.

In September we tentatively reopened Smiler inside St Michaels, with new procedures in place, in line with the on-going guidelines. Two things emerged. The gratitude of parents & carers to be back at Smilers with their children; many new families connecting with us in this new season as well. The other thing was that we sadly said goodbye to many of our regular leaders and helpers. Many have stepped down as they might have done due to health, age or other commitments although we have lost quite a number through increasing pressure to 'stay safe'. I am very grateful to those who have served so faithfully over recent years. We are looking again at expanding the team of volunteers and also looking at the possibility of creating a new 'babies area' in the New Year due to the increased number of parents with new-borns.

Special thanks to those who have assisted in leading sessions, Elaine, Jo, Thia and Sue, and also to those who have set up and cleared away, particularly Robina, Graham, Steve and Alastair.

SCHOOLS

Middlewich Primary School

Cledford Primary School

Byley County Primary School

Wimboldsley Community Primary School

St Mary's (R.C.) Primary School

Warmingham (C.E.) Primary School (neighbouring parish)

The church's support for school assemblies and R.E. lessons began to grow once more throughout 2021 as restrictions were eased. It has been a privilege to reconnect with the

school families through assemblies, R.E. lessons and school visits to the church building. We once again hosted two Harvest Celebrations for Cledford Primary School and although two schools felt they had to cancel Christmas Celebrations in Church we were able to welcome Middlewich Primary Key Stage 2 to a Christmas Celebration in Church for the very first time!

At the beginning of the Autumn term schools were invited to decorate the trees in the churchyard, in place of our usual art display during the FAB Festival. There were some colourful, creative contributions to brighten our 'Trees of Life' Community Art.

A number of schools again took part in the 'Light Switch On' ceremony by bringing children to sing in church. It has been so encouraging to the church, schools and wider community to see all these signs of Restoration coming out of the pandemic.

KINGDOM KIDS (including KINGDOM TOTS)

Sundays 11am

The SHINE outdoor craft activities and worship was well received right up until the end of the Summer Holidays when a decision was made in September to move the worship back indoors. Numbers of children remain significantly lower even after the relaunch of Kingdom Kids as a separate group at this time. Key Stages 1 and 2 have remained as one group with fluctuating numbers. Many thanks to Fiona Loney for sharing the leading of these sessions. There has been little demand for Kingdom Tots during this time, although special thanks particularly to Elaine providing an activities and toys area for pre-schools to play and learn during the service.

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church continues to remain 'on hold' at the moment.

There has been opportunity again during the Easter and Summer breaks to distribute activity and snack bags to families in the community. The Light Fantastic Party, held 'in person' as an alternative to Hallowe'en, was enjoyed by many in October at St Michaels and we have also kept in touch with some individual families despite not having the regular Messy Church sessions.

AWOL – Youth Activities

Sundays 7pm

Simon and I have continued to run sessions for our church youth on a regularly basis. These sessions moved from online sessions with Simon and Sarah to being 'in person' back in to No.28. Many of this group are exploring the possibility of being confirmed next year. We are also planning to re-engage with Summer Youth Camps with the possibility of joining with Middlewich Community Church for a camp in the school holidays in summer 2022. Particular thanks to Bret and Sarah for their support with this group.

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel.

Jeremy

Jeremy Coles - Director of Music and Family Work

Music, Services and Worship

SERVICES

Services continued to be prerecorded until September this year, alongside the reintroduction of 'in person' services. Hymns and songs were recorded by the choir and worship group where possible and sometimes by individuals. Many thanks to Mike Reed, Alistair Griffiths and others for their help with the technology and recordings.

Music was reintroduced into 'on-site' services at church where lockdown rules permitted, with the 11am SHINE services again being transferred outdoors during the summer months. All services transferred back inside the building in September of this year. Initially this was 'performance' type pieces; congregational singing was still suspended due to government legislation. Gradually we were able to lead congregational singing but from 'behind the mask', apart from members of the choir and worship group.

The live streamed worship, prayer and 'fellowship' from the LIVING ROOM came to an end in September, although we were still able to transmit live recordings of special services, in particular during the Christmas Season. A special thank you to Paul Humphreys for his continued development and running of the P.A. system and online filming and recording of live-streamed events.

CHOIR

There has been a steady and carefully thought through 'opening up' of singing by the choir during this year. Social distancing limited the number of participants at first but gradually we have been able to regroup, while recognizing that there are still members who have not felt able to return due to 'staying safe'. The Choir continues to lead the musical worship during the 9.15am Sunday Communion services, at memorial services and special events. We have been concentrating more recently on the thought that as musicians and singers we have a special role as worship leaders during the services, not only through our singing but also our prayers for the congregation as we sing.

Many thanks to our organist, Anne Hardy with occasional support from Stewart and Christine. There has also been a lot of administration work by Margaret and Jo especially during this season, for which we are grateful.

WORSHIP GROUP

The Worship Group transferred back in to the building later in the year but continued to be limited by restrictions and also members feeling unable to take part. Some newer songs have been introduced although the emphasis has been on more familiar repertoire in order that we could all feel connected, to our Lord through sung worship and with each other as we were able once again to have a good sing.

Moving forward with worship at St Michaels one of my aims is there to be a stronger sense of the Choir and Worship Group being part of the same Worship Team, where there will be more cross-over between styles of music and participants.

Thank you to everyone who has regularly given us feedback and commented upon how much they appreciate all that we have been able to offer

FESTIVAL CHOIR

Still currently suspended from March 2020 due to the Covid pandemic

SONG*STARS

Still currently suspended from March 2020 due to the Covid pandemic

Jeremy

Jeremy Coles - Director of Music and Family Work

Section 3: Evangelism, Ecumenical Relationships and Mission

Church@28

There were no Church@28 events during 2021 due to Covid.

Card Group

The group met this year for just three evenings in November/December, completing the course that we began pre-Covid 19. Hopefully a new course will start in later in 2022.

We continue to be self-financing, relying on donations and the sale of cards we make to finance materials and equipment, and we are very grateful to everyone who has supported us by buying our cards. If you would like a card for a special occasion please let me know.

Lorraine Reed

Mothers' Union

Although we had hoped to be able to have meetings early in 2021, unfortunately this was not to be.

Several members and Rev. Thia Hughes visited Edna Rose to sing Happy Birthday to her on her 90th birthday on the 28th May. Luckily it was a nice day as restrictions meant we had to stay outside.

We had an enjoyable time at Lowes Farm Shop tea room in September catching up with each other and enjoying tea and cake.

Our first meeting at No. 28 was in December when we enjoyed a reflection on the 16 days of Activism. It was good to get together and enjoy some social time.

Chris Overton reports that in spite of Covid restrictions our MU knitting members have kept going supplying her with plenty of squares to make up into blankets and some baby clothes for a possible new member in the future whose grandmother is amongst our members. She has recently finished off three blankets to go to the refugees and has some woolly hats given previously which she is hoping to give as well.

Many thanks to all our knitters and keep up the good work.

Apart from these meetings we have kept in touch with 4 newsletters through the year and we are now looking forward to more meetings and activities during 2022.

Susan Hawkes

Street Pastors

Due to the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic Street Pastors were generally inactive during 2021 as social distancing rules changed during the year. A small number of meetings of the Street Pastors management team did however take place during 2021 along with a meeting of Churches together and Street Pastors in November, which was called to discuss the way forward. Nationally Street Pastors have reduced greatly during the pandemic with around half of teams nationally being disbanded. The Ascension Trust, Street Pastors umbrella organisation has also reduced significantly in size.

A meeting of Churches together and Street Pastors was held in early November at which the way forward was discussed. Ruth Speed our long time coordinator had expressed her intention to stand back from that role, and after some discussion and consideration Paul Hassall agreed to take on the role with immediate effect. It was noted that there was still great enthusiasm for us to continue and that there were probably enough of our current Street Pastors wanting to carry on with the initiative, so a further meeting of the management committee was scheduled for 24th November.

At the meeting of the management committee a number of issues were discussed, the most pressing at the moment being to have a recruitment drive early in the new year to bolster the numbers of Street Pastors. The ideal number of members to go out weekly would be 20, with a minimum of 16. Currently there are only 12, and teams will still carry on, but probably only once or twice a month. It is hoped to regain the relationship with the public, especially the young people, that existed before covid. There are enough people experienced enough to be team leaders.

All new recruits will need to do training and existing members will need to do refresher courses. This will be arranged in due course. Fortunately Middlewich street Pastors are financially secure at the moment so there will be enough money to pay for training once this has been arranged.

It was decided at the meeting that there were enough volunteers for the team to have a presence at the Middlewich Christmas lights switch on, on December 3rd, and this was successfully carried out, showing that Street Pastors was still around in the town. It is hoped that following this that a team will be out at least once a month, sometimes on Saturdays. Traditionally we have not been out in January, but it was hoped that we would be able to go out in the first quarter of the New Year and maybe even look at opening and manning no28 when there is a team out in the town.

As noted in previous reports Middlewich Street Pastors are the only team of Christians that go out onto the streets of Middlewich to represent our churches. Whilst we are out, we talk to many people of all ages and we may be the only Christian people that they ever have contact with. We hope and pray that we can soon go out again and gently communicate the word and works of Jesus, and I'm sure we all look forward to this time.

STREET PASTORS NEEDS YOU!

Keith Yearley

St Michael and All Angels Ringing Team (SMAART)

Although it was another difficult year, 2021 was a distinct improvement on its predecessor. Most of our music takes the form of our own arrangements. Whilst there was not much else to do when locked down we produced another 27 pieces, which were circulated to the members of the team in MP3 format for comment. One was not liked at all and another one turned out to be a replica of a pre-existing arrangement. We also ordered a new set of folders in which to house them.

As restrictions eased we were able to collate the music. We also had a meeting at Lowe's coffee shop in June (outside of course!) to discuss how we might proceed. After consultations with the management at Willowmere and the preparation of a safety case we resumed practices there at the end of July, much to everybody's relief! We were also able to participate in a carol service led by the Rev. Liz Woode there in December. Proper playing at last!

We are looking forward to more opportunities to display our talents, such as they are. If anyone else would like to join us we would be pleased to see you. Although it would help to have some musical knowledge, it is not necessary. However, being able to count to four, six, or occasionally nine, is essential! We practise at Willowmere at 7 p.m. on Monday evenings.

David Hawkes

Home and Overseas Mission Support

Save the Family

Save the Family at Cotton Hall have 26 self-contained fully occupied family units. They consist of accommodation for smaller and larger families with 2-4 bedrooms. While the families are monitored and supported, they can take advantage of the community and sports halls and attend the training sessions in the kitchen and workshop, helping them to build skills to sustain them when they move from the shelter of Cotton Hall to living in the community. It is not a requirement to attend the church services, but most of the families do and they find that they enjoy the fellowship very much. We must really thank Edna Speed for making Save the Family a Christian based refuge.

I spoke to the staff on several occasions but was unable to visit them with clothing, toys or household items. They were isolating from the outside world in order to protect the families. The children were all home schooled, just like children in the wider area, but I was told that they missed their new school friends in their new environment.

2021 was such a difficult year for fundraising. No.28 was closed for much of the year with many local residents continuing to self-isolate to protect themselves and their families from Covid 19. However there was a bright shining light in the form of the "Run Middlewich" team, who valiantly ran a half-marathon on 27 June as a fundraising initiative for our church. A deservedly huge thank you to all the participants and also much appreciation for the many local businesses that supported them and the members of St Michael's who acted as marshals or caterers on the day. The event enabled £650.00 to be paid to each of the church charities, including Save the Family. Thank you so very much.

Jo Hulse

Christian Service Unit - Khammam

Background

The CSU was almost completely shut down last year, due to the Covid restrictions. Then, just as things were beginning to improve, the second wave struck. India was badly affected, having a mortality rate among the highest in the world.

Several of the CSU staff have been infected, but the organisation has shown resilience and initiative and gradually introduced new ways of overcoming the problems caused by the imposed restrictions. A road-widening scheme in Khammam has forced CSU to shorten their main office building by 10 feet (at their own expense) and make good the remaining part of the building.

The Work

The schools and children's homes are still closed, but teaching staff have developed lesson materials for use online. Although few families have internet in their homes, most have access to a mobile phone, so lessons are broadcast on "WhatsApp".

Similar arrangements are being used for the school of evangelism, and last year's intake have all completed their training, despite the difficulties. Because of a shortage of pastors, selected senior evangelists have been given extra training, leading to ordination. This enables them to visit remote communities to conduct communion services and perform weddings, baptisms etc.

The homes for the aged are operating normally. They are currently preparing for their periodic re-registration inspection, which is required before their operating licence can be renewed. The hospital is still running, albeit with minimum staff, and for emergencies only. Because of the travel restrictions, it is not possible for CSU to take free meals or food parcels into the community, but they can give help to anyone who is able to visit the CSU premises.

The sewing centres are closed, but some trainees are working from home, stitching masks. Limited Rural Clinics have re-started. It appears that some local people are hostile towards anyone "official", so visiting remote villages can be hazardous. However, they are willing to accept medical help, given the circumstances. The modified offices are now back in use.

Items for Prayer

Many of the CSU staff have been affected by Covid, and some have died. One of those affected is Franklin himself. He had one bout of Covid early in the outbreak and now has another. His son was due to go to university, but a pre-travel test was positive. This prompted the rest of the family to test themselves and the whole family are showing positive results. Pray for all aspects of the work of the CSU, that staff may be preserved from sickness, and that the work may soon return to normal.

Thank You

As a church, we sent the CSU £1,800 this year, but I know that a number of individual members have also made generous private gifts. Despite all their troubles and difficulties, Franklin, his family, the CSU staff, and all those who benefit from their work, continue to rejoice in the Lord. They all send their love and greetings, and thank the fellowship at St Michael's for your continuing support.

(Steve & Ruth Broadfoot)

Congo – ABC Link

ARU - Bishop Ande of Aru, became Archbishop of Congo in January 2022. Consistent with usual practice, he remains in Aru. Normal activities are continuing in spite of Covid.

The diocese has just adopted a new Development Plan focussing on three key areas: mission and evangelism, institutional development, and socio-economic development. Mission Partner Peter Wyard is promoting a discipleship course, Rooted in Jesus, which seems to be growing well; meanwhile, his wife, Patricia, is involved in palliative care. Former CMS Congo mission partners Judy and Tim Rous have recently returned to help the diocese. Churches in the south of the diocese are experiencing huge difficulties following the terrible atrocities caused by the activities of armed groups and militias. Schools are shut, crops destroyed, and camps for the many internally displaced people attacked.

2021 Aru grant project: The annual grant from Chester Diocese helped to construct a roof for new school building at Uma primary school in Kumuru archdeaconry in Izorili village, about 12 km from the border with South Sudan.

BOGA - The security situation in Boga is far worse than in Aru. More than three million have been displaced, many of them to Bunia, the main town. The area is currently under martial law. Bishop William says people appear to have lost hope of any lasting peace. The Church is involved in mobilising support to victims; bringing pastoral, spiritual and psychological care by making very dangerous visits to meet victims and perpetrators; and getting involved with stakeholders in the difficult search for peace. Bishop William has joined the Provincial Task Force, which has been set up by the government to promote disarmament, demobilisation, community integration and stability. The diocesan secretary, Ven Jean Bagada, has established a project to improve the health, economic situation and employment opportunities of young women who have been sexually abused. It was hoping to enlist 150, but has had to restrict to 40 due to funding difficulties.

2021 Boga grant project: The annual grant from Chester helped towards relocating Bishop Williams residence to another building previously used as an office to provide improved living accommodation. His old residence was damp and unfit to live in. There are further plans to renovate the old residence and provide a guest house to generate income for the Diocese in the future

IPASC - There have, sadly, been difficulties with the Diocese of Aru resulting in the closure of the IPASC site and the impounding of its vehicle. IPASC is now in rented accommodation and rented classrooms belonging to a local businessman, and a rented house provided by the Charity, "Bread for the World".

There are currently 26 students in Aru and 12 in Bunia, (4 have graduated this year) being sponsored by 16 generous individuals. The hope is that IPASC Trust will be able to take on a full cohort of 40 students over the next 3 years. The Trustees are hoping we might find 20 new sponsors, who will be willing to support a student in DRC for less than £15 /month (50p/day). All the Trustees have recognised that the past few years have been difficult for everyone and peoples' individual finances are likely to be more strained than ever. However, if you might be able to consider sponsoring a student, information is available. Sponsors help to transform primary healthcare in the DRC through the education and training of a student with IPASC.

(Thia Hughes)

St Luke's Hospice

Once again this year we have tried to raise the profile of St Luke's Hospice in our parish and encourage everyone to support them both financially and with their prayers. Usually we would hold fundraising events during the year to help raise money towards their vital work but this has been impossible during the pandemic. We are very grateful therefore to the P.C.C. for their donation of £501 towards the work of the Hospice. This is our share of the charitable giving of St. Michaels which is divided between the charities we support as a church.

In addition to this the Charities half-marathon in June 2021 generated an additional £650 for St Luke's. We were also very grateful to be able to pass on a further sum of £3,570 from the bequest of the late Mrs. Vivienne Bracegirdle who left a generous gift to St Michael's and the PCC decided to give a proportion of the gift to St Luke's.

In total this year we have been able to send £4,721 towards their wonderful work of care and compassion. As a charity they rely on the support of the community to help them continue their work, so please do support them in any way you can especially with your prayers. Hopefully as things start to open up again we shall be able to have fundraising events again, please watch out for these and come and support us.

(Elaine and Sylvia)

Appendix 1 – Financial Statements Year Ended 31 Dec 2021

(To be printed separately)



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

for the year ending

31st DECEMBER 2021

INCUMBENT

The Reverend Simon Drew

BANKERS

Barclays Bank PLC

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mrs Fatima Perriman

Registered Charity No. 1127335

St Michael & all Angels, Middlewich
Annual report and accounts for the financial year ending 31st December 2021

Financial Overview

1) Table 1 Receipts and Payment Account 2021

The accounts are split between **Unrestricted Funds** (Operating and Designated) and **Restricted Funds**. The Unrestricted General Funds cover the day-to-day income and costs of the Church and Number 28. The Unrestricted Designated Funds are those that the PCC has designated to be used in a particular way.

The Restricted Funds are those that have a restriction, usually specified by the donor of the money, on how the PCC can spend the money.

Summary of 2021 Results - Unrestricted

Unrestricted (Operating)

Income	£147,734
Expenditure	£144,083
Surplus	£3,651

Designated Funds

Restoration Project

Income	£1,500
Expenditure	£0
Surplus	£1,500

Minor Projects

Income	£0
Expenditure	£1,029
(Deficit)	(£1,029)

Bracegirdle Bequest

Income	£103,569
Expenditure £0	
Surplus	£103,569

Total Unrestricted

Income	£252,803
Expenditure	£145,112
Surplus	£107,691

In 2021, our Operating income included benefits from the Stewardship Campaign (increased monthly giving and one-off donations) and the Furlough Scheme.

Given the ongoing effect of Covid and reduced Church and Number 28 activities along with increases in some of our costs, we ended up with an Operating Surplus of £3,651

Charitable donations in 2021 of £5,740 were higher than 2020 by £3,424. The Donations represent 5% of voluntary income compared to 2% in 2020. The donations in

2021 included £1,500 from PCC Funds and an additional 10% of the Operating year end surplus.

Number 28 had a deficit of £3,846 in 2021 compared to a deficit of £3,867 in 2020. Income decreased due to the continued effects of Covid on our activities. This was partially offset by lower utility and other running costs.

During 2021, we received a very generous legacy of £103,569 from the estate of Mrs V. Bracegirdle for which we are very grateful. Although there are no restrictions on the spending, the money has been designated for spending on the fabric of the Church.

Summary of 2021 Results - Restricted Funds

Restoration Project (Restricted), Minor Projects (Restricted), Organ Fund (Restricted) and Moreton Bequest (Endowment)

Income	£5,775
Expenditure	£6,748
(Deficit)	(£973)

The **Restricted** Funds income of £5,775 included a Grant of £4,300 from Cheshire East Council towards our Covid Recovery Project. This was spent on new furniture and equipment for Number 28.

The Restricted Fund Expenditure of £6,748 includes £4,300 on new furniture and equipment for Number 28 (re Grant from Cheshire East Council) and £2,448 re Electrical investigations and costs of associated repairs in the Church.

Table 2 Statement of Assets & Liabilities

The assets are split in two main sections: fixed assets which are not easily converted into cash (property and equipment) and monetary assets which are easily converted into cash (cash, stocks and investment funds).

The fixed asset section represents the current value of No 28 which stands at £295,000, this valuation is based on survey carried by Mellor Braggins in May of 2015. This value is £58,826 lower than the previous value which was based on the original purchase price plus the conversion/renovation costs. The monetary assets are then split into three sections total cash and bank, working designated funds and restricted funds (definitions can be found within the accounting policies section).

The Total Net Assets as at 31st December 2021 stood at £820,304. This represents an increase of £155,955 on 2020 and is mainly due to the Bracegirdle Legacy of £105,569 and an increase in the valuation of our Investments of £49,236.

The Unrestricted Funds (Unrestricted and Designated) available to the PCC as at 31st December 2021 were £456,690. This is an increase of £149,613 on 2020.

The Restricted Funds, which are not available to the PCC, as at 31st December 2021 were £68,615. This an increase of £6,342 on 2020.

As stated, the PCC have no known liabilities.

2) Table 3 Allocation of Reserves

The third financial table illustrates how the reserves available to the PCC could be employed in the future in line with the strategy of the PCC. The £330,000 allocated to Church Development is to bring the interior of the church into compliance with current legislation and good practice, to repair utilities and to improve the facilities for the congregation and local community to facilitate worship, community activities and access to the heritage of the building.

The running costs reserve is a prudent level to cover six months potential Working Capital for both the Church and No 28.

The allocation also allows for further refurbishment of No 28.

Finally, we propose £38,000 for ongoing outreach and spreading the Gospel in Middlewich.

Table 1

Receipts and Payment Accounts

	Unrestricted			Restricted			Unrestricted	Restricted	
	Unrestricted (Operating) General & Stocks Fund Investment Income	Designated: Restoration Project, Minor Projects, Bracegirdle Bequest	Total Unrestricted 2021	Total Restricted & Endowment 2021	Total 2021		Total Unrestricted 2020	Total Restricted & Endowment 2020	Total 2020
£									
Receipts									
Voluntary Income	114,689	105,069	219,758	414	220,172		113,842	4,020	117,862
<i>Planned Giving</i>	79,492	0	79,492	0	79,492		83,005	0	83,005
<i>Collections and other giving</i>	14,512	105,069	119,580	224	119,804		11,375	3,480	14,855
<i>Income tax recovered</i>	20,685	0	20,685	191	20,875		19,462	540	20,002
Parish Activities	17,740	0	17,740	265	18,004		14,482	0	14,483
<i>Events</i>	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
<i>Sales Proceeds</i>	70	0	70	0	70		159	0	159
<i>Charity Activities</i>	3,443	0	3,443	0	3,443		596	0	596
<i>Occasional Offices</i>	14,227	0	14,227	0	14,227		13,578	0	13,578
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	0	0	0	265	265		150	0	150
28 Hightown	553	0	553	0	553		1,124	0	1,124
Investment Income	7,434	0	7,434	796	8,231		7,185	795	7,980
Grants	7,319	0	7,319	4,300	11,619		7,429	0	7,429
Total Receipts	147,734	105,069	252,803	5,775	258,578		144,062	4,815	148,877
Payments									
Parish Activities	20,756	0	20,756	0	20,756		16,395	0	16,395
<i>Events</i>	0	0	0	0	0		120	0	120
<i>Purchase Costs</i>	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
<i>Charity Giving</i>	5,740	0	5,740	0	5,740		2,316	0	2,316
<i>Occasional Offices</i>	9,105	0	9,105	0	9,105		9,806	0	9,806
<i>Ministry Activities</i>	2,534	0	2,534	0	2,534		0	0	0
<i>Office Costs</i>	3,377	0	3,377	0	3,377		4,153	0	4,153
28 Hightown	4,398	0	4,398	0	4,398		4,991	0	4,991
<i>28 Operating Costs</i>	3,324	0	3,324	0	3,324		3,223	0	3,223
<i>28 Maintenance Costs</i>	1,074	0	1,074	0	1,074		1,768	0	1,768
Church Building	13,916	0	13,916	2,448	16,364		16,164	0	16,164
<i>Church Operating Costs</i>	11,847	0	11,847	0	11,847		11,174	0	11,174
<i>Church Maintenance Costs</i>	2,069	0	2,069	2,448	4,517		4,990	0	4,990
Ministry	105,013	0	105,013	0	105,013		103,744	0	103,744
<i>Ordained Staff</i>	63,199	0	63,199	0	63,199		63,845	0	63,845
<i>Lay Staff</i>	41,814	0	41,814	0	41,814		39,899	0	39,899
Projects	0	1,029	1,029	4,300	5,329			3,007	3,007
Total Payments	144,083	1,029	145,111	6,748	151,859		141,293	3,007	144,300
Surplus/(Deficit)	3,651	104,040	107,691	(973)	106,719		2,769	1,808	4,577

Further Analysis of Receipts and Payment Accounts		Unrestricted				
£		General and Stocks Fund Investment Income	Restoration Project Designated	Minor Projects Designated	Bracegirdle Bequest Designated	Total Unrestricted 2021
Receipts						
Category Group	Category	Actual Income	Income	Actual Income	Actual Income	Actual Income
Voluntary Income		114,689	1,500		103,569	219,758
Planned Giving	Pledge Envelopes	3,246				3,246
Planned Giving	Standing Orders	76,246				76,246
Planned Giving		79,492				79,492
Collections and Other	Donations	10,676	1,500			12,176
Collections and Other	Legacies	-			103,569	103,569
Collections and Other	Occasional Offices	1,007				1,007
Collections and Other	Online Giving	706				706
Collections and Other	Plate Giving	2,123				2,123
Collections and Other		14,512	1,500		103,569	119,580
Income Tax Recovered	GASDS	458				458
Income Tax Recovered	Gift Aid	20,226				20,226
Income Tax Recovered		20,685				20,685
Parish Activities		17,740				17,740
Events		-				-
Sales Proceeds		70				70
Charity Activities	Christian Service Unit	1,146				1,146
Charity Activities	Congo Charities	726				726
Charity Activities	Other Charities	220				220
Charity Activities	Save the Family	676				676
Charity Activities	St Luke's Hospice	676				676
Charity Activities	Crisis	-				-
Charity Activities		3,443				3,443
Occasional Offices	Funeral Fees	13,897				13,897
Occasional Offices	Wedding Fees	330				330
Occasional Offices		14,227				14,227
28 Hightown		553				553
28 Hightown	Other No 28 Income	-				-
28 Hightown	Room Hire	171				171
28 Hightown	Sales and Donations	382				382
28 Hightown		553				553
Investment Income		7,434				7,434
Dividends - Stocks Fund	Dividends - Stocks Fund	7,430				7,430
Donations - Stocks Fund	Donations - Stocks Fund	-				-
Interest - Stocks Fund	Interest - Stocks Fund	4				4
Dividends & Interest		7,434				7,434
Grants		7,319				7,319
Unrestricted	Grants	7,319				7,319
Unrestricted	VAT Recovered	-				-
Grants (Furlough)		7,319				7,319
Total Receipts		147,734	1,500	-	103,569	252,803

Further Analysis of Receipts and Payment Accounts		Unrestricted				
£		General and Stocks Fund Investment Income	Restoration Project Designated	Minor Projects Designated	Bracegirdle Bequest Designated	Total Unrestricted 2021
Payments						
Category Group	Category	Actual Expenditure	Actual Expenditure	Actual Expenditure	Actual Expenditure	Actual Expenditure
Parish Activities		20,756				20,756
Events		-				-
Purchase Costs		-				-
Charity Giving	Christian Service Unit	1,801				1,801
Charity Giving	Congo Charities	1,276				1,276
Charity Giving	Other Charity Giving	223				223
Charity Giving	Save the Family	1,220				1,220
Charity Giving	St Luke's Hospice	1,220				1,220
Charity Giving		5,740				5,740
Occasional Offices	Assigned Fees	4,616				4,616
Occasional Offices	Disbursements	4,489				4,489
Occasional Offices		9,105				9,105
Ministry Activities	Mission	189				189
Ministry Activities	Music	1,377				1,377
Ministry Activities	Pastoral Care	465				465
Ministry Activities	Training and Compliance	96				96
Ministry Activities	Worship and Teaching	268				268
Ministry Activities	Young People	139				139
Ministry Activities		2,534				2,534
Office Costs	Office Contracts	1,829				1,829
Office Costs	Office Materials	957				957
Office Costs	Other Office Costs	591				591
Office Costs		3,377				3,377
28 Hightown		4,398				4,398
28 Operating Costs	28 Consumables	454				454
28 Operating Costs	28 Electricity	869				869
28 Operating Costs	28 Gas	422				422
28 Operating Costs	28 Insurance	1,312				1,312
28 Operating Costs	28 Water	267				267
28 Operating Costs		3,324				3,324
28 Maintenance Costs	28 Mtce Contracts	986				986
28 Maintenance Costs	28 Mtce Materials	88				88
28 Maintenance Costs		1,074				1,074
Church Building		13,916				13,916
Church Operating Costs	Church Consumables	228				228
Church Operating Costs	Church Electricity	986				986
Church Operating Costs	Church Gas	3,963				3,963
Church Operating Costs	Church Insurance	6,410				6,410
Church Operating Costs	Church Water	259				259
Church Operating Costs		11,847				11,847
Church Maintenance Costs	Church Mtce Contracts	1,856				1,856
Church Maintenance Costs	Church Mtce Materials	213				213
Church Maintenance Costs		2,069				2,069
Ministry		105,013				105,013
Ordained Staff	Ordained Staff Expenses	1,108				1,108
Ordained Staff	Parish Share	58,593				58,593
Ordained Staff	Rectory Costs	3,497				3,497
Ordained Staff		63,199				63,199
Lay Staff	Lay Staff Expenses	210				210
Lay Staff	Lay Staff Other Costs	1,023				1,023
Lay Staff	Pensions	2,743				2,743
Lay Staff	Salaries	32,707				32,707
Lay Staff	Tax and NI	5,132				5,132
Lay Staff		41,814				41,814
Projects		-		1,029		1,029
Total Payments		144,083	-	1,029	-	145,111

£	2021	2020	2021 vs 2020
Charitable Giving	5,740	2,316	3,424
Made up of the following:			
Christian Service Unit	1,801	894	907
Congo Charities	1,276	474	802
Other Charity Giving	223	-	223
Save the Family	1,220	474	746
St Luke's Hospice	1,220	474	746
Donation % of Voluntary Income	5.0%	2.0%	3.0%

£	2021	2020	2021 vs 2020
No 28 Receipts & Payments			
Income	553	1,124	(571)
Insurance	(1,312)	(1,300)	(12)
Utilities	(1,558)	(1,923)	365
Other Running Costs	(1,529)	(1,768)	239
Surplus/(Deficit)	(3,846)	(3,867)	21

Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments	Restricted and Endowment				
£	Restoration Project Restricted	Minor Projects Restricted	Organ Fund Restricted	Bert Moreton Bequest (Endowment)	Restricted & Endowment Total
Receipts	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
Voluntary Income	368	0	0	0	368
<i>Planned Giving</i>					0
<i>Collections and other giving</i>	224				224
<i>Income tax recovered</i>	145				145
Parish Activities	0	0	0	0	0
Covid 19 Recovery Project		4,300			4,300
Young People Project		46			46
Investment Income			1	795	796
VAT Recovered	265				265
Total Receipts	633	4,346	1	795	5,775
Payments					
Church Building	2,448	0	0	0	2,448
Covid 19 Recovery Project		4,300			4,300
Total Payments	2,448	4,300	0	0	6,748
Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,815)	46	1	795	(973)

Table 2			
Balance Sheet	2021	2020	Movement 2021 vs 2020
	£	£	£
Current Assets			
Cash	141,298	21,168	120,130
Accounts Receivable	1,733	20,002	(18,269)
Prepayments	0	0	
Total Current Assets	143,031	41,171	101,861
Non-Current Assets			
Fixed Assets	295,000	295,000	0
Investments	384,852	335,616	49,236
Total Non-Current Assets	679,852	630,616	49,236
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	2,579	7,437	(4,858)
Deferred Income	0	0	0
Total Current Liabilities	2,579	7,437	(4,858)
Non-Current Liabilities			
Long Term Loan / Mortgage	0	0	0
Total Non-Current Liabilities	0	0	0
Total Net Assets (Assets Minus Liabilities)	820,304	664,349	155,955
Represented By			
General (Unrestricted)	6,311	11,105	(4,794)
Buildings (Unrestricted)	295,000	295,000	0
Restoration Project - Restricted (Restricted)	3,014	4,829	(1,815)
Restoration Project - Designated (Designated)	1,500	0	1,500
Minor Projects - Restricted (Restricted)	641	595	46
Minor Projects - Designated (Designated)	3,961	3,978	(17)
Stocks Fund (Unrestricted)	340,708	291,398	49,310
Bert Moreton Bequest (Endowment)	37,054	32,339	4,714
ET Earl Legacy (Endowment)	18,191	15,904	2,287
Bracegirdle Bequest (Designated)	103,569	0	103,569
Organ Fund (Restricted)	10,357	9,201	1,156
Total Net Assets	820,304	664,349	155,955
Fixed Assets	295,000	295,000	0
Unrestricted and Designated Funds			
Barclays Current Account Unrestricted	7,959	2,980	4,979
Accounts Receivable	1,733	20,002	(18,269)
Accounts Payable	(2,579)	(7,437)	4,858
Barclaycard	(255)	0	(255)
Petty Cash	94	95	(1)
Stocks Fund Investment	322,029	281,038	40,990
Stocks Fund Cash	12,990	5,556	7,434
HSBC Shares	5,689	4,804	885
Barclays Current Account Designated	5,461	0	5,461
Barclays Premium Account Designated	103,569	38	103,531
Total Unrestricted and Designated Funds (available to the PCC)	456,690	307,077	149,613
Restricted Funds			
Barclays Current Account Restricted (Restoration Fund)	3,014	4,829	(1,815)
Bert Moreton Bequest Investment	31,178	27,258	3,920
Moreton Bequest Income Fund	5,876	5,081	795
E T Earl Legacy Investment	18,191	15,904	2,287
Organ Fund Investment	7,766	6,612	1,155
Organ Fund Cash	2,590	2,589	1
Total Restricted Funds (not available to PCC)	68,615	62,272	6,342
All Assets	820,304	664,349	155,955

Allocation of Reserves	
Table 3	
	2021
a) Church Development	330,000
b) Financial	
Working Capital	74,865
c) No 28	
General Fabric	13,825
d) Outreach and Spreading the Gospel	38,000
Total	456,690

Notes to the Financial Statements

Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards from the SORP 2005 and the Charities Act 2011.

This is the fifth year that the accounts have been prepared using the accrual accounting method.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups (such as the Mothers' Union and Bell ringers society) who owe their main affiliation to the national organisation, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided by the terms of the trust or bequest and (b) donations received for a specific object.

Designated funds are funds set aside by the PCC for a particular purpose. The PCC may subsequently decide to spend the fund for any other purpose.

Unrestricted funds are general funds that can be used for the PCC's ordinary purposes.

Income

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. All income is accounted for gross. Where the church acts as an agency these income amounts are excluded from the financial statements. Fees from weddings and funerals are shown net of costs incurred in the provision of the service, including payment of assigned fees, vergers and organist fees etc.

Expenditure

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognized when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993. Movable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected at any reasonable time. Such property is written off when purchased.

Other functional assets (in our case No.28, the Parish Centre & office) are not valued in Receipts and Payments Accounting but are noted in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value as at 31st December 2021.

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Independent Examiner's Report to the members/trustees of St Michael & All Angels Church, Parochial Church Council.

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021. Charity No.1127335

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145 (5)(b) of the Charity's Act ; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my notice

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

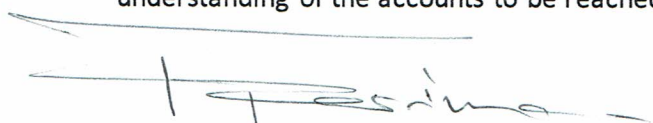
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Direction given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanation from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act: or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met: or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Fatima Perriman

50 Thrush Way, Winsford, Cheshire. CW7 3LN

20th April 2022

Accounts

St Michael and All Angels Church Middlewich

Annual Report and Accounts

Year ending 31st December 2020

Registered Charity No. 1127335

All For Christ + Christ For All



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Introduction by the Rector, Simon Drew

The year 2020 is one which we will not forget very easily as our nation has lived through the Covid19 pandemic. It has been a difficult year for all of us and church life has been severely disrupted with churches being closed and our services/activities significantly restricted. The hard work and dedication of many of our church members in establishing an alternative way of worshipping and working has been greatly appreciated.

Normal church life came to an end in March 2020 when the first lockdown was announced. The church & No28 were closed and most meetings cancelled. In response we began to offer an alternative way of doing church. The ministry team took on the task of offering pastoral care via the telephone to everyone on our membership list. Weekly emails, Facebook and the website became the core of our communication strategy. Worship and teaching was offered as a pre-recorded YouTube video, and also live on Facebook. Meetings and study groups began again using MS Teams and Zoom where appropriate. Then when we were able to run services again with all the social distancing and personal hygiene measures in place we introduced the live streaming of services for those who could not attend.

After the success of last year's stewardship campaign the Covid19 restrictions once more put our finances in a difficult situation, like many other churches. In response we held another stewardship campaign. My thanks to all who responded financially so that, despite Covid19, we ended 2020 with a small surplus.

So we have learnt how to do things differently but it is still all done in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We have engaged a new group of people with the Gospel by going 'online' but I hope and pray that we have managed to maintain our care and support of the church family as well. I am very grateful to the staff team and the PCC for their ongoing support during this difficult year. We will as always continue to work on being 'All for Christ & Christ for All' through our goals: Committed to Discipleship, Effective in Mission and Faithful in Stewardship.

Section 1: Trustee's Report (for Charity Commission):

The contents of this section are specifically required by the Charity Commission.

Aim and purposes

St Michael & All Angels, is the only Anglican Church in the mid Cheshire town of Middlewich. Due to its prominent and imposing position in the centre of the town, St Michael's is a landmark when approaching from any direction.

Middlewich Parish has a population of 15,000 and is part of a benefice joined with Byley-cum-Lees a nearby small country parish with 900 inhabitants.

Our incumbent is the Reverend Simon Drew. The incumbent at St Michael's is supported by Reverend Liz Woode (Associate Priest), Reverend Thia Hughes (Associate Priest) Reverend Lorraine Reed (Associate Priest) and Revd Alison Boulton (NSM Curate), Reverend Simon Hamill-Stewart (a retired minister), Revd John Hughes (a retired minister), Jeremy Coles (Director of Music & Family Work) and Beth Deakin (Office Manager).

Our seven Readers, Jacqui Briscoe, Steve Broadfoot, Christine Hamill-Stewart, Tony Woode, Anne Latham, Duncan Goodwin and Julie Hassall along with Sylvia Bosomworth, Sue Ikin and Elaine Reynolds (Pastoral Care Workers) form our team of ten lay workers.

The aim and purpose of the Church according to the Westminster Catechism is 'to glorify God and enjoy him forever'. The Rector, supported enthusiastically by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and the lay and ordained staff, prayerfully pursues this objective in planning the services, outreach and pastoral ministry of the Church in the community. We hope a rather different set of activities during 2020 have still brought us nearer to meeting our objective.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC and staff team are committed to sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with the community of Middlewich through word and action – **All for Christ + Christ for All!** As such our mission statement is: *Committed to Discipleship, effective in Mission, and faithful in Stewardship.*

The following are still our objectives but during 2020 we were significantly limited in those that we could actively pursue:

DISCIPLESHIP: Implement a programme of teaching and training on discipleship, using a mixture of different styles/formats.

MISSION: Strengthen our existing areas of community engagement: No28, Smilers, Street Pastors, Festival Choir, Song Stars, Card Group, Church@28, Foodbank, Good Neighbours, and Messy Church@Cledford. Develop mission in the Cledford area, building on Messy Church@Cledford.

RESOURCES: Move forward with the Restoration Project Phase 2. Maintain a healthy level of financial stewardship

To facilitate these objectives St Michael's seeks to maintain a committed team of staff and volunteers, and usable and effective resources in the shape of the church building and No 28, our parish centre.

Achievements and performance

Worship and prayer

Our usual pattern of worship and prayer has been disrupted by the Covid19 pandemic. A new pattern has emerged during 2020. The key elements are our weekly pre-recorded Sunday service, live worship and prayer events on Facebook and twice weekly reflections shared by email and also on Facebook. When the lifting of restrictions allowed we held socially distanced Sunday morning services at 9:15am & 11am, with the 11am service being live streamed via YouTube. We have also encouraged church members to use the daily office/readings at home.

We hope this mixture of resources for worship and prayer has both strengthened the faith of our existing members, and enabled us to reach out to a new group of people within our community who have not previously engaged with the church of Christian faith.

At 31 December 2020 there were 129 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. The weekly average attendance for services which took place during October was 93 adults and children, but the number of people engaging at home (online) during October was estimated to be 250 each week.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. This year baptisms and weddings were significantly curtailed by the pandemic.

We have celebrated 2 baptisms, 1 wedding and held 14 funerals in our church this year. However the ministry team also conducted 21 funeral services at various local crematoria, and 9 graveside funerals.

Deanery Synod

The Middlewich Deanery Synod met once during 2020. St Michael and All Angels were well represented by both ordained and lay representatives. Our Rector, Simon Drew, is currently the Rural Dean.

Pastoral care

Pastoral Care remains an important and integral part of ministry at St Michael's and comes under our Circle of Care initiative. It is about living our faith in action as we care for one another, and that includes people in our wider community. This year the Covid19 pandemic has made the care we offer to others even more important, even if for long periods this was only possible by telephone.

Mission and Evangelism

As part of its commitment to mission, St Michael's Church continues to be actively engaged in mission and evangelism. Further details are given in sections 2 & 3 of this report. The pandemic has curtailed many of our outreach activities.

Evangelistic activities usually include Church@28, the Card Group and Messy Church@Cledford. Mission initiatives within Middlewich include Street Pastors, Middlewich Good Neighbours, Middlewich Food bank, Nursing Homes services, schools & youth work and the No 28 Drop-In. Supported charitable mission includes St Luke's Hospice, Save the Family, Christian Service Unit - Khammam and the Congo ABC Link.

Ecumenical relationships

Churches Together in Middlewich continued to meet together during 2020, although our usual round of joint services and activities were unable to take place. Mutual support and prayer have been to core of our meeting together, usually in a virtual context.

Financial Review

The accounts show a surplus for 2020 of £2,769 with total receipts (excluding the parish weekend) down by £6,283 on 2019. There was an increase of £5,768 in voluntary income, a decrease in money received through Church Activities (fees from weddings and funerals) of £19,832 and an increase in investment income of £203. No 28, our parish centre, produced a net deficit of £3,867 in the year (compared to a surplus of £276 in 2019).

Overall payments (again excluding the parish weekend) decreased by £9,435 on 2019.

Total charitable giving to our four charities was £2,316 (£1,254 lower than in 2019), and 2% of our voluntary income.

Fixed assets in the shape of No 28 Hightown stand at £295,000, the property being revalued in May 2015. Total funds available to the PCC were £21,615 higher than at the end of 2019 at a year-end value of £316,987. The restricted funds, which are not available to the PCC were £2,752 higher than 2019 due to the revaluing of some funds. The year-end value of these funds stood at £52,363.

Reserves Policy

See table 3 in Appendix 1: The PCC has allocated £202,000 to church development to improve the interior of the church. £83,137 has been kept in reserve to cover 6 months running costs for church and No 28. £8,851 is allocated for further refurbishment work to No 28, and we propose the remaining £23,000 for ongoing outreach and spreading the gospel in Middlewich.

Development of Financial Systems

Background

For many years, and certainly since 2010, we have been seeking to improve the reporting of our financial data, and progress had been made in improving our banking and utilities management systems. However the need for faster progress was emphasised in February 2019 when the extent of the deficit in 2018 came to light. At that point the PCC agreed the following objectives:

1. An annual budget would be prepared and agreed before the end of the previous year
2. Every quarter the PCC would receive a standard tabular report, detail increasing over time, showing performance against budget and predicting with some assumptions the outturn at the year end
3. The FSC would meet at least quarterly
4. The structure of the Annual Financial Report would be improved
5. Shortly after the APCM every year the result for the previous year would be presented orally and in writing to the whole congregation at a relatively high level
6. Consideration would be given to using a database instead of the current system of spreadsheets to process the financial data

Progress

By early 2020 significant progress had been made, but it became apparent that we would not be able to meet all our objectives without the employment of a web based accounting database. After consideration of two systems, both of which were designed for the use of Charities, it was decided to use a system called ExpensePlus. Work started in October 2020 to set up the system, and it was ready for use for the financial year 2021.

The benefits of the system are:

- It is Cloud based which allows data to be input directly by a number of people, reducing the amount of work required by the treasurer in assimilating reports, emails, meeting notes etc. and spreading the load of data management over a number of people.
- Management of the data and production of reports can be done by more than one person, so that we are less vulnerable to the unavailability of individuals because of work pressures, sickness etc.
- The data is held securely in the Cloud so we are less vulnerable to the failure or unavailability of an individual's computer.
- We have developed and incorporated a standard accounting structure, which means that management reports will be more detailed, easily understood and consistent from

year to year. A pro forma of the summary level Table 1 for next year's Finance Report is included as Appendix 2.

- The system includes tools for budgeting and forecasting which provide an element of protections against unpleasant surprises.
- Gift Aid data is held within the system, simplifying hugely the process of application to HMRC.

Conclusion

We expect that 2021 will be a learning year, but by the end of it all our objectives should have been met. The annual cost of employing ExpensePlus is £300, but this is in my view a small price to pay for the benefits which will accrue.

Volunteers

Once again, heartfelt thanks to all our amazing volunteers, too numerous to mention by name, who, despite the Covid19 pandemic have enabled our church to be such a key and vibrant part of community life.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of Parochial Church Council (PCC) members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Michael's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our Rector), Churchwardens, Deanery Synod representatives, two of the Readers selected from amongst the seven of them, members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church, plus co-options as required. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

In Middlewich sufficient parishioners are prepared to stand for the PCC so that it is sometimes necessary to hold elections. It has therefore been possible to require members to stand down every three years for at least one year. This enables fresh ideas to be put forward, which in our opinion more than offsets the possible disadvantage of some members not having a longstanding exposure to detailed PCC procedures.

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent, updating policies on safeguarding, health & safety and GDPR, and also the Church's strategy. The Standing Committee (SC) – a sub-committee of the PCC - has delegated financial authority, provides a forum for detailed discussion on some complex issues and makes decisions on matters which do not require a full PCC discussion. All SC proceedings are reported to the PCC.

Administrative Information

The PCC and the SC usually meet on alternate months and sometimes have additional meetings as required. The PCC met 5 times during the year with an average attendance level of 80%. The Standing Committee met 11 times to deal with various matters relating to lockdown restrictions and church life over the year, with an average attendance level of 90%.

PCC members who served during 2020 were:

Ex Officio members:

Incumbent and Chairman:

Reverend Simon Drew

Associate Priest:

Reverend Lorraine Reed

Associate Priest:

Reverend Liz Woode

Associate Priest:

Reverend Thia Hughes

Churchwardens:

Keith Yearley, Chris Coney, Steve Bailey (re-elected as Churchwardens at the AMP in October 2020).

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Hugh Malkin & Sylvia Bosomworth (both until October 2020)

Anne Latham & Godfrey Davies (both from October 2020)

Reader's representatives:

Tony Woode, Steve Broadfoot (until October 2020)

Co-opted members:

Neil Clewes (Treasurer) has served as a co-opted member since the APCM in October 2020.

Elected Members:

Graham Ikin, Carl Birkenhead, John Currie, Christine Malkin (Secretary), Mike Reed (Vice Chairman), Ian Jeffery and Kate Mayne were members throughout the year.

Bridget Anton, Neil Clewes and Robert Reed were members until October 2020 but retired in rotation. We thank them for their important service to the church.

The following people were elected at the APCM in October 2020 to serve on the PCC for three years: Paul Hassall, Rachel Pendleton, Elaine Reynolds, Bret Ritchie.

Standing Committee members who served during 2020 were:

Simon Drew (Chairman), Neil Clewes (Treasurer), Christine Malkin (Secretary), Keith Yearley (Churchwarden), Chris Coney (Churchwarden), Steve Bailey (Churchwarden), Mike Reed (Vice Chairman), Graham Ikin (until October 2020), and Elaine Reynolds (from October 2020).

Other Committees:

Working groups drawn not only from the PCC also met during the year to consider work to the church building, fundraising, stewardship, organ repairs, safeguarding and health & safety.

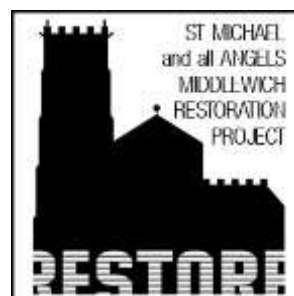
Staff Team:

Throughout the year, the day to day activities of the Church are coordinated through a weekly meeting of the Staff Team. This is an informal meeting to which the ordained and lay staff and churchwardens are invited. The maximum possible attendance is 19, and the average attendance is about 12.

Restoration Project

Introduction

The Church Restoration Project was conceived in 2012 as a consequence of the large amount of structural work identified in the 2012 Quinquennial inspection and the PCC's stated intention to develop the interior of the building to improve the facilities for the congregation and community, and to comply with current legislation.



It consists of a major project split into large phases, and a number of minor projects. The project, including fundraising, is led by a Restoration Project Group. which generally meets once a quarter. Its members are: Mike Reed (Chair); Chris Coney (Warden); Simon Drew (Rector); Elaine Reynolds; Steve Broadfoot; Ian Jeffery. The group met only twice in 2020.

Overall Strategy

We are conscious of the need to coordinate the conservation of the fabric and artefacts with improvements to the interior of the building. We are committed to making the heritage represented by our building more accessible to the public, and are also mindful of the need to press forward with work which enables the mission of the church, and to keep these aspects in balance. The plan, influenced by the 2018 Quinquennial Inspection, looks like this:

- Phase 1 Roof, rainwater goods and associated high level stonework – North Side - £290k – Completed in 2017
- Phase 2 Major Scheme incorporating three types of work:
- Conservation Work - mainly to the South Aisle and Bell Tower
 - Heritage Work – restoration of the Venables Screens; opening the bell tower to the public; developing the heritage trail; generally improving the condition of some historical artefacts
 - Internal Development Work, making the building : fully accessible; usable for many purposes; compliant with modern legal requirements; provided with up to date facilities
- This is expected to cost over £1m and may start in about 2022
- Phase 3 Lower level exterior stonework and timber repairs (Around £250k; about 2024)

Progress in 2020

Main Project

Progress on Phase 2 of the main project continued to be affected by the need to divert the efforts of members of the team to improving the church financial systems and performance: the unexpected impact of the Covid-19 pandemic was also an issue. However, the pandemic raised our awareness of the need to improve hygiene in the building, and simultaneously several sources of 'Covid-19 Recovery' funding became available. This led us to break out the mains drainage aspects of Phase 2 into a minor project with the addition of some temporary hot water, hand washing and dish cleaning facilities. Our quantity surveyor agreed to update an old estimate free of charge and a total cost, including VAT of about £43,000 was determined. An application was put into the National Lottery Heritage Fund, but this was unsuccessful. Other sources of funding are available and further grant applications will be made.

Minor Projects

Smaller pieces of work have also been carried out as part of the Project.

- The Pigeon deterrents work carried out in 2019 is proving to be effective.
- The five yearly electrical Inspection of the building has been carried out and remedial work is in progress.
- The Lady Chapel floor has been sanded and re-varnished.

Fundraising

Fundraising events have been curtailed by the pandemic, and the only income to the Restoration Fund was a small number of donations amounting to £350 including one from as far afield as Anglesey, an award of £130 from Ecclesiastical Insurance and a legacy of £2,000. As reported above, an unsuccessful application to the NLHF was made for the Covid-19 Recovery (Drains) Project.

Documents relating to a Legacy Campaign were issued to the congregation in February, although of course this is not aimed solely at raising money for Restoration.

A photograph by Steve Broadfoot was entered into a photographic competition run by Ecclesiastical Insurance, but it was unsuccessful.

The balance of the fund at the end of December 2020 was £4,830.

Thanks

Thanks are due to those who have worked on the project over this difficult year: the project has several years to run and your prayers for team stamina and wise decision making would be appreciated. Offers of help would be very welcome.

Mike Reed Project Coordinator

Section 2: Achievements and Performance

These reports are presented in addition to the Charity commission's statutory requirements

Church Wardens' Fabric Report.

The church fabric is generally in good condition and despite the problems with Covid 19 and social distancing etc., work has continued on both the Church building and no28.

The buildings maintenance committee has met a couple of times on "Teams" during the year to ensure that necessary maintenance and updating of the Church building and no 28 has continued. The schedule of inspection and maintenance tasks that need to be carried out at regular intervals has been put on hold temporarily as it is at a stage where face to face meetings and discussions need to be held on site to finalise the health and safety aspects of the schedule.

As noted in the 2019 fabric report an ongoing list of tasks is kept by the group and each is ticked off when successfully completed. A defects logbook has also been started and is accessible via the office administrator. This should be completed whenever a fault is found or a maintenance task requested, either in church or in number 28, in order that this is effective consistent input from all volunteers and staff is vital.

A number of maintenance and other improvement tasks have been completed during 2020, some of which were in fact easier to complete due to the Church building and no28 being closed for considerable periods of time during the year, thus allowing access to areas that would normally not be easily accessible for longer periods of time, such as wood block floors. These are highlighted below:

Church building

- ❖ The church has been reorganised to operate within the rules laid down for safe services and prayer during the Covid 19 pandemic. This work has included organising safe seating layouts, one way movement within Church and automatic hand sanitiser dispensers being fitted at entries, along with all necessary signage.
- ❖ The Lady Chapel floor was sanded and varnished.
- ❖ Gutters and downpipes have been inspected and cleared twice.
- ❖ The weather vane on the tower roof has been cleaned and repainted.
- ❖ The Wi-Fi antenna has been repositioned to improve the signal between Church and No 28.
- ❖ The electrical safety survey has been completed and a number of issues were found. These have mostly been corrected during the year by Paul Hassall contractors, with some assistance from Volunteers Steve Bailey and Graham Ikin in the running in of some of the new cabling for the power and lighting.
- ❖ Replacement boiler controls were fitted and these now allow for remote monitoring and operation which is very helpful.

No28

- ❖ Upgraded gas piping from meter to boiler and cooker by accredited contractor.
- ❖ Fitted new steel sheet to the outside of the back door of No28 to improve security.
- ❖ Fitted letter box on back gate to ensure post can be delivered when no one is present.
- ❖ Reinforced the boiler house door following an attempted break in.
- ❖ Painted and decorated the cafe area.
- ❖ Sanded sealed and re-varnished floor in cafe area including reworking of the front door area which is now much safer.
- ❖ Fitted automatic hand sanitiser dispensers and necessary Covid safety signage.
- ❖ Removed the right hand window display area (looking from outside), then made the area good with wooden flooring and fitted a safety rail in front of the window. This will allow for better and safer spacing of tables in the café area, and easier to see that it is a café from outside.
- ❖ Re-modelled the work and serving area to be more user friendly for volunteers and fitted clear safety screens for covid security of volunteers. This was completed in early 2021 and some further work is anticipated in this area in anticipation of us being able to reopen the café as soon as we are allowed.

No 28

The general fabric of Number 28 remains in good condition and it is anticipated that in 2021 further redecoration and improvements will be made especially with regards to reopening the café area of the building in a Covid safe manner.

The raised area of the kitchen floor continues to be monitored but this has not recurred during 2020

And finally, thanks to our team of volunteers who look after the day to day maintenance and running of the Church and no 28. Especially this year to Graham, Paul and Steve who have carried out most of the above works.

Churchwardens, Chris, Keith and Steve

Number 28 Activities

As we are all aware, 2020 was a painful year for many people and the effects of Covid 19 continue to be felt globally.

We began the year at No 28 full of optimism for the year ahead but it wasn't long before reports began to circulate in the national media about a new virus which began to spread at an alarming rate. Several of our volunteers were understandably nervous about front facing roles in No 28 and we did struggle with fulfilling the demands of the rota, especially when the

Government guidance became more restrictive, with advice on handwashing and hand sanitizing.

By 23rd March 2020, the Prime Minister had announced that the country was to enter a national lockdown. The decision to close No 28 was then taken out of our hands as everyone was instructed to stay at home.

The office phone has been diverted to a mobile phone which Beth now has at home and answers during office working hours. Occasional visits are made to the office as some work can't be done from home (eg. Writing cheques).

Annual maintenance has been undertaken in No 28 so it is still Health and Safety compliant (fire alarm checks, fire extinguisher checks all up to date).

The shop area has been decorated, the floor has been repaired and sealed and the counter area has been completely re-organised and plastic screens erected so that when we do re-open, we can provide a Covid safe environment. One of the window areas has been opened up to create more floor space so that the tables and chairs can be more distanced.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in the renovations of No. 28, it looks amazing! We are working towards opening up No 28 again and being a part of the community once again. Obviously, this has to be done in a Covid secure way so there are many discussions which have to happen first but we are hopeful that we are moving towards this. Many thanks to all our volunteers, hope to see you all again soon.

(Beth Deakin)

Pastoral Care – the Circle of Care

It was decided that the best way to offer friendship, support and care in a very challenging and difficult situation would be to set up a telephone contact network. The Church Family was shared amongst members of the Ministry Team and Circle of Care members so that people would be kept in touch and not feel isolated.

I think that everyone has appreciated the contact, conversations and prayer. We have tried to include everyone but didn't have contact details for some people. We were aware that not everyone was online and couldn't access the services. Mike and Lorraine very kindly produced DVDs of services which they sent out regularly, and these were gratefully received. Sadly, most of our regular visiting hasn't happened because of Covid 19, but some of us have done 'window' visits, 'garden' and 'garage' visits.

Perhaps our most difficult challenge was supporting and helping those who have been bereaved. All the relatives have received phone calls within 2 weeks of the funeral assuring them of our prayer support. We did manage to hold 2 'Memorial and Thanksgiving' services in Oct/Nov but, sadly, the third had to be cancelled due to lockdown. We are producing a 'Bereavement Prayer Bag' to give to relatives which we hope will give them some comfort and hope as they face this very sad and difficult time particularly with the current restrictions on funerals.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved and gone the extra mile. Never has Pastoral Care been so needed as people have struggled to cope as we fulfil this ministry to which God

has called us. We remember Jesus' words, "Just as I have loved you, so you must love one another." (John 13:34)

Praying in the power of the Holy Spirit that God will reach out beyond the walls of our Church into the community we serve, that the Gospel will be proclaimed in Word and action, that God's Kingdom will come here on Earth as it is in Heaven. We have a God-given opportunity and responsibility to share that love now.

(Thia Hughes)

Schools, Families and Young Peoples Work

This report will obviously be quite different for the year 2020 due to the Corona Virus Pandemic.

The role of family worker was created to support, develop, coordinate and add value to existing ministries within St Michaels and develop new opportunities within the wider community. In August this year (2020) I had been in post for 15 years.

SCHOOLS

Middlewich Primary School

Cledford Primary School

Byley County Primary School

Wimboldsley Community Primary School

St Mary's (R.C.) Primary School

Warmingham (C.E.) Primary School (neighbouring parish)

The church's support for school assemblies and R.E. lessons continued until the UK went into official lockdown at the end of March 2020.

Many activities were sadly suspended including the big end of term services with Cledford School, the Folk and Boat Weekend and the usual Advent and Christmas interactions with the schools.

From the beginning of lockdown I was able to maintain daily live-streamed events through Facebook for under 5s (SMILERS age) and 5-11s (Primary School age)

These were well received by many families with smaller children but didn't effectively meet the need of schools. Since then it has only been possible to lead occasional assemblies directly into certain schools by 'zoom' (remotely). Daily streamed events were eventually cut back to twice weekly with a 'Praise Party' special at the weekend.

This will be reviewed in the New Year

SMILERS (St Michael's Early Years)

Mondays 1.15-3.00pm

Suspended from March 2020 due to Covid pandemic

KINGDOM KIDS (including KINGDOM TOTS)

Sundays 11am

Suspended from March 2020 due to Covid pandemic.

Activities were adapted during periods when church services were functioning inside the building. The outdoor craft activities were well received during the 'SHINE' events

AWOL Youth Group

Sundays 6:30pm

The AWOL group has established a new pattern of meeting fortnightly on a Sunday evening via Zoom. The group has been led by Simon Drew & Sarah Olbrich and around 7 young people participate in the group.

MESSY CHURCH

Suspended from March 2020 due to Covid pandemic

Many thanks to Elaine Reynolds, Emma Nicholl and Sue Ikin for their continued support of activities aiming to support Messy Church families and others in the Cledford area of town. Many activity/lunch bags have been distributed over the year. Thanks to Margaret Byrne and Lorraine for the wonderful prayer activity bags distributed throughout the year.

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel.

Jeremy

Jeremy Coles - Director of Music and Family Work

Music, Services and Worship

CHURCH CHOIR & WORSHIP GROUP

Much of the choir and worship group activity was initially suspended from March 2020 due to the Covid pandemic

SERVICES

Services were transferred online in March 2020 in the form of pre-recorded acts of worship. Hymns and songs were recorded by the choir and worship group where possible and sometimes by individuals. Many thanks to Mike Reed, Alistair Griffiths and others for their help with the technology and recordings.

Music was reintroduced into 'on-site' services at church where lockdown rules permitted, with the 11am SHINE service being transferred outdoors during the summer months.

Initially this was 'performance' type pieces. Congregational singing has unfortunately been suspended due to government legislation.

A special thank you to Paul Humphreys for his continued development and running of the P.A. system and online filming and recording of live-streamed events.

The church's online presence has grown considerably in the last year. The new initiative of live streamed worship, prayer and 'fellowship' from the LIVING ROOM has reached many new people and reconnected many in our community with the church family. This was initially every night at 7pm for the first few months then scaled back to Wednesdays and Sundays. It has been wonderful to see people from around the UK and other countries joining us for worship and a renewed sense of hope and belonging. Special thanks to Duncan, Trish, Leanne and Sally for their faithfulness to providing song words during the live services during the year.

We were able to live-stream the Light Party, Christingle and Christmas Services among other events during the year.

Thank you to everyone who has regularly given us feedback and commented upon how much they appreciate all that we have been able to offer

FESTIVAL CHOIR

Suspended from March 2020 due to the Covid pandemic

SONG*STARS

Suspended from March 2020 due to the Covid pandemic

CHURCH@28

Suspended from March 2020 due to the Covid pandemic

Jeremy

Jeremy Coles - Director of Music and Family Work

Section 3: Evangelism, Ecumenical Relationships and Mission

Church@28

Church@28 is now well established in St Michael's and All Angels Church life. Our first service was back in January 2011, shortly before Simon Drew joined us that summer. The service enjoys fantastic support from a wide range of folk, both in Middlewich and Byley.

The service aims to be relaxed, informal and different. As the name might suggest, it is held at Number 28. It has always been the heart of the service to be accessible and engaging to all – not just Church regulars. All are welcome - sceptics, seekers, doubters and believers. It starts at 6:30pm and is monthly.

2020 was of course the strangest of years with just two services in January and February, which were attended by 43 and 33 people respectively.

When COVID 19 arrived and the first lockdown started, Church@28 services were stopped. In more normal times I may have experimented with an online version.

However, on a personal basis 2020 was a particularly busy year - I launched a new business and my wife gave birth to our first child in the August. So, the format was rested and I suppose to a degree, so was I!

When times become more normal, we will be very keen to restart the service and once again develop the ministry.

Robert Reed

Messy Church@Cledford

Messy Church was a very strange affair during 2020. We were able to hold Messy Church on the 14th January, 11th February and the 10th March and then went into our first lockdown.

It was decided to provide Messy Church bags once a week during the school summer holiday. These contained a drink, a lunchable, biscuits and crisps and a craft activity. The craft activities were themed and included Daniel, Jonah and Noah. The bags were assembled by Elaine and Emma and distributed in the carpark at Cledford School.

There were also light party bags distributed at the end of October when Jeremy also recorded some songs and games.

This has been a very disappointing year for Messy Church as we had started to provide a hot meal for the families ensuring that they had at least one hot meal on the day of Messy Church. It also ensured that these families were engaging with scripture and church at least once a month.

Sadly there has been no discussion as to when we might start up again.

Alison Boulton

Card Group

The group has been unable to meet this year because of COVID 19 but we intend to start again as soon as restrictions are lifted.

We continue to be self-financing, relying on donations and the sale of cards we make to finance materials and equipment and we are very grateful to everyone who has supported us by buying our cards. Even in lockdown I am able to accept commissions so if you would like a card for a special occasion please let me know.

Lorraine Reed

Mothers' Union

The theme for 2020 was "Building Hope and Confidence", both of which everyone needed during the past year of restrictions and lock down periods.

The year started well with a lunch at the Rising Sun in January. This was followed in February by our AGM and afterwards we had poetry readings from a book compiled by Eileen Lees of Whitegate Mothers' Union, which included contributions from Julie Barker and John Currie. For the meeting in March we welcomed Sue Cowlshaw, Charity Ambassador of Care UK, based in Northwich and where much of our knitting goes.

The March meeting was our last meeting this year due to the pandemic so the rest of our programme was cancelled. Hopefully we will be able to invite those speakers when we can finally resume meetings at No. 28

The main activity this year has been the knitting and Chris Overton has been busy collecting and dealing with the items members have been making during lock down. Thanks go to her for the work she does in that respect.

So the hope for 2021 is that we will be able to get together before too long.

Susan Hawkes

Street Pastors

Due to the fact that Street Pastors operate closely with the local community, especially the younger people in our town, our work during 2020 has been greatly restricted due to the social distancing rules introduced by Government as a response to the Covid 19 epidemic. 2020 has unfortunately been a long period of inactivity during which we entered our eleventh year of operation.

Following the Christmas and New Year period where we do not normally go out on duty, Street Pastors teams started to go out on Friday nights in early February, but it was decided after the first 3 Fridays that the risk of close contact with other people potentially with the virus was too great for some of the older Pastors. Mainly due to the recommendation that those of a

certain age should be shielding, we ceased going out until further notice. This remains the situation at the time of writing this report in early 2021.

Our AGM was held on 24th February 2020 and it was noted that financially our team is in relatively good health but that this may change as the Ascension Trust, our umbrella body, are looking to revise the way contributions from local teams are worked out and that this would negatively impact smaller teams such as our Middlewich group. This has been actively followed up during the year and may lead to our approach to Street Pastoring in Middlewich being changed. Thanks to Christine and Hugh Malkin for their work as Secretary and Treasurer for their contribution in this area.

Along with other members of Middlewich Churches a number of Middlewich Street Pastors attended the Redeeming our Communities (ROC) meeting at the MCC conference room in Brooks Lane on 27th February 2020. This was very positive and there has been sporadic feedback during 2020 but the initiative will need reviving once the Covid19 threat has reduced to manageable levels.

We continue to be represented in various initiatives within Middlewich, and Ruth Speed our Street Pastors co-ordinator is still working with the town council, Middlewich Vision and ROC on various projects and this makes sure that the profile of the team within the town and wider community continues to be acknowledged. and that various partners are made aware of what we do.

It is very likely that when the time comes that we are able to go out onto the streets again that for various reasons our numbers may have reduced further. It will then be very important that we encourage new people to become Street Pastors and carry on the work started almost eleven years ago.

In more normal times Middlewich Street Pastors are the only team of Christians that go out onto the streets of Middlewich to represent our churches. Whilst we are out, we talk to many people of all ages and we may be the only Christian people that they ever have contact with. We hope that it will not be too long before we can go out again and gently communicate the word and works of Jesus, and I'm sure we all look forward to this time.

Keith Yearley

St Michael and All Angels Ringing Team (SMAART)

What a strange and disappointing year this turned out to be. Our only outing was a talk to Weaverham Mothers' Union in March. We have decided in principle to discontinue this type of activity. Although they are well received there is not the same enthusiasm for them within the team and this is beginning to show.

As might have been expected our normal rehearsal venue at Willowmere has not been available to us since the first national lockdown in March. However, in the autumn we were able to have a few practice sessions in Byley Village Hall. These were limited to a maximum of six ringers, socially distanced of course! For these sessions we used the hand chimes. Hitherto these had seen little use, but we soon adapted to the different techniques required to play them.

We are looking forward to the time we can resume practices of any sort. Apart from the music making, we are all missing the camaraderie which goes with group activities.

David Hawkes

Home and Overseas Mission Support

Save the Family

Each New Year begins with such enthusiasm and determination to raise as much money as possible for our church charities. As 2020 progressed we were thwarted by the 'Covid Crisis'. Our first fund raising function was to be a coffee morning on 26 March, but our lives of faith and service changed dramatically for each of us from 23rd of the month as we entered our first 'lockdown'.

I found that I had 12 beautifully knitted Easter chicks, each containing a Cadbury's egg. During Easter weekend I was in the garden and heard Izzy next door playing. She was a member of our Smilers Group. We both climbed step ladders and met at the top of a fence. I gave her a little chick; she was so pleased and said it was her best Easter present. Her smile said it all.

I owe a debt of gratitude to some fund raisers at St Michaels, namely: David and Miriam Sant, Elaine Reynolds and Graham Ikin, who managed to raise money for the church charities at the beginning of 2020, with a sum of £148.96 for Save the Family.

I have been in touch with Save the Family throughout 2020, but no visits were allowed. When Christmas approached, the staff wanted to create a virtual winter wonderland for the children. They were helped by some very talented volunteers and local businesses. John Lewis and Partners donated many gifts, toys for the children, clothing and homeware for the adults. Other companies, Moneypenny, 106.3 and Dandy's Topsoil & Turf all carried out campaigns to provide toys and gifts. All the families, those resident and those supported through outreach, had a truly blessed Christmas and were not forgotten.

Jo Hulse

Christian Service Unit - Khammam

Background

As in the UK, events in Andhra Pradesh have been overshadowed this year by the Covid pandemic, with social distancing regulations preventing most of the activities of CSU. The general population are only allowed out between 6am and 11am for essential purposes so, all CSU admin tasks have to be completed between these times.

Because of travel restrictions, any activities which involve staff visiting other places have been stopped. This means that CSU are unable to distribute charitable gifts, HIV food packets and free lunches, or to visit the leprosy colony

Regional health workers, pastors and evangelists are unable to travel. Church services are forbidden. Day care centres are closed.

Schools and children's homes have been closed, and the children dispersed to live with parents or relatives. Construction work on the school extension has been stopped.

The Nursing School and the School of Evangelism have been closed, and the students dispersed.

The government has requisitioned 1000 sets of PPE from CSU, which they must provide at their own expense, a sum of about £1000.

The Work Continues

The homes for the aged are operating normally, and are able to provide free lunches for anyone who calls.

The hospital is still running, albeit with minimum staff, and for emergencies only.

CSU can give help to anyone who is able to visit the CSU premises.

The sewing centres are closed, but some trainees are working from home, stitching masks.

Empty school buildings are being used as Government Supply Depots.

CSU have been given government permission (and petrol) to use the school minibus for transporting itinerant workers who were trapped away from home by the lockdown.

Items for Prayer

The 120 Pastors and Evangelists are not paid a regular salary, and rely entirely on offerings from the church services they lead in remote villages. But church services and travel are both forbidden, and they have no other source of income. CSU do not have funds to support them, but are appealing for funds to give each of them a gift of £10.

Franklin has a bad tooth, which cannot be treated, because the dentist's surgery is closed due to the lockdown. He has also had a bout of covid. We have not heard from him lately but, last time he wrote, he was recovering.

Thank You

Franklin, his family, the CSU staff, and all those who benefit from their work, send their love and greetings, and thank the fellowship at St Michael's for your continuing support.

(Steve & Ruth Broadfoot)

Congo – ABC Link

Relationships between the Diocese of ARU and IPASC have had a very difficult and challenging year resulting in an unworkable situation.

BOGA Diocese. Many of those who were kidnapped earlier last year have either managed to escape or have been released. Obviously they have suffered considerable physical and mental trauma.

COVID 19 has also made an impact on both Dioceses, alongside Ebola – though this is now less of an issue. HIV continues to be problematic with patients in Aru unable to get to Uganda for treatment.

Please continue pray for the ABC link and especially for reconciliation and resolution between IPASC and the Church in Aru, that justice will prevail.

(Thia Hughes)

Appendix 1 – Financial Statements Year Ended 31 Dec 2020

(To be printed separately)

Appendix 2 – Proposed Table 1 for Year Ended 31 Dec 2021

New Reporting Format for FY 2021

A standard accounting structure was developed during the year for use from 1st January 2021 in conjunction with ExpensePlus, the online database we have adopted. This allows financial information to be kept at a much more detailed level than before. The Annual Report Table 1, seen below, is less detailed but is still much more informative than was previously possible.

Table 1 - Receipts & Payments Account

	2021 £			2020 £		
	Unrestricted Fund (Operating Result)	Restricted Fund (Project)	Total Funds	Unrestricted Fund (Operating Result)	Restricted Fund (Project)	Total Funds
Receipts						
Voluntary Income						
<i>Planned Giving</i>						
<i>Collections and other giving</i>						
<i>Income tax recovered</i>						
Parish Activities						
<i>Events</i>						
<i>Sales Proceeds</i>						
<i>Charitable Activities</i>						
<i>Occasional Offices</i>						
<i>Miscellaneous</i>						
28 Hightown						
Investment Income						
Grants						
Total Receipts	0	0	0	0	0	0
Payments						
Parish Activities						
<i>Events</i>						
<i>Purchase Costs</i>						
<i>Charitable Giving</i>						
<i>Occasional Offices</i>						
<i>Ministry Activities</i>						
<i>Office Costs</i>						
28 Hightown						
Church Building						
Ministry						
<i>Ordained Staff</i>						
<i>Lay Staff</i>						
Projects						
Total Payments	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surplus/Deficit of Receipts over Payments	0	0	0	0	0	0

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Independent Examiner's Report to the members/trustees of St Michael & All Angels Church, Parochial Church Council.

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020. Charity No.1127335

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145 (5)(b) of the Charity's Act ; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my notice

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Direction given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanation from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act: or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met: or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Fatima Perriman

50 Thrush Way, Winsford, Cheshire. CW7 3LN

16th April 2021