

**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 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 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.

Combatting 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