

FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CHURCH, MERE, WILTSHIRE

England & Wales · Charity number 281604

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1981-01-28

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

Contact

Address The Chantry
Church Street
Mere
Warminster
Wiltshire
BA12 6DS

Phone 07976 678049

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Activities

Objects: A) THE PRESERVATION REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF THE FABRIC AND FURNISHING OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, MERE, AND TO PROMOTE ITS USE AS A PLACE OF PUBLIC WORSHIP. B) TO PROMOTE THE APPRECIATION OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL AS A BUILDING OF HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST.

Activities: The preservation, repair and maintenance of the fabric and furnishing of the church of St Michael the Archangel, Mere, and to promote its use as a place of worship. To promote the appreciation of the Church of St Michael the Archangel as a building of architectural and historical interest.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations
- **What:** Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** MERE CP
- Wiltshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-06-30	£59,578	£71,016	-	-
2024-06-30	£187,982	£200,393	-	-
2023-06-30	£6,339	£8,261	-	-
2022-06-30	£23,210	£4,625	-	-
2021-06-30	£46,302	£138,664	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Felicity Anne Wilson	Chair	2020-04-14
Alison Heard		2023-09-27
Christopher George Stallard		2023-05-20
Dr WILLIAM JAMES PEMBROKE PRICE		2019-10-04
ELISABETH BARRETT		2019-10-01
James Hobhouse		2026-01-22
Jane Catharine Rees		2026-03-19
Margaret Louise Durkee		2022-09-29
Rev Michael Molano		2025-01-09
Richard Wilson KC		2022-05-10
Simon Edkins		2023-10-18

Accounts

CHAIRMAN's report

It has been an extremely busy year since the last AGM. The Committee have continued some of our normal work of fundraising, and modernising the work of the Friends as we entered the second year of the mighty Tower Stories project. I will come to the Tower Stories in a minute, but before that I would like to pay tribute to all those who have helped run the Friends in the last Year.

Firstly, Elisabeth Barratt our Secretary – she does all the minutes, manages the meetings and does the reporting to the Charity Commission. A charity cannot function properly without someone efficient, diligent and organised and Elisabeth, we are very grateful for all the work that you do!

Alison Heard, our Treasurer has been an absolute rock this year. Her cool appraising and professional eye and keen questions have kept the Committee on track. Managing other people's money is a huge responsibility, and that has been particularly so when that includes a quarter of a million pounds of National Heritage Lottery Funding. The Lottery impose a complicated system of reimbursement of each tranche of money after the event and this required very careful management from month to month. I know that Elaine, the administrator of the Tower Stories has found Alison's expertise and professionalism indispensable. Alison – a massive 'thank you' from all of us!

Simon Edkins, our Membership Secretary has continued to welcome new members to modernise our communications and to the develop our website. Simon has a forensic approach to analysing data, and his strong common-sense is very much appreciated. Earlier this year saw the launch of our new membership application form, which is colourful and informative and is available to visitors at events and at the back of the church. Thank you for the significant amount of time you have spent on getting everything into shape, Simon!

Bill Price

In the last year Bill has developed his role on the events side of the Friends' work. Having been instrumental in the Pinnacles Appeal from the start, Bill was at the heart of developing the Tower Stories project as part of Elaine's steering group. He and Renata always volunteer to run stalls or to marshal where required, and Bill has also taken on the role of events co-ordinator for the Friends and is currently finalising the programme of events for the coming year. We owe him a good deal for all his work on this, so a big 'thank you' goes to him today!

Maggie Durkee

Maggie and Mike are on a well-deserved holiday at the moment, but I know that you will all be aware of Maggie's indefatigable work for the Friends as you will have come across her at so many moments during the year. Maggie has continued to organise the Book Stall in the Friends Corner this year; she was instrumental in bringing The Year Clock production to the Church, has liaised with the Town Council and the Bell ringers on our behalf, and been instrumental in the organisation of every event throughout the year. Maggie has also qualified as a Tower Guide. Her energy, and willingness to get 'stuck in' and volunteer for everything and to chat to anyone on the way in is hugely appreciated.

Lastly, and by no means least, David Bett, who is continuing as a friend but not as a Committee member. David has made an enormous contribution to the work of the Committee in his time as a trustee over the last few years. His expertise in historic buildings and his interest in St Michael's and its history were invaluable in the various restoration and development projects we have done, including the Pinnacles. He always stepped up to the plate when a barman was required, and was always the first to offer to make his signature lemon drizzle cake when we held a cake stall. His last contribution to the work of the committee was a very thoughtful

series of suggestions for our strategic review and the final document we agreed was very much influenced by his insights. David, thank you so much for your time on the Committee.

Finally, alongside the Churchwardens, we were so pleased to welcome the vicar, Michael Molano to The Friends in November last year. Michael, Kit Stallard and Richard Wilson three are the “ex officio’ members of our Committee. Their presence on the Committee enables us to focus on how we spend the money raised by the Friends, and work together with the PCC to fulfil the purposes set out in our constitution.

Membership and Website

The development of the website was done in tandem with the Tower Stories Website and the two websites will eventually merge. This was paid for by the National Heritage Lottery Fund, as was the membership leaflet. One of the aims of the Lottery funding was to make The Friends, as a community group within Mere, stronger for the future, and this is a good illustration of how this is achieved. New members can sign up and pay for membership via the website, and the membership secretary has a designated email address and can be contacted directly through the website. We are also now using the free Mailchimp service to send emails to all members, which is significantly time-saving, and tickets for future events will be able to be purchased from the website directly. We are, however, of course, going to continue to sell paper tickets locally and at the door at event.s

Fundraising and Donations

We were extremely grateful to receive generous donations raised at the funerals of Christopher Stevenson and Peter Platt-Higgins at St Michael’s.

I would like to add that Christopher was Chairman of the Friends for some years and was a member of the congregation here. I thought that we should remember him today and acknowledge his support, and leadership of the Friends over the years, both during his lifetime and in his memory after he died.

There were two Friends events last year– a Jazz concert and The Year Clock (a performance about William Barnes). We also received revenue from the tea stall held at the Chantry Garden NGS Open garden, donations raised at the Festival of 9 Lessons and Carols, and of course every month from the bookstall.

Governance

In February the Committee spent some time conducting a Strategic Review, and came up with the Strategy Plan. It is aimed to set out achievable aims for the next three years. (Copies in Church and soon to be up on the Website).

Next steps include reviewing our financial controls, continuing to review our compliance generally, and the adoption of a Safeguarding Policy and the training of all members of the Committee. We also are looking to improve our offering to Members and to recruit new members.

The Tower Stories

You will recall that by the AGM last year we had completed the restoration of the Tower, the clock and the Pinnacles, and had recruited a composer in residence, a writer in residence. This year has seen the fulfilment of the Community side of the Tower Stories Project. You will remember that the National Heritage Lottery Fund gave us 95% of the costs of this, with the Friends finding the remaining 5%.

Our photographer in residence, Stephen Hawking had been documenting the restoration and continued to produce a photographic record of the community events that took place in the second year of the project. He held a photographic exhibition in the Church and his images are shown on the Tower Stories Website. Separately, a video documenting the restoration of the Tower was created and is also posted on both the Tower Stories and Friends' websites.

Jane Borodale wrote a beautiful prose poem, "*Springline*", which invokes the spirit of Mere, past and Present. It was given out free to residents at the Medieval weekend, although many people generously made a donation to support the Friends as a thank you for their copy. Jane also conducted writing workshops for the Primary school, the Pennybank writers and a more general group.

Richard Nye, our composer in residence created both the words and music for "*Windelstan*", the lovely Anthem for Mere. He composed different versions of it – for the whole primary school; and instrumental version for the website, and for a combined choir of adults and school-children in a very memorable and moving performance at the Medieval weekend.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people in Mere who took part in these projects – whether by sharing their stories with Jane and Richard, taking part in workshops, participating in the choirs or helping to organise events. I should also mention the wonderful Megan who is the music teacher at the Primary school, and who worked with Richard Nye and the children for a whole term to produce a truly enriching experience, both for them and also for us.

Some of the rest of the highlights of the Tower Stories Community programme included;

The Star of Bethlehem installation by Bruce Munro and the lighting up of the Church exterior in December last year saw approximately 2000 visitors to St Michaels.

There were talks on the peregrine Falcon, the craftsmen of the restoration and life in Medieval Mere. Penny Fraser and her team led an extremely popular Paddington Bear party for under 5s and their parents.

Twelve volunteer Tower Guides were trained, and Tower Tours were conducted. More will be held in the future, and having been on one myself, I cannot recommend it highly enough!

Lastly, but by no means least, we held a three day extravaganza in June. On the first day, the school children came down to the Church and there was a special performance of readings inspired by Springline, and a brilliant rendition of Windelstan (complete with samples of the actual bells from the tower) by the children. On the Saturday, as I am sure you will all remember, we held a Medieval Fair and pop concert. The atmosphere throughout the day was absolutely fabulous, local businesses were involved, and the feedback was entirely positive. As a fitting finale, a service of thanksgiving, led by the Vicar and Bishop Andrew, took place in St Michaels.

Awareness of the Friends of St Michael has been increased as a result of the whole project, and we sincerely mean to learn from the experience of the Tower Stories. We will be inviting all those we have worked with throughout the Tower Stories to a workshop. We want to hear about their experience, get their feedback and continue to build strengthen the web of friendships already formed. There is no point in us as an organisation being stuck at the end of Church Street; the Tower Stories has given us a tremendous opportunity to put the church at the heart of this community. Now is that moment to keep the enthusiasm and all we have learnt going forward.

The formal part of the project has come to an end. Our relationship with the National Heritage Lottery Fund, thanks to Elaine's professionalism, leadership, vision and efficiency was and continues to be very positive and the Friends are carrying on working with the Lottery to ensure a tangible and strong legacy. Watch this space!

The Year Ahead

Events

Phoenix Café orchestra – Free Concert of music from the 20s and 30s
3pm this Sunday October 5th!

Tea and cakes will be available, with a retiring collection in aid of the musicians and donations in aid of the Friends.

Preparations are well underway, but Bill has asked me to remind everyone here that home-made cakes would be very welcome! If you would like to do this, please could you let me or Elisabeth know tonight, and we pass it on to Bill.

Early Notice

On Thursday 6th November there will be a concert of Folk Music written and performed by Andrew Rumsey. It will be held in the Church at 7pm with early bird tickets at £10 each. You may recognise the name – Andrew is the Bishop of Ramsbury, has visited St Michaels twice recently; for The Tower Stories and to celebrate Michaelmas. He is a good friend of this Church, and has this intriguing side-line of music-making. We do hope that we'll see you there!

A variety of other future events are in the pipeline and dates are being firmed up. We will publish the full programme at the earliest

opportunity – and you, our Members will be the first to hear about it!

In the meantime, look out for these following events which relate to St Michael's:

The Table Top sale on 25th October 10am-12pm

Shreen Harmony's Christmas Concert on Saturday 20th December

And also (on a date to be confirmed) a very beautiful and traditional Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols with a guest choir.

Felicity Wilson
Chairman

Friends of St Michaels The Archangel C

OPENING BALANCES	£	
Treasurers Account	###	
BB Inst Online Account	16.70	
CCLA Account	###	
		###

INCOME

Annual Membership	89.80	
Life Membership	348.00	
Donations	3,407.51	
VAT Refund	1,064.29	
Ticket Sales	3,080.59	
Book Stall Friends Box	292.17	
Bank Interest	534.77	
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Grant	###	
		###

Expenditure

Tower Stories	###	
PWCR Architect	6,051.68	
Administration	2,818.38	
Infrastructure	6,652.08	
Concerts	1,365.95	
Projects	3,684.00	
		###

Net Cash-Flow ###

CLOSING BALANCES		
Treasurers Account	7,792.00	
BB Inst Online Account	16.85	
CCLA Account	###	
		###

Church - Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2025

BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 30/06/2025

	£	£
Total Accounts Balance at 30/06/2024		###
Treasurers Account Credits at 30/06/2025		###
Treasurers Account Debits at 30/06/2025		###
Total Accounts Balance at 30/06/2025		###

Balance as per Bank Statements of 30/06/2025 ###

COMPILER NOTES:-

The Friends have an outstanding NLHF Grant income linked to NLHF Grant application 14 of £8,015.60. (This was received on 21-July-2025).

A Heard ACMA, CGMA

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the Friends of St Michael the Archangel Church, Mere

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the **Friends of St Michael the Archangel Church, Mere** (registered charity number 281604) for the year ended June 30th, 2025.

As the Charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Lucas', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Trevor Lucas
Summerleigh, Mill Lane, Mere WARMINSTER BA12 6DA
August 15, 2025

FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CHURCH, MERE, WILTSHIRE

England & Wales - Charity number 281604

Accounts

Chairman's Report

Given at the Annual General Meeting
5pm 2nd October 2024
At the Church of St Michael The Archangel, Mere

INTRODUCTION

There have been 8 Committee meetings since the last AGM, and I am going to start by giving a brief introduction to the Committee members (trustees) and a quick summary of the work they have done for the Friends in the past year.

Firstly, Elisabeth Barrett is our Secretary – she organises our meetings, takes minutes and holds us accountable to our action points. It is Elisabeth who fulfils our obligations to report to the Charity Commission, and she has a niche expertise as our VAT guru. Elisabeth is the longest serving member of the Committee and her experience and long memory of the previous work of the Friends is of huge help.

Alison Heard was elected last AGM and became Treasurer in December. Alison is a qualified accountant and has been invaluable in managing the finances over the past year – particularly as it comes with the huge responsibility for the proper oversight of the National Lottery Heritage Fund Grant for the Tower Stories. In the past 12 months, thanks to the Lottery Grant, a lot more money has been channelled through our charity than former years and Alison who has worked closely with Elaine and the Committee as we have spent the grant monies on the Tower Stories, and our other funds in furtherance of our objects.

Simon Edkins was co-opted by the Committee in October last year to be our Membership secretary. He has done a magnificent job of transforming our membership database into a digitised, GDPR-compliant, updated tool which means we can keep in touch with our membership via email and the website, and members can keep in touch with us at the click of a button. He has also been instrumental in recruiting more members at various events during the past year.

The other members of the Committee are: Mary Wilson (co-opted last October), and Dr Bill Price, Maggie Durkee, David Bett, Fiona Jukes, and the Church Wardens Kit Stallard and Richard Wilson. They have all been involved variously in organising events, pouring drinks, producing cakes and plants, opening their gardens and supporting the work of the Friends with their knowledge, enthusiasm, ideas and time. Their names will crop up through this report when I talk about individual events, and the Tower Stories project. I, personally, am very grateful to them all for their indefatigable support, and I am sure the rest of the members will echo with their thanks to them today.

As a last word on the Committee, Fiona Jukes and Mary Wilson are not standing for re-election this September owing to other commitments – I know the whole Committee will wish me to thank them particularly for all their help and involvement with the Friends.

Membership

We have over the year completed our transition over to contacting our Members by email ; which has already started saving time, paper and postage costs, which are now quite considerable. The privacy policy has been put in place and GDPR is complied with. There is a new logo to help the Friends establish a distinct identity separate from the Church and the Tower Stories.

Excitingly, this year we have developed a website for the Friends. Please take a look www.friendsofstmichaels.org) – this year we will start to really explore its potential to communicate our news and information, reach members of the public and of course, keep in touch with our members. It is professionally put together, is easy to navigate. Additionally, new and renewing Members will be able to pay membership subscriptions via the website – and supporters can make donations with an easy click or two! The paper application forms have been updated and are of course available in the Church and at events.

Huge thanks to Simon and to David and all those who have contributed so far to getting this all up and running. It looks fabulous!

Our current membership stands at 115. That includes 110 Life members, 12 Annual Members and 33 Honorary members. This latter is a category that was created when The Friends amended the Constitution and is a way in which the Committee in exceptional circumstances can thank particular donors (who were otherwise not formal Members) for their contributions in time or money during the year, and deepen the engagement with people who have shown an interest in our charity.

After careful deliberation the Committee have resolved to increase the membership fees to £10 for Annual membership and £75 for Life membership. Those new charges will be effective from today. The fees had remained the same for some years, and we felt that the time was right to make the changes.

Sadly, David Longbourne, who for many years had so beautifully inscribed the names in the Life Members Book, died early this year. We are very grateful to the **person** who has taken over this job and updates the list from time to time.

Fundraising activities

The Friends hosted two concerts in the last year - the popular Carmen Co musical production and last Sunday's successful jazz concert – thank you to Maggie and Bill for organising these. We also ran tea rooms, plant stalls, served drinks and received donations at various events including last year's Literary Festival, and the NGS Open Garden event at The Chantry (this latter weekend made £700 over two days). Our participation in the Mere Open Garden weekend in June resulted in the donation of £1000 out of monies raised in conjunction with the Mere Gardening Club. In addition, by popular demand, donation buckets were passed around at the Proms Concert in July earlier this summer.

Please note, that the money from those events which came in after 30th June 2024 will show in next year's accounts.

Maggie Durkee has been running the pre-loved book stall in the Friends Corner of the Church. That has brought in a steady trickle of funds amounting to just over £321 and there have been two successful social events open to all. Look at the website for details of the next book club coffee morning! Thank you, Maggie for having the idea and for running this.

The Tower Stories

The Tower Stories is a project being run by the Friends of St Michaels' and as you will remember, is approximately 95% funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, and 5% by the Friends from donations. You have heard from Alison how the invoices and payments work. We were not given the money as a lump sum of £249,00 odd, but are paid back by the NHLF as the costs are incurred as per the agreed budgets. VAT is claimed back as well.

The Grant enabled us to recruit an administrator, and in October last year we advertised nationally, and after a full shortlist and interview process and with the oversight of the National Lottery appointed Elaine Stallard to the position.

The first part of the project swung into action, and with the architect Brian Watts as Project Manager the restoration of the Pinnacles and associated refurbishment work began.

In January the scaffolding went up. The stone-work on all four pinnacles was restored, corroded ironwork was removed, the lightning rods were improved, New stone crosses were cut, the Pennants and the clock face were gilded, and the initials of the current Church wardens was inscribed on two of the pennants (as is the tradition). Internally, the staircase was made safer for visitors to the Tower, and new heat-retaining curtains will improve the warmth in the Church. Everything was accomplished and completed within budget and on time. The scaffolding came down in May, and, subject to the usual sign-offs, this part of the project is achieved. The whole project was recorded by our photographer in residence Steve Hawkins and a time-lapse camera, and the images will form part of the lasting legacy of the Tower Stories and give a flavour of how many skills have been employed in the restoration. Do have a look at The Tower Stories website (www.thetowerstories.co.uk) which is now up and running where you can see some photographs of the restoration work. As the year goes on, more will be added to the information on the site and will provide a lasting record of the Tower Stories and a resource for the future.

A launch party and a public meeting were held to inform the people of Mere about what we were doing, and how things were progressing, and the First Tower Stories event took place in June when a free Proms Concert was held in the Churchyard. Starring the Shrewton Silver Band this was a chance for everyone to celebrate the restoration and attracted a large number of people from across Mere, young and old!

Meanwhile, the rest of the Tower Stories project gathered pace. You will remember from previous talks that a significant part of the grant was for a community-led project to run activities in Mere relating to the heritage of the Tower of St Michael's Church.

Elaine Stallard has been leading this, with the support of a Steering Group of local people and reporting to the Committee of the Friends. This steering group meets regularly to create ideas and forge links across the community to create a programme of events and

activities which will bring the Tower Stories to life. I would like to thank **them all** for their involvement.

A group of local historians has collated research from original sources which will provide material which will provide the content for the stories and my thanks go to **them** for sharing their expertise so generously.

The following groups have been working with the Steering Group; Mere Primary School, Seeds4Success, Shreen Harmony, Mere Museum, Mere WI, Mere Quilters, Mere Art Group, Little Angels, The Pennybank writers and MADS. We have also had the support through the year of Mere Matters, the Town Council, George Jeans, and Andrew Murrison MP. Next year will be a huge opportunity to promote and strengthen these new links across the community, and if you know of any groups or individuals who would like to be involved with either the Friends, or the Tower Stories please do encourage them to get in touch.

In the Spring we advertised nationally for a Composer in Residence and a Writer in Residence and were thrilled with the response and level of interest from some extremely high-quality candidates. The recruitment process was very thorough, and after short-list interviews the recruitment Committee appointed author Jane Borrodale and composer Richard Nye to the Tower Stories project.

Their job is essentially each to come up with a piece of work that brings to life the heritage of the Tower and Jane and Richard are very much free to choose how they respond to the building itself, the stories it holds and the people of Mere. The result will be tangible works that are licensed to the Friends for use in the future. I thank everyone who met with Richard and Jane to share their knowledge about life in Mere, past and present. Together with the history-based research, and the Tower building itself, there will a great deal of material for Jane and Richard to draw upon.

As I mentioned, a programme of events is currently being prepared, and every household in Mere will have a leaflet through the letterbox in November outlining the fun and the opportunities in the year to come. Details will also be on the websites. Please put the 20th/21st/22nd June 2025 in your diaries for a three-day event marking the end of the Tower Stories and performances forming the culmination of Jane and Richard's work, a Medieval-themed festival, a pop concert and a Service of thanksgiving here in St Michael's Church.

We are confident that the Tower Stories will continue to bring joy to the people of Mere which will last in the memory, and reconnect us all, particularly the youngest in the community with the heritage (*their* heritage) of the Tower of this remarkable Church. I hope to be able to stand here this time next year, at the 2025 AGM, to report to you how transformative the project has been for the people of Mere generally, and also the Friends of St Michael, and to outline what we intend to do with the legacy of The Tower Stories.

Thank you very much.

Felicity Wilson
2nd October 2024.

Friends of St Michaels The Archangel Church - Financial Statements for the year ending June 30 2024

OPENING BALANCES		£			BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 30/06/2024		£	£
Treasurers Account		£13,339.80			Total Account Balance at 30/06/2023			£43,010.28
BB Inst Online Account		£19,263.56			All Account Credits at 30/06/2024			£187,981.78
CCLA Account		£10,406.92			All Account Debits at 30/06/2024			£200,393.38
			£43,010.28		Total Account Balance at 30/06/2024			£30,598.68
INCOME								
Memberships		£306.00						
Donations		£792.22						
VAT Refund		£29,084.11						
Fund Raising		£2,209.31						
Grants		£4,500.00						
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Grants		£150,541.14			Balances as per Bank Statements of 01/07/2024			
Bank Interest		£549.00			Treasurers Account			£19,764.23
					BB Inst Online Account			£16.70
			£187,981.78		CCLA Account			£10,817.75
								£30,598.68
Expenditure								
Tower Stories - Expenses		£14,781.09			COMPILER NOTES:-			
PWCR Architect Fees		£19,934.06			The Friends have outstanding NLHF Grant income linked to NLHF Grant application 8 of £1,649.13. (This was received on 11-July-2024). The Friends have an outstanding liability in respect of the infrastructure works that have now been completed. A retention of £4,196.96 (including VAT) remains outstanding.			
Administration		£1,996.52						
Pinnacles - Infrastructure		£163,681.71						
			£200,393.38		A Heard ACMA, CGMA			
	Net Cash-Flow		-£12,411.60					
CLOSING BALANCES								
Treasurers Account		£19,764.23						
BB Inst Online Account		£16.70						
CCLA Account		£10,817.75						
			£30,598.68					

[Signature]

AUGUST 14, 2024

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the Friends of St Michael the Archangel Church, Mere

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the **Friends of St Michael the Archangel Church, Mere** (registered charity number 281604) for the year ended June 30th, 2024.

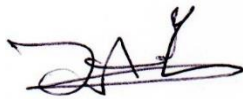
As the Charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Lucas', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Trevor Lucas
Summerleigh, Mill Lane, Mere WARMINSTER BA12 6DA
September 7, 2024

Accounts

Report from the Committee of The Friends of St Michael the Archangel in Mere

Since the last AGM, about five months ago, the new committee have been familiarising themselves with the affairs of the Friends. After a winter of disruption due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and further lockdowns, life continued to be somewhat overshadowed by the limits on gathering until mid-July.

Officers

The newly appointed Committee duly elected the following officers:

Chair: Felicity Wilson
Secretary, Elisabeth Barrett
Membership Secretary: Mary Wilson
Merchandising Manager: Bill Price
(from June) Treasurer: Fiona Jukes

Elisabeth, owing to her previous experience as a committee member, was also Acting Treasurer from the AGM until the draft accounts for the year ending 2021 had been drawn up. Fiona Jukes then accepted the Committee's invitation to join the Committee as a co-opted member and Treasurer on the 9th June 2021.

The Committee familiarised themselves with the running of the Friends; considering membership matters, the Constitution, the finances, and the past fundraising events run by the Friends. In this we are indebted to the support of Ann and Peter Dethick and other previous members of the Committee.

The Trustees' details have been (or are in the process of being, for some) uploaded to the Charity Commission website. This is the publicly available information on the Charity.

Membership Matters

Mary Wilson has been updating the database of current members.

We have been looking into GDPR compliance, and how to fulfil our obligations to keep our members' data safe. That work is ongoing. (the guidance is 320-odd pages long!)

A newsletter was sent to members in July 2021, introducing the Committee and offering a brief overview of what we were doing.

Review and update of the Literature produced by the Friends; a new logo, an updated application form (to join the Friends).

We are currently reviewing the Friends' cupboards at the back of the Church and considering how best this space might be used, and how merchandise can be presented.

Supporting St Michael's Church and fulfilling the objects

The servery has been kitted out. Many thanks to Ann Dethick and her team for organising this. It is the last visible stage of the re-ordering project, and is a big enhancement of the Church for all those who use it.

A digital counter has been purchased and installed. It measures how many people come into the church. It is gathering useful data which can be used in future grant applications and similar to further the work of the Friends. Currently possibly up to 200-300 people are visiting every week.

The Church is currently in an Interregnum. Hopefully there will be a new vicar soon. There is a Quinquennial review immanent – auditing the state of the fabric of the Church. What the Church needs in terms of support from the Friends will no doubt become clear. The Friends continue to support the Pinnacles Appeal by looking after the funds already raised.

Fundraising

It has been a quiet year in Mere, given the repeated lockdowns and limitations on mixing and gathering since 2020. Fundraising along 'the usual lines' was therefore somewhat curtailed.

In July, a Classical music concert was held in the Church after picnics at The Chantry. 125 people attended. Proceeds from ticket sales were donated to the Friends, which raised a good amount and attracted in a further donation to the Friends.

Some new life members joined this year (totalling £350), but the Committee decided not to enforce the annual subscription fee which would otherwise have fallen due the previous October (2020).

The Year Ahead

Fundraising ideas currently in discussions or the pipeline include;

- Participating in local charitable and social events; holding a stall to sell merchandise and membership/or selling refreshments
- Future concerts in the Church – to attract a wide range of audience musical tastes
- Lectures in the Church on subjects relating to members' interests or the appreciation of the building–

We are asking for volunteers – if there is a particular event you would like to see brought back – please tell us! Can you help us to organise it, or with ideas or give of your time? We are very keen to involve as many of the community as possible.

There have been a great many events held over the years – let us know what your favourites were. Have you got a great idea you think would raise some money, and be a fun event for members and or the people of Mere. It could be purely social, or it may be related to the beautiful building we are in.

Administrative work –to update the Constitution. A review is under way – as we go through the cycle of the year in the Friends certain things need to be clarified, or brought into line with best practice:

- Possible set term Committee members and resignation of
- Management of voting, elections and the role of Zoom etc
- Powers of remaining committee members
- The order in which accounts are presented to the AGM; before or after Examination by the Independent Examiner. (Understand the PCC does the former, as do other charities).

Amendment requires a Special General Meeting, with a resolution to amend being passed by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of those present, and this will be called in due course.

Felicity Wilson, Chairman
29th September 2021

FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CHURCH MERE

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 30th June 2021

<u>Receipts</u>				<u>Payments</u>			
<u>2020</u>				<u>2020</u>			
465	Subscriptions	6 x Life	350.00	28.87	Admin		43.98
2050	Misc Donation		1800.00		Servery goods		<u>569.22</u>
22.76	HMRC tax claim		92.92		Appeal payments		
147.31	Bank interest		<u>47.25</u>			K&B Builders	125844.67
			2290.17			Architect Fees	9726.19
	Appeal receipts					Planning consent	408.00
		Donations	13335.50			Fundraising brochure	218.15
		Concert tickets	1500.00			Concert	1500.00
		Gift Aid	6607.17			Fitting out	<u>353.71</u>
		Life in Mere Sales	782.40				138050.72
		Pew sales	1555.00				
		Garfield Weston grant	20000.00				
		fundraising (Carols)	10.00				
		WHCT grant	2500.00				
		Bank interest	<u>12.31</u>				
			46302.38				
	Bank balances 30/6/2020 b/f				Bank balances 30/6/2020 c/f		
		Current a/c	855.71			Current a/c	2485.43
		Deposit a/c	25028.00			Deposit a/c	10075.25
		Appeal a/c	<u>90535.04</u>			Appeal a/c	<u>13786.70</u>
			116418.75				26347.38
			<u>165011.30</u>				<u>165011.30</u>

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the Friends of St Michael the Archangel Church, Mere

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the **Friends of St Michael the Archangel Church, Mere** (registered charity number 281604) for the year ended June 30th, 2021.

As the Charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



Trevor Lucas

Summerleigh, Mill Lane, Mere WARMINSTER BA12 6DA

November 3, 2021