

Parish of St Michael, Flixton

Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council

for the year ended 31 December 2022



Bank:

Co-operative Banking

Independent Examiner:

Caroline Boardman

PCC Members 2022 - 2023

	<u>Year of Retirement</u>	<u>Post Held</u>
Rev. Huw Thomas		Priest in Charge
Rev. Fiona Jenkinson		Assistant Curate

Wardens

Debbie Gould	2025	PCC Vice-Chairman, Standing Committee, Deanery Synod
Marc Greenough	2024	Standing Committee

PCC Members

Lynda Sandbach	2024	Deputy Warden
Barbara Pye	2023	Deanery Synod
Nicola Stubbs	2025	
Sue Middleton	2023	Deanery Synod
Paul Middleton	2023	
Anna Booth	2023	
Jennifer Durber	2024	
Anna Scarisbrick	2024	Treasurer, Standing Committee
Ruth Boyd	2024	
Steve Broadhurst	2023	Deputy Warden, Deanery Synod
Paula Moore	2023	
Amelia Reeves	2025	
Chris Knowles	2025	

PCC Members due to retire at APCM 2023:-

Barbara Pye, Sue Middldeton, Paul Middleton, Anna Booth, Steve Boardhurst, Paula Moore

Electoral Roll as at APCM 2022

There were 126 members on the electoral roll.

New Electoral Roll as at APCM 2023

The new electoral roll was drawn up during February 2023

There are 134 members.

Agenda

Annual Parish Meeting

1. Apologies for absence
2. Election of Churchwardens

Anyone on the 2023 Electoral Roll and anyone who is resident in the parish and whose name is on the register for local government elections may vote.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (Anyone on the 2023 Electoral Roll may vote.)

1. Minutes of the last Annual Parochial Meeting, held 30th March 2022.
2. Matters arising from the minutes
3. Presentation of the accounts of the PCC for 2022
4. Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the Church
5. Report from PCC Secretary
6. Report on the Electoral Roll
7. Report of Deanery Synod
8. Ecumenical Activity
9. Other Reports
10. Election of members to Stretford Deanery Synod
11. Election of members to PCC
12. Appointment of Sidespeople
13. Report from the Child Protection Co-ordinator
14. Appointment of Independent Examiners
15. Any Other Business
16. Closing prayers

Minutes APCM 30/3/2022

Annual Parish Meeting

Present

Revd. Huw Thomas

11 Members of the Congregation

1. Apologies for absence

Revd Fiona Jenkinson, Steve Broadhurst, Paula Moore, Paul Bailey, Jen Durber, Paul Middleton, Marc Greenhough

2. Election of Churchwardens

Forms received from Debbie Gould and Marc Greenhough (main churchwardens) Lynda Sandbach and Steve Greenhough (deputy churchwardens)

Proposed by: Sue Middleton

Seconded by: Ruth Boyd

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of the last Annual Parochial Meeting, held 13th April 2021.

Proposed by: Sue Middleton

Seconded by: Barbara Pye

2. Matters arising from the minutes

Nothing to report

3. Presentation of the accounts of the PCC for 2021

The report has been prepared by the Treasurer, *Anna Scarisbrick*, and published in the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the PCC booklet and may be found in the PCC minute book

Anna gave an overview of the annual accounts for 2021

71% of parish share had been paid

Revd. Huw thanked Anna for all her hard work and could we all think about finding some help for Anna.

The reserve of £60,000 is being held.

Anna expressed her concern regarding the £10,500 gas quote we have received, at the moment we pay £3,000

4. Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the Church

The report has been prepared by the Churchwardens and published in the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the PCC booklet and may be found in the PCC minute book. This report was received with thanks.

This report was provided by *Debbie Gould* and received with thanks.

5. Report from PCC Secretary

The report has been prepared by the PCC Secretary, *Mrs Karan Sanders*, and published in the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the PCC booklet and may be found in the PCC minute book. This report was received with thanks

6. Report on the Electoral Roll

As of the APCM there are 126 people on St. Michael's electoral roll. Many thanks to *Judith Booth* for maintaining the records

A suggestion was made to announce what is the purpose of the electoral roll and why it is required.

7. Report of Deanery Synod

The report for Deanery Synod was prepared by *Mrs Sue Middleton*. Many thanks Sue.

The Deanery Synod has moved from a smaller deanery gathering to a larger deanery gathering.

Plans for all churches to be an Eco church by 2030

8. Ecumenical Activity

Nothing to report.

9. Other Reports

Rev. Huw thanked everyone who had provided a report for the AGM booklet

10. Election of members to Stretford Deanery Synod

We have a full quota for Deanery Synod members

11. Election of members to PCC

Andrea Walsh, Felicity Scott and Paul Bailey have decided to step down as members of the PCC

Forms have been received from Debbie Gould, Nicola Stubbs, Amelia Reeves and Chris Knowles which have been approved and seconded accordingly.

Proposed by: Lynda Sandbach

Seconded by: Anna Booth

12. Appointment of Sidespeople

No form has been received from the Diocese

13. Report from the Child Protection Co-ordinator

All paperwork is up to date. The policy will need approval at the first PCC meeting held.

On-line safeguarding course is being held. Details will be made available.

14. Appointment of Independent Examiners

Mrs Caroline Boardman CPA is happy to stand again. Many thanks for all her hard work.

Caroline is now VAT registered so her price will increase to £300 next year.

This was approved by all PCC members present.

15. Any Other Business

- A feasibility study is to be held (eg. solar panels for Church and involved The Croft). The architect's fee has come in at £28,000. Other quotes coming in at around £3,000

Discussions will take place before any decisions can be made

- Revd. Huw is to approach the Restoration Committee regarding any monies required. This will need PCC approval (first meeting of the PCC)
- A postal address is required for the Church so we can provide wifi
- It was noted that the website doesn't seem to be kept up to date
- The sound system is 'flaky' – Debbie Gould knows a sound engineer and will action.

Fundraising

- 10k marathon run for the Church?
- Open to ideas to extend our musical talents – parents & pupils perhaps?

The meeting closed with prayers

Receipts & Payments Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of St Michael's Flixton
For the period 1st Jan 2021 to 31st Dec 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	PRIOR YEAR 2021 £
1 Receipts					
1a Incoming resources from donors					
<u>Planned giving:</u>					
Gift Aid donations	3,443			3,443	3,066
Income tax recoverable	5,309			5,309	6,676
Other planned giving	20,463			20,463	21,271
Collections (open plate) at all services	3,991			3,991	3,376
Digital donations	987			987	1,082
Sundry donations	3,721			3,721	3,013
	<u>37,914</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>37,914</u>	<u>38,484</u>
1b Other voluntary incoming resources					
Grants				0	0
Donations, appeals etc		1,116		1,116	877
Legacies				0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>1,116</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,116</u>	<u>877</u>
1c Income from operating activities: to further the Council's objects					
Fees*	7,425			7,425	5,821
	<u>7,425</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7,425</u>	<u>5,821</u>
1d Income from operating activities: to generate funds					
Church Croft Lettings	2,555			2,555	500
Rent	11,116			11,116	7,148
25 Club Lottery	1,720			1,720	1,985
Coffee	260			260	0
Fetes & other fund raising events	4,773	420		5,193	485
	<u>20,425</u>	<u>420</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>20,845</u>	<u>10,118</u>
1e Income from investment					
Dividends & interest including any reclaimable tax	1			1	0
Investment capital repaid				0	0
	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	65,764	1,536	0	67,300	55,299
2 Payments					
2a Grants					
<u>Missionary & charitable giving:</u>					
Mission / Church overseas				0	0
Home mission & Other Church societies		998		998	828
	<u>0</u>	<u>998</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>998</u>	<u>828</u>
2b Activities related to the work of the Church					
Ministry: Diocesan Parish Share	31,750			31,750	36,000
Clergy Expenses	2,189			2,189	1,069
Church Croft					
Work completed	22			22	415
Running costs	4,550			4,550	2,789
Church - Running Expenses	15,657	12		15,669	10,512
Church Maintenance	526			526	528
Church major works	3,600			3,600	
Upkeep of churchyard	240			240	604
Verger, Clerk, & Organists costs	3,745			3,745	580
School					
	<u>62,280</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>62,292</u>	<u>52,497</u>
2c Church management & administration					
Administration	300	78		378	624
Bank Charges				0	0
	<u>300</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>378</u>	<u>624</u>
2d Costs of generating funds					
Fetes & other fundraising events	1,050			1,050	373
	<u>1,050</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,050</u>	<u>373</u>
TOTAL PAYMENTS	63,630	1,089	0	64,718	54,322
Net of Receipts / Payments	2,134	448	0	2,582	977
Transfers between funds				0.00	0.00
Cash funds last year end				62,600.56	61,623.58
Cash funds this year end				65,182.41	62,600.56

St Michaels Flixton PCC Notes to Accounts 2022

1. Restricted Funds

Restricted Funding and Expenditure is split between the major project to repair the church tower, charity fundraising, and WiFi crowdfunding:

	Tower Fund	Charities	WiFi	Total Restricted
Opening Bal Jan 1st 22	3302.00	48.32	0	3350.32
Donations	0.00		0.00	0.00
Appeals	0.00	1116.18	420.00	1536.18
Restricted Income 22	3302.00	1164.50	420.00	4886.50
Admin			78.35	78.35
Church running			12	12
Home mission	0	998.18		998.18
Restricted Expenditure 22	0.00	998.18	90.35	1088.53
Closing Restricted Funds	3302.00	166.32	329.65	3797.97

Note that the funding for charities is shown as a surplus because some funds are to be carried forward into 2023

Total funds raised and paid for other entities in 2022 is broken down as follows:

	income	expenditure	
DEC Ukraine	938	938	
Christian Aid Week	60	60	
Stretford Food Bank	118	-	<i>paid Jan 23</i>
Total Raised	1,116	998	

St Michaels Flixton 2022 Accounts and Financial Report

Treasurers Report

The church ended the year with a small surplus of £2,582.

Despite the church opening up in 2022 following the recovery of the pandemic, income from planned giving, collection plate and donations has reduced the prior year. At £37,914 it is over 15k / 40% lower than in 2019. Fee income net of disbursements increased on 2021 by £1,603k.

Income from activities to generate funds doubled on 2021, reaching £20,845. The majority of this was due to the new tenancy on the croft flat in July, whereby the arrangement was to take a full year of rent up front. Earnings relating to 2023 have been designated in reserves. The Croft opened up for room hire part way through the year and this generated £2555, which was still lower than pre-pandemic levels.

Much hard work was placed on fundraising activities with a total of £5193 generated from fairs, a jumble sale, cream teas and coffee mornings, choir concerts, beer and carols, DJing and appeals. This was almost double the amount raised in both 2019 and 2018.

The PCC managed to pay 59% of its parish share. The full amount could not be paid because it has been agreed to aim to maintain a reserve of £60k.

Church running expenses were high due to heating charges. The gas contract renewed in May 2022 and prices had tripled due to the war in Ukraine. It is expected that running costs will be higher in 2023 as we see the full year effect of the new gas contract. Effort was placed on finding the best deal and a grant application has been made to the Diocese to assist with these costs in 2023.

Major works of £3,600 relate to the building feasibility study which took place in the final quarter of the year. The PCC met in February 23 to look at proposals to make the building more fit for purpose to improve its sustainability from a missional, financial and environmental perspective.

Reserves were £65,182. The church will continue to hold a minimum reserve policy of £60,000 which represents 3 months of operating costs, a £25k building reserve and the remainder of the annual up front flat rental income to renewal in June 23.

Thank you to all members of St Michaels Church for your generosity in 2023, whether that be through financial giving or donating your time.

With thanks,

Anna Scarisbrick, Treasurer

Independent Examiners Report

This is the fourth (and final) year that I will be independently examining this charity's accounts.

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

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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act.
- the accounts agree with the accounting records
- the accounts 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 of an independent examination.

Income has increased, but compared to pre pandemic levels it is much lower. The church have plans to get a digital collection plate which will make it easier for church visitors to donate and there are plans to start up regular giving campaigns as they haven't done any for a few years.

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.

Signed: Caroline Boardman

Dated: 16th March 2023

Name: Caroline Boardman

Warden's Report March 2023

In the last 12 months, we have reinstated many of our normal routines in services, most importantly going up to the alter to receive communion and taking the offertory plates around during the service. There is a team of servers now helping with Communion again and we have a team to read and provide intercessions at the Sunday 10.15 service

It was lovely to run our normal Christmas services again which were well attended and we running Easter services as normal.

St Michael's has been able to continue with Baptisms, weddings and funerals since reopening after the pandemic lockdowns.

The church has also been opened ad hoc for other events including the successful Heritage day in September, the popular Victorian Christmas Fayre and summer Village Fete.

The Warden team is currently reduced to two with support from other members of the congregation until one or two permanent Wardens are appointed. Marc Greenough has stepped down, Steve Broadhurst has temporarily stepped back leaving Debbie Gould and Lynda Sandbach. We continue to learn on the job as we restore normal service after the pandemic.

Tea and coffee are being served again after the Sunday Service at the back of church to give people a chance to chat and catch up with each other.

Church Croft reopened and has been managed by volunteers to reduce costs and ensure it brings in money for church. Val Phillips has recently taken over this role from Debbie Gould. We have a number of regular groups, a tutor and a counsellor using the building. We are not taking bookings for parties still at this point as this requires more time to organise/cleaning etc. We have 2 people sharing the cleaning on alternate weeks for which they are paid (Jen Durber and Louise Collinson) There is some maintenance work required to solve damp issues and some window panes need replacing in the conservatory. Quotes are being gathered for the French doors in the flat to be replaced.

The Quinquennial Inspection has been deferred but is now due. We have been in contact with the Diocese about appointing an architect to complete this. We will need further discussions after this to decide what we do next in terms of repairs and maintenance.

Following the planning session last year, we have completed a Feasibility Study to help us look at ways to optimise the use of the church/Churchcroft. The suggested plans have been shared with the PCC and some members were able to meet with the Architect's rep on 20/2/23 to discuss the next step. We agreed that we now need to approach the Diocese to see how we get approval for and fund any repairs/building work required. Debbie Gould contacted the Diocese on 22/2/23 to request a meeting.

The Churchwardens would like to thank everyone who donates their time to keep St Michael's open and make it such a friendly and inclusive church. We have received many compliments from visitors about the welcome they receive. We depend totally on volunteers for many and varied roles including readers, gardeners, cleaners, writers of the online newsletter, our website and social media manager, our treasurer, our planned giving secretary, our school governors, our baptism team, the Parish Office team, our fundraisers, our pastoral and healing team, our flower team and many others.

We look forward to serving God at St Michael's Church for another year.

Debbie Gould and Lynda Sandbach
Churchwardens

PCC REPORT

The PCC comprises of 15 members including 4 Deanery Synod members. There were 3 meetings held during 2022 (July's meeting had to be postponed).

Below is a selection of agenda items that were covered during last year's meetings

St. Michael's School

The introduction of an after-school service has been well attended.

Sadly, we have been unable to hold termly assemblies in Church due to covid outbreaks (Jan '22)

There is now a girl's football club (May '22)

Each class now walks at least 1 mile per day (May '22)

A Ukrainian family have joined the school (Sept '22)

Children & Youth Work

Jen Durber is to start ALM training in Children's & Family work. (Jan '22)

The new curate, Caroline, is due to start her licencing on 3rd July.

Links are being made with Flixton Fellowship to look at youth work on a monthly basis – Amelia is happy to help be a leader.

Sunday School numbers continue to vary each week.

Eco Church

An overview was given by guest speaker Grace regarding Eco Church during our September meeting. The Diocese has committed £190 million towards ending footprints. Manchester is the 4th in the UK which has the largest footprint, due to old buildings and Church schools

Suggested Ideas

- Net zero project on listed buildings
- Under pew heaters – Trying to keep the people warm
- Small steps to get to net zero by 2030. Use the land – plant trees
- Holding PPC meetings in the evenings takes up heating, perhaps hold it on a Sunday when the Church is already heated
- Community links to work together, saving energy footprints
- Solar panelling work best if church is insulated
- Take part in an energy audit? Feasibility study

The feasibility study has now taken place (Sept '22) and we are awaiting the architects report to present his ideas to the congregation.

Church Items

- Johnny Spangles has contacted Rev. Huw regarding the Victorian lampposts that were sited on the Nags Head Circle. We are looking to reinstate them to their former glory and relocate them in St. Michael's grounds.
- The Church tower has been serviced.
- Wifi is due to be installed hopefully anytime now!!

Karan Sanders
PCC Secretary

Deanery Synod

St Michaels is part of the Deanery of Manchester South and Stretford which came into being following reorganisation in June 2021.

Synod meetings have been held in different venues during the last year: Christ Church in Brunswick and St James and Emmanuel in Didsbury. One meeting was held online due to Covid infection in the household of Rev Nick Watson the Area Dean.

The meetings begin with a presentation from a visiting, or home-grown speaker. This is followed by tea and biscuits and an opportunity to talk with Synod reps from other parishes. The new, much larger, Deanery has widened the richness and variety of experience and church backgrounds.

Meetings have focussed on:

*working together effectively across the deanery, (congregations, clergy and parishes)

*how churches can encourage generous giving in their congregations

*the development of Eco-church as part of our Christian way of life

*news from our parishes

*sharing of expertise within and across parishes and the wider Deanery

Deanery Synod is a level of governance within the Church of England and part of the network which links us with the wider Anglican communion. Information, discussion and votes pass up and down the chain.

Parochial Church Council <-> Deanery Synod <-> General Synod

Sue Middleton
Feb 2023

OTHER REPORTS

Sunday School report

Sunday School has been running during term time as normal and we have a number of regular attendees. It runs on 3 Sundays per month now the Orchard Service is running on the first Sunday of the month. Numbers can vary from 1 to 9 or 10. A number of siblings attend together. The age range is from 3 to 9 years. This can present a challenge when planning sessions to ensure we present the topic at an appropriate level – a fun game or craft usually keeps the children engaged!

We have 3 new volunteer teachers - Paul, Sarah and Jo. Emma Bailey retired from this role recently after many years of service. All Sunday staff have had a DBS check though one is due for renewal now as the requirement has changed from 5 yearly to 3 yearly updates

The Sunday School team are grateful for £100 fund for new resources provided by the PCC.

Debbie Gould

Child protection/ safeguarding

Debbie Gould remains as one of the safeguarding officers. Jean Rostron recently stepped down as the second officer after many years in the role. Jen Durber will now take on this role and will become the Lead Recruiter for completing DBS checks for new volunteers and doing updates as required.

Debbie and Jen will work on ensuring we are compliant with all the guidance including completing DBS checks for PCC members. They also intend to develop a Safer Recruitment 'pack' with relevant guidance and information for both the recruiter and the volunteer.

Debbie completed her Safeguarding training update in Oct/Nov 2022 and Jen is completing this as soon as possible.

All Sunday School teachers, pastoral visitors and PCC members will be asked to complete an online safeguarding update.

Advice has been sought from the Diocese safeguarding officer on two occasions in the last 12 months and this has been very helpful.

Debbie Gould

Mrs Debbie Gould
18 Western Road
Flixton
Manchester
M41 6LF

March 2023

***REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF ST MICHAEL
FLIXTON by the CHILD PROTECTION COORDINATOR***

‘CHILDREN FIRST’ A CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Our parish is committed to implementing a policy related to the protection of our children and young people and we recognise the importance of developing and maintaining a safe environment for all children and young people under our care.

With this in mind, the PCC at their first meeting following last years AGM re-adopted existing guidelines and procedures for the use of all adults who have a responsibility for working with children and young people.

The re-adopted policy contains guidelines, which are designed to protect all our children from various kinds of abuse from adults and indeed all our children’s workers from false accusation.

The policy also asserts the dignity of all children and places their needs before all other considerations.

All groups associated with our parish are run by adults who have been (and continue to be) trained in accordance with our policy and have also been checked by the Criminal Records Bureau who have confirmed their suitability to work with children in each group. In addition to those fully checked we have a constant flow of others at various stages of accreditation who will eventually work with our children when they have completed the processes.

The ‘**Parish Policy Statement on Children, Young People and the Church**’ will be read out at the 2023 Annual General Meeting and **Good Practice Procedure Notes** are available to anyone who requires further information, either from myself or they can be found on the church noticeboard.

Debbie Gould
Child Protection Coordinator

A Safe Church Policy For St Michael's Church Flixton

April 2023



St Michael, Flixton

Loving God, Sharing Faith, Serving All

www.stmichaelsflixton.co.uk

As a church community, we are committed to:

- The care, nurture of and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children and adults
- The safeguarding and protection of all children and adults
- The establishment of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is a culture of informed vigilance regarding the dangers of abuse.

which, **for children and young people**

values them for who they are, and nurtures their positive development
enables them to participate fully and contribute to their church community
protects them from actual or potential harm

for adults who may be vulnerable, including suffering domestic abuse

ensures that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse
encourages those who may be vulnerable
to lead as independent a life as possible,
to choose how to lead their life, and
to be active contributors to the church community
protects those who may be vulnerable from actual or potential harm

for all people

enables and encourages concerns to be raised and responded to openly and consistently
offers support and care for those suffering, or who have suffered, from any form of abuse
promotes respect, and the value of each person as a child of God

As a church

We are committed to best practice according to the national policies and guidelines of the Church of England, in the protection of children and vulnerable people; in the recruitment, training and supervision of all who exercise a pastoral ministry; and in responding to any allegations or complaints.

Signed

(incumbent) Revd. Huw Thomas
(church warden) Mrs Debbie Gould
(church warden) Mrs Lynda Sandbach

March 2023

This policy is reviewed each year by the Parochial Church Council and re-affirmed at the Annual Meeting

Because we understand that:

God has a special care for those who struggle

All of us at different periods of our lives are vulnerable and in need of help

We can make a difference

In all our work we adhere to National Policies on Safeguarding Children, and for Vulnerable Adults, and in particular the Diocesan 'Safeguarding Children' Policy as revised most recently, and the full "Safe Church " Policy, copies of which are available on the diocesan website www.manchester.anglican.org.

PRIEST IN CHARGE

What a strange year it's been. The world as a whole has felt a bit unstable to say the least. The war raging on in Ukraine with no clear end in sight. We've also faced a serious financial crisis that doesn't look like ending any time soon. We had the death of our much-loved Queen Mother. We've seen the damaging effects of Brexit, both financially and with our relationship with our fellow neighbours in Europe. We've also seen the countries appalling attitude to those feeling on boats to these shores. Plus throw in the fact we've been through 3 prime ministers in a very short space of time and it's felt a very challenging/unstable year indeed.

On a more localised level with St Michaels, it's been a mixed year. In terms of numbers and new families joining us the church has felt buoyant and there's been a real bonding where in effect it's felt as if two congregations have become one. We've regularly had between 70-100 folks on a Sunday morning service. We've also started a regular monthly intergenerational service which has been going well on the whole. The new format hasn't been everyone's cup of tea, but I've also had other families approached me and said they felt it is the one service they felt able to bring their children and not worry about noise. It's also been an opportunity for a service to be completely lay led which has been a joy to see.

The Monday services have steadily grown too which has been good to see with a regular congregation of 40-50 members most weeks.

Financially however it has still been an uphill struggle and we've still been chasing our tails from Covid. We've been unable to pay our full parish share sadly.

We're currently trying to navigate how we make the best use of the building for generations to come through our feasibility process and our new architect has been really helpful with this.

It is with great joy we welcomed our new curate Caroline Bailey in the summer. She has many gifts and has been a real asset to the church and brought many good ideas and enthusiasm. A true gift to the Church of England.

We now finally after months of hassle have Wifi which should help enormously with finances due to the cash machine being available in the main body of the church. It also allows us to do services more easily.

It has been really pleasing to see people flourishing at St Michaels. It's been great to see Steve and Jen both taking on ALM roles within the church. Both using their gifts for the greater good. Jen is doing the Children's & Families area of ALM ministry. Steve is doing pastoral outreach and listening.

Mike Jenkinson has pulled away from youth ministry but is currently looking into other ALM strands he may get involved in.

Valerie has taken on overseeing the bookings of the croft which we're really grateful to her for. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Debbie for all her hard work in overseeing this prior to Valerie taking it on. Thanks to Louise & Jen for looking after the general cleaning of the building, we're really grateful to you both. Thanks too Janice for overseeing the upstairs apartment and helping with the maintenance issues we've faced. Thanks also for all

the many things you do around the church and helping with Weddings and funerals, I'd be lost without you.

The donations for the Toy service in December was simply mind blowing and we were able to fill 2 cars full of toys for children who wouldn't otherwise have got anything at Christmas. We supported both the work of TDAS and Wood Street mission. We have a church and a community to be really proud of. Pulling together, supporting, loving and holding one another, we have in turn witnessed God being truly alive and at work amongst us.

A huge thank you must go to Anna our treasurer, for the endless time she puts into the church accounts, we're truly grateful to you for everything you do. Time after time you go above and beyond your role and you are helping to shape St Michaels financially for the foreseeable future. We are sorry you are stepping down and can't thank you enough for the past few years. A Big thankyou goes out to Gill for taking up the reigns and Anna for covering the gift aid payments.

I want to say a big thankyou to Paul Bailey for all his hard work, doing the monthly newsletter, keeping the website up to date and also keeping an eye on messages to the church.

I want to say a massive thankyou to our Church wardens; Debbie, Lynda, Steve and Marc. You are a true blessing to this church, your hard work, dedication and Love is simply mind blowing. Thankyou from the bottom of my heart, you make St Michaels a place that's a joy to serve.

Thanks also to Barbara for counting the money with Gill every other week and managing the church office with weddings/baptism calls/admin amongst many other things.

A big thanks also goes to Bill, Janice, Ian, John & Jill and the other willing volunteers who help make the grounds so beautiful and a place where people like to be. I have many comments from people about what lovely grounds we have and I believe it is no co-incidence that I've been in-undated with people wanting their loved ones to have their ashes buried in the grounds. Thankyou team you are a great team.

I have to say a massive thankyou to Bill for all his hard work in the graveyard for many years and now feels he will be handing over the main body of the graveyard to others. You've made the grounds a place of complete beauty, thank you.

A Massive thank you goes to both Ruth & Rob for serving this church with their musical gifts. Many people comment how wonderful the music is at St Michaels and you are real gifts and we're so grateful to have you both. The community choir has been wonderful as always, thanks for spreading joy both amongst the singers and those in support of them.

I also must say a heartfelt thanks to the ministry team who do a wonderful job. Thanks for all the hard work and love you give to each of your roles. Each one of you are a real blessing to the church and I really see God alive in each one of your lives.

It is with great joy that as a church we have agreed to sign up to inclusive church. This was a delicate process but thankfully I think we've made the right decision for the church and the community beyond the walls, whereby we are creating a church without walls or borders.

Thanks also to the many unsung heroes in our church. There is so much to be proud of here at St Michaels; Family praise, crafty crofters, Mothers Union, MU@8 & cleaners.

A massive thankyou has to go out to the flower ladies for all your hard work. A special mention has to go to June and Maureen who've done a wonderful job over the last few years and who have decided at the end of the year to hang up their baskets and call it a day. You've done an amazing job and the church looks wonderful.

The Christmas and summer fairs were wonderful. Thanks to all for your hard work, care and dedication to this wonderful church and community

Also huge thanks to our PCC including our PCC secretary Karan and to our congregation, who without you we wouldn't have a church to worship in.

Finally I'd like to say a massive thankyou to all those give regularly to the church, your kindness and generosity is greatly appreciated. I feel our biggest challenge over the coming year is a financial one. We have to make this church financially viable for the long run.

I'm sorry if I've missed anyone off, it's not easy putting these reports together.

Finally I'd like to say what a joy it has been setting up the walking group. We've got a great group of people and it's a real highlight for many of us. Let's hope the poetry group can be half as much fun.

It's a joy to be among you all and this is one beautiful place to live.

God Bless you all Revd Huw