

Parish of St Michael, Flixton

Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council

for the year ended 31 December 2021



Bank:

Co-operative Bank

Independent Examiner:

Caroline Boardman

PCC Members 2021 - 2022

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

Wardens

Debbie Gould	2022	PCC Vice-Chairman, Standing Committee,
Deanery Synod Marc Greenough	2024	Standing Committee

PCC Members

Andrea Walsh	2022	
Lynda Sandbach	2024	Deputy Warden
Barbara Pye	2023	Deanery Synod
Nicola Stubbs	2022	
Sue Middleton	2023	Deanery Synod
Paul Middleton	2023	
Anna Booth	2023	
Paul Bailey	2023	
Jennifer Durber	2024	
Anna Scarisbrick Committee	2024	Treasurer, Standing
Ruth Boyd	2024	
Steve Broadhurst Synod	2023	Deputy Warden, Deanery
Paula Moore	2023	
Felicity Scott	2022	

PCC Members due to retire at APCM 2022:-

Debbie Gould, Andrea Walsh, Nicola Stubbs, Felicity Scott

Electoral Roll as at APCM 2021

There were 126 members on the electoral roll.

New Electoral Roll as at APCM 2022

The new electoral roll was drawn up during March 2022

There are 126 members.

Agenda

Annual Parish Meeting

1. Apologies for absence
2. Election of Churchwardens

Anyone on the 2022 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 2022 Electoral Roll may vote.)*

1. Minutes of the last Annual Parochial Meeting, held 13th April 2021.
2. Matters arising from the minutes
3. Presentation of the accounts of the PCC for 2021
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

Annual Parish Meeting

Present

Clergy: Rev. Huw

Rev. Fiona Jenkinson

Ruth Boyd, Judith Booth, Anna Booth, Paula, Steve, Lynda Sandbach, Paul Bailey, Barbara Pye, Anna Scarisbrick, Debbie Gould, Andrew Walsh, Sue Middleton, Jen Durber, Stuart Durber, Christine Owens

1. Apologies for absence

Rev. Alex, Felicity, Jenny Durber, Paul Middleton, Nicola Stubbs

2. Election of Churchwardens

Applications from Marc Greenough, Debbie Gould approved and seconded accordingly Deputy Churchwardens will be Steve Broadhurst and Lynda Sandbach (starting Summer 2021)

Andrea is standing down , thank you Andrea for all your hard work

An application from Lynda Sandbach has been approved and seconded. Lynda will be taking up the position of Deputy Churchwarden from Summer 2021

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

3. Minutes of the last Annual Parochial Meeting, held 14th October 2020.

Approved by:- Barbara Pye

Seconded by:- Anna Booth

4. Matters arising from the minutes

No matters arising

5. Presentation of the accounts of the PCC for 2020

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 our finances

Due to covid we were significantly down on income as expected

A letter from the Diocese to thank us for our contribution of 73% towards the Parish Share which was much appreciated in the circumstances

Many thanks Anna for all your hard work

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. Report on the Electoral Roll

As of April 2021 there are 126 members on St. Michael's electoral roll. Many thanks to Electoral Roll Secretary *Mrs Judith Booth* for keeping the paperwork in order

9. Report of Deanery Synod

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

10. Ecumenical Activity

Nothing to report

11. Other Reports

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

12. Election of members to Stretford Deanery Synod

We have our full quota of 4 members - current members are Sue Middleton, Barbara Pye, Debbie Gould and Steve Broadhurst

13. Election of members to PCC

Members due to retire this year are: Jennifer Durber, Anna Scarisbrick, Ruth Boyd, Marc Greenough
All retirees wish to remain members and have been approved and seconded accordingly.

14. Appointment of Sidespeople

Due to covid this has been put on hold

15. Report from the Child Protection Co-ordinator

Debbie Gould to read out the policy which will need to be approved at the first meeting of the PCC held on Wednesday 16th June 7:30pm

16. Appointment of Independent Examiners

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

17. Any Other Business

- Rev Fiona wishes to change her title from Assistant Curate to Assistant Priest - all PCC members present at this meeting were all in favour
- Reopening The Croft on the June 21st ?
- A financial team to discuss ideas for The Croft to make is more viable has been introduced: Rev. Huw, Anna Scarisbrick, Debbie Gould, Ruth Boyd, Paula Moore and Barbara Pye
- A Planning day is to take place on the 3rd July 10:-3pm, the venue is to be confirmed (School, Flixton House, Flixton Fellowship) bring and share lunch. Advertise in the newsletter

The meeting closed with prayer at 20:27

St Michaels Flixton 2021 Accounts and Financial Report

Treasurers Report

The church ended the year with a small surplus of £977.

Income of £55,299 was only 2% better than in 2020, but was severely down on the years before the pandemic, when income levels were around £85,000. Income from planned giving, donations and collections was lower than 2020 by 3% but lower than 2019 by 28% due to covid. Planned giving via standing order held steady whilst envelope giving and donation plate giving suffered due to church closures, reduced services and pandemic restrictions. Fee income net of disbursements increased on 2020 by almost £4,000, but was 46% lower than in 2019, again due to covid. Income resulting from hiring out the Church Croft was minimal as it was closed for the majority of the year despite some covid restrictions being lifted. The PCC felt that the Croft was not spacious enough to allow for social distancing.

The PCC placed great effort on controlling costs and fundraising where possible. Annual expenditure was £54,322 which was 10% lower than the prior year. However, the Parish Share was not paid in full in line with our policy to maintain reserves at £60,000, and as such the church was able to pay 71% / £36,000 of the total annual share. This compares to 73% / £35,240 in 2020.

Reserves were £62,601. The church will continue to hold a reserve policy of £60,000 which represents 3 months of operating costs and a £25k building reserve.

At this point in time the financial position for St Michaels is looking very challenging. Paying the Parish Share in full continues to be an impossible feat and was set high in prior years as it was deemed adequate to pay for it through depleting reserves. The church gas contract is to be renewed in May 2022 and as at March 2022, rising prices and the situation in Ukraine are currently threatening a tripling or quadrupling of gas prices, from an annual cost of £3,500 to £10,500.

An additional challenge in 2022 is to make progress on costly building maintenance as well as an overall review of the purpose of the church building from a missional and environmental perspective. Fundraising through grants and other means will likely be the next major step.

Thank you to all members of St Michaels Church for your generosity in 2022, whether that be through financial giving or donating your time. Special thanks goes to those who support the financial administration of the church, including but not limited to Barbara Bye, Gill Robinson and Charlie Gould.

With thanks,

Anna Scarisbrick, Treasurer

Independent Examiners Report

This is the third year that I have independently examined 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 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 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.

The budget for 2021 was set as a worst-case scenario and 2021 actuals were better than this. Income and expenses were both higher than budgeted but there was a small surplus this year which is good news, rather than the expected small deficit. However, when things will get back to "normal" post-pandemic is still unknown. Overall income in 2021 and 2020 has been similar and both lower than pre-pandemic income. Expenses were lower due to no croft management and lower church running costs (mainly due to a backdated council tax rebate).

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: 15th March 2022

Name: Caroline Boardman

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

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2021 £	PRIOR YEAR 2020 £
1 Receipts					
1a Incoming resources from donors					
<i>Planned giving:</i>					
Gift Aid donations	3,066			3,066	1,979
Income tax recoverable	6,676			6,676	6,191
Other planned giving	21,271			21,271	20,319
Collections (open plate) at all services	3,376			3,376	2,564
Digital donations	1,082			1,082	2,042
Sundry donations	1,873	1,140		3,013	6,670
	<u>37,344</u>	<u>1,140</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>38,484</u>	<u>39,764</u>
1b Other voluntary incoming resources					
Grants				0	0
Donations, appeals etc		877		877	1,454
Legacies				0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>877</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>877</u>	<u>1,454</u>
1c Income from operating activities: to further the Council's objects					
Fees*	5,821			5,821	1,864
	<u>5,821</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5,821</u>	<u>1,864</u>
1d Income from operating activities: to generate funds					
Church Croft Lettings	500			500	1,395
Rent	7,148			7,148	7,387
25 Club Lottery	1,985			1,985	1,960
Coffee	0			0	68
Fetes & other fund raising events	485			485	68
	<u>10,118</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10,118</u>	<u>10,877</u>
1e Income from investment					
Dividends & interest including any reclaimable tax	0			0	42
Investment capital repaid				0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>42</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	<u>53,283</u>	<u>2,017</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>55,299</u>	<u>54,002</u>
2 Payments					
2a Grants					
<i>Missionary & charitable giving:</i>					
Mission / Church overseas				0	0
Home mission & Other Church societies		828		828	2,159
	<u>0</u>	<u>828</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>828</u>	<u>2,159</u>
2b Activities related to the work of the Church					
Ministry: Diocesan Parish Share	36,000			36,000	35,240
Clergy Expenses	1,069			1,069	683
Church Croft					
Work completed	415			415	
Running costs	2,789			2,789	5,594
Church - Running Expenses	10,512			10,512	14,423
Church Maintenance	528			528	
Church major works					
Upkeep of churchyard	604			604	631
Verger, Clerk, & Organists costs	580			580	1,355
School					
	<u>52,497</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>52,497</u>	<u>57,926</u>
2c Church management & administration					
Administration	624			624	249
Bank Charges				0	0
	<u>624</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>624</u>	<u>249</u>
2d Costs of generating funds					
Fetes & other fundraising events	373			373	132
	<u>373</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>373</u>	<u>132</u>
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>53,494</u>	<u>828</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>54,322</u>	<u>60,465</u>
Net of Receipts / Payments	<u>(211)</u>	<u>1,188</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>977</u>	<u>(6,463)</u>
<i>Transfers between funds</i>				0.00	0.00
<i>Cash funds last year end</i>				61,623.58	68,086.93
<i>Cash funds this year end</i>				62,600.56	61,623.58

St Michaels Flixton PCC Notes to Accounts 2021

1. Restricted Funds

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

	Tower Fund	Charities	Total Restricted
Opening Bal Jan 1st 21	2162.00	0	2162.00
Donations	1140.00		1140.00
Appeals	0.00	876.53	876.53
Restricted Income 21	3302.00	876.53	4178.53
Home mission	0	828.21	828.21
Restricted Expenditure 21	0.00	828.21	828.21
Closing Restricted Funds	3302.00	48.32	3350.32

Note that the funding for charities is shown as a surplus because some funds are to be carried forward into 2022

Total funds raised and paid for other entities in 2021 is broken down as follows:

	income	expenditure
Bibles for School Leavers	400	352
Mcr Diocese - Confirmation Service	114	114
Stretford Food Bank	40	40
Aid for Afghan Appeal	<u>322</u>	<u>322</u>
Total Raised	<u>877</u>	<u>828</u>

2. Explanation of Year on Year Main Variances

- Income from planned giving, donations and collections was lower than 2020 by 3% but lower than 2019 by 28% due to covid. Planned giving via standing order held steady whilst envelope giving and donation plate giving suffered due to church closures, reduced services and pandemic restrictions.
- Fee income net of disbursements increased on 2020 by almost £4,000, but was 46% lower than in 2019, again due to covid.
- Church Croft was closed for the majority of the year despite some covid restrictions being lifted. The PCC felt that the Croft was not spacious enough to allow for social distancing.
- As per the prior year, the parish share could not be paid in full as it was decided to keep reserves at £60k. However, effort had been placed on fundraising and careful cost management in between responses to changes in covid and as such the church was able to pay 71% / £36,000 of the total annual share. This compares to 73% / £35,240 in 2020.
- Church running costs were £4k less than in 2020 due in part to a council tax rebate on the Rectory going back to 2016, as well as lower utility bills given that in 2020 the pandemic did not commence until late 2020.

Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

As we emerge from the restrictions of the pandemic, we are slowly reinstating some of our normal routines in services. For several months we have been able to run our Thursday morning service and 10.15 service on Sunday in person and have stopped the Zoom services. Christmas services were limited by the emergence of the Omicron variant but continued where possible with the appropriate risk assessments.

Recently we have started singing again in services which has been welcomed by all and mask wearing and social distancing is now optional. Some people are still choosing to socially distance and so far there has always been room for them to do this.

We have not yet returned to taking Communion at the altar, sharing the Cup or sharing the Peace by shaking hands and this is under review. Easter services are planned to run as normally as possible. St Michael's has been able to continue with Baptisms, weddings and funerals since reopening after lockdown in 2021.

The church has also been opened ad hoc for other events including the successful Heritage day in September, the popular Victorian Christmas Fayre and a service of reflection in response to the war in Ukraine.

The Warden team is now back up to four. Marc Greenough, Debbie Gould (named Wardens for diocesan purposes), Steve Broadhurst and Lynda Sandbach. There are some aspects of Church procedures which newer Wardens have not yet experienced due to the pandemic but we are learning as we go!

We are starting to offer tea/coffee again after the Sunday Service at the back of church to give people a chance to chat and catch up with each other.

Churchcroft has reopened and is being managed by volunteers to reduce costs and ensure it brings in money for church. We have a number of regular groups, a tutor and a counsellor using the building. We are not taking bookings for parties at this point as this requires more time to organise/cleaning etc. We are planning rota of volunteers to help with cleaning. There is some maintenance work required to solve damp issues and some window panes need replacing in the conservatory.

The Quinquennial Inspection has been deferred but some preliminary discussion took place with an architect. Following the planning session last year, we have requested quotes from 2 architects for a Feasibility Study to help us look at ways to optimise the use of the Church/Churchcroft and how we might fund any repairs/building work required. We have received one quote so far but are waiting for the other. Unfortunately, we were not able to submit an application for a grant to help fund this as we didn't have both quotes back in time. However, the preparation for this should be helpful in the future. We need further discussions to decide what we do next in terms of repairs and maintenance.

We have welcomed a number of new volunteers as readers/ sides people and we have others who would like to do Intercessions when we are able to do these again.

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, Marc Greenough, Steve Broadhurst and Lynda Sandbach - Churchwardens

Report of the PCC

Once again during 2021 the PCC meetings were held over zoom until covid restrictions were lifted.

St. Michael's School

Once again lockdown has had an impact on the school with only key workers children attending lessons. Pressure on the 1st week school opened was immense for the teachers.

The leavers disco had to be cancelled.

No services have been held in Church due to covid outbreaks.

Supplementary faith form signing took place in February 2022 due to no services being held in Church.

Church Collections

Obviously, collections were down as no services took place at the beginning of the year. Standing order payments haven't dropped. The introduction of digital donations was promoted.

Health & Safety

Although Church has been closed safety still needs to continue.

Fire extinguisher checks took place in January 2021 and tree safety with the fire brigade also took place

Covid restrictions are lessening in Church now, we have returned to services. It is personal choice whether to wear a mask and social distance between pews.

Church Croft

A hard decision for the PCC was that it was not viable to continue to employ someone to housekeep the Croft. Instead, a small group of volunteers have taken the reigns.

Children & Youth Work

All activities were unable to take place ie. Sunday School
Jen Durber is to start ALM training in Children & Family Work

Karan Sanders
PCC Secretary

Report from Deanery Synod Representatives

In the last year DS meetings have been virtual due to pandemic restrictions.

St Michael's has historically been part of Stretford Deanery.

In July 2021 larger 'mega Deaneries' were inaugurated. St Michael's is now part of Manchester South and Stretford Deanery.

The new deaneries each have a full time Area Dean.

There has been one virtual Deanery Synod since the reorganisation, when the IT was slightly shaky but we met other representatives from the much enlarged area.

As restrictions ease we anticipate being able to meet in person.

Sue Middleton

Other Reports

St Michael's 25 Club

25 Club began in April 2020 as a fundraising scheme with the added excitement of a lottery. We are registered with Trafford under Small Society Lotteries regulations.

Members pay £10 a month by Standing Order and are allocated five draw numbers. On the first Sunday of each month 3 numbers are drawn.

The prizes are: First £50, Second £ 25 and Third £15. Prize money is paid by bank transfer. There are at present 26 members, with an annual income for the church of £2040 and prize pay-outs of £1080.

We have space for more members and more members will mean increased prizes as well as added funding for St Michael's.

If you would like to join, please contact Sue Middleton: 0161 747 4572 or paul-suemiddleton@hotmail.com.

Sue Middleton

MU@8

MU@8 now consists of 2 members. This year has continued to be difficult due to the COVID 19 pandemic but we have tried where possible to continue our mission.

We collected and provided over 50 coats for the Albanian refugees.

We provided Christmas decorations that made up the children grotto at the prison.

The toys that were donated to St Michaels church were taken to TDAS as well as selection boxes at Christmas time.

We are hoping that now restrictions are easing our mothers union branch can once again return to the branch it was.

Nicola Stubbs Branch leader

FAMILY PRAISE

We continued Family Praise throughout the pandemic by running it live from our Facebook page. Last summer we started the services in church again, but after discussions over the last few months about the future of Family services, and the hope of beginning an All-Age Sunday morning service, we took the difficult and prayerful decision to no longer run Family Praise. To have something which has been so successful for almost 20 years should be seen as a huge achievement, but we also know that in order to grow and meet the needs of our community things have to change and sometimes come to an end. We thank God for each person who has contributed to Family Praise and hope you join us for what comes next.

Inclusive Church

As many of you will be aware, over the last few years we have had lots of informal discussion around what it means to be actively inclusive as a community. Whilst we know ourselves to be inclusive there is no way of people from marginalised groups to know that this is the case. At our most recent PCC meeting Huw read the following statement, which is the mission statement of the Inclusive Church network:

"We believe in **inclusive church** – a church which **celebrates and affirms every person** and does not discriminate.

We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of **disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.**

We believe in a Church which **welcomes and serves all people** in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."

As a PCC we voted that this was a statement we agreed with and that we wish to join the Inclusive Church Network. This means we will display this statement both in church and online and will be listed as a member of the network.

Rev. Fiona Jenkinson has agreed to head up our inclusivity work, which will include looking at all the ways in which we can be more inclusive in each area listed in the Inclusive Church statement.

Sunday School report

Sunday School resumed in September 2021 and we have a number of regular attendees. 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. We are currently completing DBS checks and they will be asked to attend a safeguarding session as soon as possible.

The Sunday School team plan to meet in April to investigate new resources to help with session planning.

Debbie Gould

REPORT OF ST.MICHAEL'S CHURCH, FLIXTON, MOTHERS' UNION 2021

Due to ongoing Covid 19 restrictions, it was August 2021 before we were able to meet to celebrate Mary Sumner Day with a service of Holy Communion in Church. Mary Sumner was founder of Mothers' Union, and we thank Reverend Kath Faulkner for conducting the service for us. Afterwards we sat outside to catch up with cups of tea and cake.

We have continued to meet monthly, ending the year with a small Christmas celebration in Church Croft.

Our Branch has been without a leader for some time, but at our meeting in November Mrs. Barbara Pye agreed to take on the role. Mrs. June Haslem and Mrs. Judith Booth retired as committee members, we thank them for their contributions to our Branch over past years, and for their continuing support.

Our Branch Committee is now : Mrs. Barbara Pye, Branch Leader and Treasurer, Mrs. Ann Murphy, Branch Secretary and Mrs. Pat Mates Committee Member.

Members have continued to donate funds to Mothers' Union causes, individually and as a Branch. Several members knitted "chains", for "The Anti-Slavery Campaign", displayed in Manchester Cathedral, highlighting modern-day slavery.

St. Michael's Mothers' Union meets at 2pm - 3.30pm, the third Thursday in the month in Church Croft. We are open to everyone, and you will be welcomed with friendly smiles, cups of tea and cake! We look forward to welcoming new members, if you are interested please speak to Barbara, Ann or Pat, we will do our best to answer any enquiries.

Ann Murphy

Choir

We have still not reintroduced a choir following Covid and it is intended that choir members will be asked if they would like to reform a choir and what that would look like. It is not anticipated that we would return to a weekly robed choir. There are other ideas that Revd Huw and I have on singing in services that have yet to be further investigated.

Due to Covid restraints we weren't able to run our highly successful Come and Sing Advent and Christmas choir but we were able to have a very small choir at the Advent Carol service and again at the 9 lessons and Carols service.

Norman Litherland has moved away from the area and we thank him for his many years of loyal service to St. Michael's as both an organist and as a member of the choir.

Lynda Ukadia has decided to retire from playing the organ and we thank her for her years of service to St. Michael's. Robert Carey has joined St. Michael's as the other main organist and he is sharing Sunday morning services with me on a rota basis.

Ruth Boyd

Mrs Debbie Gould
18 Western Road
Flixton
Manchester
M41 6LF

March 2022

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 2022 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

Report from Safe Church Coordinator for 2022 AGM

As a church community St. Michael's Parish Church is committed to;

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

All volunteers working with children, young people, vulnerable adults, the sick and housebound still require an up-to-date DBS and have access to the new safe guarding policy via Manchester Diocese website

www.manchester.anglican.org/safeguarding

Due to Covid-19 not as many home visits are taking place by the Pastoral visiting team. Contact has been maintained by phone and any concerns passed on to Clergy.

Online training is available via the Manchester Diocese website and **Basic Awareness** and **Foundation** training are required to be completed for most roles including Churchwardens and PCC Members and all those involved with children or vulnerable adults.

It is hoped that face to face training will be rolled out again this year. We continue to remain vigilant.

We continue to receive Safeguarding newsletters from the diocese.

The Safe Church Policy is reviewed each year and will be read out at the AGM.

Jean Rostron

A Safe Church Policy

For St Michael's Church Flixton

March 2022



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) Mr Marc Greenough

March 2022

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.

This is the strangest beginning to a PCC report I've ever had to do. As I write this report, Russia in the past two weeks have invaded a fellow European country Ukraine and a full scale war is now taking place. There is no credible reason for this attack taking place and it has been a shocking course of action that Europe and the rest of world tries to get its head round. For so many of us we feel completely helpless and wish there was more we could do to help our brothers and sisters in Ukraine. We have done a couple of financial collections at church and are also supporting St Matthews who are collecting items to help out those refugees who are currently in Poland. At this moment in time the prayer for peace is a vital one and I believe that some situations only God can intervene. Our thoughts and prayers are very much with the people of Ukraine.

With Covid still being amongst us it has been another strange year this past year. It's felt a bit like a rollercoaster ride that no one wants to ride on but no one knows how to get off. Church opened, then closed again then re-opened. We've tried to do as many things as we can, but certainly around Christmas due to the risk of covid spreading we were unable to fulfil our full quota of services and beer & carols sadly.

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 Woodstreet 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.

We had a wonderful planning day towards the end of last year where we discussed our hopes and dreams for St Michaels. The clear thing that came out of the day is that we need to find a way to get St Michaels building opened more. We also discussed the inflexibility of the building and various ways we may get it more user friendly. We also talked of the need to host regular events that will be more missional and financially beneficial so that St Michaels can stay open for the long term in this community. The next stage to this is a feasibility study where we will be clearer on what our options are with the building.

Linked in with the above, we also discussed the Croft and what the short and long term options are with this building. Until we have the feasibility study completed however the croft will remain as it is with tenants upstairs and local community activities downstairs. Sadly we have had to let Sally go permanently due to our lack of finances. Sally used to run the croft and we would like to say a huge thankyou for maintaining and running the building for us over the past few years.

A huge thankyou 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.

I want to say a big thankyou to Paul Bailey for all his hard work in putting the zoom services together, 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 Jill each week and managing the church weddings/baptism calls/admin amongst other things. Thanks also Jill for sorting out our gift aid, this will definitely help the church in the long run. The unsung heroes among others who help to make this a flourishing and functional church.

A big thanks also go 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 coincidence 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. If you feel a calling to start helping out in the grounds please do get in touch.

We are sad to have said goodbye to Linda one of our organist. I would like to say a huge thank you for her wonderful playing over the years and we miss having you around.

I would like to say a massive thankyou at this point to Rob for stepping in and playing so beautifully. It is a joy to have Rob, Claire and his family at St Michael's. Thanks as always to Ruth for serving this church with her musical prowess and it's been great to keep the continuation over all these years, you are a real gift and we're so grateful to have you. One real highlight was at the Christmas Fair when you and your ensemble performed so wonderfully.

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. We have been really sorry to see Alex move on and he and Irene are greatly missed in these parts. Alex continues to help out with funerals when we're struggling and he and the family are always welcome here.

It has been great to welcome Edith onboard. She has so many gifts and we are lucky that she has agreed to carry on her ministry here at St Michaels.

It is with great joy that both Jen and Steve have taken up ALM posts and are currently going through training as we speak. Jen is doing the Children's & Families area of ALM ministry. Steve is doing pastoral outreach and listening.

It is with great joy we welcome our new curate Caroline Bailey in the summer. She has many gifts and I feel will be a real asset to the church.

There is so much else to also celebrate. Numbers are rising again, from 30/40 during covid to an average of 60 each week. We are currently looking into inclusive church and Fi is currently looking into this process. The Monday family service is proving really popular, where we get roughly 40 people each week, with there being a half/half split of adults and children. Pub church is getting back up and running. The Christmas Fair was a real joy too. The list could go on and on.

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 & flower ladies.

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.

I'm sorry if I've missed anyone off, my brain gets a bit frazzled doing reports.

Finally I'd like to say a massive thankyou to all those who 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. The rising gas and electricity costs is going to be a real challenge for us. Any help and support with this is greatly appreciated.

Please stay safe in these mad times and know you are deeply loved and held by God.

God Bless Revd Huw