

**ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH
COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 December 2017**

Administrative information

St Michael and All Angels Church is situated in Hilperton Trowbridge. It is part of the Diocese of Salisbury within the Church of England. The correspondence address is 22 Warren Road, Staverton, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 8UZ.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent: The Revd John Rees, Chairman

Mike Holt was vice-chairman

Wardens: Barrie Lovell, David Tucker

Elected members: Catherine Warr, Marilyn Stubbs, Bill Stubbs, Helen Rae, Elizabeth Holyoake, Sonja Kotevska, Jeannette Worth, Sandra Harding, Mike Holt, Stella Wilkes.

The treasurer was Mr Michael Holt.

The secretary was Stella Wilkes

Representatives on the Deanery Synod: Marylin Stubbs, Dawn Farmer

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and Activities

St Michael and All Angels PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd John Rees, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church Centre complex of St Michael and All Angels, The Knap, Hilperton.

Achievements and Performance

Church attendance-

Last year we recorded seventy-four registered on the St Michael's with Whaddon roll. Of these twenty-eight were resident outside the official parish boundary.

This year we have lost eight members – two deceased and six moving away from the parish. On the plus side we have gained four new residents which takes our registered number to seventy. This is the figure which will be notified to the Diocese.

Review of the year

The full PCC met five times during the year as planned, and twice for extraordinary meetings. Committees met between meetings, and reports of their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary.

During the year the PCC has discussed and approved the Parish Priority Plan for 2017-18 in response to the Diocesan challenge to bring hope to our village communities through our prayer life, our commitment to serve and to grow, both spiritually and numerically. The priorities identified included:

- our church communities *Working Together*; the 3 churches working together and with other groups including local schools.
- *Worship* where it was agreed to review times and patterns of services to meet the needs of the community
- *Service* through Open Church in daylight hours building on current social events including lunch and coffee events.
- *Depending on Christ* in fellowship and prayer
- *Infrastructure* of buildings, communication and stewardship.

The church committee groups and individuals involved in taking this plan forward have reported below:

1. Rector's Report: Canalside Benefice APCMs 2018

It is very important at this time of year to reflect on God's Blessings on us during the past 12 months as well as to look forward to the future, trusting that God will continue to bless us when we are faithful in our prayer and commitment to serve the Lord in and beyond our villages.

At the beginning of last year our PCC's, agreed priorities and actions as we sought to work out what it means to live out the vision statement agreed by the Benefice prior to my appointment "Together in worship and Service, depending on Christ". This was begun at our Parish Away day in March led by Archdeacon Sue Groom. I hope such days will become part of our annual calendar. In reviewing each of these 5 priority areas there is much for which we can give thanks to God, as well as (inevitably) challenges which should be a focus for our continued prayer and action.

a) Working together

It has been a joy to see members of our Churches working together and supporting one another and the life of our villages in many ways. For example Church members are taking "Open the Book" Bible stories into Hilperton and Staverton Schools, all Churches have shared in our Messy Churches in Semington and Hilperton schools and our cross Benefice LPA team provides invaluable support to our pastoral ministry. In Staverton members of the village community joined together to help care for St Paul's Churchyard and at St Mary's Hilperton Marsh the cubs and scouts have begun to create a community garden, which was dedicated at Harvest Festival. Our PCCs at Hilperton and Staverton/Hilperton Marsh have been meeting together this year as we seek use our skills, talents and Church buildings to serve all these communities

In 2018 and beyond it will be wonderful to see team-working continue to flourish, while recognising the distinct identities of our villages and congregations. In particular, the PCCs of St Michaels and St Marys have agreed to formally explore whether to become a united Parish. Please pray about this.

b) Worship

Our aim is to offer a wide range of informal and more liturgical worship which will inspire both regular worshippers and explorers to discover God's love for them and to be inspired to serve. The survey carried out in

2017 indicates that most people responding find our current pattern helpful, though we have continued to explore service times.

Messy Church is proving to be important in building connections with families in both Semington and (since November) Hilperton: it is wonderful that so many families are enjoying it and wish to explore and grow in faith. It now important that we consider how we can help these families worship in months when we don't have the resources to offer Messy Church. Please pray about this.

c) Service in our villages

Our Churches and Christian Communities are known for their acts of service and hospitality; this is wonderful. We had lovely harvest suppers in Semington and at St Marys (the latter organised by the St Michael's and St Mary's social committee). Let's do Lunch and Drop in for Coffee have continued to be appreciated and Staverton Cygnets was launched, providing a gathering place for parents and pre-school Children. Many people have said how much they appreciate the fact that St Michaels is now, like St George's, open in daylight hours. At the end of 2017 plans were in place for launching a Friendship Group in St Marys. It will be good for us to pray that our existing groups will build the life of our village communities – and to be open to exploring other opportunities as they emerge, while recognising our resources are finite.

d) Depending on Christ

As Christian Communities, it is important that everything we do is rooted in our life of prayer and desire to grow in our life of faith and service, Our home groups are very important in providing an opportunity for people to share in fellowship, exploring scripture and praying together and it has been good to have even more people sharing in studying together during Lent and Advent in these groups, on a study day and following our Wednesday midweek communion services. Many thanks to Ivor Hughes who wrote our Lent course material.

I hope that during 2018 we will explore how we develop our prayer life and find ways of enabling enquirers to explore faith through either an Alpha or Christianity Explored course. I am looking forward to our Parish Day exploring journeying in faith with Sr. Debbie Orris CA, our Diocesan Discipleship Co-Ordinator.

e) Infrastructure

It is essential that our Church buildings provide places which facilitate our life of worship and service to our community and are warm places of welcome; both literally and spiritually. I am very grateful for all the work undertaken by our St Michaels/St Marys Fabric Group in re-ordering the back of St Michael's, facilitating improvements to St Michaels Room and (after many obstacles) successfully completing the installation of our new boiler. At both St Michaels and St George's we have formed teams and begun to explore further building improvements, including provision of a much needed toilet at St George's. This work will be very important in 2018 and beyond.

f) Stewardship

During this year our PCC's have recognised that we need to renew our focus on stewardship of our time, talents and money. As you will read elsewhere in the report St Michaels and St Marys have only just been able to meet their financial commitments and in all our Churches much of the burden of leading and developing our ministry is over-dependent on a small number of individuals who are sometimes working too hard on behalf of us all. I long to see a greater sharing of the joys and challenges of ministry: we are all called to serve.

g) Thank you

I would like to thank you to all who contribute to our worshipping life and ministry; to our musicians, intercessors, readers, bell ringers, flower arrangers and cleaners; to those who support our ministry in schools and with young people, to those who maintain and help to improve our buildings; to those who organise our much appreciated social events, to our PCC members our Lay Pastoral Assistants. I would like to especially mention our Treasurers Mike, Michael and Jack, our PCC Secretaries Jack, Sandie and Stella our Churchwardens, Barrie, Val and David, and Ray, Hugh, Ivor, Tony, Marilyn, Catherine and Anne for leading our services and sharing in ministry.

Although this report is for 2017 I would like to particularly thank Emma, who has just stepped down as our Administrator after nearly 10 years dedicated service.

Finally I would especially like to thank Anne for all she does in sharing ministry with me, emotionally, practically and spiritually.

I very much look forward to sharing with you in discovering how the Lord will continue to bless us and others through us in the coming year.

John

Revd John Rees April 2018

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2. Financial Report

Many thanks to everyone for the financial support over the past year. We successfully met all of our financial obligations. Additionally, thanks to those who applied for grants and did fund-raising activities, we managed to raise sufficient to not only replace the boiler but also reinstated hot running water in the sinks and replace the lighting in St Michael's room.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Ros Huggins who inspected our accounts again this year. Ros provides this service to us free of charge, including offering me valuable advice in accounting treatments. Ros has examined the 2017 accounts and she is content that they represent a true and accurate record of our state of affairs. The key points I would like to draw out from the accounts are:

Income: Receipts totalled £50780 as detailed in the accounts. Income was broadly comparable with 2016, the key differences being one-off items:

- The receipts from other churches, where the Methodist congregation donated their residual monies to St Michael's when they closed their accounts.
- Charitable receipts where we benefited from donations for our new boiler from the Hilperton Parish Council, the Garfield Weston Trust and the Wiltshire Area Board.

Expenditure: Expenditure totalled £58454 and was also broadly comparable with last year with the major differences being:

- Maintenance and Repairs: The cost of the boiler and new lighting in St Michael's room.
- Clergy Expenses were down: 2016 saw our interregnum which was supported by our retired clergy which accounted for the extra expenses. This year's value is more the norm.
- Services Upkeep: Most of the cost was for repairs to the organ. With the exception of the £500 excess for the insurance the costs were covered from the Michael Hoddinott fund

2017 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

General Fund Receipts and Payments Account - Unrestricted Fund

| | 2017 | | 2016 | |
|---|--------|-----|--------|-----|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| <i>Receipts</i> | | | | |
| Incoming resources from donors | | | | |
| Planned giving | 15,006 | | 15,159 | |
| Collections and other giving | 9,899 | | 9,905 | |
| Income tax recovered | 5,437 | | 5,977 | |
| | 30,343 | | 31,041 | |
| Other voluntary incoming resources | | | | |
| Donations and bequests | 3,303 | | 3,963 | |
| Social and fundraising events | 2,562 | | 2,882 | |
| Other churches | 3,968 | | 2,570 | |
| | 9,833 | | 9,414 | |
| Income from investments | | | | |
| Interest on CBF account | 50 | | 64 | |
| Dividends from CBF Deposit Fund | 299 | | 246 | |
| | 349 | | 310 | |
| Income from charitable and ancillary trading | | | | |
| Charitable receipts | 8,000 | | 851 | |
| Fees | 2,039 | | 2,870 | |
| Miscellaneous | 217 | | 158 | |
| | 10,256 | | 3,879 | |
| Out-of-date cheques | | 0 | | 0 |
| | 50,780 | | 44,644 | |
| Total receipts | | | | |
| <i>Payments</i> | | | | |
| Grants | | | | |
| Charitable donations | | 912 | | 804 |
| Activities directly relating to the work of the church | | | | |
| Diocesan quota | 25613 | | 24,207 | |
| Church running expenses | 6399 | | 6,298 | |
| Clergy expenses | 1263 | | 3,738 | |
| Services upkeep | 1981 | | 720 | |
| Organist fees | 600 | | 595 | |
| Maintenance and repairs | 18676 | | 2,195 | |
| Cost of social and fundraising events | 0 | | 230 | |
| Other churches | 2012 | | 2,267 | |

| | | |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| | 56,545 | 40,251 |
| Church management and administration | | |
| Printing and stationery | 308 | 482 |
| Weddings and Funerals | 90 | 400 |
| Miscellaneous | 600 | 314 |
| | <u>998</u> | <u>1,196</u> |
| Total payments | 58,454 | 42,250 |
| Excess (deficit) of receipts over payments | -7,674 | 2,394 |
| Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 January | <u>26,263</u> | <u>23,870</u> |
| Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 December | <u><u>18,589</u></u> | <u><u>26,263</u></u> |

Church Fabric Receipts and Payments Account - Restricted Fund

| | 2017 | | 2016 | |
|---|------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| <i>Receipts</i> | | | | |
| Dividends from CBF Deposit Fund | <u>89</u> | | <u>73</u> | |
| Total receipts | | 89 | | 73 |
| <i>Payments</i> | | | | |
| Lighting update and upgrade | | 0 | | 329 |
| Gutter Clearing | <u>408</u> | | <u>0</u> | |
| Total payments | | 408 | | 329 |
| Excess (deficit) of receipts over payments | | -319 | | -256 |
| Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 January | | <u>744</u> | | <u>1,000</u> |
| Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 December | | <u><u>425</u></u> | | <u><u>744</u></u> |

Churchyard Fund Receipts and Payments Account - Restricted Fund

| | 2017 | | 2016 | |
|---|------|------------------|------|-------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Receipts | | | | |
| Dividends from CBF Deposit Fund | | 38 | | 32 |
| | | <u>38</u> | | <u>32</u> |
| Total receipts | | 38 | | 32 |
| Payments | | | | |
| Churchyard lighting | | 0 | | 444 |
| Shed repair | | 0 | | 60 |
| Meter box repair | | 120 | | 0 |
| | | <u>120</u> | | <u>0</u> |
| Total payments | | 120 | | 504 |
| Excess (deficit) of receipts over payments | | -81 | | -472 |
| Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 January | | 165 | | 637 |
| | | <u>165</u> | | <u>637</u> |
| Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 December | | 83 | | 165 |
| | | <u><u>83</u></u> | | <u><u>165</u></u> |

Balance sheet as at 31 December

| | 2017 | | 2016 | |
|---------------------------------------|------|----------------------|------|----------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Monetary assets | | | | |
| Bank current account | | 3,340 | | 11,465 |
| CBF Deposit Funds | | 13,635 | | 13,585 |
| | | <u>16,975</u> | | <u>25,050</u> |
| Other assets | | | | |
| CBF Investments shares (562 at cost) | | 617 | | 617 |
| Clergy 'wedding/funeral fees' account | | 300 | | 300 |
| | | 917 | | 917 |
| | | <u><u>17,892</u></u> | | <u><u>25,967</u></u> |
| Represented by | | | | |
| Balance brought forward | | 25,967 | | 24,302 |
| Surplus of funds in the year | | | | |
| General Fund - unrestricted | | -570 | | -3,520 |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|--|---------------|
| General Fund - restricted | -7,104 | | 5,913 |
| Church Fabric Fund - restricted | -319 | | -256 |
| Churchyard Fund - restricted | -81 | | -472 |
| Sale of CBF unit trusts | <u>0</u> | | <u>0</u> |
| | -8,075 | | 1,665 |
| | <u>17,892</u> | | <u>25,967</u> |

Notes to Financial Statement

- 1) The CBF Deposit Fund is comprised as follows (u = unrestricted, r = restricted, d = designated)

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Church Fabric Repair Fund (d) | 1,273 | 1,273 |
| * Long-term Maintenance Fund (r) | 6,448 | 6,448 |
| General Fund (u) | 365 | 301 |
| G & J Davis Fund (r) | 0 | 0 |
| Churchbells Fund (r) | 0 | 0 |
| Michael Hoddinott Fund (r) | 5,341 | 5,341 |
| Book of Remembrance (r) | 158 | 158 |
| Retained Interest (u) | 50 | 64 |
| | <u>13,635</u> | <u>13,585</u> |

- * This is money from various fund raising events which the organisers wish to be used only for this purpose.

- 2) The bank current account includes the following specific purpose funds (r = restricted, d = designated):

| | | |
|--|--------------|---------------|
| Heating fund (d) | 0 | 6,582 |
| Church re-ordering & Methodist Fund (d) | 2,081 | 625 |
| Michael Hoddinott (r) | 1,243 | 2,611 |
| Joan Nossent (children's activities) (r) | 135 | 746 |
| | <u>3,460</u> | <u>10,564</u> |

- 3) The CBF Investment shares are unrestricted funds.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 25th March 2018 and signed on its behalf by :

John Rees (Incumbent)

Michael H Holt (Hon. Treasurer)

R A Book Keeping

11 Albany Close

Trowbridge

Wiltshire

BA14 7LN

Telephone 01225 765539

20th March 2018

Parochial Church Council of Hilperton
Financial Statement for the year ended
31st December 2017

Other than the amendment of the date on the financial statements to reflect the year end to show 31st December 2017 the examiner is satisfied that the accounts as produced are a true and accurate record of the financial position of the Parochial Church Council of Hilperton.

Signed

Ros Huggins.

Ros Huggins, Partner

3. **Churchwarden's report**

Writing this report I have just returned from opening the church building! The sun was shining, a blue sky surrounded the whole outside and I thought 'Wow' St Michael's looks really healthy and the graveyard with daffodils and snowdrops must leave quite an impression on people as they walk by, '**but it's just a building!**'

As Churchwarden a lot of my responsibility does involve the building and churchyard. Many alterations and improvements have happened since our AGM 2017.

Faculties have been approved for two reserved plots for cremated remains in the churchyard.

In January 2017 three pews were removed from the back of the church to create useful space. A faculty was obtained for this work in August.

In June new lighting in St Michael's room and a water heater to service the main sink and the toilet hand wash basins were installed under List B.

In November, after much frustration and investigation, the main church heating boiler and a new heater in St Michael's room were replaced. This was also given approval under List B.

Many thanks are due to our Fabric Committee in achieving this work and I would like to thank Tony Roddis for leadership in this area.

The Quinquennial in May 2017 was thankfully good and in August 2017 St Mary's at Whaddon was inspected. Both churches needing only continuing maintenance.

Returning to my comments at the start of my report '**but it's just a building**', the real church is the people that are within its walls.

Thank you to everyone who contribute their time, talents and to the funding of St Michael's Church and we pray God will bless us all as we look to grow in Jesus. We are blessed so much with the leadership and commitment from John and all that Anne does in supporting his ministry.

Thank you to you all and to my wife Val, who is struggling so much at this time of writing, for all the support you give to me and to the church.

Barrie Lovell
Churchwarden

4. Deanery Report 2017

Synod met three times in 2017

14 February @ St. James', Trowbridge
21 June @ Atworth Church Hall
19 October @ St. Katharine's, Holt

Speakers throughout 2017

At the February meeting Chris Andrews who is a licensed Reader in the Diocese of Gloucester spoke about Roaring Rugby (RR), which he founded in 2011. RR has developed a programme for schools and churches to come together through Sports Ministry. The benefits to schools are enhanced Christian Distinctiveness through a mix of professional coaching of all sports (not just rugby), school values and prayer/scripture. The benefits to church are to rediscover the medium of sports to engage with children and parents in their parishes. There are many ways to use this mission through school, church halls and community settings.

At the June meeting there was a presentation by David Morgan who is the Chairman of the Diocesan Environment Group. Since then several churches in the Deanery have put themselves forward for different levels to achieve Bronze and Silver during the year. The following website www.ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk has a wealth of information including an Eco Survey.

At the October meeting Debbie Orriss who is a Church Army Evangelist working for Salisbury Diocese as Discipleship Coordinator spoke. Debbie serves the Deanery and is a resource to help and assist Parishes. Questions asked by Debbie to those present were as follows:

“How do you feel about the word discipleship”?

“What do you think it means”?

“What has helped you learn and grow in your faith as a disciple, in the absence of Jesus’ physical presence”?

Clergy comings and goings

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Rev. Julian Parker | Retired |
| Rev. Selina Deacon | Retired |
| Rev. Annie Wintour | Retired |
| Melanie Otto | Transferred to a different Deanery |

Deanery Share

David Robinson the Deanery Treasurer was pleased to report that the 2017 share had been paid in full and on time.

Deanery Plan

This was reviewed and updated during the early part of the year with copies going to each Deanery Representative and the Diocese.

Sudan

In August 2017 Rev Andrew Evans (Rural Dean) and Christopher and Ann Fielden were part of a delegation led by the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Sudan.

Dave Lewis provided regular updates either in person at Synod meetings or via reports sent on email to representatives. These were very informative and up to date on matters of concern, funding, health care and education provision.

Synod Secretary

Anne Willis stood down as Secretary at the February 2017 meeting. The Rural Dean presented her with a bouquet of flowers, a bottle of wine and card in recognition of her term of service. Dawn Farmer took on the role in April 2017.

Assistant Rural Dean

Rev. Allan Coutts was licensed by Archdeacon Sue Groom at the October Synod meeting.

Synod meetings

Synod is open to all those who wish to attend. Meeting dates and locations are arranged well in advance and every effort is made to meet on different days of the week. The intention is to share good practice around the Deanery, and for it to be a place where ideas can be shared.

Meeting dates and locations for 2018

21 February @ St. James', Trowbridge
14 June @ St. Michael & All Angels, Melksham
17 October @ Holy Trinity Church, Bradford on Avon

5. Church Flower Report

There are thirteen ladies participating on the Flower Rota. Ten ladies doing Pedestal and Windows, while the remaining three ladies do Windows and Church Porch only.

The Remembrance Day Coffee Morning is always successful and provides funds to pay the flower ladies a contribution towards their purchase of flowers (this does not cover the full amount of the cost of the flowers as

some ladies may have to do the pedestal 2/3 times per year). The rest of the money is used for sundries eg oasis/tapes and for additional flowers if necessary.

Regretfully, we have lost one of our members this year (which means the rest of the ladies have to do more), so we would be very pleased to welcome new members, gentlemen included.

6. Let's Do Lunch

In 2017 we met ten times with an average attendance of about twenty-eight. We raised £992.17 and supported the Bradford Deanery Kadugli Diocese Sudan appeal, St Michael's Pre-school building, Tearfund and Julia's House Hospice in Devizes.

I would like to say a special thank-you to Gwenda for all her support and help with planning, cooking, setting up and helping to ensure things run smoothly. Many thanks too to all those who help with transport, tables and chairs, arranging flowers, washing and ironing table cloths, cooking and providing food, carrying dishes, washing up, and clearing up and cleaning up afterwards. Also, thank you to those who have provided a quiz or given a talk. These have been interesting, informative and often an occasion for much laughter!

Most of all, thanks be to God for good fellowship and friendship.

Anthea Hughes.

7. Fabric Group Report to PCC November 2017

The replacement boiler was installed on 28 November

During the year the organ was repaired and new lighting and heating was installed in St Michaels Room.

At the last meeting of the group the next actions to be taken were reviewed .Initially they are actions needed following the quinquennial report. These are all maintenance items such repairs to window frames , tarmac repairs, attention to the clock face.

Other actions discussed include finishing the re-ordering, exploring the back of church, exploring to find a solution to the vexed problem of car parking.

All the tasks are to be costed and prioritised.

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8. Social Committee Report 2017

We are a small committee with members from St Michael's and St Mary's, sharing the work and any profits. The year 17/18 was a learning curve for us all but this year we have put effort into a bit of planning now that we have a better idea of what we can cope with. We depend quite a lot on the goodwill of the people within the parishes with offers of help. We very much appreciate this help and if anyone feels they would like to become part of the committee please let us know.

Last year we had a successful Harvest Supper in October in the Village Hall. Some of us helped Barry to serve Christmas Fizz and mince pies to everyone who attended St Michael's Carol Service.

Those of us who were free attended the "ribbon cutting" for the new church boiler and served coffee and biscuits.

On 9th February we organised a Fish and chip Supper in St Mary's Hall for members of the Benefice. This was very well attended by 54 people . It was not set up as a profit making event but to bring the churches together socially.

We will be running a cake and tea stall at the Village Fete in June and another Harvest Supper in October. Ros Brown has kindly given us permission to use her garden in August for a fund raising event. We are also planning a Christmas Tree Festival in St Michael's and if this is successful could become an annual event.

9. Open the Book in the Canalside Benefice

During 2017 the team has been regularly into Hilperton School two or three times per term and since September 2017 also into Staverton School.

We are always made very welcome at both schools by their staff and we look forward to being with the children and adults to share with them the incredible true stories from the Bible.

We rehearse in advance of going into schools generally two stories at a time and then hope we remember what we planned when we arrive of an afternoon at school! Rehearsals are always great fun with lots of laughter as well as getting our props list and who is doing what role organised.

We involve the children as much as possible and get them playing a part in the story, lighting candles at the start of the assembly, singing the song chosen for that particular story or calling out phrases we provide them with. Those that have helped get a special Open the Book sticker – which they love to receive.

Each term there is an overall theme within school and stories are chosen to link with this value. There is a prayer said at the beginning of each assembly with three candles being lit as well.

Children often ask us if they see us in school "is it Open the Book this afternoon Miss"? Which is totally wonderful and goes to prove how important it is that we are going into school and they are really enjoying and taking on board the stories.

Please may I encourage you to use the link below to find out more about this amazing way to ensure that Primary School children are informed about the life of Jesus.

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/search/open+the+book/>

If you would like to discuss OtB with me or explore the possibility of joining the team and what this might entail then by all means do talk with me I would be delighted to share with you. It is GREAT!

Dawn Farmer (Open the Book Co-Ordinator)

10. Messy Church @ Hilperton School

In 2017 we held our first ever Messy Church in Hilperton School on 25 November and it was on the theme of Advent and getting ready for Christmas. It was very well attended and there was lots of laughter, good conversations, lovely crafts made, good worship and eating lunch together. The atmosphere was lovely in school and very positive feedback. We used classrooms; break out areas, the hall and kitchen all for free with the blessing of the Headteacher, Mrs. Cann for which we were very grateful.

This report is technically for the year 2017, however, we have just successfully had another Messy Church in Hilperton School (17 March 2018 which was fortunately the day before more snow) with the theme being Easter. There were over 45 children and 20 adults. It was another lovely couple of hours with an altar frontal made which will be displayed in St. Michael's Church, Easter cards, crosses, chocolate nests, worship and the sharing of lunch when good conversations can be had.

We have already got planned another Messy Church at Hilperton School for 09 June from 11:00 – 13:00. If you would like to be involved in any way shape or form please do talk to myself or Rev. John Rees we would be delighted to talk with you about Messy Church.

Dawn Farmer (Messy Church Helper)

11. Staverton Cygnets

Staverton Cygnets started in April last year and is a baby and toddler group which meets fortnightly on Friday mornings in Staverton Village Hall following requests from some of our Baptism families for such a group. Parents and carers can chat over a cup of tea or coffee; there are toys and books for the children to play with; we offer a simple craft activity to make and take home; after a snack for the children, we have a Bible story, singing and a prayer before going home. We usually get between 4 and 8 families at the sessions, giving a chance for the children to learn how to interact with others and the parents/grandparents time to meet with others in a similar situation. Some of our families are coming to Church for special services and to Messy Church. Please pray for Sandie, Marilyn, John and Anne as we seek to make a difference.

Anne Rees

12. www.canalsidebenefice.org.uk

This is the Benefice website which was launched last April. Do look at it if you have access to the internet. Did you know that you can:

Read a copy of the pew sheet if you are not able to get to Church on Sunday? The current and previous 3 weeks are on the "What's On" page.

Read the monthly news if you have mislaid your copy – the editions for the current year are all available on the "What's On" page.

Find out dates and time for upcoming events from the calendar.

Find contact details for Churchwardens, John and Michael.

Easily access the Diocesan cycle of prayer and the Church of England online daily prayer resource via our About Us/Resources page.

Do use the site and let friends and neighbours know that they can find useful information about the Benefice Churches too! Please talk to me if you need help finding information or if you have suggestions for other things we could include.

Anne Rees

13. Junior Church

On discussions on our last meeting it has been decided that we will continue with Junior Church every second Sunday of the month. This will be reviewed in September this year where we may introduce another Junior Church in the month or to change to the third Sunday of the month, this all depends on how many children are coming regularly. We also decided that it would be good to introduce Junior Church on special Sundays, i.e Mothering Sunday, Easter Sunday, this was well received on both these Sundays recently with a record number of over 30 children on the Easter Sunday!

With Sam Stevenson leaving and Sally Lacey unable to commit on a regular basis, we only have a small team consisting of myself, Anne, Sonja and Marilyn, if anyone would like to volunteer to assist they would be most welcome.

Annette

14. Bell Tower Report

The ringing team had a visit to some local towers last year which was well received (as was the recent ringers' meal at the Lion & Fiddle).

We continue to be able to ring for 95% of the church services plus weddings and funerals when requested. Our numbers are stable but new faces are always welcome.

We rang on the 22nd November last year for 31 minutes in memory of Rifleman 45009 Alfred Pocock of the Royal Irish Rifles 12th Battalion who was a bell ringer at Hilperton. On 20 November 1917, the British Third Army launched an attack towards Cambrai. He was killed in action near Havincourt, France on 22 November, aged 31.

Ernie Clark/Helen Newbery

15. Music report

In 2017, the musicians across the benefice have been working together to provide music suitable for the various services. As well as myself on the guitar, the main organists have been Sue Law and Jim Banks, but we have also been assisted by Richard Randall, Marjorie Raymond and Anne Rees. All their contributions have been much appreciated.

During 2017 the choir consisted of 7 regular members, leading singing at Parish Communion, other occasional services and weddings when required. For Christmas, we extended the regular choir with a Christmas Choir, which was open to all comers. 20 people (including the regular choir) expressed an interest, and we ended up with a choir of 13 people at St Mary's Horse Road and 15 at the St Michael's Carol Service. I was really pleased with how well they worked together as a group, and supported each other.

Since then, we recently said goodbye to 2 long-standing members (Sam and Henry Stevenson), although 1 person from the Christmas choir has joined the regular choir. But we could really do with more members - there are no auditions, and no previous experience or qualifications are needed, just a willingness to make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

Approved by the PCC on 8th April 2018 and signed on their behalf by Revd John Rees (PCC Chairman)

