

Hilperton with Whaddon Parochial Church Council



**Annual Report
for year ended
31st December 2018**

HILPERTON with WHADDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2018

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, *Deputy Wardens* – Val Lovell, Sandra Harding

Elected members: Catherine Warr (ex officio), Marilyn Stubbs (ex officio), Dawn Farmer (ex officio), Helen Rae, Elizabeth Holyoake, Sonja Kotevska, Jeannette Worth, Sandra Harding, Mike Holt, Carol Roddis, Stella Wilkes. Annette Keightley, Mary Tapping, Val Lovell, Dawn Farmer.

Terms of Office end dates for those listed above are: Sonja, Elizabeth, Jeannette, Helen, Carol - 2019, Stella, Sandra – 2020. Annette, Mary Tapping, Val Lovell, Dawn Farmer - 2021

The treasurer was Mr Michael Holt.

The secretary was Stella Wilkes

Representatives on the Deanery Synod (ex officio): Marilyn Stubbs, Dawn Farmer.

Re- election (Deanery Synod): Marilyn Stubbs, Dawn Farmer- 2020

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

Electoral Roll

The new roll has been prepared. It is six years since the last one was done and it has taken time and effort to complete a new Roll.

The official number on the new Roll is seventy-one a few of which are new members. This is one more than the last roll

Do Townley - Electoral Roll Officer for Hilperton with Whaddon

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

On 25th May 2018 the new GDPR came into force and was designed to modernize laws that protect the personal information of individuals. Therefore, all data we hold about people who have contact with our churches is only used for church purposes and with the permission of the individuals involved. Privacy notices are displayed in the churches and on the Benefice website.

Anne Rees- Benefice Data Protection Officer

Safeguarding

As the Canalside Benefice Safeguarding Officer, I am pleased to report that our Parish safeguarding policies are up to date and I am checking that all those working with children and vulnerable adults have up to date DBS clearance and have attended appropriate safeguarding courses. Each church displays appropriate safeguarding notices.

Anne Rees- Benefice Safeguarding Officer

Review of the year 2018

The full joint PCC of the Parishes of Hilperton and Whaddon, and Staverton and Hilperton Marsh met four times during the year as planned and for one extraordinary PCC meeting, and the full PCC of St Michael's, and Whaddon met separately once.

Committees met between meetings, and reports of their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary.

During the year the PCC discussions have been in line with the PCC approved Parish Priority Plan;

- *Working Together*; the 3 churches working together and with other groups including local schools, and including Ministry with Children and Families

- *Worship* – We discussed the new Hilperton Messy Church and special services such as the Evensong with Keynsham Choir and our Christmas and Easter service
- *Service* – Discussions included the planning of Treefest, which proved a wonderful way of engaging with our village community at Christmas, and Remembrance Sunday, where the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1 was marked by a packed Church.
- *Depending on Christ* – The Lent and Advent courses and Home Groups were affirmed.
- We discussed the importance of Stewardship and endorsed a Stewardship campaign
- *Infrastructure* – We began to consider plans for levelling the nave and creating more space at the front and back of the nave. We also planned refurbishing of a clock face and identified the need for window repairs.

The church committee groups have reported below:

1: Rector's Report

It is very important at this time of year to reflect on God's Blessings on us during the past year and to give thanks for them; this in turn enables us to look to the future in confidence and with trust as we seek to be faithful in our prayer and commitment to serve the Lord in and beyond our villages.

My report reflects on 2018 using the framework of our Benefice Vision "Together in worship and Service, depending on Christ". In reviewing each of the priority areas there is much for which we can give thanks to God, as well as being a focus for our continued prayer and action.

Working together

The partnership between our Benefice Churches has continue to grow. The PCCs for St Marys and St Michaels have continued to work together and to meet jointly and have agreed in principle to merge to be a single parish from the beginning of 2020. This will both reduce administration and enable us to use both buildings for worship and serving the community to best effect

We have continued to take "Open the Book" Bible stories into Hilperton and Staverton Schools and are now doing so in Semington too. This ministry is much appreciated by participants, staff and pupils in each school. Our cross Benefice LPA team provides invaluable support to our pastoral ministry. LPA's have supported our many Baptisms, Marriage Preparation for our 8 weddings and more recently (thanks to a team led by Gill Guymer) have begun to offer bereavement support,

At the end of 2018 plans had been put in place to run a Benefice Alpha course in early 2019

Worship

We continue offer a wide range of informal and more liturgical worship which seek to inspire both regular worshippers and explorers to grow in faith and to be confident in using their gifts in service, both within and beyond our Church communities.

Messy Church has continued to be our key means of reaching out to families of primary school aged children. Semington and Hilperton Messy Churches are now planned jointly and now have a significant number of families who come most times and who clearly enjoy it. At Hilperton we have had up to 30 children. It has been good to have had some additional helpers. We have begun to explore how to build on Messy Church by offering all age services with a similar style (but shorter) at 4pm on a Sunday. I will research how such services have been developed in other Benefices during my sabbatical which will be from late April to the end of June 2019.

It was wonderful to celebrate with Dawn Farmer and Stuart Raymond when they were commissioned as Lay Worship Leaders in September following a 10 session Deanery training course. In Stuart's case this formally recognised a ministry he has given for some years. I'm sure you will join me in giving thanks for our retired ministers, Ray, Hugh, Tony and Ivor, to LLM's Catherine and Marilyn and to Anne, our first LWL for sharing in leading worship and other ministry. Tony and Ivor have stepped back from leading Sunday worship; their contribution was much appreciated.

Special services included a Pet Service at St Mary's, Fete Songs of Praise at St George's and an Evensong led by Keynsham Church choir. I have continued to take a monthly Communion at the Old Vicarage in Staverton, supported by Di Lavis.

Service in our villages

We are developing our support to the community life of our villages in many ways. Let's do Lunch and Drop in for Coffee continue to be appreciated and a Thursday afternoon Friendship Group was launched in St Mary's January. Anyone can bring games, knitting or just chat. It is proving very popular.

Staverton Cygnets also flourished in 2018 and provided a gathering place for parents and pre-school Children at Staverton Village Hall. As Anne's report explains, numbers have now dwindled and we plan to re-launch it in the autumn.

We have had numerous social events through the year, including an excellent Fish and Chip Supper at St Marys and a Harvest Supper at Semington. December saw the launch of Tree Fest at St Michaels. There were many wonderfully decorated trees and lots of people came to admire them. It is hopefully the first of many! Many thanks to the Hilperton/Staverton Social Committee and everyone in the Benefice who has contributed to this ministry. It has been good to support community events, including marking the 60th Anniversary of the Marshmead self-build project in Hilperton. I have also been very pleased to be appointed Chaplain to

Wiltshire Air Ambulance since they moved to Semington in May and to 1st Hilperton Cubs and Scouts later in the year.

Depending on Christ

In May Sister Debbie Orriss, Diocesan Discipleship Advisor, joined us for a really helpful weekend to help us reflect on our Discipleship: It is so important that everything we do is rooted in our life of prayer and desire to grow in our life of faith and service. Key to this are our Home Groups which provide an opportunity for people to share in fellowship, exploring scripture and pray together. During Lent and Advent we continued to have study groups following on from our midweek Communion service in St Michael's Room. One of the most helpful resources for these groups has been the C of E Pilgrim course.

Infrastructure

Our Church buildings are warm places of welcome; both literally and spiritually. In St Michaels we have much appreciated the new boiler – and many attending Baptisms and Weddings have commented on the warmth of the Church. Even more importantly, at all our Churches visitors have commented on the quality of the welcome they have received. At St Mary's many have commented on the attractiveness of the new roof and bell tower and on the community garden developed by the cubs and scouts.

At St Michaels the clock face has been refurbished: it now looks lovely

At both St George's and St Michael's we have continued to develop re-ordering plans. At St George's we wish to install a toilet and small kitchen and remove some pews, replacing them with chairs; while at St Michaels we intend to level the nave floor and create additional space at the rear and top of the nave, again replacing some pews with chairs. We also plan to move the Last Supper carving lower so it can be properly admired. In both cases we have outline drawings prepared and now need to prepare detailed specifications and costings. Many thanks to Mike Townley, Tony Roddis and David Wildsmith for their hard work.

Stewardship

Many thanks to all those who give so generously of their time, talents and money to the ministry of our Churches. At St Michaels and St Marys we have had a formal campaign inviting us all to review our giving in response to God's love for us. This is reported elsewhere, but I would like to thank those who worked so hard on this, particularly the members of the Stewardship Committee.

Thank you

I would like to thank you to all who contribute to our worshipping life and ministry; to our musicians, intercessors, readers, those who make drinks after services, 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 and 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 Lovell, Val Legg and David Wildsmith and the Hilperton Deputy Wardens Sandra Harding and Val Lovell. Many thanks, too, to Michael Gamble, who has very ably taken over the role of Administrator from Emma.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to Anne for all she does in sharing ministry with me, emotionally, practically and spiritually.

As we give thanks for last year I very much look forward to discovering how we are called to share together in serving our Parishes and worshipping the Lord together in the coming year.

Revd John Rees March 2019

2: Financial Report

The statement of accounts shows an excess of income over expenditure of over £8000 which is a much more comfortable position than previous years. The excess was due, for the most part, to retrospective payment of the boiler grant from Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust (in Donations and Bequests), recovery of VAT (in Income Tax Recovered) for the same and an increase in PCC fees receipts for funerals and weddings (in Fees). Church running expenses and Share were up compared with the previous year.

Looking ahead, Share is increased to £27987 (an increase of £1355) and we intend to repair some of the windows and begin re-ordering. There are some funds already set aside (see Note 2 on Page 4 of the accounts) but care will still be needed to ensure we remain able to meet our routine commitments.

I also bring to your attention the services of our accounts examiner, Ros Huggins, who has again provided her services free of charge for which we are most grateful.

Mike Holt (Treasurer)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF HILPERTON

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

General Fund Receipts and Payments Account - Unrestricted Fund

	2018		2017	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Incoming resources from donors				
Planned giving	14,978		15,006	
Collections and other giving	8,967		9,899	
Income tax recovered	7,790		5,437	
		31,735		30,343
Other voluntary incoming resources				
Donations and bequests	4,284		3,303	
Social and fundraising events	2,213		2,562	
Other churches	2,087		3,968	
		8,584		9,833
Income from investments				
Interest on CBF account	68		50	
Dividends from CBF Deposit Fund	305		299	
		373		349
Income from charitable and ancillary trading				
Charitable receipts	2,500		8,000	
Fees	7,475		2,039	
Miscellaneous	233		217	
		10,208		10,256
Out-of-date cheques		0		0
Total receipts		50,900		50,780
Payments				
Grants				
Charitable donations		1446		912
Activities directly relating to the work of the church				
Diocesan quota	26632		25613	
Church running expenses	7276		6399	
Clergy expenses	1053		1263	
Services upkeep	460		1981	
Organist fees	305		600	
Maintenance and repairs	2327		18676	
Cost of social and fundraising events	0		0	
Other churches	2276		2012	
		40328		56,545
Church management and administration				
Printing and stationery	873		308	
Weddings and Funerals	0		90	
Miscellaneous	107		600	
		980		998
Total payments		42,753.56		58,454
Excess (deficit) of receipts over payments		8,147		-7,674
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 January		18,589		26,263
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 December		26,736		18,589

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF HILPERTON

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

Church Fabric Receipts and Payments Account - Restricted Fund

	2018		2017	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Dividends from CBF Deposit Fund		<u>91</u>		<u>89</u>
Total receipts		91		89
Payments				
Door Threshold reduction	45		0	
Bell Tower door repair	180		0	
Gutter Clearing	<u>0</u>		<u>408</u>	
Total payments		<u>225</u>		<u>408</u>
Excess (deficit) of receipts over payments		<u>-134</u>		<u>-319</u>
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 January		<u>425</u>		<u>744</u>
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 December		<u><u>291</u></u>		<u><u>425</u></u>

Churchyard Fund Receipts and Payments Account - Restricted Fund

	2018		2017	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Dividends from CBF Deposit Fund		<u>39</u>		<u>38</u>
Total receipts		39		38
Payments				
Wilts Council Green Bin	48		0	
Meter box repair	<u>0</u>		<u>120</u>	
Total payments		<u>48</u>		<u>120</u>
Excess (deficit) of receipts over payments		<u>-9</u>		<u>-81</u>
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 January		<u>83</u>		<u>165</u>
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 December		<u><u>74</u></u>		<u><u>83</u></u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF HILPERTON

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

Balance sheet as at 31 December

	2018		2017	
	£	£	£	£
Monetary assets				
Bank current account	11,576		3,340	
CBF Deposit Funds	<u>13,703</u>		<u>13,635</u>	
		25,279		16,975
Other assets				
CBF Investments shares (562 at cost)	617		617	
Clergy 'wedding/funeral fees' account	0		300	
		617		917
		<u>25,896</u>		<u>17,892</u>
Represented by				
Balance brought forward		17,892		25,967
Surplus of funds in the year				
General Fund - unrestricted	7,339		-570	
General Fund - restricted	808		-7,104	
Church Fabric Fund - restricted	-134		-319	
Churchyard Fund - restricted	-9	0.19	-81	
Sale of CBF unit trusts	<u>0</u>		<u>0</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)	415	365
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)	<u>68</u>	<u>50</u>
	13,703	13,635

* 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):

Window repairs (d)	1,000	0
Church re-ordering & Methodist Fund (d)	2,081	2,081
Michael Hoddinott (r)	1,123	1,243
Joan Nossent (children's activities) (r)	<u>63</u>	<u>135</u>
	4,268	3,460

3) The CBF Investment shares are unrestricted funds.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on _____ 2019 and signed on its behalf by :

John Rees (Incumbent)

Michael H Holt (Hon. Treasurer)

R A Book Keeping

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Wiltshire

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14th March 2019

Parochial Church Council of Hilperton
Financial Statement for the year ended
31st December 2018

The financial statements for the year ending 31st December 2018 have been examined and I am 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, Partner

3: Churchwarden's Report

We have had our normal maintenance jobs inside and out at St Michael's. One concern that was raised in our last quinquennial inspection was the condition of the stained glass windows, some of which need maintenance. Tony Roddis, our Chair of the Fabric Group, has been gathering quotes from companies. We will also need a Faculty when ready to proceed with the repairs.

The clock face on the south side of the tower has been completely refurbished and a part in the mechanism replaced. We are very grateful to the Parish Council for their financial support with both of these projects.

Future reordering inside the church building is being discussed through the Fabric Group and PCC. We thank Mike Townley for producing many drawn plans for this ongoing project. The Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) visited the church recently and will be giving their advice to our future project plans.

Thank you to Sandra and Val, our Deputy Wardens, for their great support throughout the church year.

We have had some thought provoking and inspirational services throughout the year and thanks to all involved, both ordained and laity, also the many roles everyone undertakes from cleaning the church and arranging flowers etc.

Thank you John for the huge amount of diverse ministry you undertake and to Anne for supporting him and her ministry shared with others. **Barrie Lovell - Churchwarden**

4: Deanery Report 2018

Synod met three times in 2018

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

Speakers throughout 2018

At the February meeting Emma Heath of the Christian charity Recovery Two spoke. This charity was established to reach those suffering from the effects of addiction. Emma spoke from her own first hand personal experience of addiction. Emma explained how the charity helps people with courses and practical support. Literature was available for those attending the meeting to take away with them.

At the June meeting Sarah Keen who is the Programme Manager for Renewing Hope in Rural Ministry spoke. The National Church is fully supportive of this mission. In the Diocese of Salisbury 90% of parishes and 50% of the population is rural. Rural Churches have a unique dynamic and are deeply rooted in the wider community. Sarah's PowerPoint was emailed to all synod members.

At the October meeting the Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum, spoke in his capacity as working for M4M – Ministry for Mission. Alan's PowerPoint was emailed to all synod members as it contained really key and interesting information and shared exciting developments and activities taking place across the Diocese.

Clergy comings and goings

Rev. Shona Hoad moved to a different Deanery and Diocese
Rev. Oliver Learmont Welcomed to North Bradley
Rev. Alastair Wood Welcomed to Upper Studley

Deanery Share

David Robinson the Deanery Treasurer was pleased to report that the 2018 share had been paid in full.

Elections

In June 2018 elections were held for the Diocesan Synod and Board of Finance. There were four lay members and one clergy who were nominated and appointed.

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. A significant project for the year was to fund raise for the Peace Primary School, which is being built. There have been a number of events and collections across the Deanery to help with this wonderful project.

Lay Worship Leaders

In 2018 sixteen lay people from across the Deanery completed a ten-session course to become Lay Worship Leaders. Rev. Rob Thomas, Rev. Ann Keating and Rev. John Rees led the course with one session being led by Ben Jarvis, which was about "including music in worship". A commissioning service took place on 30 September 2018 at Christchurch, Bradford on Avon.

Lay Pastoral Assistants

In 2018 four lay people from the Deanery completed a Lay Pastoral Assistants course and were licensed for this role on 9 January 2019 at St. Katharine's Church, Holt.

Eco Church

A number of churches have been successful in gaining awards for being an Eco Church and a very successful "Greener Bradford on Avon" took place on the 8 September 2018 with various stands, stalls and speakers. Congratulations to everyone.

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 2019

13 February @ St. Barnabas, Beanacre
11 June @ Holy Trinity, Trowbridge
17 October @ St. Michael & All Angels, Hilperton

5: Church Flower Report

The Flower Group consists of 10 ladies who do the pedestal and windows and 5 ladies who do windows only. We had a very successful coffee morning for Remembrance Day raising £380 of which £25 was paid to each of the ladies who do pedestal/windows and £20 each to those who do windows only. The residue is for sundries ie. oasis/tapes etc. We are holding a Flower Festival 13th /14th July, the theme being "A Rainbow of Hope". Some arrangements will reflect the colours of the rainbow, while others are introducing a biblical theme to reflect the main theme. An initial meeting proved fruitful and we will be having a further meeting in April. An advert in the Village News inviting people from the community to participate resulted in just one inquiry which looks very favourable. We are hoping to encourage children to take part by bringing posies for a children's corner, also for St. Michael's Pre-School to take part. Further enquiries to be made re entertainment – possibly schools and or music. Entry will be by donation which is intended to be used towards St. Michael's refurbishment. **Carol Roddis**

6: Let's Do Lunch

Let's Do Lunch' enjoyed its fourth year in 2018. We met on ten occasions and averaged about twenty-eight people. Apart from a variety of meals we enjoyed a mixture of serious and amusing talks and quizzes provided by Ivor, Tony, Ray and John. Some folk got very competitive with the quizzes!

I am very grateful to all those who help to prepare the room, move tables and chairs, arrange flowers, clear up afterwards and launder tablecloths. Also, a big thank you to those who help by providing food – soups, salads, savouries, desserts and other treats.

In one way or another everyone contributes to the success of these lunches. In particular I mention a big thank you to Gwenda and Tony Parfitt for sharing in the leadership of this group and who are now stepping back. They will be greatly missed.

In 2018 we raised £1,148.60 for the British Red Cross Syria Crisis appeal, Julia's House, Shelter Box, Christian Aid, The Salvation Army, Wiltshire Air Ambulance, Tearfund, Bradford Deanery for Kadugli Diocese, Sudan and Crisis at Christmas.

Praise be to God for all the fun and friendship we have had. **Anthea Hughes**

7: Fabric Group Report to PCC November 2018

Report to The Annual Meeting of The Parish Council from the Fabric Committee

Since the high level work involved with replacement of the boiler last year ,this year has not been so hectic. A useful meeting was held with representatives of the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC). Our plans for the Church were explained and advice and support were given.

Specific in which the group has been involved are as follows

1. Repair of some windows , this ongoing with the DAC and should reach a satisfactory conclusion shortly.
2. Plans have been drawn up for the partial re-ordering of the Church in order to create more usable space
3. A quotation has been received for the re-positioning of “The Last Supper” plaque. Once the final detail has been agreed DAC permission will be sought.
4. A draft Health and Safety Policy has been prepared for PCC approval **Anthony Roddis**

8: Social Committee Report 2018

2018 was a busy year and began with a Fish and Chip Supper at St Mary Magdalen’s with a sing a long session. A great success. In the summer we provided, served and cleared up the teas at the Village Fete. At Hilperton House we helped with the Cream Teas afternoon and the year ended with our very first TreeFest.

2019 has got off to a good start with a Coffee morning in St Michael’s room on Saturday 23 February. This was a pleasant affair with much friendship and well attended. With the help of a small raffle and Gill Guymer donating her paintings’ sale we made total of £227. With this money and a healthy surplus from the Village Fete last year we have asked that this be placed with Mike Holt and ringfenced in a fund to use for the refurbishment of the new area at the back of St Michael’s

This year’s Fish and Chip supper included a whodunit play on Friday 22 March. All tickets were sold quickly for the St Mary’s venue. This is run as a fun and friendship evening and if there is a profit this is a bonus

We will again be running the tea and cake stall at the Village Fete on 15 June.

We hope to run a Harvest Lunch this year . Probably on a smaller scale in St Michael's room rather than the usual supper in the Village Hall. This was cancelled last year because of lack of interest. **Do Townley - Chairman Social Committee**

9: Open the Book in the Canalside Benefice

During 2018 the team has been regularly into Hilperton, Staverton and St. George's School two or three times per term.

During 2018 on the days when not an Open the Book story telling session then either Rev. John Rees, Rev. Hugh Hoskins, Anne Rees or myself provide a collective worship assembly. These assemblies are linked to the theme for the term.

We are always made very welcome at all the 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 had planned! 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 schools and the prayer said at the beginning of each assembly is linked to this 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 all three schools and they are really enjoying and taking on board the stories.

The author of the Lion Storyteller Bible, Rev. Bob Hartman, lives in Hilperton and last year went into Hilperton School and took an assembly and the children loved it and really engaged with all the stories he told. He has kindly offered to do this again, diary permitting.

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!

In 2019 Open the Book is celebrating its 20th anniversary, which is outstanding, and there are various events planned up and down the country. The nearest ones are in Gloucester Cathedral on Tuesday 14 May @ 14:00 – 16:00 and Wells Cathedral on Saturday 18 May @ 17:15 for an hour. If you would like to know more or attend then please do talk with me.

Dawn Farmer (Open the Book Co-Ordinator)

10: Messy Church @ Hilperton School

During 2018 we continued to hold Messy Church at Hilperton School. We are most grateful to the school as we are not charge for the hire of the building and the kitchen staff allow us to store catering items the day before which is really helpful.

The team has grown over the course of the year, which is great, as we have had regularly good attendance and therefore the need to have enough helpers to do the crafts with the children and to help with catering.

We have a good schedule now with worship taking place in the hall at the start and this enables all the helpers to be involved as well as those attending. There is then approx. fifty minutes to do crafts and then a shared buffet style lunch, which is much appreciated.

I have subscribed to Bible Reading Fellowship and each quarter receive their wonderful magazine, which includes themes and ideas for crafts and Anne Rees and Emily Wood liaise about these. The magazine also has updates and articles from other Messy Church teams from around the world and it is so encouraging.

Thanks to the Wednesday morning congregation who donate once a month to the Messy Church fund and those that provide cakes and buy catering items without charge to the church.

Hilperton and Staverton Schools email parents with a poster, which Michael Gamble (Administrator) kindly produces and baptism families are invited as well.

There is always a lovely amount of chatter and excitement and really good friendships made and people are coming regularly as they see this as their church and time to engage with bible stories, worship and learn. **Dawn Farmer (Messy Church Helper)**

11: Staverton Cygnets

Staverton and Hilperton Cygnets baby and toddler group met fortnightly during term time in Staverton Village Hall during 2018. Parents and carers chatted over a cup of tea or coffee; we had toys and books for the children to play with and offered a simple craft activity to make and take home; after a snack for the children, we shared a Bible story, singing and a prayer before going home. We decorated a Christmas tree for Tree Fest – our carol was Away in a Manger. Although we were having between 4 and 8 families at most of the sessions, our numbers declined around Christmas time as children started pre-school and parents' commitments changed. Consequently, the group is currently having a break – but we hope to relaunch in the autumn. Thank you, Sandie and Marilyn, for all your hard work. **Anne Rees**

12: Friendship Group

Friendship Group started in January 2018 and is a monthly gathering where people can have a chat with friends old and new, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, bring knitting or crochet to do, play board games – scrabble is very popular! – or any other activity. We meet for one and a half hours on the second Thursday of each month in St Mary's Church Horse Road, Hilperton Marsh. We were pleased to welcome children from Hilperton School in December who entertained us with some lovely singing and chatted with the members. There are about 20 regular members who really enjoy coming along – and there is always room for more people! Their donations provide a useful addition to St Mary's income. Thank you to those who help with the refreshments and washing up.

13: Junior Church

We had a meeting on the 21 February to discuss the way forward for Junior Church. We will continue to hold Junior Church every 2nd Sunday of the month and if we need to increase this, we will discuss this at our next meeting in July. At the moment the number of children can vary from no children to possibly 6. We advertised at our recent Messy Church in March, in the leaflet that we handed out to families, hoping that this may encourage further children to attend. We are also looking at having a teatime service to be held at St Mary's and shall look at this further in the near future. **Annette Keightley**

14: Music report

2018 saw a few changes in the music team at St. Michael's. We were very sorry to see Jim Banks retire from regular playing, although we fully understand why he felt the time had come to do so. However, we have also welcomed Tim Davies who joined us in the summer as an experienced keyboard player but novice organist. He has taken on learning the ways of the organ and church liturgy (and choirmaster!) with great enthusiasm and is now playing regularly on some Sundays and festivals and occasional services. My thanks go to him, and also the other musicians who play for us (Sue Law, Marjorie Raymond, Richard Randall and Anne Rees) - it is good to have such a diverse team to call upon.

2018 also saw us expand the extended Christmas Choir into a Festival Choir for various occasions - we sang at Harvest as well as Christmas (and, if I may encroach into 2019 a bit, the Bishop's visit in February). And some have also pitched in to help provide a choir at weddings. My thanks here go to Mary Tapping who has stepped up to assist me both with fresh ideas and helping to share the load of Christmas rehearsals. But, as ever, the credit must go to the choir members themselves (both regular and extended) who always manage to make it "alright on the night" and produce an excellent sound - I always try to feed back the praise that I receive after services as it is far from being just my efforts.

James Newton