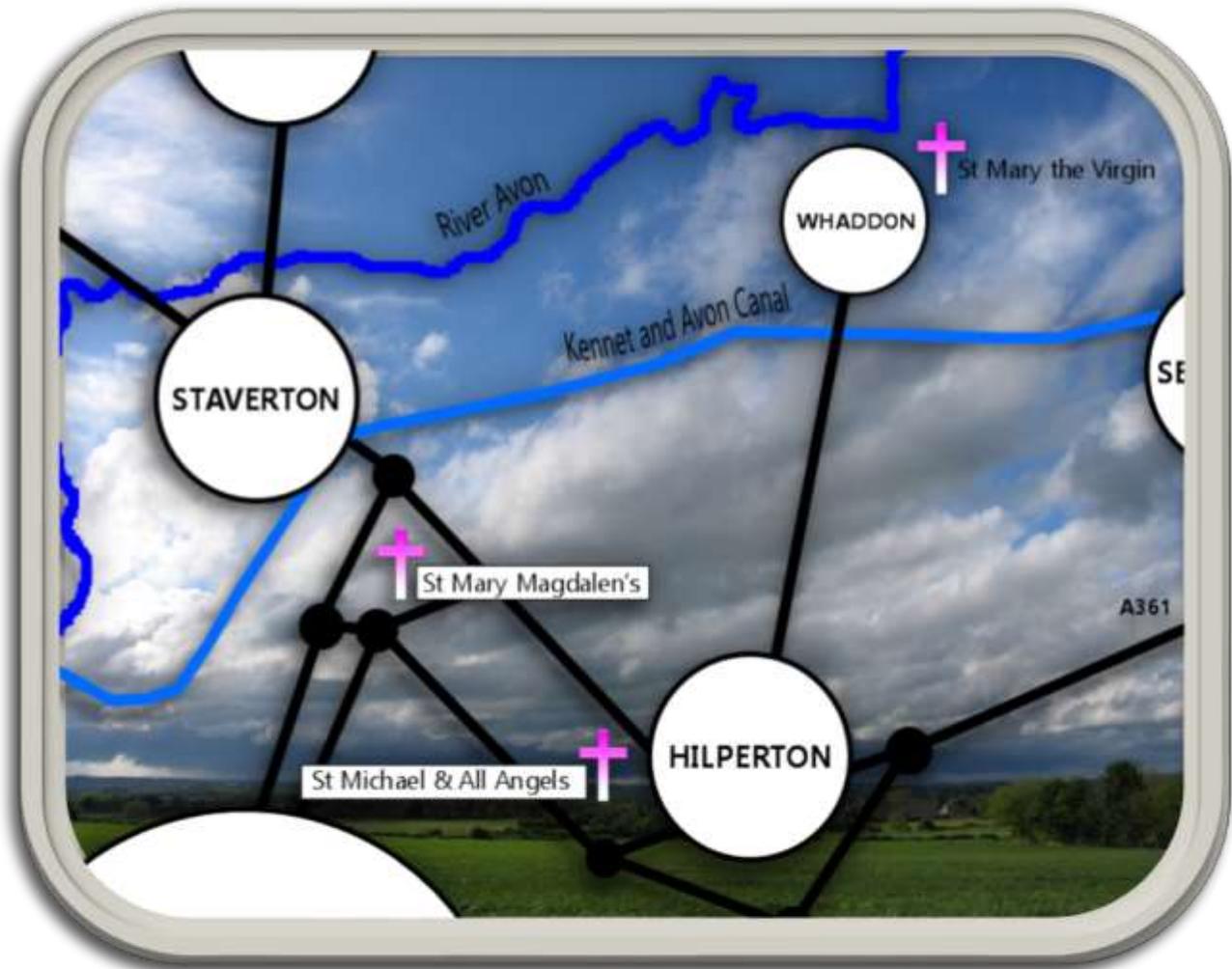


# Hilperton with Whaddon & Staverton with Hilperton Marsh Parochial Church Councils



Annual Report  
for year ended  
31st December 2019

# **ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE PARISHES OF HILPERTON with WHADDON and STAVERTON with HILPERTON MARSH FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2019**

## **Administrative information**

St Michael and All Angels Church, St Mary Magdalen's Church and St Mary the Virgin Church at Whaddon are situated in Hilperton near Trowbridge. They are 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 Councils (PCC) are registered charities excepted from registration with the Charity Commission

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

*Incumbent:* The Revd John Rees, Chairman

*Vice Chair:* Valerie Legg

*Wardens:* Barrie Lovell, Sandra Harding, Valerie Legg, David Tucker

*Deputy Wardens -* Val Lovell

*Elected members:* Revd Joy Albone (Curate), Michael Gamble, Catherine Warr, Marilyn Stubbs, Helen Rae, Elizabeth Holyoake, Sonja Kotevska, Jeannette Worth, Sandra Harding, Carol Roddis, Stella Wilkes, Annette Keightley, Mary Tapping, Val Lovell, Derek Yates, Diane Lavis, Stuart Raymond, Colin Legg and Sandie Baker.

*The Treasurer* was Michael Gamble.

*The Secretaries* were Stella Wilkes and Sandie Baker

*Representatives on the Deanery Synod:* Marilyn Stubbs and Stuart Raymond

## **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**

The two Parochial Church Councils (PCC) have 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 Centres of St Michael and All Angels, The Knap, Hilperton, St Mary Magdalen's Church, Horse Road, Hilperton and St Mary the Virgin Church at Whaddon.

## **Achievements and Performance**

### **Review of the year 2019**

The joint PCCs of the Parishes of Hilperton and Whaddon, and Staverton and Hilperton Marsh met five times during the year as planned. Whilst the two parishes did not merge into one until 2020, the two PCCs met jointly as they planned for the merger; the joint treasurer reported to the PCC on the finances of both churches but these remained as separate accounts.

The various sub - committees met between meetings, and their reports were presented to the joint full PCC and discussed where necessary. As reported at the last APCM a stewardship group was formed led by Derek Yates who was elected as member of the PCC.

During the year the PCC discussions have been in line with the PCC approved Parish Priority Plan; *Working Together; Worship, Service, Depending on Christ in fellowship and prayer, Infrastructure.*

Standing items on the PCC agenda for discussion: Safeguarding, correspondence received, Treasurers reports, Mission and Ministry, Fabric and Churchyard matters, Social Committee report, ministry with children and families, Deanery Synod reporting, and Wardens matters.

### **Electoral Roll**

*Electoral Officers* - Do Townley, Sandie Baker

### **Electoral Roll Report**

ENROLMENT: Hilperton and Staverton Parish

Headcount at 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020 stands at 96 enrolled Parishioners.

This listing includes 6 people who have been absent for some time

(Do Townley)

### **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

On 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018 the new GDPR came into force and was designed to modernise 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 **Safeguarding** individuals involved. Privacy notices are displayed in the churches and on the Benefice website.

Anne Rees, Benefice Data Protection Officer

### **Safeguarding Representative's Report**

The Safeguarding Policy has been updated since the last APCM in line with current legislation and Diocese guidance, and copies are available in each church with links to the policy on the Benefice website.

All church team members have been made aware of the guidance on Safeguarding training and have completed the online Diocese training or attended face to face workshops dependent on the level of training recommended for their role. The basic online training available at

**<https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/login/index.php>** can be undertaken by any member of the congregation and is recommended to support a culture of Safeguarding awareness within our churches.

A Safeguarding Past Cases Review has been undertaken since the beginning of 2019 within the Diocese by Heather Bland (Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor) to which we were required to submit our return. The purpose of the review was to ensure that no instances of abuse and/ or harm against vulnerable people has been missed; more information can be found at **<https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/parishes/safeguarding>**

Thanks to Anne Rees for all her hard work in updating the policy.

(Stella Wilkes - Safeguarding Representative)

### **Safeguarding - Verifier's Report**

Since the last APCM Stella Wilkes has been appointed Safeguarding Officer and I have been helping her with the DBS applications which have to be verified. We have attended a Course on The Micro Site which has been established by the Diocese to keep an up-to-date record of everyone in all the Parishes who has been, or needs to be cleared by DBS. Adrian Smale from the Diocese has been very helpful and supplied extensive information to make keeping records as easy as possible, and more importantly, to keep track of

people who need to renew their DBS. Seven new applications have been verified during 2019/20. Ann Rees had done an excellent job in setting up the safeguarding policy. (Elizabeth Holyoake – Safeguarding Verifier)

## **Other Reports:**

### **1: Rector's Report**

In normal times, when we come to our Annual Church Meetings, it is still fairly easy to look back on the previous calendar year (on which we are legally reporting) and give thanks for God's Blessing on our lives and ministry. As I write this in Autumn 2020, with all that has happened this year due to Covid -19, I confess that I have had to think hard to remember the significant events in our Church life in 2019.

There is, however, much to give thanks for as we look back, for example:-

- The breadth of our worshipping life; from BCP and Common Worship Communion Services, Celtic Worship and the launch of occasional All Age Services in St George's and then our Tea@theTin informal service in the Autumn.
- The continued development of our ministry to schools and families. Our C of E Primary Schools in Hilperton, Semington and Staverton have greatly appreciated our support through weekly Collective Worship, Open the Book and in school governance; and St Georges and Hilperton School have had special services in Church. Our relationships with our Messy Church families have strengthened. Our bi- monthly Messy Churches are appreciated and offer a platform for building more multi- generational worship for the future.
- We successfully completed an Alpha Course, which was much appreciated by those who attended.
- Important work on our maintaining and developing our buildings continued. Stained Glass Window repairs were completed at St Michael's and St George's and new heaters were installed at St Mary's. The most dramatic change was at St Michael's, where the wonderful Last Supper carving was, thanks to the generosity of Ros and Chris Brown moved to the North Wall, where the wonderful detail can be admired. Further generous donations mentioned in detail elsewhere have provided a new Remembrance Table and beautifully inscribed book and Pew Bibles at St Michaels. We also have new pew Bibles at St George's. At St George's and St Michael's re-ordering plans were still progressing.
- The Parishes of Hilperton and Whaddon and Staverton and Hilperton Marsh were legally merged from the end of the year. I am so grateful for all who supported this; the

closer working together has already significantly helped both our worship and wider ministry.

Even more important than any of the points above though are you, the Christian family of Canalside Benefice. Without your commitment to live out our vision "Together in Worship and Service, depending on Christ", and your generosity with time and skills, and in financial support, none of the above, nor anything else we have done in worship or service, would be possible.

It is hard to believe that Revd Joy Albone only joined us as Curate in July last year. Her ministry has been much appreciated by many, both within our Churches and wider village communities. Someone wrote to me recently that "Joy lives up to her name" - I agree! We look forward with anticipation to her continued ministry, now as a Priest. I remain thankful for all those, lay and ordained, who have shared the leadership of Ministry in Canalside Benefice in any way. Two of our much loved retired clergy, Ivor and Hugh, have stepped back from leading worship regularly since my last report and I would particularly like to thank them, while also giving thanks for Ray, Marilyn, Catherine, Anne and Stuart. Although technically my welcome should be in next year's report I am very thankful for the ministry of LLM Claire Horton and Rev Jill Perrett who joined the ministry team in early 2020.

I would also like to especially thank our Churchwardens, Barrie Lovell and Sandra Harding at St Michaels, supported by Deputy warden Val Lovell, Val Legg at St Mary's, and David Wildsmith at St George's, supported by Jack Woodward, David and Barbara Tucker at Whaddon, - and our wonderful administrator, Michael Gamble, who ably and conscientiously supports them, me and us all. They all use their skills and energy tirelessly, and much of their effort is unseen - but it is not unappreciated! Thank you from us all.

Barrie and Val Lovell have just announced that, after much thought and prayer, they are stepping back from their warden roles. I cannot adequately put into words how much I have appreciated their support and friendship since I arrived in the Benefice in July 2016.

It is testimony to all of those mentioned above, and all others who contributed, that Benefice worship and ministry continued effectively throughout my sabbatical between Easter and Petertide. I am very grateful for this, and for having the opportunity to explore how other Benefices offer Breakfast and Teatime services.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our worshipping life and ministry in any way; including our musicians, intercessors, readers, those who made drinks after services, bell ringers, flower arrangers and cleaners; 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 Anthea Hughes and her Let's do Lunch Team, our Treasurers Michael and Jack and our PCC Secretaries Jack and Stella.

Above all, my heartfelt thanks go to Anne for all she does in sharing ministry with me. As most of you are aware she supports me in everything I do.

Normally I finish with a reflection on what God might be calling us to do in the future. However, at present we are in the middle of the Covid pandemic - we have learnt new skills and we are learning to trust in God, who is always faithful, one step at a time. We are currently planning services and other ministry into next year, which will inevitably still include a mix of live worship and events and continuing to connect online and by phone. I know we would all like to acknowledge and give thanks for the skill and commitment of James Newton.

I am certain that the Christian worshipping and serving community we will be called to be post-Covid will be very different from the one we left so suddenly last March. One of the tasks of the PCC's we elect this year will be to work with me and us all in prayerfully discerning what God's new vision for the Canalside Churches should be. However, I think realistically this is a task for early 2021.

In the meantime, I would like to share a framework from the Diocese of Oxford on how we might approach the next 6 months or more (see below). I hope it may be helpful for us both personally and as members of the Canalside Church Family.

With my love, prayers and thanks, **John**  
Rev'd John Rees October 2020

## Living well through the next six months

**Living with COVID-19 will be hard for everyone this winter. The Prime Minister has asked us all to observe the Rule of Six. There are lessons and challenges that Christians can draw from this number to help us live well in these times.**

**> SIX MONTHS IS THE NEW HORIZON**

*Focus on Easter and lean back into the great themes of the church year.*

**> SIX DAYS TO WORK AND A SABBATH TO REST**

*Reclaim the gift of one day each week for rest and re-creation.*

**> SIX PEOPLE TO JOURNEY WITH**

*Rediscover church as small groups of people supporting one another.*

**> SIX WAYS TO BE SALT AND LIGHT**

*Identify the people and community organisations you can support.*

**> SIX PERCENT TO YOUR CHURCH**

*If your income is stable, increase your giving to sustain the local church.*

**> SIX PEOPLE TO PRAY FOR**

*Pray for people you know to discover the riches of our faith.*

**"...neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."**

Romans 8:37-39

## **2: Finance Report**

This report covers 3 sets of accounts for 2019: St Mary Magdalen's Hilperton, St Michael & All Angels Hilperton and the Friends of St Paul's Churchyard.

### **2a: St Mary Magdalen's Hilperton**

St Mary's began 2019 with total funds of just £1,004 but we ended the year with £5,619. That sounds like a remarkable turnaround based on our performance in recent years but a year is a long time in church finances - and a lot has happened at St Mary's. We ended the year in a far better position mainly thanks to two very generous loans towards the cost of replacing the hall gas heaters. Later in the year those loans were changed to gifts which was fantastic news and we will always be very grateful to the anonymous donors. In addition we received grants from the Trowbridge Area Board and from Hilperton Parish Council. We also received donations from St George's PCC and from 9 individuals for which we are very grateful.

Although we began 2020 with £5,619 in the bank £323 of that is ringfenced as it has to be spent on the maintenance of the grounds at St Mary's under the terms of a trust fund set up for that purpose. A further £1,000 needs to be deducted as it is an anonymous loan that needs to be repaid at some point. So the total available funds to us at the end of 2019 was in fact: £4,296.

During the year we were able to meet all of our financial commitments including the Deanery Share of £8,292.

Our total income for the year was £26,830 and our expenditure was £22,196. So for the first time in many years our income exceeded our expenses by £4,634.

### **On the income side.....that's the column on the left hand side of TABLE A with the 2018 figures highlighted in grey**

Our Church giving by weekly envelopes was down 54% or £1,341 but this is because many people have now switched to giving by standing order.

Likewise giving by the collection plate was down by 24% or £240

Meanwhile our Church giving by standing orders was up by 122% or £2,495

Tax recovered by Gift Aid was down by 8% or £240

All that means that overall in 2019 Church giving was up by 11% on the previous year's total and that equates to £795.

Initially we were expecting to see a bigger increase than that due to the stewardship campaign in late 2018 but sadly during the first part of last year we lost one of our main donors which made significant difference.

Our fundraising total was £2,759 which was just a few pounds down on 2018. In addition to our usual events we had our Anniversary Celebration and a very successful Autumn Afternoon Fayre on a Friday afternoon.

Income from hall lettings was down just over 13% or £627.

Other income was significantly up on 2018 and this is where the grants, loans and gifts that we received are recorded.

Overall our Income for 2019 was up by just under 60% or £10,051.

**On the expenditure side.....that's the columns on the right hand side of TABLE A with the 2018 figures highlighted in grey.**

Our charitable giving during the year was 21% or £120 higher than the 2018 total. This was raised from the Charity Coffee Morning, donations made at the Lent Lunches, the Christingle Service and the Drop in for Coffee Mornings and the collection taken at Staverton's Remembrance Service. The charities supported were : Storehouse Foodbank, Clic Sargent, Guide Dogs, the Royal British Legion, the Childrens Society and Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

Our running costs for the year were up nearly 16% or £670 on the year before. This was mainly the increase in gas heating and we paid £275 more to organists in 2019.

37% of our expenses was the £8,292 Deanery Share paid to the Diocese which was £180 up on the previous year.

Our repairs and maintenance costs were up significantly on 2018 - nearly £3,300. This was mainly the replacement hall heaters, new heaters in the cloakroom corridor and repairs to the outside noticeboard.

The cost of administration was £2,611 which was an increase of £88 on the 2018 total. Clergy expenses were down as John was on sabbatical for part of the year and Joy only joined the Benefice as Curate midway through the year. However, the Administrator's costs are higher as he put in a full year's work in 2019.

Overall our Expenditure for 2019 was up just over £4,400 on 2018 mainly due to the replacement heaters.

If you turn to the balance sheet **TABLE B** you can see there on the left hand side the total of £5,619.29 that we ended the year with.

## **2b: St Michael & All Angels Hilperton**

St Michael's began 2019 with a bank balance of £11,856 in the current account but ended the year with just £1,273.

All of our financial commitments during the year were paid in full including the Deanery Share of £27,987.

Our total income for the year was just over £47,727 and our expenditure was £58,310. So we spent £10,582 more than we received.

### **On the income side.....that's the column on the left hand side of TABLE C with the figures for 2018 highlighted in grey.**

Our Church giving by weekly envelopes and by the collection plate was down 19% or £1,708 but as at St Mary's this is because many people have now switched to giving by standing order.

Giving by standing orders was up by 19% or £2,690

The total for tax recovered needs to be explained as it appears we have seen a significant reduction on the previous year's total. This is because the 2018 total includes a VAT reclaim. The increase in giving, following the stewardship campaign in late 2018, will be reflected in the tax recovered in 2020 which is based on giving in 2019.

Overall in 2019 Church giving via collections, envelopes and standing orders was up just over 4% or nearly £1,000.

As at St Mary's we were expecting the increase to be higher, following the stewardship campaign, but the loss of the same donor cancelled out any expected increase.

The fundraising total at St Michael's was £2,983 which was up by £770. The Social Committee raised £715 from a number of events, Jeannette sold £500 worth of marmalade, Barbara Hunt's Coffee Morning raised £427, the Ebonite Concert brought in a further £532, Teas sold at Hilperton House raised £448 and the total from Jeannette's open garden was £331.

Our income from investments in 2019 was up £73 to £446.

Income from the letting of St Michael's Room is never an huge amount but was down £113 on the 2018 total.

The total income from Donations and Bequests was £6,553 an increase of £2,269 or just under 53%. This increase is mainly because we now include donations made by Let's Do Lunch and other events where although the money is paid to charities I think it is a good idea to record it through our accounts. The total includes donations from Funeral services, the Flower Festival, Treefest, Let's Do Lunch, the Harvest Lunch, the Wednesday Coffee and Communion, the Whisky bottle, gifts for the move of the Last Supper carving, for the Book of Remembrance cabinet, for the Grace Health Centre in Kadugli and for the purchase of pew bibles.

And at the bottom there is other income which includes the fees we receive for weddings, funerals and memorials. This was down from £7,400 in 2018 to £1,530 because we only had one wedding in 2019. Shared cost income is the amount reimbursed to St Michael's by St George's and St Mary Magdalen's and represents their share of the clergy, admin and office supply costs. Miscellaneous income is where I have recorded the payments for entries in the Book of Remembrance and the loan given for the heaters at St Mary's which was repaid straight away as we found we had already raised enough to go ahead and buy the replacements.

Overall the income for St Michael's during 2019 was £3,172 lower than in 2018 or just over 6%.

**On the expenditure side.....that's the columns on the right hand side of TABLE C with 2018's totals highlighted in grey.**

As you can see Charitable giving during the year was significantly higher than the 2018 total. This is again because we are now including the amounts given to other charities by Let's Do Lunch etc. It also includes the funds given to the Grace Health Centre from Jeannette's Birthday, to the Childrens Society from the Christingle Service, to Crisis at Christmas from the TreeFest, to the Royal British Legion from the Remembrance Service and to the Wiltshire Rural Music School from the Ebonite Concert.

Nearly 48% of our expenses in 2019 was the £27,987 Deanery Share payment to the Diocese which was £1,355 up on the previous year.

Our running costs for the year were up nearly 29% or £1,249 on the year before. This was mainly the increase in gas heating which was just over £400 higher than in 2018 and we paid £685 more to organists in 2019.

The repairs and maintenance costs at St Michael's were up significantly on 2018 - nearly £2,789 in total. The costs include repairs to the clock, security lighting, repairs to the Church Street noticeboard, repairs to some of the windows, the relocation of the Last

Supper and the repainting of the end gable wall. Some of these projects were directly funded from specific donations but I think it is important to show the full cost of what has been done during the year.

The cost of administration was double the total for 2018. This is because in 2019 the PCC agreed that St Michael's would initially pay the full clergy and administrator expenses. The previous arrangement involved each church paying its share of those costs as and when claims were submitted. So instead of making 3 payments per claim we now only make 1. Then at the end of the year St Michael's is fully reimbursed for the costs incurred by St George's and St Mary Magdalen's.

As you can see the miscellaneous total is nearly £6,000. This includes the loan to St Mary's which was never used, the purchase of the cabinet for the book of Remembrance, the pew bibles, the fees paid to the calligrapher for entries in the book of Remembrance, Gifts for Year 6 Leavers and teachers, and the annual fee for the Benefice Website.

Overall our Expenditure for 2019 was up just over £15,220 on the 2018 costs.

If you turn to **TABLE D** the balance sheet shows total of £1,273.87 that we ended the year with.

In addition to the current account we have a number of other accounts which are set out on the rest of the balance sheet.

The main one is the Church of England Deposit Fund which currently stands at £13,805. This is an increase of £103 on the previous year from interest on the account.

The combined balance of the current account and the deposit fund is £15,079.82.

That balance is currently divided as follows :

<b>Re-ordering Project</b>	<b>£6,000.00</b>
<b>Organ and Music Fund (in memory of Michael Hoddinott)</b>	<b>£6,146.00</b>
<b>Work with Children Fund (in memory of Joan Nossent)</b>	<b>£368.50</b>
<b>Available Funds</b>	<b>£2,565.32</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£15,079.82</b>

In addition to that total we have a number of shares in 4 investment funds as set out in that table on the balance sheet. At the end of 2019 the total value of those shares was £15,855.45.

The final section on the balance sheet puts all of the assets together - the current account, the deposit fund and the investment funds. At the end of the year the total assets were £30,935.27 down £7,979.36 on the previous year.

## **2c: Friends of St Paul's Churchyard Staverton**

St Paul's Churchyard began the year with £584.79 in the account and ended with £317.79. In **TABLE E** you can see that during the year £543 was donated to the account. This came from the six families who are Friends of the Churchyard only one of which actually lives in the Parish.

Also in 2019 £810 was paid out - £450 for the grounds maintenance and £360 for an ultra sound scan of the beech tree.

The church itself has now been sold and it was hoped that some of the proceeds would be given to the Parish to help with the upkeep of the churchyard. Unfortunately the Diocese sold the building at a small loss due to the legal and insurance costs that had to be paid in the 8 years since its closure.

All three sets of accounts have been examined and certified by Matthew Sims our Independent financial examiner (see Table F)

Michael Gamble (Treasurer)

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

# TABLE A

**STAVERTON with HILPERTON MARSH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**ST MARY MAGDALEN'S CHURCH - ACCOUNTS 2019**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1st JANUARY TO 31st DECEMBER 2019**

<b>INCOME</b>				
	2019		2018	
<b>Church Giving</b>				
Gift Aid Envelopes	1,134.00		2,475.00	
Standing Orders	4,535.00		2,040.00	
Tax Recovered	1,295.25		1,413.71	
Collections	768.46	<b>7,732.71</b>	1,008.79	<b>6,937.50</b>
<b>Fundraising</b>				
Quiz Night	300.00		303.00	
Coffee Mornings	448.41		1,336.03	
"Drop in" Donations	250.00		242.00	
Film Show Tea	335.00		0.00	
Friendship Grp donations	241.55		151.75	
Community Fete	150.00		200.00	
Autumn Afternoon Fayre	455.75		0.00	
Fish & Chip Supper	90.00		68.00	
100 Club	489.00		456.00	
Rie and Stride	0.00	<b>2,759.71</b>	13.50	<b>2,770.28</b>
<b>Investment Income</b>				
Bank Interest	4.95	<b>4.95</b>	3.50	<b>3.50</b>
<b>Lettings</b>				
U3A Craft Group	289.00		120.00	
Rainbows	330.00		540.00	
Table Tennis	725.00		1,015.00	
Art Group (Tues)	1,229.00		1,344.00	
Art Group (Weds)	1,044.00		1,425.00	
Other Lettings	470.00	<b>4,087.00</b>	270.00	<b>4,714.00</b>
<b>Other Income</b>				
Grants/Donations	8,921.10		606.95	
CoE Fees	670.50		547.00	
Other Income	2,654.75	<b>12,246.35</b>	1,200.00	<b>2,353.95</b>
		<b>26,830.72</b>		<b>16,779.23</b>

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
	2019		2018	
<b>Charitable Giving</b>	692.13	<b>692.13</b>	571.63	<b>571.63</b>
<b>Deanery Share</b>	8,292.00	<b>8,292.00</b>	8,112.00	<b>8,112.00</b>
<b>Running Costs</b>				
Insurance	1,582.97		1,540.18	
Gas	1,512.00		1,169.00	
Electricity	316.00		207.00	
Water	79.00		85.00	
Cleaner	703.97		747.50	
Organist	775.00	<b>4,968.94</b>	500.00	<b>4,248.68</b>
<b>Repairs/Maintenance</b>				
Organ/Piano Tuning	305.80		0.00	
Building Maintenance	4,996.32		1,950.73	
St Mary's Grounds	330.00		300.00	
Fire Extinguishers	0.00		88.80	
Misc	0.00	<b>5,632.12</b>	0.00	<b>2,339.53</b>
<b>Administration</b>				
100 Club Prizes	270.00		270.00	
Printing/Stationery	0.00		2.76	
Church supplies	107.76		96.11	
Licences	155.28		151.36	
Clergy Expenses	248.16		358.51	
Benefice Administrator	1,154.05		992.61	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	675.75	<b>2,611.00</b>	651.59	<b>2,522.94</b>
		<b>22,196.19</b>		<b>17,794.78</b>
<b>SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>4,634.53</b>		<b>-1,015.55</b>

## TABLE B

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>STAVERTON with HILPERTON MARSH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL</b> <b>ST MARY MAGDALEN'S CHURCH ACCOUNTS 2019</b> <b>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2019</b></p>
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<b>GENERAL ACCOUNT</b>
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31st December 2019	
Nat West Current	1,545.56
Nat West Bonus	4,367.42
O/S Cheques/Payments	-648.69
O/S Credit	355.00
	<b>5,619.29</b>

31st December 2018	
Nat West Current	946.16
Nat West Bonus	430.38
O/S Cheques/Payments	-2,909.47
O/S Credit	2,537.19
	<b>1,004.26</b>

<b>Flower Fund</b>
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	Total	+/- on 2018
Balance as at 31 December 2019	£140.00	-32.3

In approving these accounts we confirm that to the best of our knowledge all records and information have been made available for their preparation and audit.

Treasurer:  
Michael Gamble

Chair:  
Rev. John Rees

Date:

Date:

# TABLE C

**HILPERTON with WHADDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH - ACCOUNTS 2019  
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1st JANUARY TO 31st DECEMBER 2019**

<b>INCOME</b>				
	2019		2018	
<b>Church Giving</b>				
Gift Aid Envelopes	3,497.00		8,967.00	
Collections	3,761.15			
Standing Orders	17,668.26		14,978.00	
Tax Recovered	5,123.87	<b>30,050.28</b>	7,790.00	<b>31,735.00</b>
<b>Fundraising</b>				
Social Committee Events	715.15			
Marmalade Sales	500.00			
Coffee Morning	427.34			
Concert	532.11			
Teas at Hilpertown House	448.00			
Open Garden	331.00			
Other	30.00	<b>2,983.60</b>	2,213.00	<b>2,213.00</b>
<b>Investment Income</b>				
CBF Dividends	446.33	<b>446.33</b>	373.00	<b>373.00</b>
<b>Lettings</b>				
St Michael's Room	119.00	<b>119.00</b>	232.75	<b>232.75</b>
<b>Donations &amp; Bequests</b>				
Funeral Services	459.15			
Flower Festival	430.10			
TreeFest	614.64			
Let's Do Lunch	1,367.60			
Other	3,681.65	<b>6,559.14</b>	4,283.83	<b>4,283.83</b>
<b>Other Income</b>				
CoE Service Fees	1,530.00		7,475.00	
Shared Cost Income	2,317.06		2,087.00	
Misc	3,728.00	<b>7,575.06</b>	2,500.00	<b>12,062.00</b>
		<b>47,727.41</b>		<b>50,899.58</b>

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
	2019		2018	
<b>Charitable Giving</b>	3,368.71	<b>3,368.71</b>	1,446.13	<b>1,446.13</b>
<b>Deanery Share</b>	27,987.00	<b>27,987.00</b>	26,632.00	<b>26,632.00</b>
<b>Running Costs</b>				
Insurance	2,688.66		2,609.83	
Gas	1,488.00		1,066.44	
Electricity	419.87		355.95	
Organists	990.00	<b>5,586.53</b>	305.00	<b>4,337.22</b>
<b>Repairs/Maintenance</b>				
Fire & Security	870.36			
Clock repairs	380.00			
Window repairs	3,085.00			
Relocation of Last Supper carving	997.00			
Organ repairs/tuning	48.00			
Misc	285.00	<b>5,665.36</b>	2,876.64	<b>2,876.64</b>
<b>Administration</b>				
Office Supplies/Expenses	1,118.59		1,371.17	
Benefice Administrator	5,586.00		4,479.88	
Licences	346.73		336.80	
Clergy Expenses	2,711.37		1,052.51	
Miscellaneous	5,940.07	<b>15,702.76</b>	558.01	<b>7,798.37</b>
		<b>58,310.36</b>		<b>43,090.36</b>
<b>SURPLUS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME</b>		<b>-10,582.95</b>		<b>7,809.22</b>

**HILPERTON with WHADDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH ACCOUNTS 2019  
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2019**

**TABLE D**

**CURRENT ACCOUNT**

31st December 2019	31st December 2018
£.p	£.p
Lloyds Bank 3,412.82	Lloyds Bank 11,544.63
O/S Cheques/Payments -3,146.08	O/S Cheques -1,650.54
O/S Credit 1,007.13	O/S Credit 1,962.73
<b>1,273.87</b>	<b>11,856.82</b>

**CHURCH OF ENGLAND DEPOSIT FUND**

31st December 2019	31st December 2018
£.p	£.p
Balance 13,805.95	Balance 13,702.95
<b>13,805.95</b>	<b>13,702.95</b>

**CHURCH OF ENGLAND INVESTMENT FUNDS**

31st December 2019	31st December 2018
£.p	£.p
<b>634022001S</b>	
562 shares @ £19.1260 10,748.81	562 shares @ £1610.96 9,053.60
<b>134001440S H23 Kemp (Fabric Fund)</b>	
167 shares @ £19.1260 3,194.04	167 shares @ £16.1096 2,690.30
<b>134001938S H24 (Churchyard Fund)</b>	
72 shares @ £19.1260 1,377.07	72 shares @ £16.1096 1,159.89
<b>134001937S H16 Usher (Rector &amp; Churchwarden)</b>	
28 shares @ £19.1260 535.53	28 shares @ £16.1096 451.07
<b>15,855.45</b>	<b>13,354.86</b>

**TOTAL ASSETS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019**

£.p	£.p
Current Account 1,273.87	Current Account 11,856.82
Deposit Fund 13,805.95	Deposit Fund 13,702.95
Investment Funds 15,855.45	Investment Funds 13,354.86
<b>30,935.27</b>	<b>38,914.63</b>

Treasurer:  
Michael Gamble

Chair:  
Rev. John Rees

Date:

Date:

## TABLE E

**STAVERTON with HILPERTON MARSH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
FRIENDS OF ST PAUL'S CHURCHYARD - ACCOUNTS 2019  
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1st JANUARY TO 31st DECEMBER 2019**

INCOME				EXPENDITURE					
	2019		2018			2019		2018	
	Planned Giving	543.00		653.00			Grounds Maintenance	450.00	
Tax Recovered	0.00		0.00		Tree Survey	360.00		0.00	
Donations	0.00		50.00						
Church of England Fees	0.00		0.00						
Refund of Safe Custody Fee	0.00	543.00	0.00	703.00			810.00		360.00
		543.00		703.00			810.00		360.00
					<u>SURPLUS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME</u>		-267.00		343.00

**STAVERTON with HILPERTON MARSH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
FRIENDS OF ST PAUL'S CHURCHYARD ACCOUNTS 2019  
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2019**

31st December 2019	
Lloyds Bank	347.79
o/s cheques/payments	-30.00
	317.79

31st December 2018	
Lloyds Bank	584.79
	584.79

In approving these accounts we confirm that to the best of our knowledge all records and information have been made available for their preparation and audit.

**Treasurer:**  
Michael Gamble

**Chair:**  
Rev. John Rees

**Date:**

**Date:**

**TABLE F**

**Independent Examiner's report to the members of the  
Hilperton and Staverton Parochial Church Council for the 2019 accounts of:  
St Mary Magdalen's Church Hilperton, St Michael and All Angels Church Hilperton and  
the Friends of St Paul's Churchyard Staverton**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019 which are set out on the following pages.

**Respective responsibilities of the PCC and Independent Examiner**

The PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to;

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 act and the Church Accounting regulations 2006
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the charity commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the charity commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts represent a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

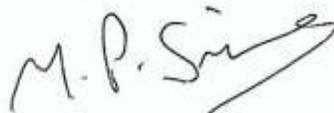
In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

Which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements  
To keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or  
To prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

Have not been met; or

To which in my opinion, attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Matthew Sims (AAT Qualified)  
33 The Spur, Westbury BA13 3AZ



17 March 2020

### **3: Stewardship/Regular Giving**

The Stewardship Campaign which took place at the end of 2018 and beginning of 2019 for St Mary's and St Michaels jointly, produced replies from 52 individuals, the majority promising to increase their giving. This was very gratifying. Some still prefer to use envelopes but most are now giving by standing order.

Currently there are 51 standing orders and 7 regular envelopes givers. We are able to reclaim 25p in the pound from donations covered by Gift Aid Certificates. Of the regular givers just mentioned 40 are covered by these certificates.

We are very grateful to all who give, whichever method is used.

### **4: Churchwardens' reports**

#### **4a: Churchwarden report for Hilperton with Whaddon**

Regular routine maintenance checks have been conducted during the year. This includes PAT of electrical items, servicing the boiler and testing the fire extinguishers. In last year's report Barrie reported the stained glass windows at the back of the Church needed some work, this has been completed. Thank you to Tony Roddis, the Fabric Committee and everyone who helped with the maintenance.

A Fire Risk Assessment was carried out in September 2019. To comply with this report, emergency lighting has been installed throughout the Church and St Michael's Room. James Newton has kindly agreed to become our Fire Officer.

The reordering is not forgotten, it is on hold at present. We are looking at a cheaper alternative as grants have been and will be difficult to obtain.

We are grateful to Ros and Chris Brown who funded the move of the Last Supper Plaque from the back of the Church to a more prominent wall, the full depth and detail was suddenly visible and admired by most people who enter the Church.

We received two other kind donations. One being, locally made, a light oak cabinet, to house the remembrance book from the Rev Canon Richard Hunt and Mrs Hunt, in memory of Stanley and Doris Hunt. The other from Martin and Liz Short and family in remembrance of their parents Geoffrey and Sheila Short to purchase 50 New Living Translation Bibles to keep in the Church.

After last year's APCM Mike Holt resigned as Treasurer, we are indebted to Michael Gamble who stepped in as our Acting Treasurer.

John had a sabbatical this year but as usual we had the support of Ray, Hugh, Ivor, Tony, Catherine and Marilyn who continued the worship with a variety of services, without a glitch.

In August we welcomed our new Curate Joy Albone who has made a huge contribution to the life of St Michael's

As Church Wardens we are part of the PCC and Standing Committee, we would like to thank all PCC members for their commitment throughout the year

We would like to thank everyone who has given their support during the year to help with the services and presentation of the Church. Sandra and Barrie would also like to thank Val Lovell, Deputy Warden who helps in so many ways, sometimes in the background

Last but not least we give grateful thanks for John and Anne who have led us through another wonderful year with a variety of services.

Barrie Lovell and Sandra Harding

#### **4b: Churchwarden report for Staverton with Hilperton Marsh**

Another busy year at St Mary's. Our church numbers have stayed about the same ,special services and Christmas carol and crib service are very well attended

Social events are popular and monthly Friendship group and Drop in for Coffee are good to reach more people.

Fund Raising

We held a few events throughout the year including

Charity Coffee morning

Afternoon tea and film show to celebrate 130 years of St Mary's

Our Autumn Bazaar was held on a Friday afternoon which proved very successful.

We also held the very popular Quiz evening

#### **Fabric and maintenance**

In April high winds blew several tiles off the Bell tower .

Eventually Suremare roofing replaced them at a cost of £625

August is the month for all servicing jobs to be completed but this year both gas heaters failed which meant replacing them.

This was not an easy task as the cost was£4020. 00 We were very fortunate to receive the offer of loans which later were then made into gifts anonymously

We also received donations from Semington PCC also Hilperton Parish Council.

We also had a grant from Trowbridge Area Board on the 19 September which Rev Joy Albone came with me to that meeting.

Major painting needs to be arranged for inside and out which we have plans for.  
Grounds and Grass cutting  
Michael Grant keeps the grass very tidy  
The Scouts plant the tubs and a garden area plus use grounds for storage and activities.  
Thank you to Rev John and Anne and Rev Joy and team for all they are to us.  
Also to Michael Gamble for all the many tasks he does and for all the help and support I get from so many too.

Valerie Legg

## **5: Deanery Synod Report 2019**

### **Synod met three times in 2019**

13 February @ St. Barnabas, Beanacre  
11 June @ Holy Trinity, Trowbridge  
17 October @ St. Mary's, Hilperton Marsh

### **Speakers throughout 2019**

At the February meeting Rev. Alastair Wood spoke on "building church outside the box" and shared how we need to look at how we might look to find and work with the lost generations missing from the Church. (Scripture Union has a campaign called the 95 and this is the percentage of children that they estimate are missing out on attending church). We need to be out in the market place so to speak and to provide suitable services and events that engage with people.

At the June meeting the Rt Revd Dr Andrew Rumsey, Bishop of Ramsbury was the guest speaker. Bishop Andrew shared that whilst he had been getting to know the Diocese he had been thinking about:

- What is the place we are heading towards?
- Where are we?
- Where are we heading?
- How do we get there?

Bishop Andrew introduced discussion questions and then synod members shared on their tables before providing feedback. One question was in "what might it look like to 'travel light' and how might the deanery be released and resources to do what it is doing". This question arose from the recent review of the Diocese vision - *Renewing Hope* by Bishop John Gladwin.

At the October meeting the team who went to Kadugli with the *Rooted in Jesus* conference provided a most enlightening and interesting presentation with both pictures and

testimonies. It was inspiring to hear how the course attendees were transformed and praying for each other and healings happening.

### **Clergy comings and goings**

Rev. Jane Palmer	Welcomed to Atworth and Shaw
Rev. Joy Albone	Welcomed as Curate in Canalside Benefice
Rev. Barry Blackford	Retired from St. Michael & All Angels, Melksham

### **Deanery Share 2019 - David Robinson (Treasurer)**

The Treasurer reported that £712,484 out of £722,484 of the allocated Share for the year had been paid, or 99%. Not quite as good as 100% but very nearly! Only one parish was unable to fully pay their Share. The Treasurer thanked all Incumbents, PCCs, Treasurers and fundraisers for what they do during the course of a year - it is remarkable.

### **Kadugli - David Robinson (Treasurer)**

£12,080 was raised for Kadugli in 2019, bringing the total that the Deanery has raised since it commenced in 2012 to £51,300. There is currently £4,938 available for transfer, some for the Grace Clinic and some for the Peace School.

### **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 was completed from a structural point of view. A new project to fund raise for a health care centre was commenced part way through the year. There have been a number of events and collections across the Deanery to help with this wonderful project.

Significantly a team from the Bradford Deanery led a Rooted in Jesus conference in October. This was hastily planned and arranged in the end due to the political uncertainty and stability of the country. However, the Rural Dean, Lay Chairman and four others went on a seven-day trip, which was reported on with great passion and enthusiasm at the October Synod meeting.

### **Commissioned Lay Pioneers**

This new ministry course commenced with a taster session in September and six people from the Deanery attended and concluded the pilot training in December. A commissioning service takes place in February 2020 at Christchurch, Warminster.

### **Eco Church**

A few more churches have successfully worked towards either bronze or silver awards with other exploring what is involved and how they might implement in their own churches. The

Bishop of Salisbury is passionate about Eco Church and the Diocese of Salisbury is the first Eco Diocese. Creationtide is far more celebrated now from 1 September - 4 October with lots of resources available for liturgy and talks.

## **Wedding Fair**

Three synod members represented the Deanery at a Wedding Fair at the Civic Centre in September 2019 and were very pleased to report back at the October meeting how positive an experience this had been. A number of very good conversations had taken place and those attending stallholders and organisations were all very pleased to have the church represented and one comment was "about time". The table was attractive with a nice sample wedding cake, flyers with suggested readings and hymns and where to find information on the C of E website, flowers and cross. Plans for the next Wedding Fair are advanced and with a banner and lanyards just two new additions. Please note change of date for this: 1 March 2020.

## **Knife Amnesty**

Two churches in the Deanery for the first time took part in a national event led by the Police called Operation Spectre. During the two-week event over 189 knives were placed in the red wheelie bins in churches across the Diocese.

## **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.

Stuart Raymond

## **6: St Michael's Church Flower Report Flower Report 2019**

We currently have 14 ladies and 1 gentleman in the Flower Group.

In July 2019 a successful Flower Festival was held, the theme was "A Rainbow of Hope". In addition to the flower group we were joined by other members of the congregation and also a volunteer from the area. It was interesting to see the different interpretations on the theme. All donations given were for St. Michael's Church Funds.

The usual Remembrance Day Coffee Morning was held at Hilperton House, making £404 of which £325 was paid to the flower group members towards their flower purchases. Extra candles for Christmas was also purchased costing £10.50 and 2 boxes of Oasis £27.50.

Sadly, there has been no flowers in church since Lent began and with "Hope" look forward to celebrating the opening sometime in the future.

Carole Roddis

## **7: Let's Do Lunch Report**

In 2019 we met on ten occasions and averaged about thirty people. We enjoyed a variety of dishes, mainly soups in winter and salads in summer followed by desserts and tea or coffee. We start with a quiz and, after lunch, listen to a short talk

These lunches are an opportunity for us to meet with friends and also to get to know others from our church's congregation. This can be especially helpful for anyone who is new to the village.

Everyone contributes to the success of these lunches, just by being there. I am grateful to all who come and to those who help to clean and prepare the room, arrange the flowers, launder tablecloths, provide food, wash dishes, make coffee and help to clear up afterwards. Thank you to all those who have inspired and entertained us with their talks. Thank you all for great team-work.

In 2019 we raised £1,367.60 (£219 more than the year before) in aid of Tearfund, Great Ormond Street Hospital, the Cyclone Idai Appeal, Christian Aid, Julia's House, Wycliffe Bible Translators, the Red Cross, the Bible Society (for Open the Book), Water Aid and Crisis at Christmas.

As I write this in May 2020, I give thanks to God for all the good times we have enjoyed. I am missing you all during this isolation time and will let you know when we are able to meet again.

Anthea Hughes

## **8: St Michael's Fabric Group Report to PCC November 2019**

1. The main activity which was achieved in the Church was the re-positioning of the "Last Supper" Plaque, which was done quickly and with a minimum of disruption. The back wall of the Church was re-painted.  
The work was paid for with a generous gift from Chris and Ros Brown
2. Plans have been finalised for the "Re-ordering" of the Church but have not yet been submitted for Faculty approval.
3. As PCC are aware, we are intending to take opportunity of "Lock Down" to have the Church re-painted. John is in discussions with the Arch Deacon and we await a decision.
4. The work carried out by our gardener is showing results thanks to the generous contributions by the group of "Garden Angels".
5. On a similar vein we are looking to recruit a group of "Cleaning Angels" who would make regular payments so that we can employ a cleaner and we can have the Church

cleaned weekly and not have to rely on the dwindling group on volunteers. Advertisements have been placed but as yet no response received, this being due probably to the temporary closure of the Church. Tony Roddis

## **9: St Michael's and St Mary's Social Committee Report 2019**

### Events in 2019/20

2019

- June We ran the tea stall which was very popular at Hilperton Village Fete' This is quite a large undertaking of an unknown number and we are always grateful to all who step in at the last minute with cakes and offers of washing up and serving
- October Harvest Lunch in St Michael's Church was well attended. This was a first time attempt at lunch in the Church and attended by 30/40 people who paid by donation and this raised £116
- November A musical event performed by Ebonite in St Michael's Church and refreshments in St Michael's Room was very well attended by 60/70 people with a request for a repeat in the future.  
A Tree Fest organised by Ivor was well received by various groups of the Village to produce a tree decorated as Christmas around the world.  
The proceeds from this went to CRISIS

### 2020

- January 18<sup>th</sup> we ran a coffee morning in St Michael's room with a bring and buy sale of unwanted Christmas gifts. This is always well attended to help us get rid of post Christmas blues
- February 28<sup>th</sup> Saw the return of the Fish and Chip Supper with a "Murder Mystery Play", we had a packed hall at St Mary's despite the stormy weather on the evening
- March } All activities curtailed because of the Covid-19 Pandemic Lock-down.  
April }

### Proposed 2020/2021

- May ] All Events conditional on  
June 7<sup>th</sup> Ebonite Concert in St Michael's Lockdown  
(proposed?) programme of Recovery  
13<sup>th</sup> Hilperton Village Fete (Now cancelled} }  
July 11<sup>th</sup> Possible Hilperton House Concert } }  
12<sup>th</sup> Possible Music from above in the } }  
church  
August }  
Do Townley

## **10: Open the Book Report 2019**

During 2019 the Open the Book team were privileged to visit Hilperton, Staverton and Semington Schools nine times each. Using the Bible Society resources we covered stories from Genesis and Exodus, and also Easter and Christmas stories. We are well received in all three schools - the children particularly enjoy dressing up and taking part.

Marilyn, Dawn and I attended a celebration/training day in Salisbury in November which was excellent.

Several of our team decided to have a break at the end of 2019, we now have 11 members. Dawn Farmer, having coordinated Open the Book since it started in 2016, stood down in December and handed over to me.

Thank you to all those who take part, to Dawn for the way she led us during the year, and to everyone in the Church community who pray for us. Prayer is vital to this ministry.

An update for 2020 - we went into the three schools with the story of The Great Escape (Moses) in January, but unfortunately have been prevented from having further physical contact with the schools since due to the coronavirus.

Please continue to pray for this ministry, and if you are interested in joining us, we need new team members!

Bev Woodward

## **11: Messy Church**

Messy Church in Hilperton continued to go from strength to strength in 2019 but, as with everything else, is currently suspended. During 2019 we held 4 Messy Churches in Hilperton School on Saturday mornings and a barbecue on a rather wet Sunday afternoon in August. We focused on the festivals of Easter, Pentecost and Christmas through the year, whilst the theme for our autumn Messy Church was The Lord's Prayer. Our sessions start with worship, including singing, a story which is either told, acted out or shown as a film, and a time of prayer. This is followed by the craft time, when the families have the opportunity to try six different crafts on the theme. There is always an edible craft, which included an edible Easter garden in March and a vegetable cross on a crispbread to illustrate, "Give us this day our daily bread" in October. Messy Church ends with lunch when the helpers and families can sit together to chat and enjoy eating.

We usually get about 25 children, all present with an adult, and we have a helper team of about 15 -20 willing and capable people from our churches, so we often have a total group of about 60 people gathering for Messy Church, which is fantastic. I'd like to thank the helper team, with a special mention to Dawn and Marilyn who organise the refreshments

and James who leads our singing. The craft helpers are brilliant, always happy to work with the children on whatever craft I assign them to! We are also grateful to Hilperton School for the use of their premises.

Looking ahead, we had planned to have 5 Messy Churches plus a barbecue in 2020. That did mean that, by having an additional one in February, we got one session in before Lockdown. During this period there is a page on the Benefice website for families including ideas and resources for them, including the weekly Messy Church at Home sheets produced by the Bible Reading Fellowship. We keep in touch with the families by email, signposting them to the website and other resources. We are currently looking at the possibility of online Messy Church in collaboration with some others in the Diocese. Look out for next year's report to see how that went! We are also developing our informal afternoon service, Tea at The Tin, to provide a more regular gathering for those who want it. Please continue to pray for our work with families in Canalside Benefice. Anne Rees

### **12: Toddler Group**

The numbers attending the Staverton Cygnets Toddler Group declined at the beginning of 2019 as children started pre-school and parents' commitments changed. Consequently, the group stopped meeting in March 2019. I am pleased to report that a new group, "Toddlers at the Tin" started in January at St Mary's supported by Ruth Brooks-Martin from the Spurgeons' children's charity Together for Families programme. Ruth, Marjorie, Marilyn, Sarah and I are pleased with the start we have made, and hope that it won't be too long before we can meet again. We have about 20 families who attend, some regularly and some periodically but we usually have about 8 - 10 each week. Currently we are keeping in touch with the families via email and are praying for them regularly. Anne Rees

### **13: Friendship Group**

Friendship Group continued to be a popular meeting place for about 20 regular members during 2019. Our monthly meetings take place in St Mary's. We don't know when they will resume, but I suspect it won't be for a while sadly. When we do meet, members have a chat with friends old and new, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, bring knitting or crochet to do, play board games - which can get competitive! - or any other activity. When we resume, new members are always warmly welcomed.

Thank you to those who help with the refreshments and washing up. Anne Rees

### **14: Junior Church Report**

Junior Church has 3 regular children and we have noticed when Junior Church falls on Easter Sunday or Harvest we have a number of children. The children enjoy the activities, they recently listened to the story of the Hungry Caterpillar to explain that we can all be born again and let Jesus enter our heart. The Children then made some lovely colourful

butterflies. Although it seems some time ago the Crib Service was a success although the regular children did not really want to participate in any of the readings, we did manage for my daughter to read the script and to persuade the young boy from Junior Church to read out a prayer. We had a meeting before "Lockdown" to discuss the way forward to providing more for our Children and it has been decided that every fourth Sunday during the Sermon we will take the Children to the back of the Church to either do some colouring, word searches etc, this will enable families to choose a Sunday with their Children, whether its All Age Worship, Junior Church, Tin Church or an activity on the fourth Sunday.

Annette Keighthley- Junior Church Leader

### **15: Bell Tower Report**

2019 saw some ringers go, and some new ringers arrive. We now have three 'learning the ropes' (literally) and they are making good progress.

We rang for every Sunday service and all weddings when we were asked to ring.

Our autumn outing was well received and, on this occasion, we ventured into Somerset.

New faces are always welcome to come along on a Tuesday evening but, as this is written, we are not allowed to practice!!

Ernie Clark and Helen Newbery - Joint Tower Captains.

### **16: Music report**

2019 was a fairly typical year for the choir. As well as the regular Sunday services, there were a few weddings and the choir sang at the Easter Sunday service. As usual, the highlight of the year was the extended Christmas Choir singing a number of pieces, in a variety of musical genres, at the Carol Services as both St Mary Magdalen and St Michael's.

As always, my thanks go to all the choir members for their hard work and the other musicians supporting this ministry - especially Tim Davies as organist (and pianist when needed).

James Newton

### **17: [www.canalsidebenefice.org.uk](http://www.canalsidebenefice.org.uk)**

The Benefice Website was launched in April 2017. You can read the Canalside News on line, note dates and times for upcoming events and services and find contact details for Churchwardens, clergy and Michael, our administrator. You can also access the Diocesan cycle of prayer and the Church of England online daily prayer resource. There is

information about baptisms, marriages and funerals and details of our provision for families, children and adults.

In 2020 the website has become an even more valuable tool as it has been used to keep people informed and in touch during the Covid-19 Pandemic when we haven't been able to meet for worship or social activities. During lockdown, pages were updated regularly for adults and children with ideas for prayer and other activities such as Messy Church at home and details of the Church of England Daily Hope phone line. It has also provided a means for people to access our online services.

Do use the site and share it with friends and neighbours. Please let me know if you need help finding information or if you have suggestions for other things we could include.

Anne Rees