

STAVERTON with HILPERTON MARSH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2017

Administrative information

St Mary Magdalen's Church is situated in Horse Road. It is part of the Diocese of Salisbury within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Rectory, 22 Warren Road, Staverton, Trowbridge BA14 8UZ.

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

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2017 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent: The Revd John Rees (Chairman)

Warden: Mrs Valerie Legg (Vice Chair)

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Mrs Sandie Baker (Secretary) (Electoral Roll Officer)

Mr Stuart Raymond

Elected members:

Mr Michael Gamble (Treasurer)

Mrs Diane Lavis

Mr Colin Legg

Mrs Margaret Weston

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

Staverton with Hilperton Marsh 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 St Mary Magdalen's Church and Hall in Horse Road and the Churchyard at Staverton.

Electoral Roll

There are currently 23 on the Church Electoral Roll, 3 of whom are not resident within the parish. The roll is exactly the same as this time last year. The average attendance at our two communion services each month was 18 in 2017.

Secretary

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) met five times during the year including four joint meetings with Hilperton with Whaddon PCC.

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

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

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

Sandie Baker

1: Rector's Report

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

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

1) Working together

It has been a joy to see members of our Churches working together and supporting one another and the life of our villages in many ways. For example Church members are taking "Open the Book" Bible stories into Hilperton and Staverton Schools, all Churches have shared in our Messy Churches in Semington and Hilperton schools and our cross Benefice LPA team provides invaluable support to our pastoral ministry. In Staverton members of the

village community joined together to help care for St Paul's Churchyard and at St Mary's Hilperton Marsh the cubs and scouts have begun to create a community garden, which was dedicated at Harvest Festival. Our PCCs at Hilperton and Staverton/Hilperton Marsh have been meeting together this year as we seek use our skills, talents and Church buildings to serve all these communities

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

2) Worship

Our aim is to offer a wide range of informal and more liturgical worship which will inspire both regular worshippers and explorers to discover God's love for them and to be inspired to serve. The survey carried out in 2017 indicates that most people responding find our current pattern helpful, though we have continued to explore service times.

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

3) Service in our villages

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

4) Depending on Christ

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

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

5) Infrastructure

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

Stewardship

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

Thank you

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

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

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

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

2: Treasurer

St Mary's began 2017 with a total of just over £8,400 but we ended 2017 with just £1,900. However £900 of that has to be used on grounds maintenance at the church as it is funding from a trust fund set up for that purpose.

Despite that we were able to meet our Deanery Share of £7,800 in full and the £17,600 needed to repaint the tin roof and repair the bell tower which is remarkable.

Our total income for the year was just over £27,000 and our expenditure was £33,500.

Income

Our Church giving by weekly envelopes was up 7% or £194

Our Church giving by standing orders was down 21% or £585

And our Church giving by the collection plate was down 13% or £104

So overall Church giving was down by 4.5% on the 2016 total or £286

Our fundraising total was £2,482 which was up 17% or £371 on 2016

The income from all rents was £4,829 down £773 or 13% - we had far fewer Table Tennis bookings

Expenditure

Our charitable giving was £355 up £145 on the previous year

Our gas costs were over double the 2016 total but in that year they were exceptionally low.

The grass cutting cost for 2017 was £275 which was £35 less than the year before.

Of the £17,600 spent on the roof and tower just under £8,000 came from the Blease Fund, just under £3,700 from donations and the balance of just under £6,000 was met from church funds.

So we start 2018 with just £1,000 which is not good but is better than where I thought we would be at one point.

The Treasurer at St Michael's has kindly agreed for us to pay our share of the administrator's post in monthly instalments which will help our cash flow.

The account for the Friends of St Paul's Churchyard ended the year with £242 in the bank so we still have a problem there in meeting the grounds maintenance costs long term.

Both sets of accounts have been examined and certified by Matthew Sims an Independent financial examiner appointed by the PCC. His certificate is set out below together with a copy of the full accounts. **Michael Gamble**

STAVERTON with HILPERTON MARSH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
ST MARY MAGDALEN'S CHURCH - ACCOUNTS 2017
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1st JANUARY TO 31st DECEMBER 2017

| INCOME | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------|------------------|----------|-----------------|
| | 2017 | | 2016 | |
| Church Giving | | | | |
| Gift Aid Envelopes | 2,953.50 | | 2,759.50 | |
| Standing Orders | 2,155.00 | | 2,740.00 | |
| Tax Recovered | 1,155.20 | | 1,419.51 | |
| Collections | 890.05 | 7,153.75 | 785.69 | 7,704.70 |
| Fundraising | | | | |
| Quiz Night | 260.00 | | 172.00 | |
| Coffee Mornings | 1,338.18 | | 763.17 | |
| "Drop in" Donations | 0.00 | | 300.00 | |
| Ride and Stride | 129.24 | | 0.00 | |
| Community Fete | 50.00 | | 0.00 | |
| Harvest Supper | 245.00 | | 0.00 | |
| Film Shows | 0.00 | | 300.00 | |
| 100 Club | 460.00 | 2,482.42 | 576.00 | 2,111.17 |
| Investment Income | | | | |
| Bank Interest | 0.93 | | 2.69 | |
| Dividend Income | 0.00 | 0.93 | 35.91 | 38.60 |
| Lettings | | | | |
| 60 Plus | 0.00 | | 648.00 | |
| Rainbows | 590.00 | | 0.00 | |
| Table Tennis | 1,305.00 | | 2,059.00 | |
| Art Group (Tues) | 1,228.00 | | 1,257.00 | |
| Art Group (Weds) | 1,247.00 | | 1,209.00 | |
| Other Lettings | 459.00 | 4,829.00 | 429.00 | 5,602.00 |
| Other Income | | | | |
| Misc | 56.27 | | 1,101.00 | |
| Blease Fund | 7,979.71 | | 0.00 | |
| StMM Churchyard Fund | 1,228.55 | | 0.00 | |
| Funerals/Donations | 2,903.50 | | 600.00 | |
| CoE Fees | 413.00 | 12,581.03 | 41.00 | 1,742.00 |

27,047.13

17,198.47

| EXPENDITURE | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|------------------|----------|-----------------|
| | 2017 | | 2016 | |
| Charitable Giving | 355.71 | 355.71 | 210.00 | 210.00 |
| Deanery Share | 7,889.00 | 7,889.00 | 8,135.00 | 8,135.00 |
| Running Costs | | | | |
| Insurance | 1,544.18 | | 1,507.69 | |
| Gas | 1,243.00 | | 692.64 | |
| Electricity | 272.00 | | 288.00 | |
| Water | 82.00 | | 81.00 | |
| Cleaner | 768.00 | | 768.00 | |
| Support Costs | 450.00 | 4,359.18 | 405.00 | 3,742.33 |
| Repairs/Maintenance | | | | |
| Organ/Piano Tuning | 66.00 | | 0.00 | |
| Building Maintenance | 17,969.82 | | 865.98 | |
| St Mary's Grounds | 275.00 | | 315.00 | |
| Fire Extinguishers | 147.00 | | 33.60 | |
| Misc | 0.00 | 18,457.82 | 0.00 | 1,214.58 |
| Administration | | | | |
| 100 Club Prizes | 270.00 | | 250.00 | |
| Printing/Stationery | 0.00 | | 0.00 | |
| Church supplies | 38.55 | | 49.10 | |
| CoE Fees | 0.00 | | 0.00 | |
| Licences | 144.92 | | 141.76 | |
| Clergy Expenses | 393.29 | | 262.59 | |
| Benefice Administrator | 1,030.89 | | 1,065.27 | |
| Deanery Levy | 10.00 | | 0.00 | |
| Miscellaneous | 546.51 | 2,434.16 | 1,697.19 | 3,465.91 |

33,495.87

16,767.82

SURPLUS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME

-6,448.74

430.65

**STAVERTON with HILPERTON MARSH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
ST MARY MAGDALEN'S CHURCH ACCOUNTS 2017
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2017**

GENERAL ACCOUNT

31st December 2017

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Nat West Current | 321.82 |
| Nat West Bonus | 4,312.45 |
| O/S Cheques/Payments | -3,014.75 |
| O/S Credit | 350.29 |

1,969.81

31st December 2016

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Nat West Current | 2,702.09 |
| Nat West Bonus | 5,682.42 |
| O/S Cheques | -395.62 |
| O/S Credit | 429.66 |

8,418.55

Flower Fund

| | Total | +/- on 2016 |
|--------------------------------|--------|-------------|
| Balance as at 31 December 2017 | £80.66 | £0.00 |

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

M.J. Cole

Chair:
Rev. John Rees

Rees

Date:

4 April 2018

Date:

6 April 2018

**STAVERTON with HILPERTON MARSH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
 FRIENDS OF ST PAUL'S CHURCHYARD - ACCOUNTS 2017
 FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1st JANUARY TO 31st DECEMBER 2017**

| INCOME | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|---------------|--------|---------------|
| | 2017 | | 2016 | |
| Planned Giving | 653.00 | | 653.00 | |
| Tax Recovered | 0.00 | | 175.75 | |
| Donations | 0.00 | | 100.00 | |
| Church of England Fees | 0.00 | | 0.00 | |
| Refund of Safe Custody Fee | 0.00 | | 0.00 | |
| | | 653.00 | | 928.75 |

| EXPENDITURE | | | | |
|---------------------|--------|---------------|----------|-----------------|
| | 2017 | | 2016 | |
| Grounds Maintenance | 570.00 | | 1,300.00 | |
| Insurance | 0.00 | | 0.00 | |
| Padlocks and chains | 0.00 | | 22.97 | |
| | | 570.00 | | 1,322.97 |

653.00

928.75

570.00

1,322.97

SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE

83.00

-394.22

**STAVERTON with HILPERTON MARSH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
 FRIENDS OF ST PAUL'S CHURCHYARD ACCOUNTS 2017
 BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2017**

| 31st December 2017 | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Lloyds Bank | 241.79 |
| o/s credit | 0.00 |
| | 241.79 |

| 31st December 2016 | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Lloyds Bank | 158.79 |
| o/s credit | 0.00 |
| | 158.79 |

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

M. J. Gamble

Chair:
Rev. John Rees

John Rees

Date:

4 April 2018

Date:

6 April 2018

Independent Examiner's Statement

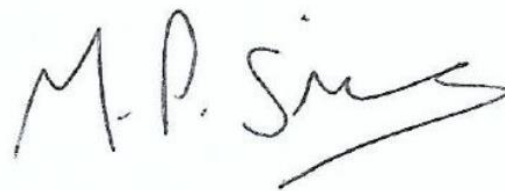
In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

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



18 March 2018

3: Churchwarden

Silver and Brass : all present and in good order including the Elizabethan Chalice from St Paul's.

Services: The new pattern of services at St Mary's is first and third Sunday Communion at 11am. Average attendance is 20. Other Sundays used for occasional services throughout the year.

Grounds: Michael Grant continues to maintain the grounds at St Mary's to a very high standard and during the year he also took on the grass cutting etc at St Paul's. The 1st Hilperton Cub Pack have provided tubs and plants to create a garden area at the back of St Mary's.

Hall Lettings: The number of table tennis bookings was less in 2017. The University of the Third Age will be meeting at the Hall once a month in 2018. Two Art Groups and Rainbows are our other regular hall users. We also had a number of one off bookings during the year including Wiltshire Council who hired the hall as a polling station twice.

Social Events: The Monthly Drop in for Coffee continues to be a great success on the 3rd Thursday and is sometimes attended by 30+ people. 2018 will see the introduction of a Friendship Group on the afternoon of the 2nd Thursday each month.

Cleaning and Flower Rota: Margaret Weston will be leaving us in early 2018 after 10 years as Hall Cleaner and has also handed over to me the church flower rota together with the flower fund which now stands at £80. Although I am happy to take on the rota we will need to draw up a new list so we are looking for people to help with the funding for the flowers (it costs around £10-£15 each time we arrange the flowers) and to volunteer to help with the arranging of the flowers.

Fundraising: We have had a number of Coffee Mornings, the 100 Club has continued and our Annual Quiz Night was held in November. There was a good response to our appeal for funds to help with the cost of the roof and bell tower project with a total of £3,673 donated. During the year we have started to work with St Michael's on social and fundraising events including at the community fete and Harvest Supper. Other events are being planned for 2018.

Thanks: Many thanks to Margaret for her years as our Cleaner, for organising the flower rota and for being a member of the PCC. A big thank you to Michael, Colin and everyone who helps me in any way at St Mary's. **Valerie Legg**

4: Fabric

During the summer work began on the project to repaint the tin roof and to repair the bell tower. Originally the total cost was estimated at £11,000 but when it was found that the wood in the bell tower was rotten and needed to be replaced increasing the total cost to over £17,000. The contractor was Tony Whiting from Melksham under supervision of the Church Architect Raymond Winrow.

Colin and I also painted the toilet and cloakroom area during the year and a new skirting board was fitted in the toilets and kitchen.

Two new security lights have been fitted in the porch and outside.

The next Quinquennial inspection of the building is due in the summer of 2018.

Our next project is to repaint the sides of the tin building hopefully during 2018.

No other work is urgently required at the moment. All electrics, gas and fire extinguishers have been tested and found to be safe. **Valerie Legg**

5: Deanery Synod

Synod met three times in 2017: 14 February @ St. James', Trowbridge / 21 June @ Atworth Church Hall / 19 October @ St. Katharine's, Holt

Speakers throughout 2017

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

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

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

“How do you feel about the word discipleship”?

“What do you think it means”?

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

Clergy comings and goings

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

Deanery Share

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

Deanery Plan

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

Sudan

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

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

Synod Secretary

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

Assistant Rural Dean

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

Synod meetings

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

Meeting dates and locations for 2018

21 February @ St. James', Trowbridge

14 June @ St. Michael & All Angels, Melksham

17 October @ Holy Trinity Church, Bradford on Avon

6: Open the Book

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7: Messy Church @ Hilperton School

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

This report is technically for the year 2017, however, we have just successfully had another Messy Church in Hilperton School (17 March 2018 which was fortunately the day before more

snow) with the theme being Easter. There were over 45 children and 20 adults. It was another lovely couple of hours with an altar frontal made which will be displayed in St. Michael's Church, Easter cards, crosses, chocolate nests, worship and the sharing of lunch when good conversations can be had.

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

8: Staverton Cygnets

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

9: www.canalsidebenefice.org.uk

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

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

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

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

Find contact details for Churchwardens, John and Michael.

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

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

10: Social Committee

We are a small committee with members from St Michael's and St Mary's, sharing the work and any profits. The year was a learning curve for us all but this year we have put effort into a bit of planning now that we have a better idea of what we can cope with. We depend quite a lot on the goodwill of the people within the parishes with offers of help. We very much

appreciate this help and if anyone feels they would like to become part of the committee please let us know.

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

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

In 2018 we are planning a Fish and chip Supper in St Mary's Hall. We will be running a cake and tea stall at the Village Fete in June and another Harvest Supper in October. Ros Brown has kindly given us permission to use her garden in August for a fund raising event. We are also planning a Christmas Tree Festival in St Michael's and if this is successful could become an annual event. ***Do Townley***

Approved by the PCC on 15th April and signed on their behalf by Revd John Rees (PCC Chairman)