

St Michael and All Angels Church
Middlewich

Annual Report and Accounts
Year ending 31st December 2018

Registered Charity No. 1127335



The Big Story Labyrinth
June 2018

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Introduction by the Rector, Simon Drew

It has been a privilege, once again, to be your incumbent during 2018. The hard work and dedication of our church members in spreading the good news of the Gospel is a great encouragement. Among the more significant events this year was the triennial Big Bible Labyrinth in the church building as part of the FAB Festival in June 2018. My personal thanks to the hard work of all involved in this initiative, but particularly to Jeremy Coles whose vision made it all possible.

This year was a year of consolidation with Messy Church@Cledford entering its second year, and other initiatives such as Street Pastors, Food Bank and Good Neighbours continuing to reach out to the community. Our parish centre No28 is also an integral part of our mission and ministry to the people of Middlewich. We welcomed Alison Boulton as our new curate after her ordination at Chester Cathedral in June. We also continue to support mission beyond our parish boundaries and are very grateful to the hard work of our mission 'champions'. However due to ongoing financial constraints the PCC was once again unable to make donations direct from church funds.

I am very grateful to the staff team and the PCC for their ongoing support during the year as we seek to fulfil God's call on us as a church. We continue to work on being 'All for Christ & Christ for All' through our goals: Committed to Discipleship, Effective in Mission and Faithful in Stewardship.

Section 1: Trustee's Report (for Charity Commission):

The contents of this section are specifically required by the Charity Commission.

Aim and purposes

St Michael & All Angels, is the only Anglican Church in the mid Cheshire town of Middlewich. Due to its prominent and imposing position in the centre of the town, St Michael's is a landmark when approaching from any direction.

Middlewich Parish has a population of 14,700 and is part of a benefice joined with Byley-cum-Lees a nearby small country parish with 900 inhabitants.

Our incumbent is the Reverend Simon Drew. The incumbent at St Michael's is supported by Reverend Liz Woode (NSM Curate), Reverend Thia Hughes (NSM Curate) Reverend Lorraine Reed (NSM Curate) and Revd Alison Boulton (NSM Curate), Reverend Simon Hamill-Stewart (a retired minister), Jeremy Coles (Director of Music & Family Work) and Beth Deakin (Office Manager).

Our seven Readers, Jacqui Briscoe, Steve Broadfoot, Christine Hamill-Stewart, Tony Woode, Anne Latham, Duncan Goodwin and Julie Hassall along with Sylvia Bosomworth, Sue Ikin and Elaine Reynolds (Pastoral Care Workers) form our team of ten lay workers.

The aim and purpose of the Church according to the Westminster Catechism is 'to glorify God and enjoy him forever'. The Rector, supported enthusiastically by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and the lay and ordained staff, prayerfully pursues this objective in planning the services, outreach and pastoral ministry of the Church in the community. We hope the activities during 2017 brought us nearer to meeting our objective.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC and staff team are committed to sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with the community of Middlewich through word and action – **All for Christ + Christ for All!** As such our mission statement is: *Committed to Discipleship, effective in Mission, and faithful in Stewardship.*

DISCIPLESHIP: Implement a programme of teaching and training on discipleship, using a mixture of different styles/formats.

MISSION: Strengthen our existing areas of community engagement: No28, Smilers, Street Pastors, Festival Choir, Card Group, Church@28, Foodbank, Good Neighbours, and Messy Church@Cledford. Develop mission in the Cledford area, building on Messy Church@Cledford. Start a junior version of Festival Choir - 'Song Stars'.

RESOURCES: Move forward with the Restoration Project Phase 2. Implement a Stewardship Campaign

To facilitate these objectives St Michael's seeks to maintain a committed team of staff and volunteers, and usable and effective resources in the shape of the church building and No 28, our parish centre.

Achievements and performance

Worship and prayer

The PCC are keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. Sunday and Thursday Holy Communion, Tuesday Healing Service and occasional evening services provide a quiet, intimate and reflective environment for worship whilst opportunities are provided for people to engage in more outgoing worship at All Age Services and Morning Praise. A Fresh Expression of Church is our Church@28 service incorporating live music, hymns, guest interview, a short talk and newspaper review.

We are pleased to have welcomed new church members to both our main morning services. Baptisms generally take place on 2nd and 4th Sundays at 2.00pm. Again in 2018 we had our annual confirmation service with three candidates being confirmed.

At 31 December 2018 there were 152 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. The weekly average for Sunday worship, weekday services and worship activities, counted during October, was 169 adults and children, but this number increased at festivals.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping.

We have celebrated 15 baptisms, 11 weddings and held 28 funerals in our church this year. The ministry team also conducted 15 funeral services for parishioners at various Crematoria.

Deanery Synod

The Middlewich Deanery Synod met three times during 2018. St Michael and All Angels were well represented at these meetings by both ordained and lay representatives. Our Rector, Simon Drew, is currently the Rural Dean.

Pastoral care

Pastoral Care remains an important and integral part of ministry at St Michael's and comes under our Circle of Care initiative. It is about living our faith in action as we care for one another, and that includes people in our wider community. That may be by listening, by sharing a cup of tea, by visiting someone, or just noticing that someone has been missing for a while. It is about looking out for each other.

Mission and Evangelism

As part of its commitment to mission, St Michael's Church continues to be actively engaged in mission and evangelism. Full details are given in sections 2 & 3 of this report. Evangelistic activities include Church@28, the Card Group and Messy Church@Cledford. Mission initiatives within Middlewich include Street Pastors, Middlewich Good Neighbours, Middlewich Food bank, Nursing Homes services, schools & youth work and the No 28 Drop-In. Supported charitable mission includes St Luke's Hospice, Save the Family, Christ for All in Andhra Pradesh and the Congo ABC Link.

Ecumenical relationships

Churches Together in Middlewich have continued to work together. United events/meetings were held three times in 2018. We also meet together for other key events, one example being the Walk of Witness, which continues to grow and is a great way of raising our profile in the town.

We also work together for the Folk and Boat weekend, Christian Aid, Street Pastors and the Food Bank. The forum meet regularly with representatives from each congregation and we are very blessed to have such a strong fraternal of ministers who work well together.

Financial Review

The accounts show a deficit for 2018 of £19,155, with total receipts (excluding the parish weekend) down by £12,304 on 2017. There was a decrease of £7,010 in voluntary income, a decrease in money received through Church Activities (fees from weddings and funerals) of £4,721 and a decrease in investment income of £573. No 28, our parish centre, generated a net deficit of £161 in the year (compared to a deficit of £883 in 2017).

Overall payments (again excluding the parish weekend) increased by £4,054 on 2017.

Total charitable giving to our four charities was £1,927 (£1,005 lower than in 2017), only 2.1% of our voluntary income. The PCC was unable to make additional donations from PCC funds due to the financial deficit position.

Fixed assets in the shape of No 28 Hightown stand at £295,000, the property being revalued in May 2015. Total funds available to the PCC were £34,518 lower than at the end of 2017 at a year-end value of £253,920. This mainly relates to the operating deficit and spending on the Restoration Project. The restricted funds, which are not available to the PCC were £1,291 lower than 2017 due to the revaluing of some funds. The year-end value of these funds stood at £40,979.

Reserves Policy

See table 3 in Appendix 1: The PCC has allocated £150,000 to church development to improve the interior of the church. £75,420 has been kept in reserve to cover 6 months running costs for

church and No 28. £7,250 is allocated for further refurbishment work to No 28, and we propose the remaining £21,250 for ongoing outreach and spreading the gospel in Middlewich.

Volunteers

Once again, heartfelt thanks to all our amazing volunteers, too numerous to mention by name, who underpin our achievements and enable our church to be such a key and vibrant part of community life.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of Parochial Church Council (PCC) members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Michael's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our Rector), Churchwardens, Deanery Synod representatives, two of the Readers selected from amongst the seven of them, members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church, plus co-options as required. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

In Middlewich sufficient parishioners are prepared to stand for the PCC so that it is sometimes necessary to hold elections. It has therefore been possible to require members to stand down every three years for at least one year. This enables fresh ideas to be put forward, which in our opinion more than offsets the possible disadvantage of some members not having a longstanding exposure to detailed PCC procedures.

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent, updating policies on safeguarding, health & safety and GDPR, and also the Church's strategy. The Standing Committee (SC) – a sub-committee of the PCC - has delegated financial authority, provides a forum for detailed discussion on some complex issues and makes decisions on matters which do not require a full PCC discussion. All SC proceedings are reported to the PCC.

Administrative Information

The PCC and the SC meet on alternate months and sometimes have special meetings as required. The PCC met 6 times during the year with an average attendance level of 70%. The Standing Committee met 5 times, with an average attendance level of 90%.

PCC members who served during 2018 were:

Ex Officio members:

Incumbent and Chairman:	Reverend Simon Drew
NSM Curate:	Reverend Lorraine Reed
NSM Curate:	Reverend Liz Woode
NSM Curate:	Reverend Thia Hughes

Churchwardens:

Graham Ikin (Until April 2018), Elaine Reynolds, Keith Yearley, Chris Coney (From April 2018)
We thank Graham for his six years dedicated service as Churchwarden.

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Hugh Malkin, Sylvia Bosomworth

Reader's representatives:

Steve Broadfoot, Tony Woode

Elaine Reynolds and Keith Yearley were re-elected as Churchwardens at the AMP in April 2018. Chris Coney was elected as Churchwarden at the AMP in April 2018.

Co-opted members:

Mike Reed (Vice Chairman) and Christine Malkin (Secretary) served as co-opted members from the APCM in April 2018.

Elected Members:

Helen Cox, Paul Hassall, Steve Lakin, Anne Latham, Bridget Anton, Steve Bailey and Neil Clewes (Treasurer) were members throughout the year.

Lynn Astles, Mike Reed (Vice Chairman) and Christine Malkin (Secretary) were members until April 2018 but retired in rotation. We thank Lynn for her important service to the church. Mike and Christine continued as co-opted officers of the PCC.

The following people were elected at the APCM in April 2018 to serve on the PCC for three years: Graham Ikin, Carl Birkenhead and John Currie.

Standing Committee members who served during 2018 were:

Simon Drew (Chairman), Neil Clewes (Treasurer), Sylvia Bosomworth, Christine Malkin (Secretary), Elaine Reynolds (Churchwarden), Graham Ikin (Churchwarden until April 2018), Keith Yearley (Churchwarden), Chris Coney (Churchwarden from April 2018) and Mike Reed (Vice Chairman).

Other Committees:

Working groups drawn not only from the PCC also met during the year to consider work to the church building, fundraising, safeguarding and health & safety.

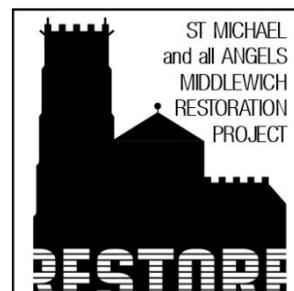
Staff Team:

Throughout the year, the day to day activities of the Church are coordinated through a weekly meeting of the Staff Team. This is an informal meeting to which the ordained and lay staff and churchwardens are invited. The maximum possible attendance is 19, and the average attendance is about 12.

Restoration Project

Introduction

The Church Restoration Project was conceived in 2012 as a consequence of the large amount of structural work identified in the 2012 Quinquennial inspection and the PCC's stated intention to develop the interior of the building to improve the facilities for the congregation and community, and to comply with current legislation. It consists of a major project split into phases – which are also quite large, and a number of smaller, minor projects.



Overall Strategy

We are conscious of the need to coordinate the conservation of the fabric and artefacts with improvements to the interior of the building. We are committed to making the heritage represented by our building more accessible to the public, and are also mindful of the need to press forward with work which enables the mission of the church, and to keep these aspects in balance. Initially this resulted in our having five phases which were listed in last year's report. During 2018, as expected, the PCC decided to amalgamate phases 2, 3 and 4 into a much larger Phase 2 for funding and efficiency reasons, so the plan now looks like this:

- Phase 1 Roof, rainwater goods and associated high level stonework – North Side - £290k – Completed in 2017
- Phase 2 Major Scheme incorporating three types of work:
- Conservation Work - mainly to the South Aisle and Bell Tower
 - Heritage Work – restoration of the Venables Screens; opening the bell tower to the public; developing the heritage trail; generally improving the condition of some historical artefacts
 - Internal Development Work, making the building - fully accessible; usable for many purposes; compliant with modern legal requirements; provided with up to date facilities
- This is expected to cost over £1m and may start in about 2020
- Phase 3 Lower level exterior stonework and timber repairs (Around £250k; about 2023)

Progress in 2018

Main Project

The year has been influenced by the strategic review being carried out by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) who provided most of the funding for Phase 1. This has taken most of the year during which it was not possible for us to apply for any grants from them, and the new strategy was announced early in 2019.

During the year a specialist inspection of the Venables Screens was carried out, paid for by a small grant from the HLF, and the resulting documents were used to produce a Conservation Management Plan. A meeting was held with conservation regulators in September, which gave us confidence that we can carry out the restoration work effectively and with their agreement.

The 2018 Architect's Quinquennial Inspection was carried out during the year and has informed the scope of Phase 2.

During the year we reviewed and amended our own strategy and prepared for a period of consultation which started in September and which will continue into the early part of 2019.

Minor Projects

Smaller pieces of work have also been carried out or planned as part of the Project.

- The roof alarm fitted in 2017, while serving the purpose that it was installed for, has proved to be the source of many more false alarms than expected: this has resulted in a number of engineers visits and the company is now proposing to install, at no cost to us, some improved sensors.
- In January, as a result of an observation made during the Phase 1 work, an inspection of the tower parapet was made using a long reach hydraulic access platform. A small amount of masonry was removed for safety reasons.
- A final tranche of replacement LED lights was purchased during the year, and the scheme had paid for itself in electricity savings by the end of 2018.
- The whole of the boundary wall to the east of the main entrance to the church has been rebuilt with new coping stones, half of the funds being provided by our insurers and the remaining half from the Restoration fund.
- The long awaited restoration work on the west window was completed in September.
- Vandalism gave rise to damage to windows in the tower and the west window. The repairs were paid for by our insurers, but we also took the opportunity to repair some historical glazing damage and install protective screens on the tower windows.
- We continue to fight the pigeons: grant applications were made throughout the year with very limited success. The PCC has decided to fund a revised scheme and the work will be carried out in 2019.

Fundraising

During the year the Fundraising Group has worked hard at applying for grants and arranging events to support the Restoration Fund. We are very grateful to the Social Committee who have organised a number of excellent events on our behalf, raising a significant amount of money and keeping the project in the minds of those attending. Following on the success of the 2016 Gift Day, another will be held when the scope of the next phase is finalised.

Thanks

Thanks are due to all those who have worked hard to make this happen: the project has several years to run and your prayers for team stamina and wise decision making would be appreciated. Offers of help would be very welcome.

Mike Reed (Project Coordinator)

Section 2: Achievements and Performance

These reports are presented in addition to the Charity commission's statutory requirements

Church Wardens' Fabric Report.

Minor damage to a number of stained glass windows was repaired during the year and all the windows are currently in good repair. The windows in the Church tower were damaged by large ball bearings. These have also been repaired and protective polycarbonate sheet fitted over the South facing tower window to protect it from further damage.

The West window which has had no protection due to the upper grilles falling off has been cleaned and the protective grilles replaced. The lower grilles were removed and all the accumulated debris removed. The windows were then carefully cleaned and the protective grilles reattached. The stone Corbel immediately below the West window was found to be loose at this time. It was therefore removed, cleaned and reattached while the scaffolding was still in place.

During the year there had been some spurious alarms from the roof alarm system believed to be due to the large flock of feral pigeons calling the Church roof their home. A monitoring box has been fitted in the tower by the alarm company to give more information on the exact causes of this, and the alarm system will be updated in due course.

In line with the latest health and safety requirements, manual fire alarm bells and safety signage have been purchased and installed in Church during January. Preventative Maintenance work was carried out on the church boilers following their scheduled service. A final phase of replacement LED lights has been installed during the year and these had paid for themselves in reduced electricity consumption by the end of 2018.

A number of tree branches that were touching the masonry of the South side of the church and the porch were removed to prevent any wear of the stonework.

The Archdeacon of Chester the Venerable Michael Gilbertson visited us on 17th January 2019, and noted in his report was that the paperwork regarding the buildings and fabric were in very good order. It was noted that the regular electrical inspection was due and this is now in hand. PAT testing of church electrical equipment was completed in January 2019.

No28 Hightown

Some damage to the fascia of no 28 caused it is believed by a reversing truck, has been repaired by the Church Maintenance team. The front window was replaced and the paintwork made good by the maintenance team. The large meeting room has been completely redecorated by the maintenance team. Thanks to the team of volunteers who look after the day to day maintenance of the Church and no 28

(Churchwardens, Chris, Elaine and Keith)

Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod held three well attended meetings in 2018.

The first meeting in January, included the usual brief reports on the General and Diocesan Synod meetings, the CSR, ABC and Melanesia links. It was then addressed by Jonathan

Masters, the Chester Diocese Youth, Children & Families Missioner. One statistics quoted that 78% of Christians decided to follow Jesus before they reached 18. As 50% of the Cheshire Churches have five or fewer Children on Sundays this is a depressing thought! He concluded that the three main reasons for children coming to faith were growing up in a Christian family, reading the Bible and Sunday School. However in one of our own experience, faith came from encouragement from a friendship formed at school! When we were at school, very many years ago, religion was frequently talked about amongst ourselves!

The Second meeting in June was Mission Market Place where an encouraging number of Cheshire Parishes enlarged on the Mission work they were doing. The Parishes were divided in to three groups to explain the work they had done. The Rev George Crowder talked about getting "mission in the DNA" and commented in his experience that newcomers could often be the most enthusiastic. He concluded that "when we are close to Jesus we will know when the time is right to talk"!

The final meeting in October was attended by Emily Allen, the Church Buildings Development Officer. She commented that 2 million visited Churches each year and their appearance is an important factor in encouraging them to enter. Well planned gutter cleaning and general maintenance plans are essential to give a good impression to keep them coming to your church!

(Sylvia Bosomworth and Hugh Malkin)

Number 28 Activities

I can't believe that another year has flown by so quickly and that we are so very blessed by the Church and community facility we have in Number 28. We are so very grateful to all our willing volunteers, who make No. 28 what it is. Support comes in many different forms, from those who volunteer in the shop and interact with our visitors, to those "behind the scenes" who help out in a more practical way (mainly fixing things which Beth can't!) Thank you to each and every one of you who help to make No. 28 a facility of which we are all immensely proud.

No. 28 is open every weekday between 10 and 2pm and we are always keen to welcome visitors old and new. A warm welcome awaits, and a chat if you so wish. Tuesday is our busiest day with soup and sandwich day now being a feature of local people's weekly routine. Toast and teacakes are now served every day so people in need are always guaranteed a hot drink, a bite to eat and a kind, listening ear.

We are now also listed as an official "Place of Welcome", which is a Diocesan initiative. It means we are now listed on the Place of Welcome website, which people and organisations can check to see what is available in the local area for people who are looking for some company, or just somewhere to go. We are listed on the website as being open Monday to Friday between 10 and 2pm.

The TV screen in No. 28 shows different slides of the activities which take place here over the course of the year. We have GEMZ, men's Chill Time, card making course, MU and of course, our Church events such as Shrove Tuesday supper and quiz and the volunteers Christmas party. Church @ 28 continues to grow and flourish – soon the upstairs room won't be big enough! Home groups have been held in the shop area this year as well as our Craft and Chat group.

The regular Monday morning meeting takes place in the upstairs room and is extremely valued by all the staff as a platform for forward planning and for sorting out any issues which may arise. It is also essential time for prayer and bible study and allows us all some quiet time to meet together.

It is a focal point for most of our fundraising activities during the course of the year. We are fortunate in that most events can be run here so we don't have to dip into the profits in order to buy in outside catering etc.

Of course Number 28 continues to be a focal point for our FAB festival activities and is a real hub of activity for that middle weekend in June each year!! We are always delighted and blessed to have so many volunteers and to see the café full of people for the whole weekend! It is a real opportunity for the Church and the community to come together and share cake and that can only be a GREAT THING!

We now hold a Luncheon Club on the first Thursday of each month, where £3 will buy you a delicious 2 course, home-cooked meal. This has become very well supported by a group of regulars, who seem to look forward to the good food and company provided. It is lovely to see how the group has gelled together and different friendships have been formed. The last Thursday of the months sees a Charity coffee morning which raises a steady amount of income which goes towards supporting our 4 charities at St Michael's. It is nice to see both old and new faces at these events.

No 28 is also ideal for hosting wedding preparation mornings and baptism preparation lunches, an essential part of our Church/community link. We have had much positive feedback from people who have visited number 28 for the first time. The audio visual equipment is a huge bonus and allows us to make presentations in a very professional manner.

Street Pastors also use Number 28 for their base on a Friday and Saturday evenings, when they are out helping and mentoring the youth of Middlewich. We are a referral centre for Middlewich Foodbank and the request for vouchers has grown steadily over the last 12 months. It allows us an opportunity to talk the people who come in, offer them a place to go where they can have soup and sandwiches, and receive a friendly welcome.

Other community groups such as MGN, Street Pastors and visiting bell ringers have all used No. 28 over the past 12 months to host their meetings.

Room bookings are still not where we would like them to be but have improved over the last 12 months. We have the u3a bridge group with a regular Tuesday morning slot, and occasional one off party bookings. We have now secured a regular Wednesday evening booking for the small meeting room which seems to be growing and is appreciated by the support group which use it. We are also about to start a monthly booking for the large meeting room on Thursday evenings.

We have hosted 2 film afternoons here, organised by Jacqui Briscoe which have been thoroughly enjoyed by the people who attended. We are so fortunate to have such a flexible facility, where we can show Christian films, enjoy fellowship and serve refreshments. This is something we hope to repeat more frequently.

We have also recently started an Afternoon Communion service in Church, followed by an Afternoon Tea, served in Number 28 which was very well received. This was primarily aimed at older people who find it more difficult to access the earlier services. The feedback was very

positive and everyone said how much they enjoyed the format and then coming across the road for their afternoon tea! We do hope that this will continue.

We are very grateful to our small, dedicated and talented team of decorators who have done a marvellous job of painting the large meeting room in January 2019. I think we can all agree that it looks fantastic. Thank you so much to you all.

Many thanks to everyone who is involved with number 28 in any way, you make it what it is.

(Beth Deakin)

Pastoral Care – the Circle of Care

No report has been received to date ...

(Thia Hughes)

Willowmere Services

We again have had the privilege of running a Service at Willowmere East Road Middlewich in the restaurant once a month on a Monday at 6.30 and once a month on a Tuesday for Communion. We are truly blessed having made new friends, and are now into our 11th year. We have faithful members who love to attend and take part, bringing and welcoming newcomers too. We all enjoy tea and coffee with delicious homemade cake....which is an attraction that they all enjoy.

The service incorporates traditional hymns, new songs and always with those wonderful scripture readings and teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ. With very special thanks to Sylvia Wrench, Olwyn, Barbara, Joyce, Joyce, and Joyce (yes we are blessed with 3 Joyce's) Doreen, Dorothy and especially dear Bill who has been with us since the beginning (helping to eat the cakes ☺). If you would like to help that would be an answer to prayer so come and see what we get up to. A warm welcome awaits you. One of the Joyce's are now involved with one of our House Groups bringing further blessings I'm sure to one another praise God! ☺

Once a month the residents are also able to celebrate Holy Communion thanks to Rev Liz Woode and team which is warmly appreciated.

All the residents thoroughly enjoyed themselves at the Christmas Carol Sing-Along which ended (of course) with the festive refreshments afterwards☺

We are having some great fellowship with the residents who are always keen to meet, however, very sadly some are no longer with us but we are so much more the richer for having known them. We sincerely hope and pray that the peace and love of Christ is reached to all, also that the teaching of Jesus helps and encourages the residents to persevere in their faith. God bless. Keep praying for us ☺

(Jacqui Briscoe)

Home Groups

During 2018 we started with six Home Groups meeting fairly regularly. Some of the Groups meet weekly, some meet fortnightly, and the Group, which meets at Byley, does so on a monthly basis. The number of people available to meet each week fluctuates with the changes in

availability of the individuals, but, on average, there continues to be a steady number of people attending the Groups. However, later during the year, the Group that met on Tuesday afternoons has not been meeting on account of reduced numbers owing to illness.

Each Sunday the preacher of the main morning services produces Home-Group notes, which are aimed at leading and guiding members to delve into the scriptures in greater depth, at promoting fellowship, and at encouraging the members to pray for matters of current concern. The notes are well received and provoke lively and useful discussion and contribute significantly to a continuing of the maturing of our church fellowship. This system has proved to be more popular than the purchase of study matter from external sources, as the preacher can produce notes which relate specifically to our local people and their circumstances.

We do constantly encourage more and more of our regular church-goers to join these most useful Groups but the time pressures on our people, because of the **many** activities the church is involved in, is still a limiting factor.

(Tony Woode)

Schools, Families and Young Peoples Work

The role of family worker was created to support, develop, coordinate and add value to existing ministries within St Michaels and develop new opportunities within the wider community. In August this year (2018) I had been in post for 13 years.

SCHOOLS

As Family Worker I support our six local primary schools:

Middlewich Primary School

Cledford Primary School

Byley County Primary School

Wimboldsley Community Primary School

St Mary's (R.C.) Primary School

Warmingham (C.E.) Primary School (neighbouring parish)

Along with many **assemblies**, there have been opportunities to lead **singing practices, R.E. lessons** and special services in church which have reinforced the church's relationship with local schools. I have also occasionally supported schools in addition to these roles, e.g. school trips, special projects/days. Having regular contact with local schools opens up many opportunities for ministry; reinforcing the Church's relationship with the local community and presenting openings for **pastoral support** with children, families and school staff. I continue to oversee a rota for school assemblies with Rev David Spence (URC) to ensure that both Cledford and Middlewich Primary Schools have a Christian Assembly **every week** of the school term. I regularly take assemblies, at both Byley and Warmingham schools; more occasionally at Wimboldsley and St Mary's.

It was, of course, **LABYRINTH** year (*every 3 years at St Michaels*) All six local primary schools, alongside our own children groups and leaders, contributed spectacular displays to transform the whole of the inside of St Michaels into a walk-through the Bible event which was experienced by 1000s of visitors to the church. One of the highlights was flooding the Lady Chapel with water to recreate the Sea of Galilee, containing a small shoal of fish. (*Thanks Oliver!*) Many people in the church and wider community gave sacrificially of their time to facilitate this. During FAB Festival children from local schools and churches also sang on the main stage with SONG*STARS during the **Festival Praise Event** on the Sunday morning.

The **Light Switch On** hosted by the local council enabled schools to take part in a pre-**Advent Celebration** in Church. Wimboldsley School and Middlewich High School celebrated Christmas with services at St Michaels too.

Cledford Primary School once again celebrated Harvest, Easter and Christmas at St Michaels with services for the whole school community. Many of the schools have sent year groups to our churches in Middlewich and Byley to investigate Christianity in the community. One notable period was 'Remembrance week' in church. Anne Latham, Steve Bailey and the Flower Guild prepared a tremendous environment for local children to explore the **WW1 centenary celebrations**. During the year the Heritage Team also prepared a tour and activities which was well received by Middlewich Primary School. We have made good use of the No.28 facilities in offering hospitality to pupils, parents and staff. Thank you to all those who have facilitated this. I also supported Chrysalis Day Nursery with Easter, Harvest & Christmas sessions.

The schools continue to be extremely welcoming and appreciative of the church's input. If you would like to support your local schools in any way or would like to come along to an assembly to see what I do (or join in!) then please speak to me.

SMILERS (St Michael's Early Years)

Leaders: Jeremy Coles, Thia Hughes

Helpers: Elaine Reynolds, Sue Ikin, Jean Griffiths, Jo Hulse, Jean & Duncan Goodwin, Jill Ikin, Bridget Anton, Miriam Sant, Margaret English, Cynthia Sant, Trish Smith. Setting up helpers: Tony Woods & Alastair Griffiths

Mondays 1.15-3.00pm

Numbers at SMILERS continue to be stable with the usual 'passing on' of older children to the schools and a reassuring stream of new and new-born children with their parents and grandparents. Amid the playing, singing, art and craft time and refreshments we endeavour to listen to, care for and support Mums, Dads and other carers in bringing up their children. We introduce children (and their carers!) to the importance of Bible Reading, Prayer, Worship and above all things a personal relationship with Father God through Jesus. Parents often comment on how welcome and relaxed they feel in church and clearly appreciate the faith input and experience.

This ministry clearly establishes some families within the Christian faith, where otherwise they would have little or no regular contact with local Christians. We continue to see a number of parents and carers coming with their children to the 11.00 am service and other events as a direct result of SMILERS and the ministry of the Baptism Group. Mums & carers and under 5s regularly come into No.28 for refreshments and friendship. There is a strong network of parents within our community, underpinned by support from Smilers and other Church under 5s groups locally.

KIDS & YOUTH - SUNDAY & MIDWEEK ACTIVITIES

B.L.O.G. (Kids Club)

Leaders: Jeremy Coles, Emma Nicholl, Mike Cragg

Fridays: 6.00-7.30pm (School years 2-6)

Numbers have been steady over the last twelve months. The hour and a half we have on a Friday builds strong relationships with the children and their families.

DYN@MIC (Youth Club)

Leaders: Jeremy Coles, Paul Hassall – every week

Helpers: Sandra Buckley, Joanne Ellison, Jo Wilson, Sarah Olbrich on a rota basis

Fridays: 7.30-9.30pm (School Years 7+)

We have seen some of our older youth move on from a Friday evening club but have been delighted to welcome new youth, some of which have additional needs. Availability of helpers from September has dwindled. We continue to be grateful to Middlewich Primary School for the use of their main hall and staff room for both our Friday evening clubs, and often use No.28 and church as well.

KINGDOM KIDS (including KINGDOM TOTS)

Leaders: Fiona Loney, Christine Malkin, Elaine Reynolds, Sue Ikin, Trish Smith, Jean Goodwin, Rachel Bishop, Christine Reed, Thomas Bishop

Sundays: 11am

We continue to meet on Sunday mornings in groups across at No.28 for Juniors and Infants, with the preschoolers (Kingdom Tots) taking up residence in the Children's Room in Church

The Kingdom Kids Leaders provide their own curriculum, often linked to the Bible readings for the adult sermons. The children continue to report back into the service after their groups and regularly lead prayers at the beginning of services.

We have very faithful volunteers but more helpers and leaders are still required.

YOUTH CELL

Leaders: Simon Drew, Jeremy Coles, Bridget Anton, Sandra Buckley, Sarah Olbrich, Paul Hassall,

Most alternate Sundays 6.30pm (School year 7+)

This group has continued to meet regularly throughout the year with myself and Simon taking responsibility for the programme content. At the end of the year we were only getting two regular members. *This group along with Friday kids and youth clubs will be under review in the New Year.*

NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL (All Age Soul Survivor)

Leaders: Jeremy Coles

After helping at Naturally Supernatural last year Soul Survivor asked me to head up the programme for all the 7-8 year olds on site. 128 children came to us for 11 sessions over the six days to encounter the love of God and in particular learn about and experience more of the fullness of God's Spirit. I had a very challenging but rewarding time, particularly as I was supposed to be recovering from a toe operation, rather than bouncing around in worship with the children.

FAMILY TIMES

This year we again ran **Fun Days in the Summer** alongside the annual pilgrimage to Llandudno for all ages. The **LIGHT PARTY**, as an alternative to Hallowe'en is always a popular event with the traditional eating of choc ices with tomato sauce and wrapping each other up in toilet tissue! This was followed by a wonderful Christingle Event for the wider Community. One of the highlights of the year again was the 'coming-together' time at the **Crib Service Extravaganza**. Over 300 people gathered in church, many in fancy dress, to celebrate God's love on the Eve of Christmas.

MESSY CHURCH

A massive thank you to all who have supported Messy Church @ Cledford with their time, effort and prayer support. Full details are in the Rector's report.

BEING IN THE OFFICE (The joy of being based at No.28)

As reported in previous years, the ministry in and from No.28 continues to flourish. Every day I have opportunity to speak to people who access this wonderful hub of activity. Many of these people are existing church members or contacts, both with ministry-related enquiries and also in need of prayer, chat or counselling support. Increasingly with people who are 'passing through' there are wonderful opportunities to share faith with them. Being based in Number 28 enables me to support the wider administration of the church as well, particularly outside the normal advertised office hours. Making time to be among people, both in church and 28 but also 'where they are', is central to the continuing vision of St Michaels.

**“Build Your Kingdom here, let the darkness fear.
Show Your mighty hand, heal our streets and land.
Set your church on fire, win this nation back.
Change the atmosphere, build Your kingdom here we pray.”**
from the song 'Come set Your rule' – Rend Collective

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel.
Jeremy Coles - Director of Music and Family Work

Music, Services and Worship

CHURCH CHOIR

Leader: Jeremy Coles Assistant: Christine Hamill-Stewart Organist: Ann Hardy

Rehearsals – Wednesdays usually at 7.00pm

Other members: Steve Bailey, Sylvia Bailey, Julie Barker, Sue Barsby, John English, Duncan Goodwin, Christine Hamill-Stewart, Simon Hamill-Stewart, Margaret Hardy, Hugh Malkin, Jack Mayne, Kate Mayne, Stewart Prentice, Cameron Prentice, Fiona Tarry, Jo Wilson.

The Robed Choir lead the worship at the 9.15 am service, occasional Evening services (Confirmations, Bereavement Services, Evensong) and Weddings. Christine Hamill-Stewart continues to hold the main responsibility for choosing the music and meets regularly with myself and Ann Hardy to discuss ideas. Music choices reflect the background of those who attend the services, benefiting from more contemporary worship material but leaning towards the traditional. We are able to give a strong lead to the congregation and introduce new music on a regular basis. We are very happy for new-comers to join the choir (*please speak to Jeremy*) with no obligation to sing on Sundays to begin with.

Thank you to everyone who has regularly given us feedback and commented upon how much they appreciate the choir.

WORSHIP GROUP

Leader: Jeremy Coles

P.A/Visuals: Paul Humphreys,

Rehearsals – Wednesdays at 6.15pm or Thursdays at 6.45pm

Other members: Sally Coles-Robertson, Helen Cox, Katy Drew, Jamie Forster, Paul Hassall,

Graham Ikin, Kate Mayne, David Pinney, Fiona Tarry

The Worship Group continues to serve at the 11am service and occasionally at other joint events. Music choices reflect the background of those who attend the services, benefiting from more contemporary worship material and Children's Worship Songs. We are very happy for others to join in at rehearsals (*please speak to Jeremy*) with no obligation to play or sing on Sundays. It has been a joy and a privilege to see people responding to prayer ministry during more intimate times of worship where they can enjoy God's presence and respond to the challenge of the Word which has been preached. This year we again led worship on the Festival Stage at the **FAB event**.

A special thank you to Paul Humphreys for his continued development and running of the P.A. system, assisted by David Pinney and Paul Hassall.

Thank you to everyone who has given us feedback and commented upon how much they appreciate the worship group.

FESTIVAL CHOIR

Leader: Jeremy Coles

Rehearsals – Mondays at 7.00pm

Members: too many to mention (adults and youth)

The choir continues to bring a freshness and vibrancy to the worship, which compliments the existing music in church. The informality gives people the opportunity to come and try us out without the pressure of auditions. The numbers continue to fluctuate, although we have seen a few new members during the year and continued support from the faithful. St Michaels Community Choir is a faith based choir open to anyone. Many people comment upon how welcome they feel and how they have experienced renewed and newly-found faith. Gentle pray at the beginning and end of the sessions reinforce this, together with the opportunity to sing truth through the wonderful Bible based lyrics of the songs.

The choir is open to anyone from high school age upwards.

(No initial commitment is required – new comers are always welcome to rehearsals.)

SONG*STARS

Leader: Jeremy Coles Assistants: Sharon Eustace, Sarah Pearce

Rehearsals – Mondays at 5.30pm

Song*Stars, a junior version of Festival Choir, began in February of this year. St Michaels Children's Community Choir is a faith based choir open to any child from school years 2 to 6. Children may start slightly earlier (year 1) but only after discussions with their parents. The choir have sung at the Rose Queen Children's Festival, Light Switch On and Christingle service. We were very proud to also support the adult Festival Choir at the Carols by Candlelight Service at Christmas. As well as helping children to 'find their voice' we also explore the meaning of the songs with them and give the children opportunity to pray at the beginning and end of rehearsals.

CHURCH@28

Music Lead: Jeremy Coles

Sunday evenings once a month.

This informal setting gives opportunity to play and sing traditional hymns alongside more reflective or responsive worship songs. Various people have been involved in the solo spots. If

you would like to be involved then please do ask.

Do let others know about the choirs and musical opportunities at St Michaels or come and join in yourself. Everyone Welcome!

LEADING & PREACHING

I continue to lead and preach at worship services in the church and further afield. I am also involved in putting services together and helping with the administration associated with this.

Many thanks for your participation, love and encouragement during the year in my role as Director of Music!

**“I have heard so many songs, listened to a thousand tongues,
But there is one that sounds above them all.
The Father’s song, the Father’s love,
You sung it over me and for eternity it’s written on my heart.”**
From the song ‘I have heard’ – Matt Redman

Jeremy Coles - Director of Music and Family Work

Section 3: Evangelism, Ecumenical Relationships and Mission

Church@28

Church@28 is now well established in St Michael's and All Angels Church life. Our first service was back in January 2011, shortly before Simon Drew joined us that Summer. Eight years on, the service enjoys fantastic support from a wide range of folk, both in Middlewich and Byley.

The service aims to be relaxed, informal and different. As the name might suggest, it is held at Number 28. It has always been the heart of the service to be accessible and engaging to all – not just Church regulars. All are welcome - sceptics, seekers, doubters and believers.

We always have a break in August, but that aside held a service every month. It always started at 6:30pm and typically lasted just over an hour. Attendance fluctuated from month to month, with the lowest being 39 and the highest 62. The average for the year was 50.

Previous averages;

45 in 2011
48 in 2012
45 in 2013
49 in 2014
52 in 2015
51 in 2016
48 in 2017

So, we are pretty consistent!

The e-mail list has been very helpful in keeping people in touch with future service dates etc.

The service format has remained largely unchanged comprising of a news review, two hymns, two contributions of performed music, prayers, Bible reading and a fifteen – twenty minute interview. The message is a five minute spotlight' on a particular topic.

We have continued to be very blessed with a diverse array of interview guests who have contributed richly to each service. This year six were women, five were men. At the end of every service the refreshments and time to chat continue to be very popular.

The level of support shown to the service is fantastic. Many people freely give of their time and talents every month – it is greatly appreciated. There are many unsung heroes who work so hard to make the various aspects of the service come together and I do feel it really is a good example of the Body of Christ working together.

A few thoughts to finish:

- We run an e-mail list. Want to join it? robertreed@dunelm.org.uk
- Got an idea for the service? A story we should be covering or a potential interview guest you know? If so, let me know,
- Be brave – invite a friend. It may be the start of something very exciting.
- Want to take part? Drop me a line or give me a call.

(Robert Reed)

Messy Church@Cledford

During 2018 we continued to run our new outreach initiative based at Cledford Primary School. Messy Church@Cledford is a monthly event which first began in September 2017. It uses a combination of craft activities, songs, food, video and biblical input to help children and parents explore, through word and action, the Christian faith.

Numbers are around 30 children and 20 adults. Most of these are regular attendees coming along month by month, and most significantly they are families who have little or no connection with normal church life. Currently we meet on the 2nd Tuesday at 5:30pm in the school's Sports Hall.

We are very grateful to our dedicated team of volunteers who all make a significant contribution help to make the whole event a success. Particular thanks to Paul Humphreys for PA and multimedia support, Sharon Eustace, Sue Ikin & Alison Boulton for overseeing the craft activities, and Elaine Reynolds and her team for organising the food each month.

(Simon Drew and Jeremy Coles)

Card Group

We ran a card-making course in October-November 2018. The members of the group were drawn from contacts made at the FAB Festival and those who responded to the advertisement in the Northwich and Middlewich Guardian

We are planning to meet again in November/December 2019 as long as I am not still acting as DDO for the Diocese of Chester.

Our aim continues to be to offer a free service to the community which will introduce them to members of St Michael's Church and will encourage them to join our church family. The format remains the same – a warm welcome, a different card making technique taught every week, refreshments and chat in a relaxed atmosphere, rounded off by a Thought for the Day and a prayer of blessing.

We need to recruit new people for future courses. If you have a friend or neighbour who might be interested please encourage them to contact me and I will let them know when the next course will be running.

We continue to be self-financing, relying on donations and the sale of cards we make to finance materials and equipment and we are very grateful to everyone who supports us by buying our cards. We accept commissions so if you would like a card for a special occasion please let me know.

(Lorraine Reed)

Mothers' Union

The theme for 2018 was "Following in Mary Sumner's Footsteps" and at our first meeting in January we enjoyed activities to plan what could be done in Middlewich. This was followed in February by the AGM where we played "Mary Sumner's Game", which was based on the Kim's

Game activity. Both these activities brought out some good ideas for the future. We were grateful to Simon Drew for letting us use the two services on a Sunday in October to promote the Mothers' Union and we did have interest from members of the congregation

During the year we had an interesting with three Mothers' Union speakers, who talked about the "Virtual Babies project", "Walking with Jesus in the Holy Land", and "What's in a name?". We were also pleased to welcome the Middlewich Street Pastors.

Members attended Deanery and Diocesan events and this year the Diocesan Festival was held at St. Georges in Stockport. The Deanery Advent service was held at Sandiway church and was taken by Rev. John Hughes, just before he retired. We had our usual two coffee mornings to raise funds for Mothers' Union charities

The knitters in our branch have been doing a good job knitting for Knit for Peace, knitting squares to make blankets for the homeless in Northwich, and supporting Care UK in Northwich, which sends items to Syria and Greece.

So I think we were following in Mary Sumner's Footsteps last year and this year we look forward to listening, observing and acting in step with God which is our theme for 2019.

(Susan Hawkes)

Street Pastors

Middlewich Street Pastors will enter their tenth year of operation later in 2019, some of the original volunteers still giving up their time as active team members. Street Pastors have been out throughout the year every Friday evening, as well as supporting the FAB festival with extra shifts. We have engaged with many people around our town, mainly the young people, and it has been good to get to know new youngsters, as well as seeing some of the ones we have known for some time, who are now grown up and some of whom are now parents!

It has been difficult finding new volunteers in the past year but the team currently stands at 20, 9 ladies and 11 men with one Pastor currently on sick leave We are thankful for the support of Nora who has been helping Marion with cake making, Christine Malkin as secretary and Jane who used to be a Street Pastor, for praying for us each week, along with all the other prayer Pastors from the Churches around Middlewich. It really helps us to have your backup – thank you!

Joy Sheen has organised training sessions throughout the year, mainly refresher courses for existing Pastors, and Keith Yearley and Joy have given joint presentations for our own Mothers Union and for Stafford Street Pastors, talking about the work we do in Middlewich. We have also been represented at the Connected Communities initiative within the town.

Our Street Pastors co-ordinator has been working with the town council and Middlewich Vision on grant writing and planning with various agencies for the refurbishment of Fountain Fields Park. This has been very worthwhile and has allowed the profile of the team within the town to be raised as various partners are made aware of what we do.

The park was finally re-opened in the autumn after four years of planning and to date has been looked after well regarding damage and graffiti. The park remains a meeting place for the young people of Middlewich who regularly congregate around the park area. Problems with underage

drinking and occasionally empty bottles and broken glass have recently escalated to a concerning level. Our coordinator has been working with the PCSO's and CCTV team, and they have targeted all the outlets in the town. There has been much discussion about CCTV cameras and more than likely funds are to become available to put one in to cover a large part of the park. A new shelter is being especially made for the park, the only one of its kind, and this should be installed towards the end of February or early March.

A new team of Street Pastors is currently being set up to operate in Crewe and our coordinator has been involved with setting up this team. The official launch of the team was on 4th February 2019. Some of the Middlewich team are planning to support the new team with our knowledge and expertise, when they complete their training and go out towards the middle of this year. Please pray for them all.

As far as we know, Middlewich Street Pastors are the only team that go out of our church buildings and onto the streets of the town to represent our churches, as lights for Jesus, representing him with both our actions and our words. We meet many people, and for them we may be the only Christian they speak to and as we have heard so many times, they remember what we say or how we behaved towards them, often years later.

(Keith Yearley)

St Michael's Bellringers

Simon Taylor (Ringing Master)

St Michael and All Angels Ringing Team (SMAART)

We gave only 10 performances during the year, half of them being in December. Two were for church groups (a talk to Davenham Mothers' Union and a concert for Chester Mothers' Union) and four took place in local care homes. There were three "open" concerts: we played twice in Middlewich library, with enthusiastic participation by several children and parents; and we also performed again at the Lion Salt Works, Marston, with a much larger, and appreciative, audience than last year, since the weather was kind to us. The final event was our attendance at the HRGB North West Region Autumn Rally in Sale, with about ten other teams. Quite daunting, but enjoyable.

As ever we are grateful to the tower ringers for the continued use of their handbells. We bought another new bell during the year, a large bass bell (E in the fourth octave), and now own 15 bells. We require one more (expensive) bell (D#) to complete three octaves in D. The sound coming from the bass bells is becoming increasingly rich, but muscles are required to play them!

If anyone else would like to join us we would be pleased to see you. Although it would help to have some musical knowledge, it is not necessary. However, being able to count to four, six, or occasionally nine, is essential! We practise at Willowmere at 7 p.m. on Monday evenings.

(David Hawkes)

Home and Overseas Mission Support

St Luke's Hospice

Once again it has been our pleasure over the past year to raise the profile of St. Luke's Hospice, and help to raise funds to support the wonderful work they do. Unfortunately as a church we ended the financial year with a deficit and so did not contribute towards our chosen charities; however with your support we raised £267.55 which will go towards the great work of the Hospice.

St. Luke's is a charity and relies on fundraising to support its caring and supportive work, so please watch out for any fundraising events in the coming year and continue to support us with your usual generosity and also remember the work of the Hospice in your prayers. Many thanks to you all

(Sylvia Bosomworth & Elaine Reynolds)

Save the Family

I visited Save the Family on four occasions in 2018. It is always a great pleasure to deliver the donations from St Michael's church.

The charity relies on the support of volunteers and is always able to use many more people (338 hours were given by volunteers in November in 2018 alone!). One retired lady, Molly Whittingham celebrated her 100th birthday in November and requested donations for Save the Family in lieu of presents, and was able to pass on £500 to the charity, where she had been a volunteer for many years before retiring in her mid-90's. A group of ladies from Lloyds Banking Group gave their time to help the staff to set up the hall for the Christmas party. Others have already volunteered to help with the next street collection in Chester.

We held two fund raising coffee mornings throughout the year. The Hot Cross Bun morning made £110.50 and the Mince Pie event made £185.82. Two further donations were made by other fund raising groups, £44.90 and £61.42 making a total for the year of £402.64. During the summer we acquired a large bag of Lavender seed heads. A group of ladies collected the seeds, Lynn Astles machined dozens of small voile and cotton bags which were trimmed with lace, filled with Lavender and sold at the coffee mornings. At Christmas, knitted items were equally successful, with Pam Jackson producing polar bears, snowmen, santas and angels as tree decorations.

A huge thank you to everyone for the support and contributions during 2018.

(Jo Hulse)

Christ for all in Andhra Pradesh

This year's report is longer than usual, because some changes are taking place which will affect the way we sponsor the work in India.

Background:

The work which we support, through CfA, was started by a man called Azariah. When Azariah first arrived in Khamman there was a large area of Church Missionary Society (CMS) work already established, as part of which Miss Dorothy Tate was doing pastoral and evangelistic work. Azariah's emphasis on evangelistic work amongst non-Christians made it of mutual advantage for them to work together, which they did for some 15 years.

In 1980, the CMS changed its funding policy, sending money to the Diocese of South India, instead of to individual projects. Faced with loss of funding for this work, Azariah said "If it is the Lord's will that the work should continue, He will send the means." By the summer of 1984, Azariah's team had been renamed as the "Christian Service Unit", and a new UK charity, 'Christ for All in Andhra Pradesh' was in operation. At about the same time, Dr David Rowe set up a similar charity in the US, named "Friends of Christ in India." (FOCI) These two charities, plus another US charity "Pillar of Fire Missions" have been the main supporters of the Christian Service Unit ever since.

We, at St Michaels were introduced to the work when Ian Bishop invited Azariah to visit Middlewich in 2003. This visit resulted in St Michaels agreeing to sponsor the work of Christ for All, and was followed by later visits by Azariah's successor, John Mark, and by his successor, John Franklin.

Unfortunately, Christ for All did not actively publicise its work, news being spread by word of mouth, as individual supporters moved around the country. Because of this, all the original trustees are now of an age where they can no longer continue, and there has been no succession planning. In addition to this, a number of recently introduced legal and political constraints have made it very difficult for the work of Christ for All to continue in its present form. As a consequence, the trustees have, reluctantly, decided to wind up the charity at the end of the financial year. (i.e. by the time of the 2019 APCM.)

Coincidentally, Pillar of Fire has also been forced, by circumstances beyond their control, to stop their support for Andhra Pradesh. Together, these two charities supply over half the total funding for the Christian Service Unit and, without their support, the CSU will be in danger of closing.

What have we, at St Michael's, achieved?

During the time in which we have been supporting the CSU, St Michael's family has been able to provide the following direct help to needy people:

Bore wells for four villages

Walking canes for four blind people

Mobility aids for disabled leprosy patients



Sewing machines to enable sixteen widows to earn a living

Help for three people to set up their own businesses

Bicycles for four rural pastors

A scooter for a blind pastor (his wife drives it – he rides pillion)

Sponsorship for accommodation & education of six children

A computer for Shanthi School

Regular meals for the poor

An unknown (but large) number of food parcels for HIV sufferers

A garden for the Faith Home for the Aged

Training for five Nursing Aides

In addition to the relief work, the pastors are spreading the Gospel, resulting in about 30 adults being baptised per month.



And these are only the things we know about.

What of the Future?

FOCI appear to be more pro-active than CfA, and their leaders – David Rowe and his wife, Alida Ward – make regular visits to India to support Franklin in his work. They have been actively promoting the work of CSU, and have younger members serving on their board, to ensure that the work continues. They believe, as Azariah did, that, if it is God's will for the work to continue, then he will provide the means. Acting in faith, they have promised to make up the shortfall in funding. We have been in contact with them and they will be pleased to work with us to develop ways in which we can continue to support the work in India.

Franklin is planning to visit the UK in the summer, to personally thank and reassure supporters of the work in India. If the visit goes ahead, we have invited him to come to St Michael's on 23rd June. He has now confirmed that it will be possible for St Michael's to send donations directly to the Christian Service Unit, so that is what we propose to do. I know that some of you currently support children in Andhra Pradesh, but it will no longer be possible to do this via CfA after the end of March 2019. I hope that you will wish to continue your sponsorship. If you do, please

contact Mike Reed, or Neil Clewes, for details of how to make a standing order to St Michael's. They will then ensure that your donation gets to the right place.

We thank all those of you who have given so generously to Christ for All in the past, and ask for your prayers for Franklin and the Christian Service Unit team at this very difficult time. The name may be different, but the need remains as great as ever.

(Steve & Ruth Broadfoot)

Congo – ABC Link

No report has been received to date ...

(Thia Hughes)

Appendix 1 – Financial Statements Year Ended 31 Dec 2018

(To be printed separately)



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

for the year ending

31st DECEMBER 2018

INCUMBENT

The Reverend Simon Drew

BANKERS

Barclays Bank PLC

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mrs Fatima Perriman

Registered Charity No. 1127335

St Michael & all Angels, Middlewich
Annual report and accounts for the financial year ending 31st
December 2018

Financial Overview

1) Table 1 Receipts and Payment Account 2018

The accounts are split into two columns, the first containing everyday receipts and payments classified as the unrestricted general fund or Operating column. This column includes every day running costs (expenditure) of the Church and Number 28 and all voluntary and unrestricted income received.

The second column relates donations received for specific restricted events or activities and expenditure on a specific project or one off payments as instructed and authorised by the PCC.

The **Operating** column shows a deficit in 2018 of £19,155 compared to a deficit of £2,717 in 2017.

Total receipts excluding the Parish Weekend (year on year are not comparable as there was no Parish weekend in 2017) were £131,874 which is down by £12,304 on 2017.

Within these numbers unrestricted voluntary income decreased by £7,010 compared to 2017. This included a decrease of £4,670 relating to Planned Giving.

Receipts generated from Church activities decreased by £4,721 compared to 2017. Investment income and dividends from Church investment funds decreased by £573 compared to 2017.

Total payments excluding the Parish Weekend were £150,830 which increased by £4,054 on 2017.

Ministry costs increased by £662 in 2018.

Church costs (which includes utilities and insurance) increased by £3,657 compared to 2017. Insurance was higher than 2017 by £2,203 as the monthly payments were for a full year. During 2017 we had changed to monthly payments which started part way through the year. Other Running costs were higher than 2017 by £1,073. 2018 included some one off payments including the Church boiler repair for £1,386

Expenditure on Church Activities (Funeral and Wedding fees) were £1,074 higher than 2017.

Charitable donations were lower than 2017 by £1,005 in the year. Donations of £1,927 in 2018 represents 2.1% of voluntary income compared to 2.9% in 2017. No donations were made from PCC Funds in 2018.

Number 28 had a deficit of £161 in 2018 compared to a deficit of £883 in 2017. Income increased by £303 (including Room hire of £198). Insurance costs were higher due to the change to monthly payments, but this was offset by lower other running costs.

The **Restricted** Fund Receipts of £12,071 includes £4,379 tax recovered, £1,471 from The Lidbury Trust and £6,221 mainly from other giving and fundraising.

The Restricted Fund Payments were £23,296 which were mainly related to the Restoration Project. This included the Phase 1 retention payment of £5,925 and other payments relating to the Venables Screens, and windows, tower and boundary wall repairs. Some of the expenditure was in the Restoration Fund balance at the end of 2017.

Table 2 Statement of Assets & Liabilities

The assets are split in two main sections fixed assets which are not easily converted into cash (property and equipment) and monetary assets which are easily converted into cash (cash, stocks and investment funds).

The fixed asset section represent the current value of No 28 which stands at £295,000, this valuation is based on survey carried by Mellor Braggins in May of 2015. This value is £58,826 lower than the previous value which was based on the original purchase price plus the conversion/renovation costs. The monetary assets are then split into three sections total cash and bank, working designated funds and restricted funds (definitions can be found within the accounting policies section).

Total cash and bank funds as at the 31st December 2018 (including accruals) stood at £19,236. This represents a decrease of £30,668 on 2017. This mainly relates to the Operating deficit and spending on the Restoration Project.

The designated fund section includes a number of funds which have been generated by generous gifts specifically, but not legally, designated to the maintenance and development of the fabric of the Church or specific Church

projects. As at 31st December 2018, they were £3,851 lower than 2017. The main movement on these funds was the revaluation of the Investment Funds (Stocks Fund CCLA decreased by £3,074 and the Stocks Fund (HSBC Shares) decreased by £680).

Total funds available to the PCC were £34,518 lower than at the end of 2017 at a yearend value of £253,920. This mainly relates to the Operating deficit and spending on the Restoration Project.

The Restricted funds of £40,979, which are not available to the PCC, were £1,291 lower than 2017. This mainly relates to the revaluation of the Moreton CCLA and ET Earl Legacy CBF funds.

As stated the PCC have no known liabilities.

2) Table 3 Allocation of Reserves

The third financial table illustrates how the reserves available to the PCC could be employed in the future in line with the strategy of the PCC. The £150,000 allocated to Church Development is to bring the interior of the church into compliance with current legislation and good practice, to repair utilities and to improve the facilities for the congregation and local community to facilitate worship, community activities and access to the heritage of the building

The running costs reserve is a prudent level to cover six months potential Working Capital for both the Church and No 28.

The allocation also allows for further refurbishment of No 28.

Finally we propose £21,250 for ongoing outreach and spreading the Gospel in Middlewich.

St Michael and All Angels, Middlewich

Receipts & Payments Account 2018

TABLE 1

	2018 £'s			2017 £'s		
	Unrestricted Fund (Operating Result)	Restricted Fund (Project)	Total Funds	Unrestricted Fund (Operating Result)	Restricted Fund (Project)	Total Funds
Receipts						
Voluntary Income (Sum of *)	92,787	11,318	104,105	99,797	69,583	169,380
<i>Planned Giving*</i>	62,788	30	62,818	67,457	50	67,507
<i>Collections and other giving*</i>	13,925	6,909	20,834	12,784	29,169	41,953
<i>Income tax recovered*</i>	16,075	4,379	20,454	19,555	40,364	59,919
Church Activities	32,255		32,255	36,976		36,976
Investment Income & Dividends	6,832	753	7,585	7,406	7	7,412
Parish Weekend	5,240		5,240	180		180
HLF		0	0		104,950	104,950
Total Receipts	137,114	12,071	149,186	144,358	174,540	318,898
Payments						
Project Costs		23,296	271,592		271,592	32,856
Cost of Generating Voluntary Income			0			0
Fundraising trading cost of good sold and Other (No 28 Running Costs)	5,399		5,817	5,817		5,470
Charitable & Activities (sum of *)	127,589		127,589	124,190		124,190
<i>Charitable giving*</i>	1,927	0	1,927	2,847		2,847
<i>Ministry*</i>	106,366		106,366	105,704		105,704
<i>Church*</i>	19,296		19,296	15,639		15,639
Parish Weekend	5,440		5,440	300		300
Church Activities	17,842		17,842	16,769		16,769
Total Payments	156,270	23,296	179,566	147,076	271,592	418,668
Surplus/Deficit of Receipts over Payments	(19,155)	(11,225)	(30,380)	(2,717)	(97,053)	(99,770)

Notes		
Schedule 1	2018	2017
Church Activities	32,255	36,976
Fundraising Activities & Income from Parish events	874	2,537
Parish Magazines	409	935
Fees Paid to PCC for Wedding and Funerals	21,933	22,547
Charitable fundraising	1,504	1,905
No 28 Income	5,238	4,934
Other income	2,298	4,118
Schedule 2	2018	2017
Ministry	106,366	105,704
Parish Share	55,355	54,005
Salaries & Pension Payments	37,777	37,637
Ordained Staff Expenses	1,859	1,814
Rectory Running Costs	3,524	3,354
Office Costs & Other costs	7,851	8,893

Expenditure on salaries and expenses is almost exclusively in respect of three paid staff. In addition to these staff we are blessed to have three Associate Priests, one Curate, one retired Priest and seven Readers, none of whom take a salary or expenses

Schedule 3	2018	2017
Church	19,296	15,639
Electricity	791	723
Gas	4,728	4,415
Insurance	6,107	3,905
Other Running Costs	7,670	6,597
Schedule 4	2018	2017
Charitable Giving	1,927	2,932
Made up of the following		
Save The Family	403	644
Congo Charities	481	550
Christ For All In Andhra Pradesh	364	455
St Lukes	268	256
Christian Aid	225	842
Manchester Victims	0	100
Ride & Stride Donation	188	85
Donation % of Voluntary Income	2.1%	2.9%
Schedule 5 No 28 Receipts & Payments	2018	2017
Income	5,238	4,934
Insurance	(1,141)	(414)
Utilities	(2,212)	(2,311)
Other running costs	(2,046)	(3,092)
Surplus/Deficit	(161)	(883)

Year Ending 31st December 2018			TABLE 2
		2018	2017
Fixed Assets No 28 Buildings		295,000	295,000
Barclays Bank Current Account		14,346	29,926
Gift Aid Accrual		5,231	19,555
Accrued Income & Expenditure		(717)	233
Barclays Bank Premium Acc		38	38
Cash Float		339	151
Total Cash and Bank Funds		19,236	49,904
Designated Funds			
Stocks Fund 609062002S		201,897	204,972
Moreton Bequest Income Fund CCLA Deposit 609062100D		3,525	2,784
CCLA Deposit 609062002J		18,454	18,123
Stock Funds CCLA Investment Fund (Int Reinvestment) 609062005D		3,090	4,258
Stocks Fund (HSBC Shares)		7,718	8,398
Total Designated Funds		234,684	238,535
Total Funds Available to the PCC		253,920	288,438
Restricted Funds			
Moreton CCLA Investment Fund (Restoration Fund)		21,168	22,047
ET Earl Legacy CBF Deposit 609602003D		12,351	12,864
Organ Fund, CCLA Deposit & Investment Fund 6090662006D & 609062001J		7,460	7,359
Total Restricted Funds (not available to the PCC)		40,979	42,270
All Assets		589,900	625,709
Barclays Bank Current Account includes Restoration Fund balance of £387 as at 31st December 2018			
The PCC have no known liabilities			

St Michael and All Angels, Middlewich		TABLE 3
Allocation of Reserves		2018
a) Church Development		150,000
b) Financial Working Capital		75,420
c) No 28 General Fabric		7,250
d) Outreach and Spreading the Gospel		21,250
Total		253,920
Total Funds available to the PCC		253,920

Notes to the Financial Statements Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards from the SORP 2005 and the Charities Act 2011.

This is the third year that the accounts have been prepared using the accrual accounting method.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups (such as the Mothers' Union and Bell ringers society) who owe their main affiliation to the national organisation, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided by the terms of the trust or bequest and (b) donations received for a specific object.

Designated funds are funds set aside by the PCC for a particular purpose. The PCC may subsequently decide to spend the fund for any other purpose.

Unrestricted funds are general funds that can be used for the PCC's ordinary purposes.

Income

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. All income is accounted for gross. Where the church acts as an agency these income amounts are excluded from the financial statements. Fees from weddings and funerals are shown net of costs incurred in the provision of the service, including payment of assigned fees, vergers and organist fees etc.

Expenditure

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognized when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993. Movable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected at any reasonable time. Such property is written off when purchased.

Other functional assets (in our case No.28, the Parish Centre & office) are not valued in Receipts and Payments Accounting but are noted in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value as at 31st December 2018

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Independent Examiner's Report to the members/trustees of St Michael & All Angels Church, Parochial Church Council.

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2018. Charity No.1127335

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

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

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145 (5)(b) of the Charity's Act ; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my notice

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Direction given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity 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 explanation from the management committee 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 present 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

1. which give reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act: or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met: or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Fatima Perriman

50 Thrush Way, Winsford, Cheshire. CW7 3LN

28th March 2019