

Annual Report

Year ended 31st December 2017

St. Michaels Church, Braintree



Information

Address St Michaels Lane, Braintree, Essex, CM7 1EY
Website <http://stmichaelsbtree.co.uk>
Email admin@stmichaelsbtree.co.uk

PCC Membership

Ex Officio Members

Nigel Adams (Vicar, Chair) *(from Sept. 2017)*

Cyril Bamforth (Churchwarden, Lay Chair)

Lesley Davey (Churchwarden, Acting Treasurer)

Deanery Synod (also ex-officio)

Terry Clark

David Huxter

Lin Terris

John Turton

Elected Members

Sam Allen

Jennifer Bailey

Philip Bartlett-Rawlings

Derek Chapman

Roger Cooke

David Henfrey
(Treasurer) *(until
June 17)*

Helen Hopkins

Stephanie Hughes *(from
Oct 17)*

Helen Kemp

Victoria Lingesh

Ann Mahood

David Marriott

Ade Odupitan

Co-opted Members

Andy Carter

Joel Wicks *(until Aug 17)*

Non-members

Kim Cureton *(Secretary to Nov 17)*

Sandra Savill *(Electoral Roll Officer)*

Alexandra Allen *(Secretary from Jan 18)*

Contents of Annual Report

Information	2
PCC Membership	2
Service Statistics	3
Minutes of the Annual Meetings	4
PCC Proceedings 2017-18	6
Vicar's Annual Report 2018	7
Churchwardens' Reports	8
Braintree Deanery	8
Mission Support	9
St Michael's School	9
Evangelism committee	9
Study Groups	10
Flower Club	10
Bell Ringers	10
The Hawthorns	10
Bradbury House	10
Youth Church	10
Junior Church	11
Finance Summary	13
Our aims	14

Service Statistics

		<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Overall Church Attendance			
Total attendance (including Junior Church)	A	7,998	9,189
Average Sunday attendance (including Junior Church)		151	177
Total Communicants (including midweek Communion)		2,026	2,404
Junior Church Attendance			
Total Sunday - children and adults	B	843	1,174
Average Sunday - children and adults		25	32
Average Attendance			
8.00am Holy Communion		10	11
10.00am Holy Communion		117	128
10.00am Morning Worship		118	135
10.00am Church Family Worship		125	147
6.30pm Holy Communion		18	17
6.30pm Evening Worship (not including Sunday Carol Service)		20	18
Midweek 10.00am Holy Communion		7	8
Other Services			
Good Friday Meditation		17	11
Family Carol Service (Christingle)		211	291
Sunday Carol Service		152	167
Midnight Communion		112	73
Christmas Day 10.00am Service		100	137
Occasional Services			
Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child		0	1
Baptisms		5	9
Confirmations		0	2
Weddings		1	1
Funerals		11	20

For Comparison A -- 52 weeks recorded in 2016 53 weeks recorded in 2017

B -- 37 weeks recorded in 2016 34 weeks recorded in 2017

Marion Richardson

Minutes of the Annual Meetings

Meeting of Parishioners, held on Wednesday 26 April 2017 at St Michaels Church House

Welcome

Cyril Bamforth gave thanks to all present and welcomed Alan Radford, the Independent Examiner of our accounts, to the meeting.

Appointment of clerk for the meeting.

Kim Cureton was duly proposed by Lesley Davey, seconded Rod Davey and duly elected unopposed.

Hymn 496

“O for a thousand tongues to sing”

(Cyril thanked John for playing and bringing his own keyboard).

Opening Prayer:

Lead by Rev Stephen Bailey

Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners held on 27 April 2016

The minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners held on 27 April 2016 had been incorporated within the printed Annual Report 2016-17 provided to all Electoral Roll members. The minutes were agreed to be taken as read. Proposed by Jenny Chapman, seconded by Dave Marriott and carried unopposed.

Election of Churchwardens for 2017/18

Cyril Bamforth and Lesley Davey were elected for 2017/2018

Both Lesley and Cyril expressed a willingness to serve for another year. With no other nominations Cyril and Lesley were duly elected.

Cyril expressed his gratitude for the unitedness of the PCC committee and everyone involved in the appointment of a Priest in Charge and informed the meeting of the 7 applications received and asked all to continue praying and giving thanks.

Commendation of newly-elected Churchwardens in prayer

The newly-elected Church Wardens were commended in prayer by Rev Stephen Bailey.

Annual Parochial Church meeting, held on Wednesday 26 April 2017 at St Michaels Church House

Apologies for absence:

There were approximately 50 people in attendance. 24 apologies for absence had been received and their names were read out.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 27 April 2016:

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 27 April 2016 had been incorporated within the printed Annual Report 2017-2017 provided to all Electoral Roll members. The minutes were proposed to be taken as read: proposed by Phil Bartlett Rawlings and seconded by Graham Saville. They were accepted by the meeting and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Report of Electoral Roll Officer:

Graham Savill reported on behalf of Sandra Savill, the Electoral Roll Officer, that at the APCM 2016 there were 233 names on the Electoral Roll. During the year 4 names were added and 13 names were taken off. The Roll therefore stood at 224. Cyril asked that Graham pass on our thanks to Sandra.

Elections:

Election of 4 Deanery Synod Representatives (elected for 3 year)

The following had been nominated:

- David Huxter
- Lin Terris
- John Turton

As there were no other nominations, Cyril declared them duly elected.

Cyril asked about the meeting about the regulations on Deanery Synod reps and co-opting someone from the PCC committee. John Turton mentioned the possibility of a bi-election.

Cyril thanked Chris Jones (9 yrs) for all his diligent work and a letter of thanks will be sent.

Election of 4 Deputy Churchwardens (elected for 1 year)

Cyril thanked Moe Aung, Ade Odupitan and Paul Killingback and David Marriott for all their hard work over the past year.

There were five nominations received:

- Moe Aung, Ade Odupitan, Paul Killingback, David Marriott, and Jim Hughes.

Phil Bartlett Rawlings and Graham Savill volunteered as Tellers. The Tellers retired to count the votes.

Election of 7 PCC members

Cyril introduced the 6 nominations received

- Sam Allen
- Stephanie Hughes
- Victoria Lingesh
- Helen Kemp
- Helen Hopkins
- David Henfrey

As there were no other nominations, and with no oppositions from the meeting, Cyril declared them duly elected, with the first full PCC meeting being on 25th May 2017.

Appointment of Sidespersons for 2017/2018

Cyril expressed his thanks to Graham Savill and Gloria for organising the Sidespersons' lists and to all those involved.

Cyril read out the list of names for the coming year and asked the meeting to think about putting their names forward to the months that are short of help.

Cyril thanked Jean Bartlett-Rawlings and Helen-Barlett Rawlings for the evening services and again asked for any help if possible.

Very grateful thanks were expressed to June Kirk, who will be stepping down from Junior Church in December, for all the service given over many years.

Cyril thanked and wished Joel Wicks all the very best on his future training at Oakhill.

Warmest thanks were also given to Chris Jones as he steps down from organising car park tickets and a request for a volunteer made.

Ann asked that Tom be thanked for his lay reading and years of service.

The results of the 4 Deputy Churchwardens (elected for one year) nominations following a ballot were read out as follows:

- Moe Aung
- Jim Hughes
- David Marriott
- Ade Odupitan

Presentation of Independently Examined accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016 and report of Treasurer:

In David Henfrey's absence Cyril Bamforth took the meeting through the Summary Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016, previously published and circulated within the Annual Report 2016-2017. Copies of the full accounts were available upon specific request.

Cyril talked through the Finance Report and explained that the collections were £13,812 which was an increase thanks to £4,000 being received anonymously in the collection box.

It was noted that the number of those able to gift aid had fallen slightly, which may be a reflection on the age group of church.

Cyril thanked everyone for the money received, during the Gift Aid Thanksgiving Weekend, of £10,520 which was over and above the normal giving.

However, the overall income was down by 2.5% at £146,592.

Regarding the PCC giving, Cyril apologized to those charities that had not been given to and how this was only a temporary situation and re-iterated the PCC's aim to give 10% of available free income to charities. This year £9,300 was given to home missions with £1,100 overseas.

On the expenditure side the largest outgoing was the Diocesan Quota at £77,699 and although we were without a Minister for the large part of a year it still

needed to be paid and put us in good stead within the Diocese.

The Church house running expenses were down at £6,723, as well as the church running costs mainly due to not needing the heaters, £12,248

Cyril expressed grateful thanks to Joel and Andy for leading the youth work, £35,907 and talked about the Ministry costs being down as a result of not having Charles.

Although the Vicarage costs are down, costs will need to be incurred for re-decoration prior to the new Minister arriving.

Total expenditure down 3.1% masked by not making full contributions to charities because not quite knowing where stood financially.

Cyril explained how the Legacies fund is used for the future of the church e.g. £14,000 spent on solar panels currently giving a 5% return and the replacement of the church house floor.

Cyril thanked all those involved with the accounts, especially to Janet Perry for helping David and to Alan Radford the Independent Examiner.

Stephen Siddle expressed the need to think through what money is being given and to whom and for the need to reassess the list of giving as it has been fossilized for some time as it is, Cyril agreed and hoped that the PCC will do this when they go through the list.

Ann Harvey asked, regarding the charities, what denotes how we choose who to give to and asked about the missions of the month not being listed in the accounts and how the PCC chose the charities. Lesley and Cyril explained that the Mission of the month money received went straight to the missions and did not go through the accounts as income. Cyril explained that there is a need to seriously review the list of charities and that the PCC will be doing this.

Cyril expressed his big thanks to David for all his done over the past year, through his illness,

The approval of the accounts were proposed by David Huxter, seconded by Moe Aung and carried unanimously.

Appointment of Independent Examiner of our accounts for 2017/2018

The meeting thanked Alan Radford for his work. He was appointed as Independent Examiner for the coming year. Cyril made a presentation to Alan.

Appointment of Disclosure and Barring Service "Disclosure Clerk" for 2017/2018

Margrit Strathearn was appointed to continue this role - proposed by John Turton, seconded by Jonathon Wicks and carried unanimously. Cyril expressed thanks for all Margrit's work in this role.

Questions relating to any of the reports contained in the Annual report 2016-17

Cyril started by apologizing to anyone missed out in the reports. Cyril acknowledged Tear Fund being a huge part of the church and apologized for the report not being received in time to be added but the report will be put online. The Bell Ringers report is on the back of the reports.

Jonathon Wicks commented on how professional, modern and easy to read the report was this year and well done to all who put it together. Cyril thanked Lesley Davey for the content and David Huxter and David Marriott who were responsible for the general layout. This reiterates St Michaels aims going forward, Knowing Jesus, Growing Jesus and Go to serve Christ, locally, nationally and globally.

Shirley Thompson advised that the Women's Fellowship is no longer, as after 10 years of the numbers dwindling it was felt time to finish. Cyril thanked Shirley for all her years of leading the group.

Graham Savill felt that the Clergy, from other churches who have helped St Michael's, are owed a great debt of gratitude and thank them all.

It was suggested formally recording our thanks as a vote and this be communicated to the relevant clergy - Sarah Hayward, Stephen Bailey, Olivia Maxwell Coote, Beth Bendry, Keith Holloway, Tim Barnes, Jenny Tomlinson, Arthur Rowe. Cyril will make sure a letter of thanks sent to all for support given.

Any other matter of church interest:

None

Talk by Rod Davey about the church clock

During a recent clear out an old dismantled tower clock was discovered and Rod started investigating the history of the clock and sought advice on putting it back together again. Rod talked through the process of finding the clock, the history of the clock and showed photographs of the fascinating journey. The clock weighs about a quarter of a ton but the clock is on a moveable frame. Lesley explained that, after speaking to Arch Deacon Robin King, it was decided that because the clock was found in the church and will be put back in the church following cleaning etc, there is no need for a faculty.

Lesley asked about the clock regarding it being a Heritage asset, and it was agreed that it should go on the records and be insured. Thank you to Rod for all his hard work.

Results of Churchwarden and PCC elections under 6(b) and (c) above

Not applicable on this occasion.

Hymn 702

"Through all the changing scenes of life"

Benediction:

The Benediction was given by the Rev Stephen Bailey. He thanked everyone for coming and announced that there would be a short meeting of the PCC following this meeting when officers would be elected.

The meeting closed at 22:12

Minutes of Meeting of PCC, held immediately afterwards in Church House

A brief meeting was held in the small hall to welcome our new PCC members and to arrange the dates of the next 2 PCC meetings.

Cyril Bamforth (Lay Chair), David Henfrey (Treasurer), Kim Cureton (Secretary) and Sandra Savill (Electoral Roll Officer) were prepared to continue in their present roles. They were unanimously accepted and thanked for their previous invaluable work.

Andy Carter expressed his willingness to be co-opted onto the PCC at its first meeting.

The meeting closed at 10.30pm

Lesley Davey

PCC Proceedings 2017-18

The PCC met 8 times during 2017, including 2 special meeting relating to the appointment of our new minister. The meetings were chaired by Cyril Bamforth until Revd. Nigel Adams took over in September. David Henfrey was co-opted after the APCM until his death, Andy Carter was also co-opted after the APCM and Stephanie Hughes became a member in October 2017. There were 2 vacancies.

Much of the business of the PCC up until May concerned the selection of a new minister. The other matter that dominated discussions was church finances. Although we did not reach the £12,000 target for Gift Day we did end the year with balanced books.

Other matters discussed were reports from the various committees, officers, and the diocese, including the Standing Committee, The Deanery and Diocesan Synods and the Evangelism group. Maintenance of our buildings; the sound system, and the Church House re-decoration and flooring were also of major concern.

Regular reports have been received from the Diocesan and Deanery Synods, reflecting the views from the Diocese and other parishes about the future for the churches in Essex, and the MMU.

The Evangelism Group members were thanked for their hard work following the successes over the year. We looked at the success of Smash Club.

Cyril Bamforth/Kim Cureton
PCC Secretary

Vicar's Annual Report 2018

I wish to begin with some thanks. Firstly, Jo and I would like to thank you for the warm welcome we have received, since starting at St Michael's in September. We are very grateful for all who have helped us to settle in, and feel very much part of, the church family here.

Thank you as well to everyone who did so much during the interregnum. I would like to particularly thank Cyril Bamforth and Lesley Davey, our church wardens, who bore the much increased load, without a vicar. Also to Lesley who, supported by Cyril, has taken on the role of church treasurer following the death of David Henfrey. We are grateful for David's many years as church treasurer. As well to Joel Wicks, our Children's and Families Worker, who left to train for ordained ministry at Oak Hill College. We are very grateful to Andy Carter who has become our Children's and Youth Worker, and has significantly increased his areas of responsibility as a result.

I would like to thank Revd Charles Mason, my predecessor, for his many years of faithful ministry here at St Michael's and I would also like to express my thanks to Revd Stephen Bailey, our honorary curate, for all he did in the interregnum and continues to do and for our Readers and others for leading and preaching at our services.

I am very grateful to come to a church where there are so many people serving in a wide variety of roles, many behind the scenes. There are too many to name each individually, but this Annual Report gives a flavour of the breadth and diversity of things that are done. It is very much appreciated.

Thank you to all who have come to First Priority, our monthly church prayer meeting. As we seek God's direction for St Michael's over the coming months and years, it is vital that we bring our church, our people and the wider community and world before our loving God in prayer. God graciously chooses to use us in his service, but anything of lasting value, of eternal worth, depends on God. That's why prayer really should be our first priority.

It was a privilege and joy to welcome a good number of you to our pudding evenings and afternoon at the Vicarage. It has been great to get to know many people in the St Michael's church family and to see the love that is shown as many of you support one another out of love for the Lord and for each other.

Another privilege has been the Identity Course that has run during the Spring Term. It has been great to see a good number of people discussing both God's identity and our identity, discovering more about God's grace to us in Jesus and also wrestling with some tricky questions.

Next term, we are looking forward to running the Network Course. We hope this will help many people in St Michael's to understand better their God-given spiritual gifts and passions. As we see what gifts and passions God has given us as a church, we hope we will see better what God has planned for us over the coming months and years.

I am very conscious that, as a church family, we have suffered a number of bereavements of church members and family and friends of church members. We continue to pray for those who have lost loved ones and we will be having a Bereavement Service & Tea, to be run by Stephen and Jennifer Bailey, on Sunday 20th May.

Lastly, and most importantly, I would like to give thanks to God for all that he has been doing in and through St Michael's over the past year. He has sustained the church through the interregnum and we pray for God's guiding for the future.

Our Verse of the Year is Isaiah 55:6, "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near." My hope and prayer for St Michael's is that we may seek the Lord and know him close to us as he leads us forward this coming year.

Wishing you every blessing,
Nigel Adams

Braintree Christians Town-wide

We continue to play an active role in the following organisations:

Braintree Area Churches Together

Revd. Jerry Priest
jerryandanne@fastnet.co.uk

Braintree Foodbank

info@braintree.foodbank.org.uk
01376 330694

Braintree Street Pastors

Area Co-ordinator; Dave Rulton
therultons@dlrulton.plus.com
07577125120

Braintree Workplace Chaplaincy

Core chaplain; Cyril Bamforth
cyrilbbamforth@gmail.com
01376 328406

Braintree Youth Project Charity

contact@braintreeyouth.org.uk
01376 323764

Churchwardens' Reports

Church and Churchyard

Starting our report where we left off at the end of last year, we note that Braintree District Council (BDC) have kept up their maintenance work of the land around the church. In particular, they removed the large branches that, weighted down by snow, fell from the large tree by the Pilgrim's Seat. Litter picking has also improved.

The problem with drugs use in the churchyard continued as well as the graffiti. The BDC were, once again, helpful in clearing up the former. Our thanks go to those who dealt with the latter.

We must also thank Marc Shaw who lives at 1 Nicholls House for the improvements to the outside lights.

The various Work parties held in 2017 have ensured that routine maintenance issues have been dealt with. There still remain a few items from the Quinquennial Inspection but these will be tackled as funds allow. The few leaks experienced during rainstorms have been repaired. The Tower Clock had to be re-set twice during the year. Once because a storm caused electrical damage and once as a result of a power cut.

Church House report

We have replaced the flooring in the Large Hall and have plans to repaint the walls. This will probably take place during the summer break in order to minimize disruption to those who use the hall. Lights have been changed, where necessary.

Towards the end of 2017, the locks to Church House failed and were replaced. Thank you to all of those who required keys for your forbearance.

Our regular work parties have enabled us to keep up with running repairs. We have begun the painting of the front door. Once again we rely upon the time generously given up by volunteers who often see what jobs need doing and get on with them. You know who you are, so a very big thank you.

Deputy Wardens and Sides-persons

Where would we be without them? The support given to the Wardens is invaluable. They share the work load and give wise advice. We are much blessed by their loyalty and enthusiasm. Perhaps the greatest compliment to all of them is that the congregation do not notice them because everything runs so well because of their efforts.

Cyril Bamforth and Lesley Davey
Churchwardens

Braintree Deanery

What is the Deanery Synod?

The Deanery Synod is a council of church members drawn from each of the parishes in the Deanery. It is the communication link between the people in the congregation, the Diocese – through Diocesan Synod – and the Church of England nationally – through General Synod.

Who are the Members?

A Deanery Synod consists of two Houses, the House of Clergy, and the House of Laity.

House of Laity

Lay members elected by their local parish to serve for a three-year term; the current term runs from 1 June 2017 – 31 May 2020. They are automatically co-opted onto their respective Parochial Church Councils.

Lay members of the General and Diocesan Synods whose names are entered on the roll of any parish in the deanery.

House of Clergy

All Clerks in Holy Orders (clergy) beneficed or licensed by the Bishop who reside or work within the deanery. All Clerical members of the General or Diocesan Synods resident in the deanery.

Synod meetings are chaired jointly by the Area Dean and the Deanery Lay Chair (who is elected every three years by the House of Laity).

What happened in 2017?

22nd February. Guest speaker was Steve Kersys, the Diocesan Youth Advisor, who was very easy to listen to and was inspiring about how to work with children and young people. He said that it was important to create space for children in church and listen to them. More important to concentrate on faith in Jesus than theology.

7th June. At St Mary Magdalene Wethersfield. This was mainly a business meeting considering progress towards the Braintree Mission and Ministry Unit and the possible combined deanery event with a Messy Church feel.

18th October Guest Speakers from the Children's Society talked of their work and the number of vulnerable children in the Chelmsford Diocese. They talked about how individual churches could support and invited anyone who was interested to their open day the following week.

Looking forward 2018

The Braintree Mission and Ministry Unit was approved in November 2017 and will be commissioned on June 4th 2018

*Canon John Turton
Lay Chair, Braintree Deanery Synod*

Mission Support

During 2017, as a church we supported 22 Mission Societies covering a wide range of issue that Christians should enthuse about. Their work ranges from the global environment; support for persecuted Christians; resourcing evangelistic outreach (home and abroad) to a wide variety of work among children. In the Link magazine we highlight the work of a different society each month. Whilst this does encourage us as individuals to consider the financial aspect of our support, I found something that Terry Clark wrote about ACTS in Burkina Faso very helpful in guiding our prayers and understanding of and for all our mission partners. This is my paraphrase.

The staff work tirelessly to fulfil the work of ministry with a sense of urgency that there might also be a door opening for evangelism. They appreciate our prayers and ongoing support. (In particular for those working in difficult situations overseas) they ask us to continue praying for peace and stability, especially among the young who are vulnerable to radicalisation, as well as protection for staff against every manner of attack.

Towards the end of 2017, a Mission Working Group was set up to look at our mission support and, following consultation, will be reporting their recommendations to the new PCC.

Cyril Bamforth

St Michael's School

The year has been good at St Michael's School and we appreciate the hard work of all staff who continue to make the school a vibrant place to learn. Our thanks go to Mrs Mandy Short, Mr Andrew Cumpstey and Mrs Karin Farran in particular.

We have a larger rota for Assemblies now that Nigel has joined us. Chris Farmer from Braintree Baptist Church

and Colin Fairweather from St Pauls have also joined the team and we plan a theme for our Wednesday Assemblies to give continuity.

Understanding Christianity is established as a resource for teaching RE and we were delighted to be counted as Outstanding in our Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools held last Summer.

School services at St Michael's Church are a highlight of the year particularly the Carol Services at which Parents/Guardians/Grandparents etc are invited to. Children from St Michael's enjoyed and enthusiastically took part in Experience Christmas.

The Governing Board is strong with a range of skills that are necessary to operate in these days. We have been joined this year by Rev Nigel Adams, Mrs Caroline Benbrook, Mrs Rachel Grove Smith and our newly elected Parent Governor is Mr Gavin Fuller. Mr David Marriott, Mrs Kim Cureton completed their terms of office and are missed. David Baker completed his term of office as elected Parent Governor. We miss too the skills of Mr David Henfrey who died during the year.

Jennifer Bailey organised 'Experience Christmas' in November 2017 during the week 27th to 30th November for years 3-6. Every day was special as each class of youngsters went round 6 stations where willing volunteers explained that Christmas is all about Christ. The displays added to the experience and the singing of the pupils was wonderful. Tracts and chocolate were given to groups of happy children and staff. Well done everyone.

The School's Carol Concerts on the 18th and 19th of December in the evenings in church were excellent. There was a full church on both nights, which served to further strengthen the connection St. Michaels Church have with the school.

Jennifer Bailey and Andy Carter

Evangelism committee

2017 was a very quiet year for the evangelism committee, due to a whole variety of issues for the church and individual members of the committee. Over the year we lost Louise, Charles and Joel as they, and their families moved on to pastures new. We are grateful for their involvement and glad that they have all settled into their new communities. I am pleased to say that Nigel and Jo Adams have now joined Jenny Chapman, Sue Marriott, Jonathan Wicks, and myself, and we are busy planning for a much busier year ahead, so watch out for news of upcoming courses and events!

*Lin Terris
Evangelism Enabler*

Study Groups

There are a number of Bible Study groups meeting, some weekly and others less often. All groups provide a good opportunity to study the Bible and meet with friends.

Women @ St Michaels
The White Horse Tavern
Meeting Point
Lifebuilder
Rose Hill Group
Carry on Exploring

Full details of all groups are available in the LINK magazine. If you are interested in trying out a group, please speak to the group leader.

As a taster below are reports from a few popular groups:

Women@ St Michaels

We have continued to flourish during this year. A new initiative has been Prayer Lunches in church fairly regularly.

A highlight during the year was a Saturday School led by Rev Sarah Hayward when we looked at the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians particularly seeing how God lavishes us His daughters with 'every Spiritual Blessing in Christ...it was an inspirational morning.

We celebrated amazingly our Tenth Anniversary in January and are thankful to God that as Women @ St Michaels in words of Psalm 63.1 we are a group who can say: O God you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you.

Jennifer Bailey

Lifebuilder

Lifebuilder meets every Wednesday at the home of Margaret Kinniburgh. We meet at 8pm and begin by chatting over coffee and delicious cake!!!

During the last year we have Studied "Forever Changed" which began with a presentation by Bob Parsons featuring Life changing events during Jesus ministry. We have also studied "The Cross" by John Stott and are currently working through Ephesians.

Terry Clark

White Horse Tavern

The White Horse Tavern met on ten Mondays from April to July in 2017. Two of its sessions were open meetings on 'The Mumps and Measles of the Soul' and 'Transgender'. Both were led by Dr Jane Harpur of Chelmsford.

Again WHT held ten Monday sessions from September to December, setting aside two sessions to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. These were led by Roger Cooke.

WHT meet on Monday evenings from 7.30pm to 9.30pm in Church House.

Stephen Bailey

Flower Club

The Flower Club Meeting once a month jogs along happily and the hands-on practices produce some lovely designs from the dozen or so who come to show their skills and join in the evening of therapeutic fun with a different theme each month.

Many of the team also join us in Church for the three festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas.

Lionel Clark

Bell Ringers

We are a band of 9 who meet on a Monday night to practice and improve the standard of ringing for Sunday morning and some Sunday evening services. We are always looking for people to join our band and learn the art of bellringing. Please come and give it a try on a Monday night at 7.30.

Debbie Hill

The Hawthorns

There is a service of Holy Communion held in 'The Hawthorns' on the third Thursday of every month. The service begins at 2.30pm and is held in the Colson Room. Barbara Wells has taken over from Winifred Landsell in organising and arranging the service. Stephen Bailey and John Turton lead and speak at the service. The service attracts folk from various churches, and attendance can range from 10 to 20.

Stephen Bailey

Bradbury House

We have been welcomed to Bradbury House every third Friday of the month this year for a simple service. We have a group of ten of us now who take part in the service and the residents have been a very stable group this year and we have been able to get to know them. We enjoy seeing them join in the hymns and prayers that they are familiar with.

Jennifer Bailey

Crèche

This extremely valuable resource for those attending Sunday Morning worship has continued to be well used by our younger children throughout the year. The reliable band of helpers who work on a rota in the crèche are very much appreciated. NB Extra volunteers are always welcome. Please see Jenny Chapman if you are interested in helping in the crèche.

Youth Church

Focus: What a lovely Sunday evening I have with this group of young people who encourage me greatly.

They are the magnificent seven now. We were the magnificent eight but we sadly lost Lydia and we miss her a great deal.

We have spent time in the promises found in 2 Samuel of a forever dynasty from David's line. Revelation chapters 1-7 were challenging and we are now moving slowly through John's Gospel. I am very grateful for the groups encouraging, positive and talented involvement in CFW services, SMASH Club, Christingle making and service, plus the Light Party. They are a blessing to us all and it is a joy for me to spend time with them as we learn together and as we encourage one another to grow in faith in Jesus.

Andy Carter

Junior Church

We said farewell to Joel Wicks at the beginning of the Autumn term and we wish him and his family all the best at Oak Hill.

We also said farewell to June Kirk at Christmas, after her many years of truly faithful service to our 3-5 year olds. Many have never known how much she has given to our children at St Michael's Church. However, June still continues to give of her expertise and talents to The Light Party, Christingle Service and making of Christingles, and towards our upcoming **2018 SMASH Club** called **Polar Explorers**. Thank you June.

Junior Church on a Sunday morning is a good place to be. Those who arrive early play ball games or get into puzzles, or just have a chat until 10am when we gather together for a song or two, and then a prayer together before splitting up into our groups.

We are still supporting our sponsor child Tsion in Ethiopia, through Stand by Me, and it is an absolute joy to receive her letters through the year updating us on what she has been doing. Please continue to send donations on Sunday mornings whenever possible to keep this connection going.

Thank you to all the current leaders and helpers in Junior Church for your faithful service and can I encourage those interested in volunteering to work in Junior Church to see Andy Carter.

Followers: The group for 3-5 is led by Kirsty Huxter.

In January Kirsty Huxter stepped away from Adventurers and thankfully filled the gap left by June. She is blessed with Lisha Lingesh and Katie Bartlett-Rawlins who are splendid helpers, whom together have ensured Followers, our 3-5 age group, can continue. We are using the Scripture Union Bubbles series as base materials, learning about different people in the Bible such as Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. We normally have a story and a craft time, then play some games.

Adventurers: The group for 5-10 is led by David Huxter. Explorers and Adventurers have had to join together with David Huxter leading this group with Rod and Victoria available to assist when needed. We have been

studying John the Baptist and are moving onto the book of John.

Next: The group for 10-13+ is led by Andy Carter.

This group is quite a lively group. We have over the last year been finding our way through 'What is a Christian,' and 'Why the Bible' plus looking into the Kings of Israel and the rise and fall of the nation of Israel leading to the splitting of the kingdom of Israel. We are now looking into five Psalms. This group are very willing, and very able to serve at our CFW services, and to get involved in making christingles as well as getting involved in the Christingle Service and SMASH Club. They are a great encouragement to us all. Our memory verse at present is 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Tiddlywinks

Kirsty Huxter, Katie Whitlock and Miriam Clark continue to lead Tiddlywinks, our parent and toddler group for 0-4 year olds. Our numbers have remained steady this year, with an average attendance of ten young people with their parent/carer. We start the session with 'Joy, Joy, Joy', then have a short Bible story and prayer. The remainder of the time is taken up with a drink/snack, craft and playing with toys.



We were sad this year to lose our beloved friend Frankie Winning, who managed the refreshment rota, and are grateful to all the people who take their turn on the rota to supply tea and biscuits (and squash for the children!) Thank you to Margaret Buston for taking on the mantle of refreshments organiser.

The biggest joy for us as leaders has been seeing the friendships develop between parents who didn't know each other before coming to Tiddlywinks, but are now firm friends. The care and support that the parents show to each other, and the level of interaction between all the parents, is a valuable part of any toddler group, and we are pleased that the parents and children who attend feel loved and supported by the church, and by each other.

SMASH Club

For SMASH Club 2017 we were on an Adventure Cruise with Church House awash with ships, sailors and seagulls. We spent a week cruising through the life of Jesus as told in Luke's gospel. Each morning around 70

children, 20 junior helpers and 25 adult leaders gathered together on the deck of our cruise ship in Church House.

Each day we had Sam the Cam tell us about people who had met with Jesus and how Jesus had changed their lives.



The week was full of activities, singing, drama, puppets, crafts, Bible study, refreshments and games.

A massive thank you to all those who volunteered and worked together as one team. Well Done!

Light Party

School half-term holidays change plans. So, rather than cancel our annual Light Party it became a church family get together which proved to be a great success. A massive thanks goes to June, Emma and Ed who are talented organisers and great encouragers thus ensuring the evening event went ahead.



Katie Bartlett- Rawlings said; "I thought that the Light Party was a great way for the younger and older members of the church to come together. I also thought it was fun that the adults joined in with the games as well as the children."



Thank you to all our helpers young ones and older ones who helped with the activities and refreshments. As I said before.....who needs Halloween?



Spotlight

Graham Savill and Andy Carter continue to run Spotlight for 14 year 3 children at St Michael's School on a Monday lunchtime. These young people are fun to be with. Last term we focused on God calling Moses to lead His people out of slavery in Egypt. This term we are in the New Testament looking into the houses Jesus visited, the people he met in those houses and the change that meeting with Jesus had on their lives.

ASK?

At ASK? on Thursday afternoons in St Michael's School we offer snacks, crafts, quizzes, games and Bible stories. Last term we spent time in the Old Testament and now we are in Luke's Gospel discovering how knowing Jesus changes people's lives. We finish each session with a prayer or two which the children are keen to share with us all. Angel Aung (stepped into the gap left by Sue Marriott, thank you both) and Rod Davey and Andy Carter continuing to run this club. Thank you team.

John Ray Junior School

It was especially good to host the John Ray Infants and John Ray Juniors at St. Michaels Church for their Carol concerts on the morning of the 19th December for the infants and in the afternoon of the 19th December for the juniors.

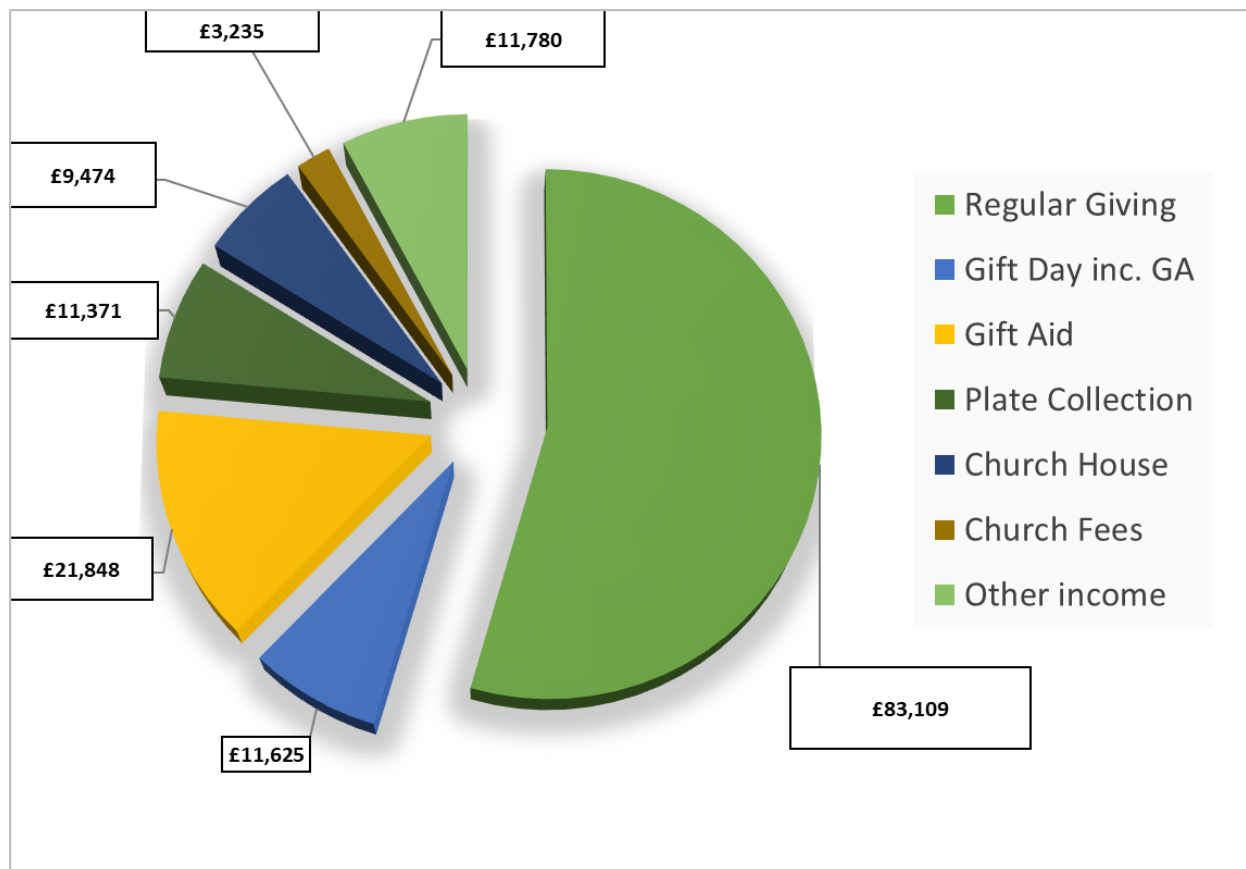
Both were a whole school event and we were able to hand out cards informing staff and children about our Christmas services as well as tracts to the juniors explaining why Jesus is at the centre of Christmas.

We are hopeful to repeat our hosting for John Ray next Christmas. Well done to all who made these Carol concerts successful.

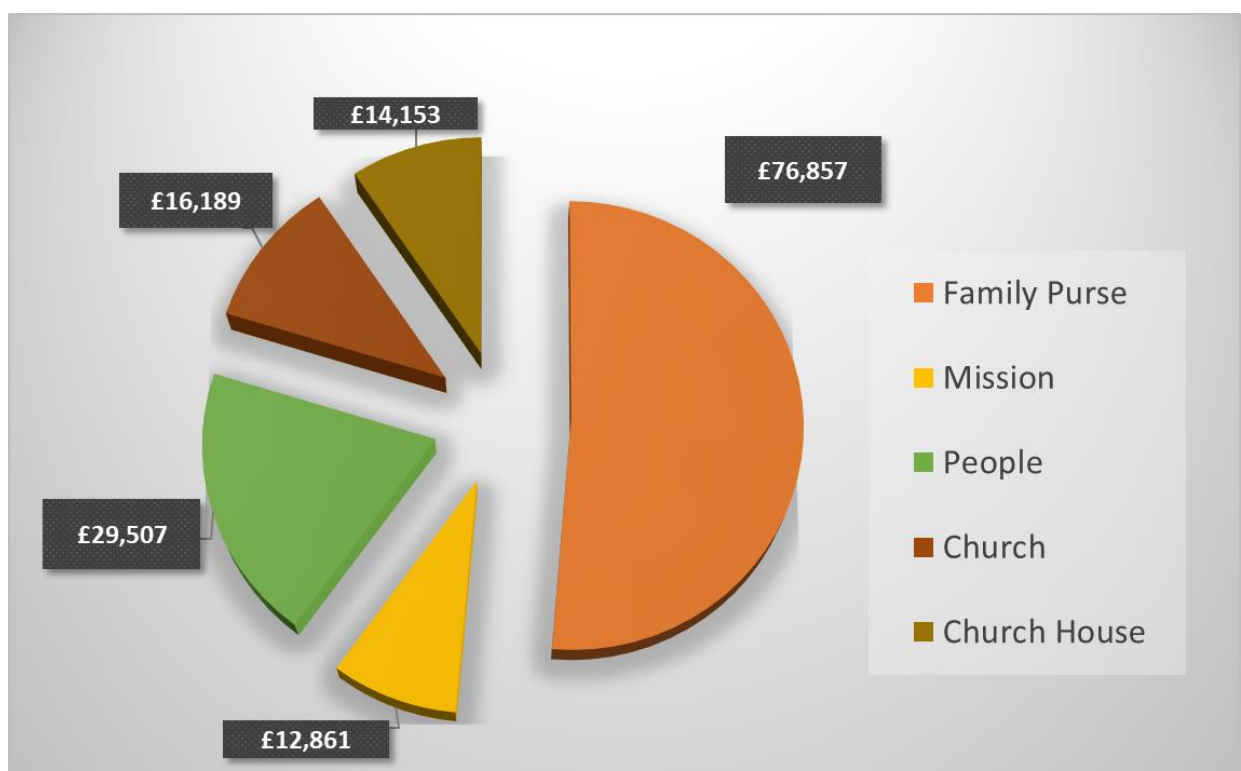
*Andy Carter
David Huxter
Kirsty Huxter*

Finance Summary

Our Income



Our Expenditure



Our aims

We are a conservative evangelical church seeking to bring glory to God by helping people to:

