



# St Michael and All Angels Bramhall Parish Church

## Annual Report from the PCC for 2019

### Accounts for 2019

**Prepared for approval at  
The Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**Sunday 5 April 2020 at 11.45 a.m.  
in the Parish Centre**



2020



# St Michael & All Angels Parish Church

COMMUNITY | INCLUSION | DISCIPLESHIP

St Michael and All Angels Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC also has responsibility for maintaining the site and buildings that comprise St Michael and All Angels Church and Parish Centre, together with the land and grounds of the church and all other properties owned by the PCC.

The Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels Bramhall is registered with the Charity Commissioners (Registration No.) 1133883

**Incumbent:**

The Reverend Calum Piper  
*(from February 2019)*

**Parish Office:**

St Michael's Parish Centre,  
St Michael's Avenue,  
Bramhall,  
Stockport,  
SK7 2PG

**Bankers:**

National Westminster Bank,  
Bramhall;  
HSBC, Bramhall

**Independent Examiner:**

Mr Stephen Burt,  
3 Hobart Close,  
Bramhall,  
Stockport  
SK7 1NW

**Charity Number:**

1133883

**Website**

[www.bramhall.church](http://www.bramhall.church)

**Front Cover Image**

"Giving the Light"  
Confirmation Service.  
November 2019



Induction of Revd Calum Piper as Vicar. 7th February 2019

## Vicars Introduction



Revd Calum Piper

“For all that has been: **Thanks**

For all that will be: **Yes”**

These are the words that are used each year at the end of the Valedictory service at the University I went to. Following the presentation of awards to those who had made significant accomplishments during the year and the long service awards to members of staff, the Vice-Chancellor would close the university year with the words above.

For me, the collation of this report and the annual meeting provide us with the opportunity to say these very words: 'Thanks' and 'Yes'. It also strikes me, in reading this report, that 2019 was a year where we as a church, collectively, said 'Thanks' and 'Yes' many times.

From my induction as vicar, to the many new ministries that have opened up, from lives being transformed by the grace of God to looking to the future, and even from the weddings we have hosted to the services of thanksgiving where we have helped people to say goodbye we have much to give thanks for, and much to say, with great courage, yes to.

In February, as I was installed as Vicar, the Archdeacon of Macclesfield offered St. Michaels a vision from the words of Micah, to seek to be a church that acts justly, loves mercy, and walks humbly with God. He posed the question too, what does that look like, here in Bramhall?

As I have read this report, I have been encouraged in seeing the many ways in which God's kingdom is visible through the lives of so many people and activities here. Whether it's the regular giving of time and gifts, the quiet and humble acts of loving care, to the bold and intentional acts of worship – God has been shaping us as his people, leading us to new places, and guiding new faces into our church family.

I am so grateful to everyone that makes this church family what it is, Jess and I felt so incredibly loved and supported as we welcomed Samuel both into our family and the family of St. Michael. I am also very grateful for those who support me in ministry, particularly those on the staff and ministry teams – without them St Michaels would be a very different place.

So for all that this report reminds me of, and all that this report begins to point to in the years to come, I echo the words of my university Vice Chancellor – Yes! Thanks! And Amen!

Revd Calum Piper

*“And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God.”  
Micah 6:8*

## Churchwardens' Message

2019 started full of hope, anticipation and thankfulness looking forward to the induction and installation of Calum as our new Vicar. Recovering after the busyness of the Christmas period we planned and subsequently enjoyed a wonderful service led by Bishop Libby – one of her last major acts as Bishop of Stockport. We are continually grateful to Calum for his leadership, discipleship, enthusiasm and sense of fun.

We also enjoyed our second Thank You tea for all of those who play a role in the life of St Michaels, welcoming some new faces to the fold as well as many who have shown continuing commitment over many years. It is truly a blessing to know we are adding to our ranks of volunteers as we inevitably and sadly lose others.

As churchwardens we are also delighted to see the growing numbers of young people who attend our church. In particular we are thankful that so many chose to show their commitment as we enjoyed another uplifting confirmation service this year shared with St Thomas' Mellor.

We are thankful as Churchwardens for all the support we receive from across the church community that helps us to carry out our duties. By and large it is not a glamorous role, as there are always the dirty jobs to deal with – blocked drains and toilets – the odd complaint (which thankfully is a rare occurrence) and the many other things that cross our desk – dealing with the trees, the church building, the electrics and so on, but these are more than outweighed by the fellowship and friendship that we receive here at St Michaels.

As we look back on 2019, we also look forward to 2020 and all that God brings with hope, anticipation and thankfulness.

*Louise Richardson & David Walker*



*CHURCH: Not as You Know It – Dedication Sunday 2019*

# Review of the Church's Year 2019

## Personnel

At the beginning of December 2018 Revd Calum Piper was appointed as Vicar of Bramhall, and on 7 February 2019 his induction as Vicar took place in a packed church amid an atmosphere of joy and celebration. We said goodbye to Rev Bob Read who moved away to Ely, and to Jill Elston who embarked on her training for ordination. Marina Bennett retired from her role as a Reader after many years of faithful ministry, and we were delighted to welcome Mark Hackney as a Reader-in-training on a temporary placement, which eventually became a decision to join our ministry team for the long term. At the end of the year Janet Blackshaw joined Karen Clapham as Assistant Administrator.

## Worship

Congregational attendance at the Eucharist services on the four Sunday mornings during October 2019 was 584, giving an average Sunday attendance of 146. Easter saw 306 attending church, and on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day the total attendance was 898, which included 661 who attended the two Christingle services. In the course of the year there were 6 weddings, 15 baptisms (two with full immersion), 17 funerals, 11 cremations and 8 burials of ashes. The Serving Team has continued to be fully active throughout the year. Additional members of the team are always welcome, so if you'd like to have the opportunity to get involved in – and increase your knowledge of - this aspect of ministry, or would like to discuss the possibility, please contact Phil Wadsworth. The members of the Flower Club have once more used their artistic flair to enhance our worship space, which is also served faithfully by those who keep the church silver and altar linen clean.

A highlight of the year was the service of Baptism, Confirmation and Renewal of Vows held in November with Bishop Graham Dow. Five candidates were confirmed, with two renewing baptismal vows, and one person being received into the Church of England.



*Confirmation candidates from St Michaels & St Thomas, Mellor. November 2019*

Our worship life remains committed to ensuring that there is a range of worship styles making the worship of God as accessible as possible to all. We joined in with the Archbishops' initiative Thy Kingdom Come, and hosted a very well attended Prayer Novena on the days between Ascension and Pentecost. A prayer labyrinth created at this time was very well received. In the autumn the monthly Kaleidoscope service was replaced with an "All-In" service, attempting to make the worship more inter-active and relevant to all ages, learning styles and ways of worship. After 18 months we paused Church Not as You Know It, which had happened monthly on Sunday afternoons, while we reassess family ministry.

During the year we implemented a new policy for the use of incense at services, planning for four evening services each year. Our baptism policy was revised so that now all baptisms take place during the Sunday 10.00a.m. Eucharist.

From September 2019 a "Mindful Space" group has been meeting fortnightly at 7pm in the church on a Tuesday for 30 minutes of meditation. Each session is introduced with calming music and a brief reading and guidance about meditation or mindfulness. Mindful Space is open to all whether they feel novice or experienced in the practice. The sessions are led alternately by Ann and Dave Walker and by Louise Sell. It is an opportunity to "just be" in the middle of a busy week, for which we can be thankful."

Jonnie Gait, Director of Music reports that this year we added some newer worship songs to our repertoire; we now have a number of songs from the last decade available to us. Michael Smith has had to stop playing due to a fall, but Alex continues as Graham Brown Organ Scholar, as well as entering the 6th form at Chetham's, and local 6th former Henry Johnson has started covering on the organ when Jonnie is away. The All-In band continued with a few new members, though we're still looking to expand. RSCM Music Sunday in June was the biggest success this year, and it is hoped to repeat the event in 2020. The Youth Choir ran up to Christmas but has stopped for now; perhaps it will evolve into something else. Christmas was a challenge due to lots of illness and family commitments. This brought into focus how reliant we are on our current singers, and the need to find additional regular singers or to change what we provide.

A collection of food and toiletry items is made every Sunday at both morning services, and donated to Chelwood Food Bank in Stockport the following day. The congregation continues to give generously.



After spending many years worshipping at our previous church (in Jill's case all her life), it became clear to us that it was time for a change. We did not take the decision lightly and spent many months praying and trying to discern God's will for our future. We felt led to look for a church that engaged with the community, held God's love as a central message, had a strong sense of purpose and valued the role of men and women equally. To that end, during the course of 2019 we felt it necessary to start visiting other churches to decide where our future lay. We first came to St Michael's in June 2019, for a 10.00 am communion service with baptism. Our first impression was one of a warm welcome, but also of a sense of joy in the congregation and a positivity that was a breath of fresh air.

On our 3rd visit, during the sermon, Calum asked the congregation three direct questions to help appraise our faith: "Where are you with God?", "What's God doing in your life at the moment?" and, significantly for us, "How are you feeling about church?" It felt as though he was speaking directly to us and as we walked home we said, "That's it then, we have got to make the break and move".

We have attended regularly since September. Some elements of the Sunday services have included more ritual and symbolism than we have previously practised but we have found that these help us to focus our worship and the services are a real source of encouragement – every week! It has been wonderful to have a few months concentrating on worship and rediscovering the joy of the Christian life.

In all honesty, we cannot say that the last 6 months have been easy – we have left behind many close friends who know us well and know our strengths and weaknesses. "Wonderland" was a great opportunity to work with our new church family; we feel accepted and welcome which is brilliant but we are still feeling our way and are looking for the roles we might play. We long to contribute more and become an integral part of the Body of Christ at St Michael's.

*Peter and Jill Illingworth*

## Wonderland

Planning for the Wonderland festival which would take place in February 2020 has been a major activity during 2019. Under the leadership of Sue Taylor a large number of parishioners have been busy creating, sourcing, writing, and preparing for a festival which would run for 6 days, with 3 days for school and youth groups and 3 for the general public. Sue comments that it's been a joy to see how many parishioners have embraced the venture and have indicated their willingness to contribute and make the event a success!

## Discipleship

In Lent we ran three **study groups**, one based on the film "The Greatest Showman", one on prayer, and one on the last week in the life of Jesus. During the year there was a sermon series on the genealogy of Jesus, and Canon Jeremy Dussek visited us to preach on Dedication Sunday. The weekly **Bible study** continued in Costa Coffee, where a small group of people join for enthusiastic Bible study at 5.30 p.m.: this sometimes has brought in young people from the Mill. A **Quiet Day** was held in the church in March, and the **Library** based in the Lounge continued to resource the congregation. The **Doorway house group** continued to meet fortnightly on Monday evenings, and the **Thursday Fellowship** now meets monthly on Thursday afternoons, weekly during Lent. Self contained sessions are based on a theme, with materials provided. Everyone is made welcome to Bible study and discussion for an hour followed by conversation and refreshments. All appreciate learning together in a relaxed atmosphere. A **Retreat** was held at Foxhill in October and attended by 9 parishioners, along with 3 from a church in the Wirral.

# Ministry to Younger Generations

## Youth Ministry

Eleven of our older young people went to the **Soul Survivor** festival in July in Staffordshire, in company with a group from the Baptist Church, and a number of them came to faith in Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Five were confirmed at a service in St Michael's in November. Teenage members of the congregation have been involved in planning and running services, notably the two Christingle services on Christmas Eve. During the year we launched a **Youth Group** which meets twice a month, with around 10 young people attending each time.

I have been worshipping at St Michael's now for 2 years, I was looking for a new church and the people at St Michael's were so welcoming and so happy for me to not only worship here but also for me to continue in my ministry here.

My joy is working with our young people, watching them mature and investigate their personal relationship with God is a privilege. However, there are times when they are struggling with teen life, it's so complicated, and then I want to make sure they have a listening ear. In the last eighteen months we have seen some amazing growth in the youth work and incredible growth in personal faith. The highlight of this was our summer trip to Soul Survivor, a Christian Youth Camp, where so many amazing things happened and where my personal faith was enhanced by the worship, prayer and fellowship.

I look forward to continuing in my worship and ministry at St Michael's in the coming year and I give thanks that I have found such a lively and loving Church.

*Jo Oughton*

Some of our young people continue to use the ecumenical youth centre **The Mill** as a safe place, a fun place and a place to explore their beliefs under the excellent care of their youth leaders and the many volunteers from the churches. Several members of our congregation serve there as volunteer helpers. The lease on the original premises ran out in the spring and by summer the Mill was in new premises above the shoe shop Arnouts. The centre is on two floors, with lots of space for a separate music room, a games room with table tennis, pool table, Nintendo games, sewing & craft area and homework computers plus a light and airy cafe on the top floor. The kitchen in the new premises presented a major challenge with a low beam positioned awkwardly, but the landlord's generosity and some judicious joinery has made this area safer to work in. One of the Mill youth workers and the administrator resigned in the autumn, presenting new challenges; however a new regular volunteer and some juggling with rotas has covered the sessions and the administration is a shared trustee task. St Michael's was pleased to be able to make a contribution of £2000 in the course of the year: other funding came from other churches and grant-making bodies.





## Schools

We continue to maintain good relationships with Moss Hey, Pownall Green, Valley and Ladybrook Primary **Schools**. This year we have shared harvest assemblies, Christmas carol services, church visits, enrichment sessions, gardening club and lessons in school.

## Praise and Play

**Praise and Play** continued to flourish on Thursday mornings in term-time, under the leadership of Andrea Millington. It is an intentionally small, safe and welcoming place for carers and pre-school children. A lively Praise session in church is part of the morning where children (and carers) experience spending time with God using songs, instruments, bubbles, story and prayers. Suitable refreshments are provided in the lounge, where adults find an opportunity to make friends and children have a safe place for play.

## Brownies & Rainbows

During 2019 11th Bramhall Rainbows joined the St Michaels family following a change of location. Since their arrival they have shared resources and fellowship with others from the guiding movement.

4th Bramhall (St Michaels) Brownies have continued to meet and develop their skills in a wide range of ways including through dance, cooking, craft and games.

## St Michael's Guides

2019 saw a new programme being launched across the whole of Girlguiding UK. It has been deemed rather "challenging" by most people as it is quite strict (the girls are often sent home with work to do – in today's world we feel they have enough home work already!). However, the **St Michael's Guiding** team has risen to the challenge and moulded the programme so that it still offer the wide range of activities that forms the basis of the weekly meetings. In May they took part in Space Camp – a County wide camp for 500 Rainbows, Brownies & Guides It was a brilliant, albeit freezing cold, weekend. A firm favourite is starting the meeting with a game of rounders. The Guides feel so lucky to have the wonderful outside space – there are a surprisingly large number of units across Stockport that have no outside space. Other activities have included a visit by train to GGUK's Big Gig 2019 at the Sheffield Arena, a sports day, a shelter building competition, and a hike through the woods from church down into Bramhall Park. The next walk is planned to include litter picking. At the Harvest Festival service at St Michael's several girls took part in the reading, and there was a good turnout for the November Remembrance parade.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Bramhall (St Michaels) Scouts

**4th Bramhall Scouts** participated in the annual Ladybrook District St George's Day Parade, which was hosted by St. Michael's. Throughout the year, amongst usual badge work, the group joined in with the country jamboree, held at Linnet Clough, headed to Switzerland on camp to Kandersteg, an international scout camp centre, and supported local projects with their annual jumble sale, open day, quiz night, bonfire night, and Rotary Christmas round.



*Ladybrook District, St Georges Day Scout Parade. April 2019*

## Pastoral Care

In addition to careful preparation and care given to those involved in baptisms, weddings and funerals St Michael's aims to care pastorally for all its members in many ways. The Mother's Union visits and supports its members who are ill., and a strong network of friends at St Michael's covers most temporary needs due to sickness etc. Members of the Pastoral Team visit local care homes and those isolated in their own homes, and Home Communion is taken if requested. Our members on the Chaplaincy team at Stepping Hill visit those in hospital. Support following a bereavement and response to more acute issues, or simply a need to talk something through in confidence, is offered by the Pastoral Workers.

We once again hosted a Pastoral Tea at Easter and at Harvest where local nursing home residents and others were welcomed for worship and afternoon tea in church. John Baker continues to organise the monthly men's lunch group TGIM.

The congregation are aware of the surgery that I have undergone. What I would like to express is my feelings throughout the many months and continuing for many to come. I have been sustained and uplifted when I felt low by the continuous care and prayerfulness shown to me. I am aware of the healing and power of the Holy Spirit present when two or three are gathered. To be included in the intercessions list made the support I needed a constant presence. My post-operative recovery has been surprising and I saw the obvious delight in their faces when I walked into the Communion service.

It has been a journey of faith sustained by the prayers of so many. As a Reader I have laid hands on many people and prayed for them with the knowledge Jesus hears our cry for help. I am living proof of the Christian love moving with us, and give thanks for so much goodwill. Our Church is a welcoming one with the Spirit moving among us. I am privileged to be a part of St. Michael's

*David Daniels*

## Fellowship

We saw a continued growth in fellowship within church activities and organisations. During the past year the **Mothers' Union** has welcomed six new members including Rev. Calum. Talks have ranged from a Lent reflection to 'Not Just a Load of Old Rubbish'. The branch continues to support MU charities across the world including providing holidays for families in need in our own country. One special pleasure for the MU has been giving a Bible to each child baptized at St. Michael's.

The **Knit and Knatter** Group meets on the first Thursday of the month. Sharing fellowship, tea, coffee and cake the group regularly has around ten in attendance with lots of knitting and even more knattering taking place!

The most significant event for **ACE (Arts and Crafts Experience)** in the year was a retrospective exhibition held in February to mark its 20th year since inception. It included items made by current and past members of ACE, and outsiders who visited included members of the Diocesan Arts network. It was a pleasure to see the range and variety of items on display. ACE's regular activities this year have included printing, weaving, card-making, Celtic knot work, sewing and flower arranging. ACE has also devoted many of their sessions to Preparations for Wonderland and its members have been involved with other related activities on numerous other occasions. A special sale of items made by ACE members raised £105.85 which was donated to the Newala Fund, as was £431.50 from the exhibition and ACE's usual annual donation of £140.

A **Thank You** tea party hosted by Revd Calum and the Wardens for the many members of the congregation who serve the church in some way was once again appreciated by everyone present. Monthly **soup lunches** on a Wednesday following the morning Eucharist service continued to be valued, as do the monthly breakfasts held after the Sunday 8.00a.m. Eucharist.

## Buildings

(incorporating fabric and ornaments report)

Work has continued as usual to ensure that the church buildings and site are kept in good condition and suitable for all our activities, and we owe a debt of gratitude to all who give so generously of their time to keep everything in such good order. In particular further work has been done to some of our larger trees to ensure their safety and health; a second phase of drainage works has been completed; the Memorial Garden Wall and the Memorial itself have been re-built; and the loose floor blocks in church stabilised as required. The entrance and lounge of the Parish Centre have been re-carpeted which completes the planned refurbishment. the shrubbery to the South and East of the church grounds has been taken out and wild flower seeds have been planted.



*St Michaels in the Snow - January 2019*

## Health and Safety

As Parish Health and Safety Officer, Hedley Smith continued to conduct careful detailed monthly inspections. He has prompted various improvements including more regular checking and seeing that hazards are properly dealt with. The Finance and Buildings Committee has also been considering how best the church should provide first aid.

## Safeguarding

The Parish Safeguarding Officer, Pauline D'Souza, continued to implement the PCC's safeguarding policy (revised annually), including DBS (formerly CRB) checks and maintenance of suitable records. Parish policies and procedures for Safeguarding Children and Young Adults and for Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults have been implemented. During the year the new Church of England Safeguarding policy was adopted. Members of the Pastoral Care team and those with an active role with young people have had the necessary safeguarding checks. The Annual Safeguarding Audit has been completed. In the course of the year Pauline retired as Safeguarding Officer after several years' service, and was replaced by Cathy Hedley and Susan Joyce, with Susan also appointed as Children's Advocate, replacing Jill Elston.



*Thy Kingdom Come Prayer Labyrinth - May 2019*



*RSCM Music Sunday - June 2019*

# The PCC

## Membership

Members of the PCC either hold office ex officio or are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. A small number of members may be co-opted. Elections to the PCC confer membership for one year, with a maximum service of six consecutive years, after which members must stand down for at least one year. During the year the following served as members of the PCC.

## Ex-officio Members

<b>Clergy</b>	The Reverend Calum Piper	Vicar & Chairman
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Louise Richardson	
	David Walker	
<b>Reader (Emeritus)</b>	Marina Bennett	Until April 2019
<b>Pastoral Workers</b>	John Baker	
	Andrea Millington	
<b>Deanery Synod Representatives</b>	David Beveridge	Deanery Synod Lay Chairman
	Bryan Goodwin	Deanery Synod Treasurer
	Phil Wadsworth	
	Patricia Munn	PCC Secretary
<b>Diocesan Synod</b>	Bob Munn	PCC Vice-Chairman

## Elected Members

Hamida Adkins		John Hanlon	to APCM 2019
Chris Ainscough	from APCM 2019	Sally Harwood	
Frank Bennett		Janet Ketteringham	
Marina Bennett	from APCM 2019	Phil Ketteringham	
Frances Beards		Graham Knight	PCC Treasurer
Glynis Brown	from APCM 2019	Jean Lewis	to APCM 2019
Rachel Chadwick	to APCM 2019	Andrew Moore	from APCM 2019
Robert Cryer	from APCM 2019	Hedley Smith	to June 2019
Pauline D'Souza	from APCM 2019	David Taylor	
Doreen Donnan		Susan Taylor	
Fred Donnan		Ann Walker	to APCM 2019
Jill Elston	to APCM 2019	Rob Watson	from APCM 2019
Georgina Foot		Diane Whitehead	to APCM 2019
Shelagh Gall			

## Report

The full PCC met 6 times during the year. The average level of attendance at PCC meetings was 83%, an increase of 9% on the previous year. Committees and working groups met between meetings, and reports of their deliberations and activities were received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary. During the year the PCC received reports and discussed, among other things, missional statistics and priorities arising from them, and what discipleship means: the Council also passed a motion to ask the church authorities to revise the time scale in which the Church Discipline Measures are applied. This was later passed by Cheadle Deanery Synod and passed on to Diocesan Synod for debate.

## Committees

The PCC operates with two permanent committees, and with working groups set up to tackle any special projects or tasks. These committees and working groups meet and report as necessary to the PCC.

### Standing Committee

**Membership:** *Vicar, Churchwardens, PCC Vice-Chairman, PCC Secretary, PCC Treasurer*

This Committee is required by church law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. It met seven times during 2019, primarily to set agendas for PCC meetings.

### Finance and Buildings Committee

**Membership:** *Bob Munn (Chairman), Ann Walker, Janet Ketteringham (Secretary), Vicar, Churchwardens, Graham Knight (PCC Treasurer), Hedley Smith (PCC Health & Safety Officer), George Foot, Phil Ketteringham, Peter Pugh (co-opted from August 2018), David Taylor*

The overall aim of this committee is to provide and maintain the material resources needed by St. Michael's to carry out God's work. It is responsible for finance, care of buildings and grounds, health, safety and environmental issues, and personnel matters. It has powers delegated from the PCC to deal with smaller and more detailed matters while providing advice, and it makes recommendations to the PCC on more substantial ones, including the annual budget. It met six times during 2019. During the year it updated our financial policies and procedures designed to enhance security and to reflect current practice, and these were duly approved by the PCC.



## Young Generations Action Group

**Membership: Revd Calum Piper (Chair), Churchwardens, Schools Co-ordinator, other church members with a passion for children, family and youth ministry**

This group was set up in 2017 with the aim to:

- Implement the strategic plan for children and young people previously agreed by the PCC
- Encourage St Michael's in the stimulation of faith among the young people of Bramhall
- Set goals for the church each academic year for engaging with families and children
- Listen to the needs of families and young people in our church and community

The group oversees the ministries of schools work, Kaleidoscope, baptism, puppets and Praise and Play, and sustains and nurtures relationships with the uniformed organisations and the Mill. This group met in September, with some of our young people to form some long term ambitions and dreams for St. Michael's. These plans will be further developed in the coming year.

## Newala – Bramhall Link Group

This long-established group supports the link between our congregation and the diocese of Newala, building our fellowship with them through friendship, prayer, and practical assistance in every way possible. The group's aims are:

- To encourage the mutual support between each community in prayer (including the use of an African liturgy at St Michael's four times a year on a Sunday)
- To play a role in education between cultures
- To raise funds to support the work of the Anglican church in the Diocese of Newala
- To arrange hospitality for incoming guests from the Diocese and mission trips to Newala

The formal link between St. Michael's and the Diocese of Newala was reviewed during 2019 following 10 years of the link. A comprehensive review was carried out by the Group at the request of the PCC, and after debate it was agreed unanimously to continue the link for the foreseeable future. During the year the PCC approved the disbursement of £5500 to Newala - £1500 for porridge for schools, £2500 for a village water tank, and £1500 for medical equipment. It is hoped that projects will be forthcoming that can run over two years so the parish group visiting next year can help with them, or even complete them. All members of the congregation are members of this group and if anybody wants to attend the meetings, they are more than welcome.

## Eco Action Group

**Membership: Hamida Adkins, Frances Beards, Glynis Brown, Robert Cryer, Doreen Donnan, Keith Fenwick, George Foot, Shelagh Gall, Sue Howgego, Janet Ketteringham, Andrew Moore, Sheila Newbon, Calum Piper, Louise Richardson, Helen Russ, Phil Wadsworth (Chairperson), Georgia Watson.**

This group was formed in September when the PCC agreed for St Michael's to join the A Rocha charity's Eco Parish movement, which guides churches in journeying to become "green" across a wide range of their actions, operation, and organisation. The group covers St Michael's involvement with this and other "green" things, such as our involvement with "Dig It". On the first working through of the Eco Parish checklist, we were pleased to discover that what we have already done over the last few years had already earned us the Bronze Award, joining four others with this (and two with silver) in Chester Diocese. The Group's meetings in 2019 surveyed the current position, and worked on planning a wide range of action for 2020. Additional members of the EAG would be welcome. The group hopes that everyone will join in, as and when they are able, as we as the St Michael's family work through our understanding of our Stewardship of God's Creation, and our mission to promote knowledge of "green" matters and action on them to the community around us.



## Parish Development Group (Finance)

**Membership: Louise Richardson, Sue Taylor, Ann Walker, Rob Watson and Stuart Villard.**

This new group was established under the chairmanship of Churchwarden Louise. Its terms of reference are intended to support the Parish's mission and future strategies through:

- Identifying, bidding and securing external sources of funding to support the Parish's strategies for future development
- Producing, organising and evaluating an annual programme of events and activities with the dual aim of generating income and importantly enhancing community outreach and social engagement with Church and wider parish
- Working with existing and potentially new church groups to co-ordinate all fund-raising activities across the church organisation, in order to reduce the possibility of event fatigue and duplication
- Developing an approach to legacy giving



*The Big Bramhall Tea Party, organised by I Love Bramhall. July 2019*

## Electoral Roll Report

The new Electoral Roll membership authorized at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on 14 April 2019 was 245 (183 resident and 62 non-resident). Since the publication of the new Roll, amendments have been agreed by the PCC such that at the end of 2019 the membership stood at 260 (195 resident and 65 non-resident). Phil Ketteringham has continued to act as Electoral Roll Officer.

## Deanery Synod

Cheadle Deanery Synod met twice in 2019. June Synod was at St Andrew's, Cheadle Hulme. Chester Cathedral was inviting the Diocese to consider 2020 as a Year of Pilgrimage, and asked parishes and deaneries to consider taking this up. Diocese had forwarded a consultation regarding limiting the number of consecutive terms that Deanery Synod lay representatives could serve. After discussion Synod voted on the options; the majority vote was for no more than two consecutive terms of three years. The Rural Dean then gave a presentation on the workings of the Deanery Synod, its form and purpose, and led the subsequent discussion.

## Churches Together in Bramhall and Woodford

In May we again joined with Churches Together to be a presence at the Duck Race and Bramhall Summer Festival, where there were all sorts of activities and games for families. Church leaders met together weekly, and Prayer Breakfasts were shared ecumenically. On Good Friday all the Bramhall churches shared in worship and a Procession of Witness, and an outdoor Praise in the Park service was held in Bramhall Park in June.

## Giving to Missions and Charities

The PCC policy has been to give 15% of voluntary income to missions and charities, provided that does not exceed the surplus for the year. In December 2017 the PCC took the unanimous decision to include a sum of £6000 in the budget for 2018 to be given to missions and charities directly from church funds, though all recognized the challenge this would bring. The 2018 end-of-year accounts showed that £5187 was available to be distributed to missions and charities agreed by the PCC. This was allocated during 2019 as follows:

- £2000 to the Mill,
- £1000 to the International Justice Mission,
- £1000 to the Barnabas Fund,
- £1000 to Wellspring, and £187 to Chelwood Food Bank.

The accounts for 2019 show a surplus of £6261, which will be allocated by the PCC at its first meeting after the APCM. £5500 in total was raised and sent to Newala. Additionally £1551 was given by direct collections, £1703 was sent direct by various organisations using the church facilities, and space was provided to charitable organisations free of charge on 16 occasions, worth £1777 if charged at normal rates.

## Public Benefit

**The Charity Commission requires charities to report on how their activities carried out their aims for the public benefit. In reporting, the PCC has had regard to the Commission's guidance on public benefit.**

### *Worship*

Services are open to all, and the church is open on weekdays for private prayer and meditation. Apart from the regular services on Sundays, Wednesdays and on special occasions through the year, the church was used by four local schools for Christmas carol services. In November a service was provided to remember those who had died in the past year. Services are also provided in local care homes and at Christmas in Bramall Hall Chapel.

### *Occasional offices*

The church is used for baptisms, weddings and funerals.

### *Education*

Contacts have been made with some local schools, and a Schools Coordinator is building on these contacts. Links are maintained with uniformed organisations. Learning about the Christian faith is fostered by sermons, by monthly all-age services, by short study programmes, and by a variety of house groups. Parties of local school children visit the church as part of their curriculum and are introduced to the building and the activities that go on in it. A local school sometimes borrows equipment. This work takes place in the context of our Strategy for Children and Young People.

### *Concerts*

The church building is available for booking by organizations that present concerts, 15 of which took place in 2019, along with 1 book reading.

### *Pastoral Care*

A team of volunteers visit people in the parish who are ill or have been bereaved. Occasional lunches and short services are also provided for those who are visited and for care home residents. The clergy visit and minister to those in hospital or hospice.

### *Scouts and Guides*

St Michael's sponsors the 4th Bramhall Scout Group and 4th Bramhall Guides and Brownies, each of which has a policy of open recruitment. The Scouts have their own premises, but the Guides meet in the Church Hall. Both organizations use the church grounds for outdoor activities such as games and cooking.



## Active Angels and Michael's Munchkins

These playgroups meet throughout the year to provide activities for pre-school children with their mothers or other carers.

### Praise and Play

This term-time group provides a small, safe and welcoming place for pre-school children and carers to enjoy refreshments and a lively praise session while building relationships and community.

### Parish Centre

The Parish Centre is available for hiring when not required for church use. During the year it has been the venue for regular meetings of several charities and other bodies, and for various special events and parties.

### Missions and charities

The PCC gives to missions and charities from any surplus voluntary income. Missions and charities also benefit from funds raised by special collections and fund-raising activities.

### Chelwood Food Bank

A collection of food and toiletry items is made every Sunday at both morning services, and donated to this Food Bank in Stockport the following day.



## Financial Review

We must be thankful to God for the increase in planned giving and the corresponding increase in income tax recovered, the increase in sundry donations, the increase in hiring of the hall and church, for the increase in the amount available to be allocated to missions and charities.

During the year the PCC Funds were increased by £53,608 to £620,826 [2018 £567,218] which includes increases in value of the investments funds held with CCLA £18,934 and revaluation of Dawlish Close £35,000. The PCC day to day activities were in surplus by £6261 before the special allocation to missions and charities [Income £206,672 Expenditure £200,737] while the activities of the Newala group resulted in a deficit of £421 [Income £5,655 Expenditure £6,076] together with an increase in restricted funds £95

The PCC day to day income increased by £19,239 when compared to 2018. The major increases when compared to 2018 are Hall Hire £3,767, Sundry Donations £4,427, Planned Giving and tax recovered £13,743 The major reductions from 2018 are Newala group £2,275 and legacies £2,250.

The PCC day-to-day expenditure increased by £19,904 compared with 2018. The major additional expenditures are Parish Share £2,222, Building Maintenance – Drains £5,778 and Memorial Garden Wall £2,832, Insurance £6,375 (in 2018 we received a refund because of overcharging in previous years), and Repairs to Dawlish Close £1,190.

The only Capital Expenditure undertaken by the PCC during the year was the purchase of a carpet for the lounge and entrance.

---

*Part of*

