ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS
HUGHENDEN

ANNUAL VESTRY
and
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

SUNDAY 28th APRIL 2019

REPORT BOOKLET
REPORT BOOKLET 2019

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Vicar’s Report 2019

As I sit back and reflect upon the last year, my overwhelming response is one of thankfulness to God for a memorable 2018 in Hughenden Parish. When I seek to summarise all that has taken place in our Church in the past 12 months, I find myself reflecting with a mixture of joy and shed tears. I am conscious that it is simply not possible to mention every member of our Church, every activity and all that has taken place in a few words, and so please forgive me if I forget to mention your contribution, because whether acknowledged publicly or privately, we really appreciate you.

Tears were shed as we lost several dear Saints during 2018, whose lives and example were an inspiration to us all. We said goodbye to Diane Hawkins, Kathleen Moxham, Hilary Farrar-Hockley, Dennis Oldfield, Rose Seymour and Maureen Stone. I cannot do justice to each of them in a few short words, but we shall miss them all deeply, and their individual contributions to the life of our Church over many years was significant. We are assured that they are now at eternal rest in the arms of the almighty.

At our APCM in April we said thank you to Rob Innes for serving as a churchwarden, as he stepped down, and moved to Cornwall. Rob, together with Julia Grant did a sterling job, and this pattern continued as Julia was re-elected, together with Nick Devlin. As the Bishop’s officers in the Parish, Nick and Julia work with dedication, tact and compassion, primarily behind the scenes, to ensure that all runs smoothly in our parish – thank you both!

In the autumn I was elected to Diocesan Synod, alongside Christopher Tyrer, who was re-elected for another term, as together we seek to represent the parish and wider Deanery at a Diocesan level. I was also elected to the Partnership in World Mission committee, which seeks to encourage our diocesan links with dioceses in South Africa, India, and Sweden.

In June, Arthur Johnson, our dedicated Parish clerk and Verger celebrated his 70th birthday, followed by another notable landmark in November, as we marked his 40 years in post with a special presentation, including a treat for the Church House cat – Liddy! Thank you Arthur!

Generosity in giving of time, talents and money is a hallmark of a healthy Church, and there has been plenty of evidence to support this in the past year at Hughenden. Thanks must go to our hardworking Treasurer Ian Faulkner, for his excellent service to the Church.

During the year, 9 Baptisms, 8 Weddings, 15 Funerals in Church and a further 8 Funerals at the Crematorium took place on behalf of our Parish. Helen and I continue to run Baptism Preparation days twice a year for couples interested in having their children baptised, and our two Wedding Preparation mornings took place in January and February. Both events were appreciated by those who attended, and proved fruitful in strengthening our ties with those who come into contact with us through the Occasional offices of the Church.

Over 20 people attended our first Welcome Lunch in November, hosted impeccably by Mike & Anne Dean in their home. This was trialled as a means of formally welcoming our
newer members and inviting them for an enjoyable couple of hours of food and fellowship.

Our Discipleship Group which was formed in 2017, has now become well established, and the membership has grown to also include housegroup leaders. As we have sought the Lord for a vision to promote discipleship – the invitation to all to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, we have sought to introduce a joined-up strategy for drawing individuals into the life of our Church, through personal friendship and community engagement, invitations to social gatherings, Alpha and other opportunities for Christian enquiry, as individuals begin to find their place within the body of Christ at St Michael’s. Through close collaboration with our Social & Outreach group, not only have we put on a variety of excellent events, but we have also sought to maintain contact with people, and then invite them to other follow up events as well.

I would like to pay tribute to Frank Hawkins and the S & O team, who organised an excellent and varied programme of events during the year, including a summer BBQ at the Thompson family home, a Chinese meal in Beaconsfield, a Viennese Night, and our annual Barn Dance.

The Discipleship group has sought to encourage membership of a housegroup for all members of our Church, and several new groups began for Lent, and the material was well received by all. Thanks should go to all housegroup leaders for their devotion to the Lord and to the members of their groups.

One of the highlights each week for me, continued to be the time I spent in Hughenden Village Café & Coffee Shop on a Monday, and Bon Ami in Naphill on a Wednesday morning. There have also been other opportunities to engage with our local community, such as at Napfest, Hughenden Village Carnival, and the Hughenden Village Christmas Fair, at each of which we had a presence.

It is always a pleasure to spend time out of the parish at special events and conferences. I was privileged to join a group of over 20 from our Church who attended Spring Harvest in Minehead, for inspiring teaching, space to enjoy the seaside and the fellowship with friends. We said a huge thank you to Jacky Sackville who has now stepped down as group leader after many years – thank you Jacky for looking after us!

Rev Helen Peters and I attended an excellent Diocesan Clergy Conference in May, in Swanwick, Derbyshire, at which we were able to hear a wide variety of speakers who stimulated and challenged us, as we sought to catch the diocesan vision – “Together we are called to be a more Christ-like church for the sake of God’s world: contemplative, compassionate, courageous.

We returned to High Leigh Conference Centre in Hoddesdon for an excellent time away over a memorable weekend in October. Guest speaker on Saturday morning was Will Stuart-Lee, an ordinand in training at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, and formerly of Holy Trinity Brompton. The theme of our weekend was the Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), and Frank Hawkins organised our weekend meticulously.

The opportunity to spend a more extended time with members of our Church family always deepens friendships, our sense of belonging, as well as stirring our faith, and appreciation of the Lord.
Members of the Mission Support Group are doing a sterling work of raising the profile of certain home and office mission organisations. Thanks go especially to David Tester, who has taken over the leadership of the group from me.

Our Communications Group has brought a highly professional contribution to our ability to publicise what we are about as a Church, as well as the wide variety of groups and activities that take place. Superb flyers were produced for Easter and Christmas, which were put through every letterbox in the parish, inviting all to share in our celebrations, and these were well received.

As the new year began, so did our newly appointed part-time Parish Administrator, Lynn Brooks, who has settled in well into her new post. Lynn works out of North Room on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning, and her cheerful manner and attention to detail has proved a worthy contribution to our church, and has improved our efficiency. Lynn has taken well to the new Churchsuite software which we now use for the administration of rotas, Church and Church House bookings, the Church calendar, and the ability to be able to issue invitations to people in a more personalised manner (whilst also complying with GDPR legislation).

I would also like to give a mention in dispatches to Ben Sharp, for his generous giving of his time and talents in helping us as a church to embrace Churchsuite, and discover its many benefits.

Our 10.45am service liturgy is now paperless, thanks to Proclaim, a new software package, which we have been using since May 2018. Thanks must go to Richard Peters for introducing us to this programme, and for his patience and hard work in training up those who use it in setting up services in advance online, so as to avoid last minute panics on a Sunday morning! Proclaim is also far more flexible, with regard to the integration of online content, such as YouTube clips, and is definitely the way forward.

It is always a pleasure to attend a Mothers Union event, and I continue to be impressed by the quiet dedication and hard work which takes place, often behind the scenes. The Mothers Union Ploughman’s lunch is one of the most eagerly anticipated dates in the Church calendar, and we were not to be disappointed, as 80 guests enjoyed a rare treat on a beautiful summer’s day.

It can be easy to forget our proficient bell ringers, who call us to worship every Sunday morning, and at weddings. David Cornwall has been bell tower Captain for decades, and the team offer a valuable contribution to the life of our church, and are also much appreciated by our wider community.

On Pentecost Sunday in May, members of our Church joined hundreds from other churches across Wycombe, as we congregated together on the Rye, for a service of thanksgiving and witness to Wycombe, under the banner of Love Wycombe. Richard Peters, ably supported by Helen was the driving force in bringing the vision for the day to the churches of Wycombe, Mike Dean worked tirelessly as site manager to ensure that everything ran smoothly, and many church members joined the service, played and sang on the main stage, and enjoyed worship and fellowship with other Christians.

Many others continue to serve the Lord quietly in the background, from our Pastoral Visiting Team, Prayer Ministry Team, our patient Car park Stewards, Ben & Jo Sharp who led our Marriage Course over the summer, our team who serve refreshments after
services, to our JC Club & Creche leaders, Jean Godfrey and the flower arranging team who decorate our Church with gorgeous displays at key moments of the year, our team of gardeners and lawnmowers, those who help with the Toddler group and the monthly Tiny Tots service, to our musicians, organists and choir – we really appreciate you all – thank you!

Our annual Alpha course took place over the autumn. Frank continues to take a strong and enthusiastic lead in encouraging seekers to attend, and is always thinking about the next course! Dozens of members of our Church family have attended an Alpha Course in the past 10-15 years.

Hughenden Parish continues to be blessed by the person and ministry of our Associate Minister, Helen Peters, whose care and compassion, excellent preaching, and ability to relate as well to young and old alike, contributes significantly to the life of our Church.

We also continue to benefit from the ministry of our LLM, David Tester and Rev Melvyn Bleakley, our visiting minister, who both lead and speak several times each year, and whose contributions are also greatly appreciated.

Our Schools work continues to be a vital link with children, young people and others in our local community. Helen was appointed as a Governor of Pipers Corner school during the year. I serve as a Governor at our Church School – Great Kingshill Combined School, as we continue to support the Christian ethos of the school, and encourage opportunities for the Church and school to work more closely together.

Prayer Spaces took place twice during 2018, in GKCS, ably organised by Helen Peters, and staffed by several members from our Church, together with other Christian parents from the school. The children really benefited from time aside from lessons, to reflect upon their lives and the world in which we live, as they are invited to pray through a variety of interactive tasks.

Bex Hawes, our parish Children’s & Youth worker, continues to do an excellent work in our local schools and within our Church, working also for Wycombe YFC. Bex organised our Easter Eggsplained and Christmas Unwrapped events again, which had a significant positive impact upon the children who attended. Keep up the great work Bex!

As we look ahead at the next year, through the eyes of faith, it is my hope and prayer that we will continue to engage well with our local community, offer a wide variety of services of Christian worship to the glory of God, as we seek to be salt and light in our community.

Rev Keith Johnson
DIOCESAN AND DEANERY SYNODS’ REPORTS.

1. Diocesan Synod.
This year has seen the election of new members of the Diocesan Synod for the triennium 2018-2021. Our Vicar, Keith was elected for the first time and I was re-elected for the third time. Synod meets four times a year.

This is the third year under the leadership of Bishop Steven, who was elected in July 2016. Under his guidance we have been “Dwelling in the Word” concentrating upon two questions: what kind of a Church are we called upon to be – a more Christ like Church for the sake of GOD’s world – and what we are called upon to do next. Whilst recognizing the extraordinary work being done, we now have to look into new areas: the growing ecological crisis Artificial Intelligence, the massive population and housing growth, growing mental health issues and our burgeoning commitment to and responsibility for schools. There is a great need for input from Deaneries and parishes into the Common Vision working group.

On the financial front, it is clearly recognized that parishes face significant pressures and that there is a limited capacity to look to parishes for increased Parish Share. Total Return accounting, in respect of Diocesan glebe investments, is now accepted, with the consequence that some of the capital gains attained from our investments can be released whilst still retaining the real value of our existing investments.

2. Deanery Synod.
We are members of the Wycombe Deanery Synod and our elected members are the Vicar, The Associate Minister, Arthur Johnson and I. Keith Faulkner and Mike Morgan are regular attendees as the meetings are open to anyone to attend and they come to hear, among other things, the latest thinking on Diocesan and Deanery finances. The meetings are chaired by The Rev’d Dave Bull, Team Rector of All Saints, Marlow, who is Area Dean and Graeme Slocombe, who is Lay Chair. The meetings are lively and informative.

Recent discussions have included a presentation and group consideration of our responses as a Deanery to “Common Vision.” “Where are the fires burning?” [and, of course, where they are not], “what are our aspirations”, “where do we want to be investing” in developing new churches and faith groups and who with, and “where should we be working”? These are issues for every one of us as we seek GOD’s Will for us as a parish and as part – an important and vibrant part – of the local and regional community. What is our Common Vision and how does our Mission Plan fit in with the plans of the larger Christian witness?

Christopher Tyrer
At the beginning of my first year certain items from the Quinquennial Report were in hand and nearing completion. This activity continued without my involvement and I thank Brian Clark for overseeing the work. As part of this ongoing activity we have now become Wi-Fi enabled, thanks to the sterling work of Lionel Erasmus.

Two churchyard clear ups were organized; one in early July and the other in October. These were both very successful and with the benefit of a very dry summer we have been able to maintain the whole of the churchyard in a very tidy condition.

During last summer the roof felt on the shed outside north room was replaced and recently the old staging was removed to enable the creation of a new prayer space in the north chapel.

Two major pieces of work have been identified; the roof in the bell tower has leaked for some time and has now reached a point where it must be addressed during this year and the lighting in the church requires a complete overhaul. Quotes for these projects have been obtained and as circumstances have changed, we have found it necessary to seek further quotes before we can proceed. A structural survey will also be required for the bell tower before we are able to seek additional quotes. The work on both of these projects will have to go through the Faculty approval process. An independent group has been set up to investigate the possibilities of receiving external funding for these projects.

At the start of this year, a major new initiative rapidly gained considerable momentum; the Church Community Day. This will, hopefully, involve all members of the church community in a special day of outreach to our local community. There will be an additional churchyard clear up before the day and the National Trust has promised us that the restoration work on Disraeli’s grave, which they are funding, will be completed before the day.

A decision has been made that the work on the bell tower and the lighting will not be started before the Community day for fear that any delay might mean that the building works could impact on our ability to show our church at its very best. The quotation, design, funding, and approval stages can all continue in readiness for a convenient time to proceed with the work.

As I said when I first took on the role of church warden I knew that I would have some very experienced people in the church to support me and I am happy to be able to thank them all for living up to my expectations.

Nick Devlin
CHURCH WARDEN’S REPORT (WORSHIP)

Our Church has continued to grow under Keith’s inclusive leadership with amazing support from Helen as Associate Minister and David as Licensed Lay reader. At a time when many churches struggle to survive, we are indeed hugely blessed and thank them for their selflessness. I feel very humbled to be able to serve God and our Church as a Church Warden and have enjoyed the role immensely.

Lynn Brooks has continued in her role as admin support for Keith and the clergy and we are very fortunate to have her dedication and commitment to this role. The introduction of Church Suite last year to enable us to comply with the new GDPR rules has been a success but does require more work to ensure we can communicate with our congregation more effectively.

One of the projects I have been working on this year is the provision of a ‘Prayer space’ in the North Chapel. We have had a number of meetings and the finances have been agreed by the PCC. We are now in the process of putting together these plans with the purchase of furniture and it will be ready in time for our Community Day.

I have been working with Arthur on the updating of the Alter Frontals and we now have a team of ladies who are repairing and sorting all of the Frontals led by Jan Elliot.

During the Archdeacon’s formal inspection last year, we were encouraged to archive some of our older registers. Arthur and I went through the registers and 6 were taken for archiving to the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies in Aylesbury. It was a very interesting visit and I was amazed to see that we have registers of baptisms, marriages and deaths going back to 1560. There are lists of rectors and vicars from 1275 – 1869 and letters relating to the restoration of the Church in 1874 and the repairs needed after the bomb damage in 1943 as well as many other interesting items. This Centre is open to the public and all of the files can be viewed on computers there if you are interested in going to see them.

Julia Grant

GENERAL

During the year we have both attended as many of the individual committee meetings as possible. We have divided this activity between ourselves and supported Social and Outreach, Communications, Mission Support and Discipleship, as we as fulfilling our responsibility to attend Standing Committee, Leadership and PCC meetings. In addition to all of this we are heavily involved in the success of the Church Community Day joining with each of the task groups wherever we see we can add value.

We continue to draw strength and comfort from the way our congregation pulls together and maintains its commitment to serving God and caring for each other. Particularly at
this time as we prepare for our Community Day on May 11th, which is being so ably led by Mike and Ann Dean. As Church Wardens we would like to thank the many people in our congregation who work so hard in different roles to serve God and our Church and make our jobs so much easier.

We look forward with confidence to the year ahead under the leadership of Keith.

Nick Devlin and Julia Grant

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

At the close of the APCM in 2018 there were 190 members on the Roll. During the year seven were added to the Roll by written application, and there were deleted two who had removed from High Wycombe. In addition it is appropriate here to mention the lamented decease of Hilary Farrar-Hockley and Maureen Stone, both of whom were previously on the Roll, and were duly removed. Thereafter the Roll consisted of 193 as at the start of the sexennial New Roll process, which began on 24th February. Applications must be made afresh by all those who qualify for enrolment.

The new Roll (names only) will be exhibited, as required by law, in the Porch from 6th April, and for not less than fourteen days thereafter; and the membership total will be further disclosed at the APCM on 28th April.

Arthur Johnson, Electoral Roll Officer

REGULAR GIVING REPORT

For the years of 2016 and 2017 I have reported that service income was going down. For 2018 it’s a pleasure to report that our service income has increased: Overall service income has increased by £17,477 and Standing Orders have increased by £20,627, with Yellow envelopes decreasing by £3150.

This year’s giving has been amazing. Thank you.

Money collected at services has also increased by £260. The visitor’s box collections have also increased by £1,288.

In 2017, I again predicted a loss for 2018. If it were not for the kind generosity of others who have made donations and left legacies to the Church, I would not be able to report a surplus for 2018.

For years now Treasurers have gone on about moving from yellow envelopes to Standing Orders, NOT ANY MORE. I have accepted the fact that we are unable to convert those few remaining, to move to Standing Orders. The number is now so small that it is easily managed.

Church House Teas are down again this year, however, considering the amount of inclement weather we had in the early weeks, it’s not surprising that our income is down. My thanks go out to all members who contribute through Standing Orders, it really does make the Treasurers job a lot easier. Thank you.

Ian Faulkner (Treasurer)
During 2018 – 2019 the PCC was constituted as follows:

Vicar: Rev. Keith Johnson
Associate Minister: Rev. Helen Peters
Diocesan Synod: Christopher Tyrer
Deanery Synod: Arthur Johnson, Christopher Tyrer
Churchwardens: Julia Grant and Nicholas Devlin
Treasurer: Ian Faulkner

Sadly Hilary Farrar-Hockley died in September 2018

*** Lay Vice Chair, ** Secretary, *Assistant Secretary

There were six PCC meetings in the last year, the final one still to be held at the time of writing this. Also one Extraordinary meeting about the lighting upgrade proposal. Thanks as always to everyone who gave up time and energy to attend the meetings.

The meetings have covered finance, the fabric of the building, the work of all the Task groups within the church, the North Chapel prayer space, ChurchSuite and the Community Day in May. Ben Sharp was invited to talk about GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) and the Data Practice and Privacy Policy.

The National Trust has generously agreed to pay for the refurbishment and repainting of the railings and tiles to the Disraeli crypt.

PCC members continued to report on their constituencies and Tricia Devlin continues as Safeguarding Officer, Recruiter and Verifier with Bex as Child Advocate.

**Louise Stallwood (PCC Secretary)**

**PARISH MAGAZINE – OUTLOOK**

Outlook has continued to be produced for ten months of the year (July/August and December/January being combined issues) and we are grateful to all contributors for their articles, reports, poems, illustrations, posters, etc. The editorial team hopes readers have found items of interest with each edition. We meet at intervals for discussions and new ideas and are always pleased to receive articles, reports etc for inclusion. We are very grateful to Ben Brice for his expertise with the final layout. Details of the dedicated email address and the postal address to which items may be sent are always included at the back of the magazine.

The printing team of Brian Clark, Keith Dean, George Wilson and Tricia Devlin has been joined this year by Andrew Cole who has quickly learned the processes and is a valuable member of the group. We are very grateful to them all for their dedication.
We were saddened to learn of the death, during the year, of Hilary Farrer-Hockley who for many years had delivered bundles of magazines to distributors. Hilary covered lots of miles during this time, not only in Hughenden but in the surrounding villages too and he is greatly missed by the Outlook team as well as by parishioners. We are delighted that Andrew Cole has now taken on this role and thank him for volunteering. Our thanks, too, to all those who faithfully post magazines through letterboxes and to Stan Cole who continues to post copies of Outlook to readers outside the area.

We, the editorial team, wish readers many good reads during the year and we look forward to receiving a variety of interesting and topical contributions for inclusion in Outlook.

*Sylvia Clark, Christopher and Jane Tyrer, Susan Brice, Editor*

**BELFRY**

We are pleased to report that our young ringers continue to make great progress, ringing for Sunday service, learning various methods, taking part in quarter peals and ringing for weddings. However, some of the young ringers have either left for university or will do so by the end of this school year. This will leave us short of ringers. We are hoping the open day in May will lead to some new recruits.

It was discussed at our AGM to have the clappers in the bells adjusted to enable a true strike. This will be done by the Taylors Bell Founders at the End of May this year. The bell frame needs to be repainted. This had been done by the bell ringers themselves 40 years ago but we have decided to contract out this work due to the age of some of the bell ringers. Companies were invited to tender for the work but this has been delayed until after the tower roof has been repaired.

We are pleased that over the last 2 years the sum of £2,285 has been donated to the organ fund by the bell ringers.

*David Cornwall*

**MOTHERS’ UNION REPORT**

Our theme last year was “In Mary Sumner’s Footsteps.” Her personal prayer was to live her life in such a way as to show God to others. We’ve tried to follow that theme in what we did at Mothers Union Group and we’re grateful for the support Keith & Helen, our clergy, have given us.

We had quite a varied programme last year with excellent speakers, including members of our congregation and family members of our own Mothers Union members.

Thanks to Elizabeth and her team, the Ploughman’s lunch was very popular as usual – thank you to all those of you who helped in any way, and the coffee mornings, with Andrea on the Bring and Buy stalls were also popular and well attended. Thanks to Dianne and all those who helped make them successful events. The money raised has gone to our chosen charities.
We’ve continued to support Church life with a MU member present at baptisms and wedding rehearsals. We also help with Easter Eggsplained, Tiny Tots, the crèche, Christmas Unwrapped and the Prayer Space at Gt Kingshill. We also support Welcoming at Christchurch Cathedral in Oxford.

Sadly, two very dear and valued members of our congregation, Hilary and Maureen, passed away this year and we were honoured to help with the refreshments after their funerals. We continue to provide Bob with a meal once a week, showing God’s love in a practical way. Bob is very appreciative.

We have an interesting and varied programme coming up this year to which all are welcome, both men and women, member of the Mothers Union or not, and our new theme for this year, listen. observe, act, in step with God, is an exciting challenge to look forward to.

MU Committee

ALPHA COURSE

Alpha Course 2018 ran for 11 weeks from 19th September until the beginning of December and was a great success. There were some 8 people attending plus leaders and helpers and as usual there were many interesting and useful conversations that helped people to gain more knowledge about Jesus Christ and the Holy Trinity.

My thanks go out to all the helpers on the course and to all those who made such delicious food. In addition my thanks to Ian Faulkner for the superb new notice board created for the Alpha Poster.

With the Community Day activities this year we hope to have slightly greater numbers this September and would urge everyone to please ask others if they would like to come along.

The course in 2019 will commence on 25th September.

Frank Hawkins (Alpha Leader and Coordinator) 07850 150462

THE CHURCH IN THE DIGITAL AGE

St Michael’s has come a long way since the implementation of the Data Protection Act 2018, just under one year ago, which ushered in a new era of personal information protection across the country. In anticipation of the changes required, the church had already introduced a new management system and information portal called ChurchSuite in late 2017. This has revolutionised the way personal information, rota administration, the booking of our facilities and the signup process for events have been handled, rightly giving the members of our community the power to manage their own information and providing our Parish Administrator with an excellent tool for her role. It also provided all leaders and coordinators - from the PCC to individual event organisers - an easier and more secure means to handle and protect personal information responsibly and in accordance with the new law.
Change never comes easy, especially when practices such as maintaining address books, producing contact sheets, generating rotas and collecting information to run activities have been done in a ‘certain way’ for years, if not decades. However, the St Michael’s community has risen to the challenge and has begun embracing new ways of working that are both appropriate and legally required for the Digital Age. We all must ensure we are not leaving ourselves vulnerable to the misuse, loss or theft of our information, given the rise in the number of criminals who prey on good-natured people, regardless of how ‘technologically savvy’ they feel they are.

Please pause whenever you are asked for your details or if you feel you have a need to collect names, telephone numbers or email addresses - and then confirm this information will be handled in a safe, secure and legal manner. This particularly extends to rota coordinators, event organisers and group leaders who have a personal and legal responsibility to the people whose information they are managing. Guidance and advice are readily available; if in any doubt, please ask.

Digital initiatives being considered for the next year include greater use of the Church website and Facebook to publicise events and to share the Gospel with the local community, the publishing of sermons and PCC minutes online, and further use of ChurchSuite to coordinate internal activities. Please let us know if you would like to get involved!

Lynn Brooks, Parish Administrator
(Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 9:30 am - 12:30 pm)
07928 536543 / office@hughendenparishchurch.org.uk

Ben Sharp, Data Protection Officer
01494 569483 / contact@hughendenparishchurch.org.uk

For more information about protecting Personal Information, a Which? guide can be found at: http://bit.ly/PersData

SIDESPEOPLE AND WELCOMERS

We are extremely grateful to the many people who offer themselves as sides people and welcomers in all of the services. These roles are vitally important, as they are the first point of contact for those entering the church to worship, whether regulars or visitors to the Church. We are recognized as a Family Friendly Church and have established a reputation for being a very welcoming Church. We have aimed this year to encourage more families and younger people into both these roles, and particularly to encourage those with children to support the sides person role. What a wonderful way to welcome visitors and families into the Church! Visitors in particular need to be acknowledged and
assisted in understanding what is happening, welcomed to join us for coffee and introduced to the clergy. However, there are never enough willing volunteers and this is a service that is open to everyone, so please do offer your help. We will provide lots of support until you are comfortable with the role.

We need and continue to seek support for help and service in the Church and have been pleased to see a number of people already signed up for this year. Welcomers, Sidespeople, collection stewards, chalice administrators, crèche helpers, ‘mowers for the church yard’; the list is substantial and the rotas need replenishment with new faces. Please come and talk to us if you would be willing to help.

A list of Sidespeople and Welcomers will be available at the AVM and APCM for election and re-election.

**Julia Grant (Church Warden)**

**TINY TOTS**

The Tiny Tots Informal Service has continued to flourish during 2018/19. We continue to meet on the second Thursday of each month (except August) between 9.30 and 11.30am welcoming the Hughenden Toddler Group into the Church with extravagant hospitality. The Rev. Helen Peters heads up the team. We thank Barbara Willson, Charlotte Tester, Jane Tyrer, Christine Powell and other MU members, who make themselves available for this, serving delicious homemade cakes and snacks throughout the morning to both children and their parents/carers. We are pleased to welcome and collaborate with the toddler group’s enthusiastic leaders which include Ester Comunello, Claire Noble and Vicky Eaton.

The North Room is laid out with toys and a relevant craft activity, ably prepared and delivered by a member of the team. At 10.30am everyone is invited into the Church for the Tiny Tots Informal Service. Helen Peters, Nicky Fairbairn, Charlotte Tester, Jane Tyrer, Ester Comunello, Claire Noble and Christine Powell have all played their part in presenting and encouraging participation in songs, a story time and prayers, celebrating birthdays with the model birthday cake. We have been delighted by how engaged the children are and also how much the parents appear to enjoy this time.

As always, the highlight of last year was the Teddy Bear’s Picnic in June, held in the church instead of the MU garden due to uncertain weather. We thank the many Mothers’ Union members for their generous hospitality and donations of food: the picnic lunch was delicious, and the kind welcome shown to the many who came, contributed as ever to the terrifically worthwhile outreach exercise.

Members of Tiny Tots were invited and encouraged to attend the Crib Service at Christmastime; it was lovely to see so many attend, looking so at home in our beautiful church building.
Through this monthly Tiny Tots Service, the TT’s team and additional helpers have been able to continue to establish good relationships with those who attend, providing pastoral and practical support where appropriate. On the other three Thursdays in the month, there is always a Tiny Tots team member attending the weekly Toddlers Group, making coffee and generally helping out. This contributes to the ongoing social dynamic.

PRAYER: Prayer is integral to our planning and preparation. The parents and children are also encouraged to join in simple prayers through word and song during our service. There have also been opportunities to offer to pray with and for individuals at particular times.

PRESENCE: The attending Tiny Tots team means that St. Michael’s is very much ‘present’ at this monthly event, and on a weekly basis at the Toddler group, demonstrating God’s love through hospitality, care and simple teaching.

PERSUASION: This comes from gently building relationships and developing trust of both adults and children.

PROCLAMATION: The monthly TT Service aims to make God’s love known to all who attend, by the means noted above.

Nicky Fairbairn

FLOWERS

Sadly we are not able to keep an arrangement of flowers in church each week. However, we do have eight helpers who help decorate the church for various festivals throughout the year. There is a flower rota on the notice board in the porch and anyone is welcome to add their name, especially if you want to celebrate a special date.

Jean Godfrey

CHURCH BOOKSTALL

There have been some changes this year and the whole of the bookstall is now given over to the library. It contains books that have been donated which can be borrowed for as long as desired and then returned, or not, if the reader wishes to keep the book. This includes books in the reference section.

Books are classified roughly into different sections and Alison Gieler and I sort them out now and again. Any books to be donated can be left in a bag at the back of church, or books can be put directly on the shelves by the person donating them. It is a very informal and flexible system.
If we find, as we occasionally do, that there are too many books, then spares are taken to St Andrews book shop in Great Missenden. It has a second hand section where books can be bought cheaply.

Thank you to all who support or contribute to the library in any way.

Elaine Morley
elainemorley2@sky.com
alisongieler@pipex.com

BAPTISM REPORT

Nicola Fairbairn has continued the managing of the Baptism Rota during 2018. There were ten baptisms at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Hughenden between March 2018 and February 2019, all taking place on a Sunday either at the 10.45am or 12.45pm service. A Mothers' Union representative was present in a supportive role at each of these services and the custom continued whereby the MU member presented a baptism cube and card to the candidate. At the service, the parents and Godparents learn of the support that is offered and available from the Mothers' Union should they need it. There is always a note accompanying the card which introduces the family to the church's 'Hughenden Weekly Baby and Toddlers Group' which includes the monthly Tiny Tots Service. A member of the church’s Tiny Tots team attends the weekly group in the North Group, providing coffee, tea and support of any kind: this has proved to be a very worthwhile PR exercise and undoubtedly encourages some parents to consider having their child baptised at St Michael’s.

I am very grateful to the MU representatives who have attended the baptism services and presented the cards and cubes. There is no doubt that this representation and support as part of our outreach programme continues to be appreciated and parents see it as a warm and welcoming gesture.

Nicola Fairbairn

MARRIAGE COURSE

After being blessed with success in running The Marriage Course in 2017, St Michaels hosted another fantastic course in Spring 2018. We were delighted that 3 married couples came to join us, with relationship lengths that spanned from 7 to 32 years. Everyone seemed to enjoy and benefit from the sessions, with some of the feedback as follows:

- It's not always about rescuing a sinking ship, but making sure you have everything in place to stop the ship springing a leak in the first place!
- Delving deeper into everything [really helped]: why you behave the way you do because of your childhood and who you are, and how that affects your relationship
because your husband or wife probably does things differently because of where and how they grew up!

- I wasn't at all sure the course was for us but it is so well structured that it gave us a chance to talk through what works well in our marriage and what could be better.
- I would highly recommend it - and have done so already to several people.

Thank you once again to everyone who helped to cater for the couples, which really helped with the workload on us and - more importantly - allowed the couples to enjoy their evenings without having to worry about cooking.

We’re going to take a break from running the course in 2019 but hope to be back again next year, by which time updated course content should have been delivered from Marriage Course HQ.

**Ben and Jo Sharp**

**FRIENDSHIP MORNING**

This has been another very active year. We now have 26 members with an average of 19 members attending each month. Margaret Rabson was not well enough to attend our group during the year but remained living in her own home until her last few weeks. She died on 29th November aged 98. Dennis Oldfield who moved into a Residential Home during his last year died on 31st August aged 91. Members from Friendship attended their funerals. They had both led very interesting and remarkable lives. They will be greatly missed. Two gentlemen and a lady have joined the group during the year.

Our home made Soup Lunch in March, and our Bring and Share Cold Buffet in August were as popular as ever and so we will be repeating these again this year. Alan Jaycock, a member of the group, gives us a wonderful Photographic Presentation each year. He was telling me that his plans this year are to finish walking the Thames Path over the next few months so that in September he will be able to give us a photographic walk along the Thames Path – Something for us to look forward to.

Last August we invited David Tester to come and speak to us about the work of MAF-Mission Aviation Fellowship - which we found very interesting. He also told us about a MAF volunteer who sells postcards to collectors as a way of raising money for MAF. This gentleman is asking people to donate any old postcards - used or unused - that they no longer need. The Friendship Group decided that this was something that they could contribute to so you will find a Blue MAF Collection Box on the chest in Church House which we hope to fill to overflowing during the year. If you have any old postcards, used or unused (maybe tucked away somewhere) that you no longer need or want, would you please consider donating them and putting them in the MAF collection box?

Neil Brice gave us another enjoyable Organ recital in June and Ben Brice very kindly came and played the keyboard for our Christmas Carols in December. We went to the Red Lion in Great Kingshill for our Advent Lunch in November. We were delighted that both Keith Johnson and Helen Peters were able to join us.
I am really grateful to my 6 helpers who do all the behind scene activities, making scones and cakes, bringing flowers for the tables, providing transport when necessary and of course welcoming and chatting to all our guests.

This warm and friendly group of men and women is for anyone who is bereaved or living on their own, feeling isolated or as a couple are unable to get out and meet people. All the members of the Friendship Group offer companionship and great support to one another. We do our best to contact anyone who misses a meeting, or we know is unwell, to make sure that they are getting the support they need. Please get in touch with me to find out more about the group if you think this group might be for you or for someone you know.

The Group meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month in Church House from 10.15am to 12 noon. Please do contact me and have a chat.

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MEN’S BREAKFAST

February
Working in the very challenging area of religious freedom is what Katharine Thayne, Alan Jaycock’s grand-daughter, talked to our group about in the comfortable surroundings of Helen and Richard’s home. Katherine works within and across the House of Commons and the House of Lords, through an unofficial All-Party Parliamentary Group, seeking to advance international freedom of religion and belief (FORB). She addresses a wide range of issues, such as clothing, the right to worship and not to worship and conversion, including forced conversion, The primary functions of her role are to raise awareness, advance policy recommendations, to make direct approaches to consuls, to lift the profile of FORB in parliament and to increase the effectiveness of the UK when it speaks to external bodies, such as the United Nations.

April
The group was given ‘day release’ under the watchful eye of armed guards who, we suspect, were keen to ensure no silverware went missing, rather than national secrets! We were treated with a visit to RAF High Wycombe where, following the usual full breakfast in the unusual location of the impressive Officers’ Mess, the group was guided on a tour of the WW2 parts of the RAF headquarters. Formerly the home of Bomber Command, the RAF station has a small museum at its centre, in the former office of Air Chief Marshal, Arthur “Bomber” Harris. Here we learned a little about Harris’ life in and around Naphill: how he could be a stickler for the rules whilst also fun to work for and, more sombrelly, some of the reality of conflict for Bomber Command, which lost 55,573 men during the war, almost twice the number serving in the RAF today. Given RAF High Wycombe’s close wartime-ties to Hughenden Manor and the local area, it was
fascinating to see behind the scenes at the RAF station which remains a key part of our community.

June
New Leaf is a project with charitable status offering ‘Through The Gate Mentoring’ to short-term prisoners within Thames Valley by trained volunteer mentors who meet with the ‘client’ before release, on the day of release and weekly after release, with the aim of mentoring and signposting them to services which will promote effective resettlement and reduce re-offending. The talk was presented by Mark Squire (former co-owner of the Squire Furneaux car dealership in Maidenhead). Mark performs a variety of roles, including prison visits to screen offenders (potential clients) who have sought the support of the project, partly to test their commitment but mostly to assess whether the support on offer is appropriate, given the circumstances surrounding the client.

September – ‘Keiththevicar’
Via Leamington Spa, Solihull, Sunninghill, Tunbridge Wells, Redditch and Chatham, Keith gave witness at Men’s Breakfast of his long and, at times, difficult journey to Ordination. Of the many salient points in his talk, two incidents stood out. The first, at a Christian festival in Wales during a prayer session when a leader told him that God had a role planned for him. The second, at a later date, when friends began to tell him that he was destined to be a Christian leader. These ‘prophecies’ and the dedication of his life to Christ’s teachings brought him, thankfully, to St Michael and All Angels, where he leads our community in worship.

Roger Grant and Nick Devlin

CHURCH HOUSE TEAS

Last summer we continued the long tradition at Hughenden of afternoon teas in Church House during the summer months. This provides a valuable source of income for the Church but also plays a very important role in our proclamation, outreach and welcoming people into our Church.
The Teas season last year ran very smoothly with an enormous amount of commitment from all involved. There is always a lot of enthusiasm to continue the Church Tea tradition and a couple of new people joined the rota as organisers as a few retired after many years’ service. All organisers and helpers complied with the Environmental Health standards to ensure that helpers were prepared, safety checks to confirm that food was in date and used that week if frozen, and labelling of ingredients in cakes for dietary purposes.
Teas started the week after Easter and ran until the end of September. The price of a Cream tea remained the same given the current economic climate. We introduced more herbal teas which seemed to be appreciated. We raised approximately £6000 before expenses. The amount of takings has gradually gone down and is thought to be due to the increase of availability of teas at the Manor, as well as the many churches that now provide teas in the area.
Many thanks to all of the people who helped in any way during the season and particularly to the organisers of sessions who devote a considerable part of the weekend each time they run a session. Lin and Arthur continued to ensure the background work is done and basic supplies were waiting in Church House each week, David and Hazel supplied the ice-creams.

We need to encourage new organisers, helpers and cake makers to join the team so please offer your services if you are able too.

Julia Grant

MISSION SUPPORT GROUP REPORT

In the course of the last year, the Mission Support Group (MSG) has been reconstituted under the direction of Keith, our vicar. It now consists of 7 members, chaired by David Tester. Terms of reference have been approved by the PCC and the MSG meets regularly to plan and carry out activities.

Aim. The aim of the MSG is to inform, inspire and encourage the St Michael and All Angels church family in the support of Christian Mission, near and far.

Our method. Key to this is raising awareness, through which we hope to encourage both church and individual involvement in mission, as well as generous giving to Christian outreach. So, with Keith’s agreement and encouragement, we have introduced a quarterly focus on one particular mission, which is drawn from a list of organisations which we have supported recently. That quarter there is a mission themed service to which we invite a visiting speaker to talk on the organisation’s work. The focus is also introduced by regular articles in Outlook, by displays on our mission noticeboard by the font, and on the website, where a mission page was put live in February.

Recent causes covered. Last summer we concentrated on the Ebenezer Children’s Centre in Uganda, and before Christmas we looked at One Can Trust. Thank you for many donations of food, and also for gifts of money to One Can which totalled around £600. In January to March this year, our focus was Open Doors, serving the persecuted church around the world, and we welcomed John Barringer as our speaker on 17 February.

Forthcoming. We have a programme mapped out for another year. For instance, Wycombe Refugee Partnership will be presented in April through June. Then on 7 July, we are looking forward to welcoming Levi and Debora Santana back from Brazil to tell us about their work with Church Mission Society. We intend to build on this link and to contribute more closely to their work, so watch this space!

Church funding. In addition to the above, the MSG advises the PCC how to donate the church funds it allocates to mission causes. Last year, £1000 was split equally between the Santanas, Ebenezer, Wycombe Refugee Partnership and New Leaf.

David Tester
COMMUNICATIONS TASK GROUP

The communications task group has the remit to enhance communications within and outside the Church.

This year the group produced a full colour illustrated bifold leaflet containing a list and description of all the Christmas services. It included details of the (final) Christians in the Community Carol Service in Naphill.

We also produced three full colour information leaflets about the Church: a ‘Pastoral’ leaflet explaining what we do, a History leaflet and a ‘specialised’ leaflet on the organ. These three leaflets are on display in a dispenser on the donations box at the back of the Church. Further leaflets are planned, including one on the bells, based on David Cornwall’s research and knowledge.

The excellent graphics, design and layout of all these publications have been provided in each case by Ben Brice.

Ben continues to do stalwart service maintaining and expanding the Church website, which holds a wealth of information including archive copies of the Parish magazine. He also is responsible for preparing the weekly notice sheet on which we rely so much.

This year he has updated and completely modernised the website giving it a contemporary feel and improved accessibility. If you have not yet looked at the website, it is worth a visit: it has been highly complimented from outside the Church.

During the year the Group has been working on the preparation of a video of Church Life, with preparatory work being undertaken with stills and video of Church activities and practice interviews with congregants being gathered under the direction of Guy Mannerings.

While this is being prepared, a shorter version will be used during the Community Day in May.

At the time of writing, preparations for the Community Day are high on our agenda, with publicity before and information on the day being our highest priorities. It has become clear that many of our parishioners are unaware that we are an active Church (not a historic shell) and much of the future work of the group will seek to address that.

During the year, the group said a goodbye with grateful thanks for all her support to founder member Penny Austin and welcomed Richard Peters.

He joins Nick Devlin, Alison Stacey, Ben Sharp, Guy Mannerings and of course Ben Brice. I am grateful to all members of the group for their stalwart work, as indeed we are as a group immensely grateful to all those who do the important service of leaflet delivery.

Long may your shoe leather last!

Jane Tyrer (group leader)
YOUTH AND CHILDREN REPORT

Being ‘church’ involves RELATIONSHIP, with EACH OTHER, GOD and THOSE OUTSIDE THE CHURCH. St. Michael’s Youth Task Group has specific long term goals:

- For every child/young person to have a strong friendship (peer) group within the church family, where they feel valued and safe.
- For every child/young person within St. Michael’s community to be encouraged on their journey of faith.
- For every child/young person to be encouraged and given opportunities to serve and use gifts & energy.
- To seek ways to build relationships and share faith with children in the local community (especially through local schools & Uniformed organisations).

Children /young people @ St. Michael’s
Thanks to all our leaders for their continuing commitment and dedication to our children and young people through their service. A special mention to Claire Bevan with thanks for her time with Bubbles. Our current teams are:

Creche Co-Ordinator: Ester Comunello
Bubbles: Lucy Rippon, Diana Gibbon Claire Nobel, Ester Comunello.
    Bubbles continue to be small in regular numbers but those that do attend have a super time unpacking bible stories together

JC Club: Bex Hawes, Tom & Kirstie Brewer, Poppy Laight, Gareth & Poppy Devlin, Matt & Ali Skillen, Pam Lyons.
    JC Club continues to separate into two groups where sufficient leaders allow (an activity group and a discussion group), Bex writes ‘it’s has been such a privilege to explore topics such as the creed – and I think it’s safe to say the leaders have learnt so much from our incredible young people (as well as hopefully the other way around!) . It is always lovely to hear enthusiastic feedback when they return to church.

The evening ‘Triple A’ group for school years 4-6 has a good regular attendance.
It has been great to see our young people involved in in leadership roles in family services– Noah & Cordelia leading family services, Cordelia preparing and delivering a talk, young people leading music. With lots of children willing to read and act. We have enjoyed ‘Ice Cream Sundae’ and ‘pancakes’ to signal the start of Lent.

The youth team initiated a Summer family Picnic in Hughenden Park last June.

It has been a privilege for Bex and I to prepare Cordelia for her confirmation.
Children @ school
Great Kingshill Church of England School
Keith, Bex and I take turns in leading weekly Wednesday Collective Worship at Great Kingshill School.
Bex works with ‘worship leaders’, supporting the children as they prepare and lead ‘collective worship’ at other times in the week.
Bex led Transition lessons for Yr. 6 in the summer.
A ‘Prayer Space’ has run for both Key Stage 1 & 2, in the school, as well as an ‘All School Prayer Space’ in the summer. Revd. Mike Hill has joined me on the planning front. I am encouraged by the numbers from St. Michael’s who are volunteering to help with these. We ran Easter Eggplained in 2018 and Christmas unwrapped for year 6.
Hughenden, Pipers Corner & Naphill & Walters Ash
We continue to have a good relationship with Hughenden School, taking occasional assemblies and welcoming them to use our facilities when requested. We ran Easter Eggplained and Christmas Unwrapped workshops for years 5& 6. The year 6 material for Easter Eggplained was written by Bex and new in 2018. Bex lead Transition lessons for Yr. 6 in the summer.
We have had less contact with Naphill & Walter’s Ash school this year, being unable to hold Christmas Unwrapped as the Methodist Church was unavailable. However, an Assembly was taken during Lent and we will continue to seek ways of engaging. Helen is settling into her role as Governor of Pipers School and continues to seek ways to engage. Pipers Yr. 6 girls attended and Easter Eggplained workshop in 2018.
We rely on volunteers to run the workshops so a huge thank you to Bex and Darren from Wycombe Youth for Christ and all the volunteers who give their time and energy (hosting, refreshments, AV operators and Norma and her craft team).
Messy Church
Bex has taken on the role of co-ordinator for Messy church, which is a joint venture between Great Kingshill School, St. Michael’s and Cryers Hill Methodist chapel – run monthly in the Methodist chapel. Numbers continue to be healthy and steady. Thank you to Louise Stallwood, Barbara Willson and Sam Dean who regularly give their time.
Final pause for thought…. We are really encouraged at the numbers of children attending regularly on a Sunday and the relationships we see developing. Our challenge as we look ahead is how to fan their faith into flame and encourage their walk with God as they enter older teenage years. It will require space, resource and people’s time. If you have a passion for youth work and would like to be involved now or in the future, please get in touch!

Bex Hawes and Revd. Helen Peters
SOCI
AL AND OUTREACH REPORT

During the Summer and Autumn of 2018 there were some really good activities that were set up and enjoyed. They are designed so that they benefit church members and provide a means of outreach wherever possible to the communities around us.

On 13th May we had a most enjoyable Sunday Lunch at a Chinese restaurant in Beaconsfield with requests received to repeat that again another time.

In June there was good support for the Napfest (Naphill Fete) and Hughenden Village Day. These are great places to show how our church is committed to everyone in the community but especially to the young with their families.

On July 1st there was a BBQ and swim afternoon at the home of Anu and Lyall Thomson and it was brilliant fun with great food and company.

The other highlight of the summer was a cricket match against a special Bradenham Team and it was an honourable defeat for us this time. The event was organised for us by Hilary Farrer- Hockley who very sadly passed away suddenly a week after the match. We are hoping to have a contest again this year and we will be presenting a memorial cup to the Bradenham Cricket Club in Hilary’s memory.

Harvest Festival time saw a most enjoyable barn dance where Helen Peters was the superb caller and the evening was a great success. Our thanks to all the team who supported this and to Helen. The Hughenden hall is booked again for 2019.

October saw a record number (60) of us going to High Leigh House for a Parish weekend event. We had a great time with both spiritual inspiration and some amazing fun events. We will be running it again in 2020.

In November the Austrian evening in Church House was held with a fabulous meal and a superb zither player who came over from Austria for the event. Our thanks go to Peter and Alison Geiler for leading it.

We have also enjoyed a brilliant New Year’s Day walk with about 60 people walking through the Naphill Woods and meeting at a pub in Downley organised by Antony Ripon. And most recently Antony also organised an evening at the Gate Pub in Bryants Bottom, where we had a superb supper and a quiz for £10 head.

By the time of the meeting we will have had a social dinner at Kappad in High Wycombe and we hope this will be a most successful evening. Of course, the highlight of the next few months will be the Community Day on May 11th being organised by Mike and Anne Dean with the help of us all in the Church and we pray that this outreach activity will show the depth of our activities and the strength of our Church Family.

Finally, my thanks go out to everyone on the committee who has worked so hard to make all these events so successful. We always welcome new people to join the committee.

Frank Hawkins. Tel 07850 150462
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