

St. Michael & All Angels Kington St. Michael
A member of the Bybrook Team Ministry

Annual Report
of the Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31st December 2014

Worshipping Growing Sharing

Kington St Michael Ministry Team during 2014

The Benefice began the year as part of the North Chippenham Group of Churches along with St. Paul's Chippenham, St. Peter's Langley Burrell and St. Nicholas, Hardenhuish served by a Team Ministry. Towards the end of April following consultation and reorganisation of the Chippenham Deanery, Kington St. Michael was moved into the Bybrook Benefice which now consists of ten rural parishes. The transition has presented challenges which we have had to face up to and we are gradually getting to know people in the Benefice.

St. Michael's P.C.C. has the responsibility of co-operating with the clergy in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic social and ecumenical.

Our vision is Worshipping, Growing and Sharing our Faith through our daily lives and regular worship together and in our personal walk with God.

As part of the North Chippenham Group of Churches:
Team Vicar Rev Simon Dunn)
Associate Ministers Rev David Kilmister) until April
Rev Sam Rushton)

As part of the Bybrook Team of Churches:
Priest-in-charge Rev Jonathan Philpott)
Assisted by Rev Sarah Evans) from
Rev Velma Oxley) April
Rev Gillian Parkin)

Lay Ministers John Woodward
Pam Taylor
Tim Woodward
Lay Minister Emeritus Gordon Jobbins

Membership of PCC

Members of the P.C.C. are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The composition of the P.C.C. at the end of 2014 is:-

Priest-in-charge & Chairman Rev Jonathan Philpott
Lay Ministers Pam Taylor
Tim Woodward
Warden Colin Labouchere
Lay Chairman & Warden Janet Elms
Secretary Alison Greenhalgh
Treasurer Gerry Elms
Other Members Barbara Fenner (Deanery Synod, Baptism Visitor and KSM United Charities Rep.)
Joan Gilbert (Parish Hall & Churchyard Conservation Group Rep.)
Margaret Pratley

The Standing Committee: Chairman, Lay Chairman, Secretary and Churchwarden.

Independent Examiner: John Wilcock

The PCC has met ? times during the year.

Worship & Church Life: Sunday services have a committed congregation of about 15-20. Now in the Bybrook Benefice there is a united benefice service on one Sunday a month which rotates around the churches and is well supported by our congregation. On the other Sundays we offer Holy Communion once a month and Morning Prayer on the other days. Despite efforts to offer appropriate services, apart from on special occasions children very rarely attend Sunday services. Thursday morning's service is quiet and contemplative. Once a month it is Holy Communion. On the other weeks we have Morning Prayer now generally run by members of the congregation. It has a regular attendance of 8-12 individuals. We provide pastoral care to those living in the parish but unable to attend church by offering Holy Communion to the residents of Kington House and to the house-bound and by appropriate home visits.

Links with the village primary school are very good and the children come to the church for their end of term and other special services as well as for various experience days. We are now feeling more at home with the new arrangements and look forward to playing an active role in our new set-up.

As well as our regular services we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of their lives. Through baptism we offer thanks for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the now completed worldly life and commend the person into God's keeping. We welcomed 1 baby to baptism (Barbara Fenner acts as Baptism Visitor liaising with parents for Baptism Preparation), celebrated 4 marriages (Jenny Hayne & Delcia Fussell forge links with couples as they plan their wedding flowers) and held no funeral services in the church.

Paul Bambrough and his musicians once again enhanced our Christmas Carol Service. This year's well supported Christingle service took the form of an impromptu nativity play with children taking on an active role in the proceedings suitably dressed in character.

The church is indebted to the loyal band of workers on the fringe of church life who serve the church in many ways. Particular appreciation should go to the hard working team who have cleared the churchyard of invading brambles revealing older graves which have long been out of sight. Also to those who man and maintain the mowers, keeping the grass in the parish burial ground under control.

Music: Malcolm Mace plays regularly for two services each month helped out on the other Sundays by Colin Labouchere. The church thanks both of them for their commitment, music being an important part of worship. A team of local bellringers has now been trained and generally rings for Sunday services.

Fabric: Regular maintenance has been carried out on the church building and its equipment. Work on the electrical wiring and a major repair on the boiler have been a considerable expense. Colin Labouchere's untiring work on the maintenance front is particularly appreciated and has undoubtedly saved the church a great deal of money.

We await the findings of our quinquennial inspection. The time now seems ripe for serious consideration of the improvements we would like to see to provide accessible hospitality, storage and toilet facilities within the church building. George Chedburn has agreed to oversee the work and a specification will now be drawn up.

Electoral Roll : At the end of the year this stood at 26.

Finance: Despite facing continuing difficulties of reduced income the church has managed once again to increase very slightly its level of Parish Share payment to the Diocese which largely goes to help pay for the stipends and housing of the clergy. Without additional fund-raising activities we would be in dire straits. With the different financial arrangements within the Bybrook Benefice it will take a year or so to judge how these affect our bank balance.

Annual Home & Overseas Giving : Due to constraints placed by reduced income and our uncertainty about the new financial arrangements our annual giving was very much restricted but we feel strongly that we should continue to be outward looking. This year we supported Tear Fund. The harvest gifts from the village and school were donated to Doorway in Chippenham and gifts of toys were passed to Social Services at Christmas.

Fund Raising: The major fund-raising activity was a summer Extravaganza organised jointly by FOSMAA and the church. This was a very successful and happy occasion. Proceeds were divided equally between the two groups. Provision of teas at Bolehyde Manor and Chippenham Probus Club has also brought in funds for the church as have various smaller events. A small group of very committed individuals works exceedingly hard on these occasions. The sponsored walk for Christian Aid and the annual Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust sponsored Ride & Stride in September for which our church was kept open and manned were other events which we supported..

Friends of St. Michael & All Angels (FOSMAA): This group continues to work strenuously on its fundraising activities with the constant goal of improving the hospitality and meeting facilities available in the church so that the building will be brought back into the centre of community use. The Extravaganza was an enormous undertaking but a great financial success.

Community Links

School : With Rev. Sam Rushton acting as School Chaplain and church leaders conducting assemblies links with the village school are strong. Apart from the usual end of term services the whole school have also enjoyed Easter, Harvest and Christmas experiences in the church where they have had opportunity to think more deeply and ask questions around these topics. Church members have helped the children in their efforts to make their assembly hall be more appropriate for their weekly services. Every year the PCC donates Christian-themed books to those children starting at and leaving the village school.

Parish Hall : Joan Gilbert continues to represent the church on the Hall management committee whose events the church supports as much as possible.

1st Kington St Michael Brownie Pack: We continue to try to maintain links with the Brownie Pack throughout the year via their leader, Megan Wood. We appreciate their involvement in the Church fund-raising events.

Village Newsletter: Church information is regularly entered in the bi-monthly letter which is delivered throughout the village by church members.

The Children's Society: Mrs. Alison Greenhalgh has taken over as the link for this. Thanks go to Pat Woodward who relinquished the role after many years..

Deanery Synod: Barbara Fenner represents the church at the Synod and others are always welcome to attend what are usually very interesting meetings..

Chippenham Churches Together

There were very few meetings during the year.