



Worshipping
Growing
Sharing

ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH
KINGTON ST. MICHAEL
(A member of the Bybrook Team Ministry)

ANNUAL REPORT
for the year ended 31st December 2018

Team Rector designate (from June 2018)

Rev Marc Terry

Team Vicar

Post vacant

Associate Minister

Rev Gillian Parkin

Licensed Lay Ministers within the Parish

Pam Tayler, Tim Woodward

Churchwarden

Colin Labouchere (ex officio PCC member)

Parochial Church Council

Janet Elms (Lay Chair)

Gerry Elms (Hon Treasurer)

Joan Gilbert (Village Hall Rep. & Electoral Roll Officer)

Alison Greenhalgh (Hon Secretary)

Margaret Pratley

and ex officio members

Pam Tayler & Tim Woodward (Licensed Lay Ministers)

Barbara Fenner (Deanery Synod, Baptism Visitor, KSM United Charities Rep)

Independent Examiner

John Wilcock

St Michael & All Angels PCC has the responsibility of working with the clergy and lay ministry in promoting in this parish the mission of the Church in all its forms. It is responsible too for the maintenance of the church and burial ground. We aim to be a welcoming, caring, outward-looking church community.

The PCC encourages and enables people to worship and put their faith into practice both at our church and in other churches within the Bybrook Benefice. We aim to be examples of the Christian faith in our personal and in our church life. Our plans for the future of the church building include a hospitality unit, meeting area and disabled toilet and are intended to make it more accessible and user-friendly for church activities and wider community use. Fund raising for this is now seriously under way.

Worship & Church Life: We have been pleased to welcome Marc Terry as our Rector Designate and his arrival has involved considerable reorganisation of how the Team operates. The Sunday pattern of worship is Holy Communion in Kington St Michael usually once a month and Morning Praise on the other Sundays. The fourth Sunday is a Team Service which rotates around the Benefice and may vary in style; the occasional fifth Sunday is a Cluster Service which moves round the three churches of the Eastern Cluster, namely Biddestone, Yatton Keynell and Kington St Michael, again varying in style. KSM's congregation supports the services in the other churches and is enjoying getting to know other people within the Benefice. We are keen to further the goal of 'creating connections' which is drawing the Team together and we encourage participation in such events as Lent courses and lunches and other Team occasions, all opportunities to get to know one another.

Despite the severe shortage of clergy within the Benefice Thursday morning services have been maintained with one Holy Communion each month, the rest being Morning Prayer the leadership of which is shared between lay ministers and members of the congregation. These services are appreciated and attract individuals who may not attend on Sundays. It is our aim to make our services welcoming to all.

At the end of the year there were 27 people on our electoral roll.

On Good Friday Pam Tayler led a contemplative hour at the Cross which welcomed others from around the Team. Then on Easter Sunday as the sun rose an informal service of Holy Communion was held on Tor Hill, again attended by people from around the Team. There was a later Holy Communion service in the church.

Attendance at our Christmas Carol service was moderate and the Christmas Eve Christingle service in aid of the Children's Society did not draw in as many children as in previous years. The 'midnight' Holy Communion was much as usual and, of course, there was no service in KSM church on Christmas Day although services were available elsewhere within the Benefice.

We extend our mission by offering harvest gifts from the church to Doorway and at Christmas toys were donated to Social Services for less fortunate children. We also annually make donations to two chosen charities, this year Tear Fund and Chippenham Street Pastors.

We view our links with the village school as very important and we welcome the children in church for their various end of term services which the children themselves, under the guidance of their teachers and their Worship Council, conduct. It is impressive to see how these have developed over the years. The children have also written prayers which are sometimes included in Sunday services. School assemblies are regularly led by diocesan missionaries and various special 'Experiences' related to the church and its life have been supported by members of the congregation. The Christian ethos of the school continues to be a key part of its message and to reinforce this the church presents school leavers and starters with Christian-themed books each year.

During the year we welcomed 2 children into the church in baptism, conducted 1 funeral and married two couples. A matter of concern is that the current congregation is ageing and few younger people are becoming involved in our church life. This is something which we continually have in our minds and hope to improve.

An application for a faculty for our project to provide a hospitality unit and toilet has been made and with this in mind hard work is now under way preparing for fundraising and grant applications as soon as the faculty is granted. We feel the provision of these facilities will help in our aims to link better with all ages in the community.

There is a loyal band of workers who give their service and time to the church in many ways - cleaning, flowers which are organised by Delcia Fussell and Jenny Hayne, maintenance, bell ringing - and those who help to maintain the churchyard and keep the parish burial ground looking good. We are indebted to all of them. It would be really encouraging if more people would volunteer to help.

We are fortunate to have the services of both Malcolm Mace and Colin Labouchere who play the organ for us on Sundays. Their contribution to this important part of worship is very much appreciated. It is also good to have a flourishing team of bellringers who practise weekly and ring for our Sunday morning services and special occasions, emphasising the presence of the church in the village. They also welcome occasional bands of visiting ringers.

Safeguarding - members of the PCC are keeping their safeguarding training up to date to meet diocesan requirements. The safety and welfare of our community is an important part of our mission. Risk and health and safety assessments are carried out as required.

Deanery Synod: Our one representative on the Deanery Synod, Barbara Fenner, keeps us regularly informed of matters under discussion and this is an effective link with the wider church.

Other Community Links: Barbara Fenner represents the church on the committee of Kington St. Michael United Charities who administer the almshouses in the village. Joan Gilbert is the church representative on the Parish Hall committee and works hard to support this valuable community asset. Church members regularly deliver the village newsletter which includes information about church services and activities, support the annual Ride & Stride event for Wiltshire Historic Churches and the Christian Aid sponsored walk.

FOSMAA (Friends of St. Michael & All Angels): FOSMAA, a secular organisation formed to support the church and promote its profile in the village, continues to hold enjoyable welcoming social events and has been working really hard to raise money to help with the building's maintenance and its development plans. As always the church is indebted to them for their financial contributions and for forging connections with the wider village community.

Fabric - Churchwarden's Report:

The church's insurance is kept up to date, covering not only the building but most activities involved in church life, including bell ringing.

Keeping the church building in good repair continues to be a demanding and expensive goal. The roof is generally in good order, and the rainwater gullies and downpipes have been cleared in the Spring and the Autumn. A watching brief continues on the porch to monitor its slight movement. Otherwise general maintenance has been the order of the day.

- Two slipped tiles on the North side of the chancel were rectified.
- Gas-fired boilers and fire extinguishers were serviced.
- The mowing machinery remains in working order.
- The bells are in good order.
- The church electronic systems are functioning correctly.

- Two sections of the mineral insulated cable installed in the 1970s were found to be faulty, and were bypassed using twin plus earth to BS6004.
- The organ was tuned twice during the year, and is in good order. The tremolo function has been restored to the swell organ.
- Seven of the twenty two lime trees bordering the churchyard were pollarded. The Hawthorn hedge along the South wall of the church has been attended to. Approximately 100 Hawthorn whips were planted to fill in the gaps in the existing hedge.

Voluntary assistance is an important way of keeping our costs down and we are very grateful for those who lend a hand in many different ways. With an ageing church membership, however, it is increasingly difficult to recruit extra help.

***Bellringing - report from Adam Allen, Tower Captain**

The Kington St Michael Band of ringers, members of the Gloucester & Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers, has continued to practice on Monday evenings and to ring on most Sundays when there is a service in the church. During the year they rang for two weddings. Three new ringers have now been recruited, one as part of a Duke of Edinburgh Award programme, and they are making good progress. Our ringers regularly rang on Sundays at Langley Burrell and visit other local towers which gives them additional practice. Occasional visitors are welcomed on practice night and two visiting bands were also made welcome. Adam & Diane Allen again supported the Church Ride and Stride, raising £205 by visiting 31 churches. As part of the national Ringing Remembers initiative to mark the anniversary of the Armistice at the end of the First World War, and to recruit new ringers, two of KSM's new ringers registered and received badges as part of the campaign. KSM bells were rung at 11am on 11th November 2018.

*A more detailed report is available if required.

Finance: A major portion of our income comes from voluntary giving, gift aid and modest fundraising activities but with our ageing congregation this is very much under stress. Our parish share payment, which largely provides housing and stipends for the clergy, was maintained at the previous year's level because of our reduced income and heavy ongoing expenses related to building maintenance and the hospitality unit plans which we hope will widen our use of the church. It should be noted that our maintenance outgoings are kept to an absolute minimum thanks to the voluntary work of Colin Labouchere who takes on many of the manageable tasks. However, the practical restrictions imposed by Colin's advancing age do mean that this is not a luxury we can rely on for the future. As a church family we are immensely grateful to Colin for all his work. A large portion of our income also contributes to the administrative costs of the Benefice which have noticeably increased.

It is clear from our annual accounts that our financial position is difficult and is rapidly deteriorating. However we have continued to make charitable payments, to Tear Fund and to Chippenham Street Pastors, as we view these as an important part of our ministry to the wider world. Fundraising continues to be essential. A Gift Day was held in the village this year and modest donations were received.

We are indebted to Gerry Elms for preparing our accounts and for his advice throughout the year. Also to John Wilcock who examines them. Appreciation too to Pam Tayler who handles the cash each week and to Jenny Hayne who takes care of recording all the Gift Aid donations.

A copy of 2018 examined accounts is attached.

Finally **OUR THANKS** go particularly to Gillian Parkin for the stalwart way in which she coped with a very heavy load during the vacancy and to Marc Terry who is settling in to his new Benefice and getting to know us all. We also thank the other clergy who are drafted in to help from time to time and whom we see less frequently. We are very grateful to the Lay Ministers within the Team, especially Tim Woodward and Pam Tayler whom we see most often. We also appreciate the work of Claire Campbell for her administration of the Bybrook Office. We look forward to the year ahead and its challenges.

