



**ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH
CHERITON**

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT 2015**



ANNUAL MEETING, ST MICHAEL'S, CHERITON

Sunday 17th April 2016 held at St Michael's, Cheriton after the 9.30 Church service.

All are very welcome to attend St Michael's Annual Meeting where we shall be electing Churchwardens to serve for the year to April 2017. At the meeting we shall also be electing 1 or more members to the PCC. The PCC meets 4 times a year and is responsible for wide-ranging decisions on church life. Those who are proposed for election must be on the Church Electoral Roll, be regular communicants, and be over the age of 16. If you wish to nominate someone, please be sure they are willing to serve.

Agenda for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting:

1. Welcome & Prayers
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Annual Parish Report 2014 – Comments & Questions
4. Appointments : Elect Parochial representatives to the deanery synod.(to be elected in every third year).
Elect Parochial representatives to the PCC (new members or every third year).
Elect the independent Examiner.
5. Rector's Report
6. Electoral Role Report
7. Financial Report
8. Building & Fabric Report
9. Fixtures, Fittings and Ornaments Report
10. Churchwarden's Report
11. Music Report
12. Churchyard Report
13. Deanery Report
14. Any Other Business

Minutes of the APCM April 2015 are provided separately to this report.

PCC REPORT

FOR YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2015

Background: The PCC is statutorily required by the provisions of the Charities Act 1993 and the Church Accounting Regulations to produce an Annual Report. The name of the Parish is St Michael's, Cheriton in the benefice of Upper Itchen. Correspondence should be addressed to The Rectory, Cheriton, Alresford, Hampshire SO24 0QH. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible for promoting the whole mission of the Church (pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical) within the ecclesiastical parish. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church buildings and churchyard at St Michael's Church, Cheriton.

Membership of the PCC: Members of the PCC are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and reappointed every three years, or ex officio members, or co-opted in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The PCC in 2015: The PCC met 4 times during the year with varying levels of attendance

During the year 2015 the following served on the PCC in Cheriton

Incumbent: Reverend Graham Bowkett (Now "Rector" of the Upper Itchen Benefice)

Churchwardens: Mr Simon Scott – (appointed Apr 2013)(Vice-Chair), Mr Paul Raworth (appointed Apr 2013) (Vice-Chair)

Assistant Churchwarden: Mr Philip Brett (appointed 21.06.15 to be confirmed 2016)

Representatives of the Deanery Synod:

Mrs Gillian Gray Knight

Mrs Elizabeth Brett

Elected PCC Members (with reappointment dates in brackets)

Mrs Gray Knight (reappointment Apr. 2016)
Mr Harry Verney (reappointment Apr 2016)
Mrs Clare Cholerton (Treasurer) (appointed Treasurer 19.02.14) (Reappointment Apr.2017)
Mrs Suzanne Hodnett (Secretary) (Resigned 11.11.2015)
Mrs Janey Mathews (reappointment Apr. 2016)
Mrs Ginny Murfitt (reappointment Apr.2016)
Mrs Elizabeth Brett (reappointment Apr.2016)
Mr Craig Robb (reappointment Apr.2018)
Mrs Katie Robb (reappointment Apr.2018)

Benefice Council Representatives:

Simon Scott
Paul Raworth

Independent Examiner:

Mr Steve Peters

RECTOR'S REPORT

Upper Itchen Benefice is starting, in my opinion, to go from strength to strength. We have continued to serve the community by conducting a number of great weddings, funerals and a small number of baptisms – see Church and Village for details.

Our involvement in the local community continues to grow. For an excellent example, one only needs to look at the Café on the Green, which encourages many people not necessarily closely connected to the church to participate in what has turned out to be a very successful enterprise. The Café now operates not only on a Thursday morning but also on the last Saturday of each month. It is a lot of hard work and dedication that has made this so successful - thank you to all those involved. We have a first Monday club in Beauworth which brings many of our more senior parishioners together and facilitates a coffee and a chat morning. And, through fund raising we have Safari suppers, Cheriton Talks, bridge gatherings, and fete committees, to name only a few.

We have a dedicated and very useful Parish Visitors team – I am very grateful to them for all their hard work and dedication. We have training scheduled on July 2nd in Beauworth village hall.

We have a number of Prayer groups operating in the benefice, and we are currently in the middle of a successful Lent course, which is not only stimulating and interesting, but it has brought together members of the benefice community to do Theology.

The Youth Ministry Team have worked incredibly hard and creatively to facilitate some very successful and rewarding services for the benefice. Over Christmas one of the highlights has to be the 170+ people that came out for the Crib service, and Mothering Sunday which saw 20+ Children and 60+ adults come together to worship – brilliant.

Christmas in the Benefice was a great success – the Midnight at Hinton was excellent, and the services on Christmas day themselves in every Church were a joy. At the time of writing it is not known what Easter will bring, I fully expect it to be a great success – thank you to all the Church Wardens and PCC's for all the work you do in the churches.

All the churches in the benefice have maintained a steady course, and little has arisen to cause me any great concern, but rather great joy. In conversation with Bishops etc. we are seen as a very proactive and creative set of parishes – with the Benefice Forum model of PCC having been promoted across the Northern Archdeaconry, being seen as one of good practice. I concede the Forum brings with it its own difficulties but a return to the old system of individual PCCs is not going to make the incumbent's life any easier – and I would urge should be resisted.

We facilitated an Archdeacon's Visitation towards the end of last year with every Church in the benefice passing with flying colours – Pheww! And thank you.

As you know I have been very much involved at Deanery level in the formulation and production of the Deanery Map (dMap) and as a consequence the Parish Map (pMap). I concede some of the churches felt the pMap end product was over complicated and the language used quite difficult, or objects not reflecting the parish adequately. In my defence I would argue that some of the input from the PCC's themselves left me no option but to fill in the gaps. I would urge each PCC to review and to update, record and change action points on their pMap sending a copy to me so that I can collate and record progress – In fact ask yourselves when did you last review your pMap?

On January 31st 2016 I was licensed as the Area Dean of Alresford for the next two years. It has already created a considerable amount of extra work.

Incidentally our new Archdeacon the Reverend Canon Richard Brand (now Venerable) was collated at 3.30pm in the Cathedral on February 21st 2016.

I continue to serve on the Diocesan Joint Board of Education, and sit on a subcommittee called the Executive Resource Group. I continue to be an associate Governor of Cheriton School. I take assembly at the school once every fortnight, and facilitate services for the school in the Church at Cheriton. I am a visiting chaplain at the Cathedral.

I was asked to step in, but now continue to write for the Hampshire Chronicle and receive a good deal of positive feedback – but perhaps people are just being polite?

In July HENBAX films will be filming in Cheriton Church a feature length 'comedy' that will have extracts shown at the Winchester arts festival. I do not know what the project is called, but I will keep people updated.

I want to thank the Forum members, Deanery members & the Benefice Secretary, the Ministry Team and all the PCC Officers/Treasurers/Church Wardens - Thank You.

Every Blessing

Graham

ELECTORAL ROLL

The Current total on the electoral roll is 76. 5 new names have been added and 1 has been removed.

Janey Mathews, Electoral Roll Officer

FINANCE

See separate Treasurer's Report.

Clare Cholerton – Treasurer

BUILDING & FABRIC REPORT

There is always ongoing general maintenance including light replacements as necessary. Routine maintenance takes place on an annual or bi-annual basis for the bells, clock, organ, fire-extinguishers, boiler, carpet-cleaning and lightning-conductor. The largest item of expenditure for 2015 was repair of the bell stays at £210. A significant item in 2016 will be the cost of replacing the skylights in the bell tower which was one of the requirements of the quinquennial inspection in 2011 and which has yet to be completed. In 2016 the Church will be subject to a further quinquennial inspection. A new architect, Simon Goddard of the Simon Goddard Partnership has been appointed to replace Simeon Cox of Studio Four who has taken up a new position. In 2016 The PCC will need to come up with a plan to spend sums raised from the sale of the village hall towards improvement of the fabric of the church.

Simon Scott

FIXTURES, FITTINGS AND ORNAMENTS REPORT

2015 has been a quiet time for fixtures, fittings and ornaments in St. Michael's.

During the year the Benefice kindly provided 15 bibles for St Michael's for the use of parishioners and these are generally situated at the end of the main front rows of the church.

The chancel, side chapels and children's area carpets were all cleaned during the year.

The usual annual maintenance routines took place for the church boiler, the clock, the organ, and the fire extinguishers without any undue additions, and some repairs were carried out to the bells' stays.

As mentioned in the Church Wardens' report St Michael's successfully passed the Archdeacon's triannual visitation in 2015.

Paul Raworth

THE CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

2015 has passed and we are again happy to report that we believe Cheriton Church has progressed through another successful year. Attendances have been similar in 2015 to the previous year for middle of the month parish services but those on high festival days have been very well attended and again mention should be made of the first Sunday in the month Benefice family services which are regularly attracting congregations of 50 to 60, or even more, people. Our services are

varied to meet as many people's expectations as possible and we have to remember that we are only one of six parishes in this Benefice. We are therefore particularly indebted to Graham for all his support. You will see from his own report that he is an exceptionally busy person, indeed it could be said that he is being overloaded by the Diocese, so we believe it is all of our duties to try and support him as much as possible. We were delighted at the beginning of the year when Graham was installed as Rector of the Upper Itchen (as opposed to "Priest in Charge") at a service with the Bishop of Basingstoke and the Archdeacon of Winchester Cathedral.

In February and March 2015 St. Michael's hosted the Cheriton Talks which are now becoming widely known with some really excellent speakers. It is sad to relate that we have to try and fund-raise every year to balance the books but the upside is that it brings a lot of people together and the Cheriton Talks have been a great example of this.

Easter in April was a very busy time with extra services in Holy Week and is of course the beginning of the summer churchyard mowing. In July St Michael's hosted a rare service in Cheriton of a Benefice Evensong to welcome our new Benefice Curate, Caroline Strudwick, who only hours previously had been ordained in Winchester Cathedral. Caroline's support to Graham is a welcome addition and she is a regular supporter of the Cafe on the Green. In August we had the "Archdeacon's Visitation" which is a triennial inspection by a representative of the Archdeacon to inspect all parochial registers, records, inventories and log books. It is a general inspection of every type of document and system and an inventory check which as you can imagine caused us some apprehension beforehand. Fortunately all went well and St Michael's passed, as did all the other parishes in the Benefice.

December always brings the excitement of Christmas and a time when St Michael's is so well attended. The Cheriton school carol service was an absolute delight with a congregation of 236 of which 115 were under 16 – the Crib Service on Christmas Eve had a congregation of 146 including 56 youngsters and Christmas morning totalled 123. These were extra special occasions when the Church was truly buzzing.

We would like to say a big thank you to Phil Brett who kindly accepted the post of assistant church warden half way through the year and will replace Simon as church warden in April. We will then be looking to appoint two more assistant church wardens who will help with some of the organisation of St Michael's.

We are particularly grateful to the many people who do so much towards the running, maintenance and upkeep of St Michael's. Michael Seymour, our organist, and Gillian Gray-Knight do enormous work in the music and singing of the Church and there are numerous others :- the PCC members; all the regular donors to the Church; all those who sing in the choir; the brass cleaners; the cleaner: the churchyard mowers and gardeners; the visitors who visit the sick; the sides people; the flower arrangers; the people who help with the refreshments after the Sunday services; the bell ringers, the master of the flagpole, the fund-raisers and of course all those who help at the Cafe on the Green which is a partnership between the village shop, the village hall and the Church - and many others. We thank you all for your valuable support.

Simon Scott and Paul Raworth
Church Wardens

MUSIC REPORT

We are extremely fortunate to continue to enjoy the playing of our organist, Mike Seymour, who contributes so much to our parish services with wonderful voluntaries and lively hymns.

The Church Choir has seen an increase in both junior and adult members which has greatly enhanced the singing and provided opportunities for short anthems to be included in services, together with the communion psalms. We have two adults working towards their Light Blue ribbons, in addition to the juniors, while Millie successfully completed the Dark Blue syllabus and was awarded her ribbon earlier in the year.

St. Michael's Occasional Choir consists of members from around the Benefice and beyond who join the Church Choir for special and festival services when they can. These have included Good Friday, with music from 'Godspell', the evensong for Caroline Strudwick, Harvest Festival, St. Cecilia and the Carol Service, all of which were sung very well and, we hope, enjoyed by those attending the services.

Village Voices, although not a Church Choir, is supported by the Church and is a fun, friendly gathering of those from within and beyond the Benefice who want to sing for pleasure, sing but without the pressure of performance, find out if they can sing or to improve their skills. Some of these singers now sing with the Church Choir on a regular basis or join the singing at special services.

Gillian Gray Knight

CHURCHYARD REPORT

Expenditure for the year was minimal as the mower was not serviced.

Many thanks to Jules Anderson for organising the mowing rota once again, to the mowers and strimmers, and to Tim Butcher for cutting the grass in the newer part of the graveyard. Simon Scott is responsible for mowing the paths and assisting Edward and Vandra Roberts in maintaining the wild flower areas, which are continuing to improve year on year.

A Saturday was spent in November cutting back the overgrowth and tidying the Churchyard generally despite appalling weather.

Once again, many thanks to all those volunteers involved in keeping the Churchyard in good condition. The regular gravedigger Chris Curran has undertaken to tidy the grave spoil area before the summer arrives. Nicola and William Cecil have kindly agreed to donate to the Church a three metre width along the North side of the new Churchyard to allow us to extend the area for burials, and we are going through the legal transfer process.

Simon Scott

DEANERY REPORT

The Deanery undertook the preparation and presentation of the dMAP during 2015, much of the work for this being completed by the then Assistant Area Dean, Graham Bowkett. Along with the pMAPS this will continue to be reviewed and amended as goals are achieved and new ones identified.

The Deanery Plan of 2013 was reviewed, updated and adopted for 2016, to take into consideration provisions required in respect of the vacancy arising in the Ropley Benefice and, in due course, the Arle Valley.

Canon Phil Collins retired as Area Dean at the end of the year. Graham was appointed as Area Dean with David Chattel as Assistant Area Dean.

Gillian Gray Knight