

**Parish of St Michael & All Angels, Beetham**



**Agenda and Reports**

**For Annual Parochial Church Meetings 2018**

**The Annual Vestry Meeting  
and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

To be held on Sunday 15th April 2018

in the Parish Church at 11.15 am

## Church Committees as at April 2018

Church Wardens		Brian Smalley John Dugdale Ian Stirrup
Parochial Church Council:		
	Chair:	Brian Smalley (Church Warden)
	Vice Chair:	Vacant
	Secretary:	Dorothy MacLeod
	Finance Committee:	Vivien Stirrup Tess Rowlands John Dugdale
PCC Members		Brian Smalley Ian Stirrup John Lomax Tess Rowlands John Dugdale Sheila MacInnes Jill Smith Helen Montgomery John Montgomery
Ex-officio Deanery Synod Reps.		Dorothy MacLeod Vivien Stirrup
Friends of Beetham Church	Chair: Administrator:	John Lomax Brian Smalley Anne Clarke Dianne Lomax Jenny Marks Sue Smalley Sarah Easton Dennis Wright Vivien Stirrup Ian Stirrup Anne Lofthouse (until Feb 2018)
Fabric Committee	Chair: Secretary:	Jenny Marks Harry Parrott John Lomax Brian Smalley Ian Stirrup Dennis Wright Anne Lofthouse (until Feb 2018)
Foundation Governors for Beetham School		John Lomax (Chair of Governors) Jenny Beresford-Jones Dennis Wright Rachel Wray Jenny Marks Vivien Stirrup
Ex-officio (temporary during interregnum) Local Authority Nominated Governor		Sarah Easton Brian Smalley (Vice-chair)
Mission Community Representative		David MacInnes

**Parish of St Michael & All Angels, Beetham**

Agendas for Annual Parochial Meetings 2018

**The Annual Vestry Meeting  
and the Annual Parochial Meeting**

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 11.15 am

Welcome and introduction

Opening Prayers

Apologies for absence

**Agenda: Annual Vestry Meeting**

*Please note that only those on the Church Electoral Roll or those resident in the Parish and on the Civil Electoral Roll are entitled to vote.*

1. Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 23rd April 2017
2. Election of Churchwardens

**Agenda: Annual Parochial Meeting**

*Please note that only those on the Church Electoral Roll are entitled to vote.*

1. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 23rd April 2017
  - a) Approval
  - b) Matters arising
2. Electoral Roll
3. Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council 2017-18
4. Finance Report for year ending 31st December 2017
  - 4.1 Gift Aid report
5. Fabric Committee and Health & Safety Report
6. Kendal Deanery Synod Report
7. Mission Community Steering Group Report
8. Beetham CE Primary School Report
9. Safeguarding
10. Reports from Church Groups
  - a) Friends of Beetham Church
  - b) Social Events
  - c) Bell Ringers
  - d) Gateway and community report
  - e) Bookstall
  - f) Church Flowers
  - g) Choir
11. Churchwardens' Report
13. Elections and Appointments
  - a) Parochial Church Council Members
  - c) Sidespersons
  - d) Independent Examiner
14. Comments from the meeting for consideration by the PCC

Closing Prayers

## **Annual Vestry Meeting 2018**

### **Agenda item 1: Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 (minutes of the meeting below in italics)**

*Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in the church on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 at 11.15 am*

*Present: The Revd. Linda Lonsdale (LL - Chair), Graham Smith (GS - Treasurer), Dorothy MacLeod (Secretary), Jenny Marks (JM - Churchwarden) and members of the congregation. Apologies were received from: Sheila MacInnes, David MacInnes, Geoffrey Thompson, Irene Thompson, Jenny Andrews, Helen Montgomery, John Montgomery, Harry Parrott and Ann Parrott.*

*The meeting was opened in prayer.*

#### **Annual Vestry Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017**

*1. Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 24th April 2016 were approved unanimously.*

*2. Election of Churchwardens: Jenny Marks was stepping down and following the resignations of John and Carol Brown earlier in the year, there were three vacancies for churchwarden. The following nominations were received:*

*Brian Smalley – prop. Jenny Marks, seconded Dennis Wright*

*John Dugdale – prop. Ian Stirrup, seconded John Lomax*

*Ian Stirrup – prop. John Dugdale, seconded Ruth Myers*

*All accepted unanimously.*

*End of Annual Vestry Meeting.*

### **Agenda item 2. Election of Churchwardens to serve for the year 2018-2019**

*Close of Annual Vestry Meeting 2018*

## **Annual Parochial Meeting 2018**

*Please note that only those on the Church Electoral Roll are entitled to vote*

### **Agenda Item 1: Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 23rd April 2017 (minutes shown below in italics)**

*(N.B. The following minutes should be read in conjunction with the 2017 printed reports)*

*1. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 24th April 2016 were approved*

*Prop. Diane Lomax. Second. Vivien Stirrup, accepted unanimously*

*There were no matters arising*

*2. Electoral Roll: The number on the electoral roll at the time of the meeting was 108. LL thanked John Dugdale (JD), the retiring Electoral Roll Officer for his work in compiling the Electoral Roll. JD expressed his gratitude to lesson readers and intercessors and asked for more volunteers for these roles.*

*3. Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council 2016-17: Nothing to add.*

*4. Treasurer's Report for year ending 31st December 2016*

*The Treasurer (GS) indicated that this was a positive report and that 2016 had been a good year for finances. The church had lived within the budget, balanced the books and built up a small amount. There was less need to worry about the bills and the PCC can now start to look at additional items and are in a position, in conjunction with the Beetham Church Heritage Trust (BCHT), to move some of these forward. The church had turned a corner and could continue in a better and more stable financial position. The accounts had been independently examined by Helen Steele and GS expressed his gratitude to her for carrying out this task. He expressed his thanks for the help and support he has received as treasurer and all those who have contributed to the finances and upkeep of the church, both through giving and with their time and efforts.*

*LL thanked the treasurer for his hard work and his professionalism in producing the documents for the meetings.*

*4.1 Gift Aid report – Nothing to add. LL thanked Andrew MacLeod for his work as Gift Aid Secretary in reclaiming tax for church funds.*

*5. Fabric Committee and Health & Safety Report:*

*Speaking on behalf of the Fabric Committee Jenny Marks indicated that Harry Parrott had put together the report. The Maintenance Works table included in the report is ongoing throughout the year and church members were encouraged to report work needed to members of the committee, so that it could be added to the list. Work days have taken place every two months and Jenny thanked participants for their efforts and Anne Lofthouse for the bacon butties. The committee will keep the congregation informed of potential projects during the coming year.*

*6. Kendal Deanery Synod Report: Vivien Stirrup was thanked for her very thorough report.*

*7. Mission Community Steering Group/Kent Estuary Group Report: Nothing further to add. LL expressed her thanks to David MacInnes for attending the meetings and providing reports.*

*8. Beetham CE Primary School Report: Nothing to add. Thanks were expressed to Headteacher Wendy Nicholas for her report.*

*9. Safeguarding: Nothing further to add. LL thanked Sue Smalley.*

*10. Reports from Church Groups*

*a) Friends of Beetham Church: John Lomax expressed thanks on behalf of the Friends to those who had supported the concert the previous Friday and requested plants for sale at the Dallam Open Garden on 7<sup>th</sup> May. Duck Race tickets are available and future planned events include a Tea Party and a Chinese Evening.*

*b) Social Events: Dianne Lomax thanked all those who attend the social events and support the raffles.*

*c) Bell Ringers: Jenny Marks reported a comment made at the bell ringers' AGM contesting her statement in the annual report that bell ringing "is open to anyone aged 8-80" In response she said she extended the age range "from 8-180!"*

*d) Gateway: Jenny Marks said that contributions to Gateway are welcome.*

*e) Bookstall: Sue Smalley said that she would appreciate suggestions of additional items to sell on the bookstall. A reprint of the church brochure will be needed during the next year (an opportunity to update the content) and that the PCC would be asked to fund the print run. LL expressed her thanks to Sue for her work with the bookstall.*

*f) Church Flowers: Dianne Lomax thanked all the ladies who arrange flowers for festivals and on the flower rota. Men would be welcome to join them. She thanked those who donate flowers and oasis supplies. LL thanked Dianne and said that she receives very positive comments from visitors who appreciate the floral decorations.*

*g) Choir: Margaret Cutress hoped that the choir have now become accustomed to the weight of the new hymn books. John Lomax commented that the choir adjust well to singing with changing organists each week and was benefitting from a practice each month*

with John Falkingham. A discussion followed regarding the number of new hymn books and service books in church as there were not sufficient for the large number of attendees on Easter Sunday morning (c.100 compared to 65 in 2016). 50 books were ordered originally, later increased to 80 and it was suggested that more should be ordered. John Lomax offered to produce A4 sheets with the hymns for the next Easter Sunday service to supplement the books. More service books to be printed. Support was given for both suggestions so it was resolved that the matter be discussed at the next PCC meeting.

11. Churchwardens' Report: LL and Jenny Marks expressed their sincere thanks to John Dugdale, Kathleen Dodd, Ian and Vivien Stirrup for their assistance throughout the year. Jenny also thanked Jim and Rosalie Wood for their maintenance of the box bush close to the church door. Jim took on the task of keeping tidy the cross which is cut into the bush when Robert was no longer able to do so and it is much appreciated. LL expressed her gratitude to Jenny Marks for her amazing support during her time in office saying she he has been an incredible Churchwarden with a wealth of experience and cheerfulness. Her maintenance of the porch notice boards and work on The Gateway were also very much appreciated. LL hoped that Jenny would have a well-earned break but would only be stepping down temporarily.

12. Priest's Report: LL hoped that she had been able to thank everyone in her report for their contributions to church life and assisting her in her ministry. John Lomax thanked Linda for the incredible amount of work that she puts in to her ministry. He thanked the Reverend David Peacock for stepping in to assist so greatly at Christmas during LL's absence through illness, but added that this was an indication of how much LL had needed rest. He expressed thanks to LL for her ministry on behalf of the congregation. LL responded that she does the work because she loves it.

### 13. Elections and Appointments

a) Deanery Synod members: There were two nominations for the three places: Vivien Stirrup – prop. Jenny Marks, seconded Theresa Holden  
Dorothy MacLeod – prop. Rosemary Buchanan, seconded David MacInnes  
It was proposed that both should be elected to the Deanery Synod: prop. John Lomax, seconded Alan Higham, agreed unanimously. The third place remained unfilled.

b) Parochial Church Council Members: There were four nominations:  
Tess Rowlands – prop. Sue Smalley, seconded Dianne Lomax  
John Montgomery – prop. Jenny Marks, seconded Vivien Stirrup  
John Lomax – prop. Brian Smalley, seconded Anne Lofthouse  
Brian Smalley – prop. Jenny Marks, seconded Dianne Lomax  
It was proposed that all should be elected to the PCC. Prop. Dianne Lomax, seconded Vivien Stirrup. Agreed unanimously.

c) Sidespersons: The following were appointed as sidespersons: Morning services: Freda Carey, Anne Clarke, Julie & Colin Clarke, Kathleen Dodd, Ruth Greenwood, Dorothy MacLeod, Alison Marginson, Helen & John Montgomery, Ruth Myers, Betty Semark, Vivien & Ian Stirrup, Rupert & Susie Villiers-Smith, Christine Wray. Evensong: Alan Beaumont, Val Holden, Dianne Lomax, Sheila MacInnes, Jenny Marks, Dennis Wright. Mrs Gail Crabb will take over as Electoral Roll officer from John Dugdale.

d) Independent Examiner: Mrs Helen Steele was elected as Independent Examiner for the coming year, with thanks for her assistance.  
Prop. John Lomax, seconded Brain Smalley, agreed unanimously.

14. Comments from the meeting for consideration by the PCC: The provision of additional hymn and service books will be discussed at the May meeting.

John Dugdale thanked the meeting for accepting him as churchwarden and said that he will do his best to serve the church, on condition that he would receive 'unpaid leave' when necessary and continued cooperation between the church committees.

*The Reverend Linda Lonsdale announced that with regret, she had this week offered her resignation to the Bishop. It was a very hard decision to come to but she felt that she needed to step back from the role for personal reasons. She would be leaving reluctantly. She hoped that a new person would be appointed within a year. She thanked those attending the meeting for their time and contributions and said that she was looking forward to working with the new officials.*

*The meeting closed with The Grace at 11.50 am.*

## **Agenda Item 2: Electoral Roll**

<b>Electoral Roll:</b>	107 people on the roll at April 2018
<b>Lesson Readers</b>	23
<b>Intercessors</b>	7 (These are lesson readers also. Three are lay ministers)
<b>Sidespeople:</b>	17 + 1 warden (nine pairs)

New volunteers will be very welcome, to help out in many ways around the church

*John Dugdale*

## **Agenda Item 3: Secretary's Report on the Proceedings of the PCC 2017-18**

The announcement of the resignation of the Revd. Linda Lonsdale at the 2017 APCM heralded a period of change for the parish and the new wardens elected at the APCM certainly hit the ground running! Linda met the standing committee to outline the steps necessary to ensure that all the numerous tasks that go into running a successful parish would continue to be undertaken efficiently. It is testament to Linda's extensive organisation prior to her departure and to the dedication of a hardworking team of wardens, the ministry team and many helpers that things continued so smoothly after Linda and Geoffrey's departure in August.

In addition to the high degree of appreciation for the ministry of Linda and Geoffrey in their time in the parish, the PCC have immense gratitude to Linda for her planning and organisation which ensured that clergy for services from her departure to Christmas were arranged, allowing our worship to continue smoothly. The PCC have expressed their sincere and heartfelt thanks to the ministry team, visiting clergy and especially to Canon the Revd, David Peacock and the Revd. Geoff Turner who have been unstinting in their ministry within the church, not just until Christmas but continuing beyond.

The PCC have had a busy and constructive year with six bi-monthly meetings, an open meeting with the church architect and two meetings with the Archdeacon to discuss the vacancy. At the May meeting, the first after the APCM, we welcomed the new Churchwardens: John Dugdale, Brian Smalley and Ian Stirrup and new and returning PCC member: John Lomax. Jenny Marks attending her last meeting as a retiring warden was thanked for her immense work in the role. Graham Smith and Dorothy MacLeod were both willing to continue in their roles as Treasurer and PCC secretary respectively. Linda was appointed as chair and Brian Smalley as vice-chair (chair after Linda's departure).

It was with much regret that we learned in September of the resignation of Graham Smith as treasurer. Graham kindly continued in the role until the end of October and the accounts were audited and approved by the independent examiner at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017. The PCC expressed their sincere thanks to Graham for his excellent work in maintaining the parish accounts and bringing much needed financial reports to the PCC. The PCC expressed its sincere thanks to

John Dugdale, Tess Rowlands and Vivien Stirrup for taking over responsibility for the accounts, receiving financial information and for taking the parish finances forward during the period following the resignation until a new treasurer can be appointed.

At each meeting the PCC considers regular agenda items such as: finance reports and scrutiny of spending of church resources, progress in developing the new Mission Action Plan (MAP) and attaining its aims, PCC accountability under the Charities Act, safeguarding, health and safety, reports from the Friends of Beetham Church, Gateway and community outreach, reports from our Mission Community representative and Deanery Synod members. Church fabric is of particular significance and the informative reports and updates from the fabric committee are very gratefully received. PCC decisions on future maintenance and spending on the fabric of the church are guided by these reports.

We have considered many additional items including the following: the provision of sufficient hymn books, potential proposals for altering the layout of the church, registering the church building as an identifiable address with the emergency services, approving those licenced to administer communion by extension and to administer the chalice, the approval of three new foundation governors for the school and the reappointment of a fourth, the parish offer, parochial fees and fees for organists, the selection and approval of new energy contracts, church insurance, the mapping of the churchyard drainage to aid flood prevention, the purchase of new ladders for the church, Commonwealth War Graves Commission signage, church tourism, a visit to commemorate Beetham members of the Lancashire Fusiliers who served in WW1, kitchen roof lead replacement, the diocesan 'Moving Mountains' events and the Churches Together in Cumbria (CTiC) Domestic Abuse Charter. The PCC continue to be very grateful to all the organists who so richly enhance our services and were very pleased to formalise arrangements with Geoffrey Field as our lead organist and director of the choir, with assistance from John Falkingham on a regular basis.

In between the formal meetings, members of the PCC have undertaken considerable additional work in order to bring the following items to the PCC for consideration: the new Mission Action Plan has been developed following consultation with the congregation – thanks to Brian Smalley for his work on this. The PCC were very grateful to Graham Smith for undertaking the lengthy task of exploring the PCC's accountability under the Charities Act 2011 and consideration of this is an agenda item for all PCC meetings. The new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) come into force in May 2018 and work has been continuing to explore the changes that the church will need to make in order to comply with the new regulations in the processing of personal data within the church. The congregation and church groups will be kept up to date on changes which may be necessary.

The vacancy arising from the resignation by the Revd. Linda Lonsdale has presented many challenges. Services have already been mentioned and in addition the wardens and PCC secretary have dealt with many queries and enquiries which would normally be directed towards the incumbent. The ability of the diocese to provide a new incumbent was by no means guaranteed and it was with relief that the PCC met the Archdeacon in September to be given the news that the vacancy for a House for Duty Priest could be advertised, with a provisional date for the advertisement to be issued following Easter 2018.

The PCC were asked to produce an updated Parish Profile and to appoint two representatives to serve on the appointments committee. Vivien Stirrup and Brian Smalley were elected by the PCC to this role. Vivien and Brian with considerable help from Jenny Marks have been hard at work producing the new parish profile. The PCC have been fully consulted and updated



throughout this process and they are very appreciative of the efforts put in by the team to produce this vital document. The profile is the means by which we can present the true nature of the parish to prospective candidates (and hopefully attract suitable candidates who will identify with the spirit and ethos of the parish). The finished document promises to be a wonderful snapshot of the parish at this time and should prove to be a useful historical document also. The PCC are extremely grateful for all the work being put into this.

In conclusion I wish to thank my fellow PCC members for their ongoing support in my role as secretary and I would like to recommend PCC membership to others. The bi-monthly meetings are interesting and it is a privilege to play a role in shaping the church at this stage of its long history.

*Dorothy MacLeod*

#### **Agenda Item 4: Treasurer's Report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017**

See separate sheet:

##### **Agenda item 4.1: Gift Aid report 2017**

From donations given during 2017 we have been able to claim for church funds a total of **£7,586.33** in tax repayments under the two different Gift Aid schemes.

<b>Gift Aid Scheme</b>	<b>Amount Given</b>	<b>Tax Claimed</b>
Gift Aid Donations	£22,851.92	£5,713.42
GASDS (Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme)	£7,491.63	£1,872.91
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£30,343.55</b>	<b>£7,586.33</b>

##### **Gift Aid Donations**

During 2017 Beetham Church received a total of £22,851.92 given in Gift Aid donations, from which we successfully claimed tax rebates from HMRC totalling £5,713.42. A claim was made at the end of each quarter to assist church cash flow. The Quarter 4 payment was received from HMRC in January 2018 and therefore will not be shown as a receipt within the 2017 church accounts.

<b>Quarter</b>	<b>Amount Given to church</b>	<b>Tax Claimed</b>
Q1 (Jan-Mar)	£5,901.20	£1,475.31
Q2 (Apr-Jun)	£5,738.61	£1,434.67
Q3 (Jul-Aug)	£5,606.75	£1,401.70
Q4 (Oct-Dec)	£5,605.36	£1,401.74
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£22,851.92</b>	<b>£5,713.42</b>

A total of 143 different individuals gave through Gift Aid during 2017 and have been categorised according to their main method of giving. A total of 31 used bank standing order, 15 used the numbered envelopes scheme and 97 completed the printed envelopes available in church, reflecting in part the large number of seasonal visitors and occasional donors.

Grateful thanks are expressed to all who have undertaken to Gift Aid their donations and collectively make such a significant difference to church income.

##### **GASDS (Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme)**

Recently introduced by HMRC, GASDS allows a Gift Aid style payment from HMRC on cash donations of £20 or less, where no Gift Aid declaration has been received. For the tax year

Apr-16 to Mar-17 the eligible cash limit was raised to £8,000 and we were able to claim £1,872.91 from £7,491.63 given in eligible donations.

Andrew MacLeod

### **Agenda Item 5: Fabric Committee and Health & Safety Report**

“The committee has the responsibility for implementing the ongoing maintenance and improvement of the church.”

The Fabric Committee has continued to meet regularly throughout the year in time to report to all Finance and PCC Meetings.

My thanks go to all members of the committee (especially to Jenny Marks - our Chairperson) for all their hard work and dedication throughout the year. We will certainly miss Anne Lofthouse, now that she has finally moved, but we are very fortunate to have recruited Dennis Wright to our team.

Special thanks must also go to the cleaning teams and brass cleaners who continue to work so hard to ensure that our church always looks immaculate.

The committee has continued to arrange bi-monthly Work Days to carry out routine maintenance items to the church, the old churchyard and the new cemetery; and our thanks go out to the other volunteers who join the committee members for these events.

We have continued to manage the regular annual service and inspections which keep our building functioning, and have tackled various works including:-

1. The completion of the strengthening of the cracked beam wallplate to the north aisle roof
2. The inclusion of the cleaning of the cenotaph in our workday agendas in an attempt to keep it free of the mud which accumulates after heavy rain.
3. The cleaning out of the drains by the gate and entrance to the porch which should help to prevent future flooding.
4. The removal of rubble from the new cemetery.
5. The making good of the stolen lead from the kitchen roof.

In addition to the normal workload, the committee will be busy this year with the following:-

1. The 2018 Quinquennial Survey, which will be carried out by our Church Architect, Mike Darwell.
2. The proposed upgrading of the Security Camera System to the roof.
3. The 5 yearly inspection on the stability of the internal Memorial Wall Plaques.
4. The feasibility of the removal of church pews to provide more flexible space.

The Maintenance List below, which is updated at each meeting, provides an indication of the scope and diversity of works the committee is currently dealing with.

**Maintenance Works required to Church: No 32 date: 23.01.18**

Item*	Description	FC or Contractor	planned	Complete/ Notes
04	Remove ivy from walls in new graveyard...try scorcher	FC	Annually Work days	Ongoing...next workday
07	Investigate prevention of flooding at main entrance to Church	FC/Contractor	June 14 Sept 15	Works undertaken
11	Quinquennial Survey	Architect	June 2018	Request Spring 2018
12	Re-ordering of Church Phase 1 Need to raise funds	Contractor	When funds raised	Ongoing
14	Ingress of water in porch PCC approved	FC/Ronnie Jackson	May June 2016	Leadwork complete
15	Treat Bell Tower wheels	FC	Annually	ongoing
24	Investigate staining to external stonework by Lady Chapel	FC	For future	Fit polycarbonate grills...QQ
29	Gravestone Plan	FC	For future	ongoing
30	Lay down delaminating headstones	FC/SLDC	For future	1 completed
33	Re-pointing to parapet over Porch PCC have approved cost	FC/Ronnie Jackson	May June 18	Awaiting QQ and Ronnie
34	Leak to South Aisle...re-pointing	FC/Ronnie Jackson	May 18	On hold...QQ
44	Spray weeds to external walls	FC	Annually	Ongoing
46	Surge Protection	Contractor		Awaiting Cost
47	Inspect bird grilles to tower	FC	Annually	2017 done
49	Clean Bell Tower	FC	Annually	Ongoing
51	Clean up Cenotaph Provide sand bags	FC	Annually	2017 complete
52	Repoint coping stones to kitchen roof	FC	March 18	Work day
53	Leaded Glass to bell tower door	FC/Contractor	Feb 18	Ronnie?
54	Check stone finials on tower	Contractor	Annually	2016 done
55	Rope off area by organ	FC	2018	Ongoing...work day
56	Additional sockets to vestry.	Craig Allen	2018	Awaiting Cost
57	Investigate use of LED bulbs in lanterns	Craig Allen	2018	Awaiting Cost
58	New external light by kitchen	FC	2018	Work day
59	Enlarge concrete bases to floodlights	FC	2018	Work day
60	Additional light at rear of organ	Craig Allen	2018	Awaiting Cost

\*35 items have been completed to date, and removed from this work-in-progress list

*Harry Parrott, Secretary, Fabric Committee*

## Agenda Item 6: Kendal Deanery Synod Report

The Kendal Deanery Synod has met on three occasions in the past year and St Michaels was represented at all three meetings. Each meeting featured a key speaker, with additional business items and updates from various parishes following the speaker.

The June meeting held at Barbon featured Roger Latham from Cumbria Christian Learning (CCL) which was established to resource learning and lead teaching for churches and individuals across the diocese. The churches in the county are at the leading edge of change as, ecumenically, they pursue the God for All vision and face up to the challenge of resource management. In the business section, Rob Saner-Haigh announced in the business section of the meeting that this was the last synod meeting for Rev'd Linda Lonsdale who would retire in August. He wished her well on behalf of Synod and thanked her for her contribution.

The spotlight issue at the October meeting, held at Westmorland General Hospital, was Health and Health Care. Representatives of the Better Care Together partnership gave a presentation and introduced discussion on the local health and wellbeing strategies. David Richardson gave an update on the Dementia Friendly Churches project which aims to make every church dementia friendly by 2020. In the business section it was noted that every church in the deanery had submitted a parish offer to the diocese.

The February 2018 meeting held at Kendal Parish Church featured Richard Passmore (Diocesan Fresh Expressions Enabler) who outlined this diocesan initiative. He highlighted the rapid expansion of examples of Fresh Expression churches and the growth in the numbers who are experiencing a different church – around 3,000 people taking part across Cumbria. He emphasised that Fresh Expressions should not be seen as a bridge into our churches but rather as taking church to people in their regular activities such as walking groups or biker churches. He reminded Synod that “church” is not described in the bible other than in metaphors and that the romantic desire to be like the early church obscures the fact that the early church was very diverse. In the business section Canon Martin Jayne drew attention to a vacancy on the Diocesan Board of Finance, Finance Committee and the desire for wider representation from the Deanery on the Diocesan Synod and its Boards. Charles Howarth introduced the Churches Together in Cumbria (CTiC) Domestic Abuse Charter for Churches, commending it to Parishes for their own consideration.

*Dorothy MacLeod and Vivien Stirrup, Deanery Synod representatives*

### **Agenda Item 7: Mission Community Steering Group Report:**

1. The KEMCSG has been meeting since September 2016 to try to put together a scheme for the development of cohesive pattern in the approach to mission within the community which would be adopted by all the parishes and Methodist churches in the region. However, over the last year the group's work has been diverted to allow it to become a promotional group for the Moving Mountains activity taking place this coming March. Therefore, the hope of having a finalised plan for the Parish AGMs of this year will not be achieved.
2. There is however, an outline project which the group hopes to finalise at the beginning of March this year and Parishes will be invited to consider and comment on in a short time scale. The idea of a Mission Community is that it will create a stable framework, within which relationships can be developed across churches so that there is more opportunity for pooling effort, sharing resource and exchanging learning and support.
3. Some detail of which is as follows:-

- a) The activity must be focused on mission (outreach and or service), reaching to those who are not part of the existing congregations.
  - b) It must add value, making it possible to do new things that are beyond the capacity of individual congregations acting alone.
  - c) It must be relevant to the local area and our circumstances.
  - d) It must reflect and respect the identity of individuality and diversity of the existing congregations and their history and traditions.
  - e) There needs to be clarity about how the Mission Community relates to the existing structure and decision making within congregations and their wider church structures,
  - f) It must recognise and value the Christians and other denominations who are not Covenant partners but who live or worship in our area.
4. There are recommendations which are still to be finalised on which it is hoped that parishes and churches will give some response to by 18 April 2018. These are outlined as follows:-
- a) The KEMC will have collective launch in early Summer to celebrate and pray for the emerging mission and those tasked to carry it forward.
  - b) That a development group be established, with the task of structuring programmes of action, reflecting the principles and suggestions identified by the steering group ahead of a formal Commissioning for the KEMC, by late summer 2019.
  - c) The development group should develop a Mission Action Plan with realistic proposals both to draw people into existing church life and worship and to connect with people beyond the existing patterns. The group should be tasked with taking the action forward.

*David MacInnes*

### **Agenda Item 8: Beetham C E Primary School Report**

The school has had a very busy and successful year. There are now 57 pupils in the school and from September 2017 the school began to accept children into its nursery. This offers provision 5 mornings a week for children from the age of 3 who are taught alongside the Reception class by a fully qualified Early Years teacher and a newly appointed Early Years teaching assistant. At present there are 8 children in the Nursery. KS2 SATs results were excellent with 80% of children reaching the expected standard or above in Reading, Writing, Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar and Maths.

The school at present is looking forward to having the use of a field which is being purchased for the use of the children by Carlisle Diocese. This will enable a wider range of sports to be included in the curriculum and will give access to a large play space which the school has been lacking for many years.

Due to the success of our school and the increased number of pupils we are suffering from a lack of space and this is something that the governing body is very keen to find a solution to. The school is therefore researching a range of funding sources and considering plans to extend its teaching space with two upper storey classrooms, enabling one of the downstairs rooms to act as a hall and indoor PE space. This is now very important for the future development of the school and its continued success in the village and beyond.

The school's links with the church remain outstanding. Children and families worship in church for all the main Christian festivals and also attend church at other times either for worship or using the building as a resource for other curriculum areas e.g. RE, History, Art. The monthly

article in the Gateway and the display of children's work in church helps to keep the church and village community up to date with school events and also gives an insight into the children's learning experiences and education. We have a highly trained and willing group of volunteers from the church attending school every week who help to run after-school clubs and also provide one to one support programmes for individual pupils. This support is invaluable to the school and makes a huge difference to the children both personally and in terms of their academic progress.

Fundraising continues to be an important part of our school life as it helps to raise money for additional activities and equipment that cannot be funded through the school budget e.g. iPads, coach travel, reading books. The school also raises money for charities through activities usually organised by the children. This year we have supported, Save the Children, The Children's Society, Children in Need and Oxfam. These events are an important part of our curriculum, helping the children to understand the needs of others and develop their knowledge of the world around them.

Part of the Beetham CE School's vision is to provide all children with a wide range of experiences so that during their time at Beetham, everyone has the opportunity to find an activity which they enjoy and may take forward into their future life either as a hobby or an area where they excel. These activities are either part of the curriculum, after school clubs or extracurricular visits e.g. Canoeing on Windermere, activity days at Borwick Hall, Visit to Leighton Moss, Residential visits to Ennerdale and Tower Wood, Polar Explorer programme, music lessons in ukulele, keyboard, drums, violin, guitar, Brewery Dance Platform, Whole school production in the Heron Theatre. This list only gives a flavour of the broad range of experiences available to all our children but hopefully highlights the importance we place on making them accessible to everyone.

As the school continues to grow and develop I would like to thank the church and its people for the support they offer to the school and hope that the relationship remains strong and mutually beneficial throughout the next year.

Best Wishes

*Wendy Nicholas, Headteacher*

### **Agenda Item 9: Safeguarding**

The new and revised Safeguarding Policy for the Church of England and the Carlisle Diocese has now been implemented and can be viewed on-line on the Diocesan website: [www.carlisediocese.org.uk](http://www.carlisediocese.org.uk)

All PCC Members and leaders of any church groups need to be conversant with the basic awareness and foundation modules. A number of people have used the on-line modules, but we are hoping to organise a face-to-face session when the new PCC has been elected.

We would like as many extra members of the congregation as possible to attend in order to make it worthwhile for us to organise our own in-house session. It is important that as many people as possible are knowledgeable about the safeguarding of young people and vulnerable adults so that we can ensure we have a safe environment in which to meet and worship.

Thanks to those who have signed-up for the Vetting and Barring process which is obligatory for those helping in school and those in the Worship Team.

*Sue Smalley, Safeguarding Officer*

## Agenda Item 10: Reports from church groups

### (a) Friends of Beetham Church

Regular committee meetings were held in the year to plan social and fund-raising events.

Our Committee members as elected at last October's AGM were John Lomax (Chairman), Brian Smalley (Administrator), Anne Clarke, Sarah Easton, Anne Lofthouse, Dianne Lomax, Jenny Marks, Sue Smalley and Dennis Wright. During the year, Anne Lofthouse tendered her resignation from the committee; this was reluctantly accepted but understandable given her many years' service and we all joined in wishing her God Speed in her new home in Hampshire. In her place, and to fill all outstanding vacancies, Viv and Ian Stirrup were co-opted to the Committee.

During the year 2017/18 the sum of £2543 has been raised by Friends' fund-raising events for the Beetham Church Heritage Trust for expenditure on maintaining the Church fabric. As in past years we have invested in notelets, cards and bookmarks to add to our fundraising potential. With generous donations of seasonal items from members of the congregation, we again assembled Christmas hampers for our Grand Draw which once more raised a record sum for church funds. Together with the sale of cards, notelets, bags and scarves, a total of £939 was raised for Church funds at the Winter Fair, held in conjunction with our Church School. The Duck Race, our main fund-raising event, raised the magnificent total of £1325, yet again a record-breaking amount!

	Total	for BCHT	for PCC funds
Arnside Ladies Choir April 2017	£464.00	£232.00	£232.00
Duck Race April 2017	£1325.00	£1325.00	
Dallam Open Garden Plant Sale	£165.00	£165.00	
Flower Festival May 2017	£714.81		£714.81
Parsonage Tea Party June 2017	£305.75		£305.75
Magnificent China June 2017	£245.00	£245.00	
Beetham Sports Stall July 2017	£224.00	£224.00	
Harvest Supper surplus Oct 2017	£168.40		£168.40
Autumn Concert October 2017	£352.00	£352.00	
School Winter Fair Nov 2017	£939.00		£939.00
Carol Singing December 2017	£433.14		£433.14 for Crisis at Christmas
Shrove Tuesday Supper 2018	£116.80		£116.80
Lent Lunch March 2018	£160.00		£160.00 for Christian Aid
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£5612.80</b>	<b>£2543.00</b>	<b>£3069.80</b>

The PCC also benefits from the sale of cards, calendars, notelets, bookmarks and other items designed by this committee and sold from the Church bookstall. Figures for this are reported elsewhere. It should be noted that BCHT has further benefitted by means of Friends' subscriptions and donations, and 'dividend' from the Easy-fundraising website.

It is the same Committee – the "Beetham Church Task Force"(?) - that arranges for the PCC the many other social, charitable and fund-raising events on behalf of the Church – including the ever-popular Shrove Tuesday and Harvest Suppers (originally conceived as social events to break even, but seem somehow to make a surplus each time!), the Lent Lunch, Flower

Festivals, Christmas Carol-Singing and many more. As is evident from the above, this contributes over £3000 to PCC income in the twelve months since the last APCM. As you may well imagine, this is a fairly relentless task and I am greatly indebted to Committee members for their many hours of hard work in planning, preparing and carrying out all the various duties that make these events both popular and profitable. Please, everyone, continue to support us!

Our next planned event is a Concert to be given by renowned soprano Jane Irwin and Friends. This is a return visit for Jane; on her previous visit here, it was only the warmth of her wonderful singing that sustained us on a bitterly cold night! We look forward to much warmer conditions with a similarly uplifting concert this time on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April, at 7pm in the Church.

This year's Duck Race is to take place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May (as ever, subject to conditions underfoot) at Ellers Meadow on the Bela River by kind permission of Mr & Mrs A. Gardner: tickets are now available. The support of the entire community is welcomed for this event, one of our major fund-raising activities each year. The event will as in previous years be supported by 'Duckorations' around the village and followed by a "Duck Eggstravaganza" organised by parents at the School.

*John Lomax, Chairman*

## **(b) Social Events**

The annual Harvest and Shrove Tuesday Suppers were held in the Heron Corn Mill Barn on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018 respectively.

Over fifty people on each occasion filled the Barn where they enjoyed an excellent supper provided by Alison Thompson of Holme, followed by entertainment which brought hearty laughter from every corner.

The entertainment for the Harvest Supper was based on a sketch written by Sandy Lofthouse and edited by Anne Lofthouse and John Lomax and entitled "UP THE ROMAN WALL". England was occupied by the Romans whose 'army', aided by the omens from the 'vestal virgins', delightfully portrayed by our thespians and wandering minstrels much to the amusement of the assembled company, was supposed to defend the realm from 'wee Nicola' and her marauding Scots! The Shrove Tuesday Supper was followed by the Village Quiz. Our thanks go to Clive and Valerie Holden who put together an excellent selection of questions on a variety of topics which gave the 'grey matter' a good workout.

Our very grateful thanks to everyone who took part in either or both events, including our very appreciative audiences, who thought and laughed and sang and clapped at all of the right places and in the right order!

For you diaries, the next Harvest Supper will be on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018 and the Shrove Tuesday Supper will be on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019. We look forward to seeing you there.

*Dianne Lomax*

## **(c) Beetham Bell Ringers**

We have once again had a thoroughly busy and enjoyable year with both the towerbells and the handbells, culminating in a fun joint Annual Bellringers Dinner at the Strickland Arms in January (with particular congratulations to the winners of the Golden Bell Awards). Both groups are continuing to expand, enabling us to ring regularly throughout the year and to try new things.



We were delighted to welcome Ian Stirrup last summer and Katriona Field earlier this year to the towerbell band. Ian is already ringing regularly with us on a Sunday morning, and Katriona is showing strong Essex determination in learning to ring in double quick time! Our towerbell 'Grand Tour' continued this year with a ringing trip into the Lake District on a lovely sunny day in May. Ringing at Chapel Stile and Crosthwaite was enjoyed almost as much as the lunch at the Wainwrights' Inn, and thanks go to Brian Smalley for his organisation of the day. As always, the Beetham bells have been rung for a number of special events, and for weddings and funerals.

The handbell ringers were thrilled to be joined by Viv Stirrup, and Katriona and Geoff Field this year, who have all proved to be natural ringers. In the summer, the team played at the Parsonage Garden Party and at the Harps North West Festival in Penrith. We also attended the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rally at Lancaster University in October. Christmas was again a whirlwind, with performances at Allan Bank Grasmere, Hartland House, Elmsfield House, Lunesdale House, Grayrigg, Booths Milnthorpe, and in the church.

We would like to thank Beetham Sports Committee for their generous donation for a new handbell to complete our full 3 octave set. The new bell has been ordered from Bells of Whitechapel and we look forward to including it in our summer performances. Thanks also go to Lorraine and Huw for their hospitality and allowing us to disturb their Thursday evenings at the Tea Room for practices during the winter – we are very grateful for the warmth and the cakes!

If you would like to have a go at either handbell ringing or towerbells, please come along and join us – they are both very sociable pastimes and everyone is welcome.

*Jenny Marks, Tower Captain*

#### **(d) Gateway and Community Report** (compiled by Jenny Marks and Viv Stirrup)

**The Gateway magazine** continues to be delivered to every household in the parish, with additional copies available at a number of commercial outlets for visitors and people outside the parish to take away. It is produced in-house 11 times a year, plus a special August issue celebrating Beetham Sports. Current and past editions are also available on our website, and it is emailed to a growing list of people (around the world). Particular thanks go this year to Brian Smalley, Canon David Peacock, The Rev'd Geoff Turner, John Lomax, and Viv Stirrup, who have all written excellent cover letters for the magazine during our interregnum. Many thanks as always go to the contributors, folders, distributors, advertisers, and - of course - the readers!

**The church website** at [www.beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk](http://www.beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk) also continues to grow. It is regularly updated with news of our events, monthly rotas, The Gateway, this Annual Report & Accounts, links to the school and other local websites, and plenty of information about our church. As we seek to attract our new priest-in-charge it is likely that the website could be the first place that they look for details about us, so please take time to look at it and let us know if we can improve it in any way.

**The Village Coffee Morning** is held on the first Wednesday of the month in church to encourage members of the community to come along for 'coffee and cake'. Our thanks go to Colin and Julie Clarke for organising this social event, and for all who bring along such

delicious cakes. There are several regular attenders, including walking parties from Parkside in Arnside who are always delighted with the welcome that they receive. There is no charge, but people kindly give donations, amounting to a healthy contribution to our church funds over the year.

**Beetham Community Band** - Last September, Tess Rowlands suggested that we could form a Music Band, and following an advert in the Gateway a few weeks later several eclectic instruments were brought together for the first time in church. The gauntlet was thrown down to play some carols at the Christingle service, and the Beetham Community Band was born! The Band now meets every Saturday morning, with the primary purpose of dusting off musical instruments that may not have been out of their cases since school days and having fun. Anyone of any standard is welcome to join, with any instrument whether string, brass, woodwind, keyboard, harp, accordion, recorder, or percussion. A special thank you goes to Tess for inspiring us and making it all happen!

Jenny Marks

**Church/School Link** - There continues to be a strong association between St. Michael and All Angels and our church school, Beetham Church of England Aided Primary School. Church members are generous with their time and skills and help out in school in all manner of ways including organising After School Clubs, listening to children reading, helping with lessons and being involved in a myriad of other day to day activities and special events.

A good number of Governors (and others) attend Celebration Assembly on Friday morning and other acts of worship both in school and in church. The long and strong tradition which links the church with the school is borne out by the number of active church members who are Foundation Governors. John Lomax continues to be Chair of the Board of Governors, Brian Smalley is Vice Chair, with Jenny Marks, Rachael Wray and Vivien Stirrup, Foundation Governors. Recently we have welcomed Sarah Easton and Dennis Wright to the Board of Governors.

The school has recently been inspected under the SIAMS regime (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) where the distinctive Christian character of the school is scrutinised. All inspections are stressful but for the church's own Foundation Governors who are active in the school on a daily basis, the inspection, which was carried out on 1<sup>st</sup> March, was a testing time. I am happy to report that, unsurprisingly, the school was judged to be outstanding, the highest rating that could possibly be awarded. It is a fitting testimony to Head teacher Wendy Nicholas and her staff, the Governing Body and all the volunteer helpers from church to which a huge thank you is richly deserved.

**Confirmation News** - We have five candidates who are preparing for confirmation, 3 adults and 2 young people. We are grateful to Canon David Peacock who has been running preparation classes over the recent weeks. The candidates will all be confirmed by Bishop Cyril Ashton during the Sunday morning service of 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. It has been noted by the Diocese that it is exceptional that St. Michael & All Angels, Beetham have so many of their own congregation for confirmation. Both the Rural Dean and Archdeacon Vernon Ross have said that it sends a very positive message across the Diocese especially as St. Michael's church is in interregnum.

**Interregnum** - A very big thank you goes to all the team who continue to work hard to ensure that all church services continue as normal during this period of interregnum. Special thanks go to our wonderfully generous 'so called' retired clergy and particularly Canon David Peacock

and the Rev'd Geoff Turner who continue to give of their time and experience to officiate and provide us with very interesting sermons on Sunday mornings. Baptisms and funerals have also been carried out without interruption during interregnum. The Rural Dean is appreciative that we have not needed to contact her for assistance and has expressed her thanks and admiration for the team at Beetham in making it all happen. Evensong continues due to the kindness of the Worship Team who willingly officiate in rotation. We continue to offer Communion by Extension on Wednesday morning and thanks go to David Crabb for his kind help.

The Parish Profile is now nearly completed and will be sent to Archdeacon Vernon Ross for his approval before we are able to advertise for a 'House for Duty' priest in charge. It is hoped that we may be in a position to appoint by late summer.

A very big thank you is given to all those who have taken on extra work and/or responsibility during this period of interregnum. What a superb team effort it is proving to be and certainly stands us in good stead for the future.

**Communion by Extension** - Both David Crabb and Vivien Stirrup has the Bishop's license to administer Communion by Extension. Communion is taken to both Elmsfield House and Lunesdale House on a regular basis. Home communion is offered to anyone who would like to receive.

**Dementia Friends Champions** - Recently, Sarah Easton and Vivien Stirrup have become qualified by the Alzheimer Society to become Dementia Friends Champions. They are also Diocesan Dementia Enablers for St. Michael and All Angels, Beetham and the local community. They are able to offer dementia awareness raising sessions for any interested parties. They can be approached in confidence for support by anyone who cares for a person living with dementia or anyone who may have concerns about themselves or others.

**Thank you** - We continue to be delighted by the comments made in the Visitors Book in church which repeatedly mention how well the church is maintained, how clean it is and how loved it feels. What our visitors don't realise is that a lot of hard work, commitment and dedication are freely given by a lot of people to keep our church looking so beautiful. These quiet workers never expect or want any thanks but they so richly deserve it. A massive thank you goes to all those who assist in whatever capacity to clean and maintain our beautiful church.

Of course there are many people who work tirelessly in the background so that the spiritual heart of the church beats strongly. It is essential to recognise the service that is freely given.

To those who sit on committees and make sensitive decisions to further the aims of the church – thank you. To those who play the organ, arrange choir practices and act as musical directors – thank you. To those who sing in the choir, read lessons, write intercessions – thank you. To those who bake cakes, make tea and serve refreshments – thank you. To those who raise money for the church in the most creative ways – thank you. To those who unlock the church each morning and lock it up in the evening – thank you. To those who find themselves on one or many rotas – thank you. To those who ring bells – thank you. To the church wardens who are involved in a million jobs – thank you. To the finance team who help to balance the books – thank you. To the worship team who have covered all the services without interruption – thank you. To the Editor of the fantastic Gateway and her team – thank you. To those who maintain our website – thank you. To all those who find themselves in church practically every day doing one job or another – thank you. To anyone else unintentionally not mentioned but quietly beaver away, I apologise and thank you!

### **(e) Bookstall**

*Many thanks for your continuing support of sales from the Book Stall this year. Once again we have exceeded the previous year's total, mainly due to a magnificent total of over £200 collected during December through the sale of Christmas Cards and Calendars. Many thanks to Jenny Marks for selecting photographs and arranging the printing. Bookmarks are a favourite with visitors and there are still a few jute shopping bags left, but get your replacement soon as 'When they're gone, they're gone'.*

*Many thanks also to John Lomax for producing the Reconciliation booklet, based on the researches of Sandy Lofthouse, and telling the story of the interaction between the German prisoners at the Bela POW Camp at Whassett and the people of Beetham. It is intended that this booklet be the first of a series of topic based booklets about various aspects of St Michael & All Angels, its history and its fabric (stained glass windows, masons' marks etc.). These booklets will eventually replace the guide book of which there are only a few remaining copies. If anyone would like to be involved in producing a booklet based on a specific topic/subject within the church or on the history of Beetham please let me know. We would be very grateful for any help. Suggestions for other items for the bookstall would also be gratefully received.*

*Many thanks to the Friends' Committee for their initiative in producing ideas for items for the stall and for providing financial backing to allow swifter printing and publication of the items for sale.*

Sue Smalley

### **(f) Church Flowers**

Flowers have been arranged by a rota of twelve ladies in the Sanctuary, Lady Chapel and Porch throughout the year, excepting Advent and Lent. The team has been increased by the addition of four ladies and four gentlemen to decorate other areas of the Church for the festivals and the Flower Festival. The Church has been especially decorated for the major festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Poppies were arranged in the Sanctuary and at the war memorial in the South Aisle for Remembrance Sunday. Sixty small bunches of daffodils were again put together for distribution on Mothering Sunday. The Easter Garden was prepared and the Church decorated for the Easter Festival in the Spring colours of white and yellow. Autumnal colours were used at Harvest Festival. The Advent Wreath was prepared again and the Church decorated for the Christmas Festival with greenery and in white, red, silver and gold.

The Annual Flower Weekend was held on the 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> May. This year we marked the bicentenary of the death of Jane Austen on 18<sup>th</sup> July 1817. An exhibition of the life, work and times of Jane Austen was staged in the Lady Chapel, as well as life in Beetham in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The stewards wore 18<sup>th</sup> century costume.

Special flowers have been arranged during the year in memory of loved ones. Flowers have also been arranged for four weddings in May, June and July, as well for the funerals of Alison Marginson and Geoffrey Thompson.

We are very grateful to everyone who continues to help and arrange the flowers in the Church and for donations towards expenses.

The Church flowers remain an important part of the peace and tranquillity of Beetham Church and are much appreciated by the visitors, many of whom record their feelings in the Visitors' Book.

*Dianne Lomax*

### **(g) Choir and Music**

The congregation continues to value the contributions of the church's musicians very highly, and the hearty singing of the hymns is a testament to the value that is placed on having good quality music within the services.

Our grateful thanks go to the dedicated and enthusiastic regular members of the choir who have continued to enhance our worship over the last year. We have been thrilled to welcome extra singers for special occasions such as the Carol Service, and would encourage them to sing with the choir on a more regular basis. Looking ahead, it is hoped that anthems in a variety of styles can be sung more frequently in the morning services, as well as having regular choir practices.

Once again, huge thanks go to the team of organists and musicians who have played in church this year. Their skills and musicianship are highly valued by members of the congregation, and the wide range of music that they play is much appreciated.

*Geoffrey Field, organist*

### **Agenda Item 11: Churchwardens' Report**

No sooner had we three been elected as Churchwardens at last year's Annual Vestry Meeting than Rev'd Lonsdale announced her intention to retire! We are fairly sure that this was a coincidence!

The Churchwardens Handbook lists the many and varied duties and responsibilities that are the lot of wardens, but they basically boil down to a requirement to ensure the smooth running of church affairs. The time since our installation has been instructive and, at times, challenging but we count ourselves as lucky wardens to have a fantastic team of people who beaver away to ensure that St Michael & All Angels continues to offer a warm and welcoming environment in which to worship (perhaps we have not always been successful in ensuring the 'warm' bit, but we didn't know the pump was going to fail!).

The Secretary's Report gives a comprehensive account of the past year, and we are grateful to Dorothy for her hard work and attention to detail which has enabled PCC Meetings to run smoothly and efficiently. We are grateful, too, for the sound wisdom and advice given by the PCC in what has been a busy and challenging time.

We are indebted to everyone who either organises a rota or agrees to be on it, from those who clean to those who read, from those who lead worship to those who maintain the building, from those who make coffee to those who arrange the flowers - and lots more besides.

To name everyone would require a report too long and costly to print, but we must thank Viv Stirrup, Tess Rowlands and John Dugdale who, as members of the Finance Committee, have ensured that our financial affairs have been conducted efficiently and expeditiously since the resignation of our Treasurer. The Fabric Committee under the leadership of Jenny Marks and Harry Parrott continues to maintain the fabric of our church and in so doing relieves the Churchwardens of one of their main responsibilities.

And we must record our indebtedness to Rev'd David Peacock, Rev'd Geoff Turner and all the members of the Worship Team and other retired clergy who have helped to ensure that our raison d'être, the Worship of God, has been sustained during this interregnum.

Thank you all for your support.

*John, Ian and Brian*

### **Agenda Item 13: Elections and Appointments**

- (b) Parochial Church Council Members
- (c) Sidespersons
- (d) Independent Examiner

### **Agenda Item 14: Comments from the meeting for consideration by the PCC**

### **Closing Prayers**