**ANNUAL REPORTS and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for

**The Parochial Church Council**

**Hoole Parish Church St Michael’s and All Angels**

**Liverpool Old Road Hoole PR4 5JQ**

**As at 31st December 2015**

**The Rector**

Rev Derek A Baines

16 Middlefield

Leyland

PR26 7AE

**Bank:**

The Royal Bank of Scotland

78 Liverpool Road

Penwortham

Preston

**Independent Examiner**

M.W. Harrison F.C.A.

27 Bentley Park Road

LONGTON

Preston

PR4 5ZT

**Websites:** [**www.hoolevillage.com**](http://www.hoolevillage.com)

[**www.hooleparishchurch.com**](http://www.hooleparishchurch.com)

**CONTENTS**

**Page OVERVIEW OF THE CHURCH**

2 The Rector’s Report

4 The Churchwardens’ Report

6 Legal and Administrative Information

7 Objectives and Activities

 **APPENDICES**

8 A Parish Mission Statement

8 B PCC Treasurer’s Report

10 C Friends of St Michael’s and Development Committee Report

11 D Hoole St Michael’s Messy Church Report

11 E Michael’s Club Report

12 F Ladies’ Group Report

13 G Men’s Fellowship Report

14 H Social Committee Report

15 I Hoole St Michael’s Flower Fund Report

16 J Pastoral Care Team Report

16 K Ministry Team Report

 **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

17 PCC General Fund

19 The Friends of St Michael’s and Development Committee

20 Messy Church

20 Michael’s Club

21 Ladies’ Group

22 Men’s Fellowship

23 Social Committee

23 Church Flower Fund

24 Statement of Assets and Liabilities

25 **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER’S REPORT**

**Rector’s Report**

2015 has seen many changes within our church.

I would like to thank Robert Hawthornthwaite for his continuing support and extremely hard work in the ‘secular’ running of the church during Eric Barker’s illness and the assistance offered by Bill Carr as warden Emeritus (a role that should see him doing very little!). Many things would not have happened without their efforts. We were fortunate that Jock Davidson was ‘learning the craft’ from Eric and was able to step up to the mark and carry on the work of church warden – some of which he was not prepared for when the church flooded on Boxing Day. He and Robert have been a great support. David Turner helped with the process involving the insurers.

The PCC meet regularly to maintain our workload. Thanks go to Barbara Wood our Treasurer who has overseen our finances and in doing the Gift Aid work on a temporary basis. Thanks also go to Andrea Susnik our PCC secretary who has also taken on another role when we restructured the PCC and Standing Committee roles and she acts as secretary to both.

Within our worship we continue to say thank you to our music group as they enjoy leading our worship and occasionally singing anthems. Our thanks must also go to Carole Wilson and Phil Norton for their musical support and guidance in worship. So much hard work goes on behind the scenes that it is impossible to name all who help so a thank you to all who give their time so freely and willingly.

We continue to support the Penwortham Churches Together Foodbank at Kingsfold Community Centre with regular parcels of food and volunteers helping on the Friday rota. Additional donations at ‘special’ points in the year from our parishioners have been gratefully accepted.

We received the new Bishop of Burnley, the Right Reverend Philip North when he came to ‘get to know the clergy’ and visited our 2 schools and met Eric and members of the PCC.

During the year we carried out 9 weddings, 1 Blessing of Marriage, 21 Baptism of children, and 20 funerals. Our average weekly attendance is 68 with 6 children, again a slight drop on 2014 but still a healthy number. Unfortunately we have said goodbye to some of our regular members who have died during the year, however this has been offset by new members in our Messy Church and Sunday worship.

The Messy Church continues with a ‘core’ of 14 children with their parents. Michael’s club continues to encourage children and we have a core of 12 children. See the separate reports. Therefore I can say with confidence that we have maintained the status quo with a continuing none Sunday attendance by folk who see Messy Church as ‘their church and worship time’.

The Ministry Team have held 3 meetings during the year. The October afternoon of Community Worship resulted from the first. We set up the worship audit seeking views on what people enjoyed or disliked about our worship which gave very encouraging and positive views. The second meeting led us to discuss our mission planning and paved the way for our final meeting when we were joined by the Revd Canon David Banbury, Diocesan Missioner who gave us an insight into the Diocesan Vision 2026 project. We looked at courses for enquirers and those of a mature faith. Please see the separate report.

**Rector’s Report (cont)**

As stated we have held a joint service with our Methodist Friends and the Reverend John Fisher and the Rector led a community act of worship at the Village Hall which was very well attended and enjoyed by all. This replaced the Walking Day of old and should become an established service within our church year. The move of times for our Christmas services proved very popular with the earlier times for the carol service and the Christmas Day Eucharist.

Our thanks go to Rona McClure, the parish Pastoral Assistant in her continuing work with visiting, home communion to the housebound and her help at Baptism preparation and the services. I would also like to thank Carole Bamber for her continuing support at Baptism when she is available.

We continue to support our schools, the Rector attending Thursday worship each week at St Michael’s CoE Primary School and attending Little Hoole Primary School for assemblies and class sessions. The PCC made a donation of £3000 towards the costs of building works recommended by County to improve the entrance and security of the school.

Socially the church has supported events led by the Friends of St Michael’s, the Social Committee, Ladies Group and Men’s Fellowship and these events have successfully raised money for the church generally and for specific projects, our thanks go to the organisers and the large number of volunteers who help with these events. We enjoyed the Parish Ramble set up by Eric just before his illness took hold.

St Michael’s has continued with its friendly approach to visitors and newcomers but we will need to develop a few things as the Church of England changes and also the role of Christianity in the world is altering. The Diocesan 10 year plan “Vision 2026” is now gathering pace and we look forward to a good spiritual 2016.

**Derek Baines**

**Parish Rector**

26/01/2016

**The Churchwardens’ Report**

The Band in the Park with BBQ and the Auction of Promises proved a great success and raised a considerable amount of money towards Church funds. Many thanks have to go to all who helped at very short notice to make it an enjoyable day.

We also have to thank our social committee for organising our busy and successful calendar, and we are looking forward to the events being planned for 2016.

Sadly our very dear friend Eric Barker passed away on the 23rd of September after a short illness. At this time we have to express our thanks to Bill Carr for standing in and taking over the duties of Church Warden, and for his involvement in the looking after the building and fabric of the Church, until I was licensed as Church Warden on the 16th of November 2015, by Reverend Tim Lipscombe from Preston Minster.

On a more personal note I would like to thank the Reverend Derek Baines, Robert Hawthornthwaite, Bill Carr and Stan Pickles for all their support, advice and encouragement during my time settling into my new role as Church Warden.

The moving of the Carol Service to 1630 hrs on Christmas Eve proved to be the correct decision, as the numbers were up on last year. We also feel it should be left at this time in the future.

At the end of 2015 we had two new families join our congregation and are attending regularly. So we are optimistic that this trend will continue in the future.

The Wardens and many helpers have ensured that the statutory requirements regarding Health and Safety are met, also the maintenance of the Church fabric and building. The Church yard is maintained to an extremely high standard thanks to Stephen Martindale.

**Extract from the Log for 2015**

**February**

**S**helf fitted in the vestry to accommodate newly updated plans of the Churchyard and memorial gardens. Digital plans also produced.

**June**

Ladders to clock tower examined by Richard Bramley, architect, following an assessment by Ecclesiastical Insurance who felt that we were not complying with HandS regulations for ‘working at height’. Recommendations made. Quote for fabrication of hand rails sought and received.

**July**

Floor examined by Richard Bramley, architect. Issue is one of drainage around the Church and water undercutting the floor.

**August**

Assessment of drains by Colin Braithwaite, Civil Engineer, following advice by members of the Diocese Advisory Committee (DAC). Plans redrawn.

**September**

Boiler serviced, new igniter fitted.

**October**

Faculty advice sought for ladders, drainage and draught proofing of main entrances to Church.

DAC advice received. Draught proofing by glass door rejected by PCC. Curtain to be assessed at West door. Drainage assessment to go ahead. Clock Tower rails faculty completed and applied for. (January DAC)

**Churchwardens’ Report (cont)**

**November**

Stage 1 of drainage assessment – water level pits dug (5). CCTV assessment of drains to be set up.

Water ingress in Tower assessed.

Inspected Tower and cleaned it up. Hatches to be left open to enable it to dry out.

Harry Jackson, builder, unblocked internal down spout and drain hole in Tower. All the water drained away.

Refurbished the bench round the tree in the Memorial Gardens.

**December**

Boiler house was flooded. Bailed the water out.

To be assessed by the builder A.S.A.P.

**Saturday 26th December**

1300 Flooding in church found by David and Julie Bayldon. Water in entrance, overtopping the lintel. Water ingress under West door. Water flooding the area at the foot of the pulpit and rising through boards of box under the Rectors desk. Carpet by the entrance lifted back.

1600 Rev Derek Baines, Sharon Baines and the Verger, Irene Pickles were in church sweeping water out of Church. By this time level had dropped. Water was still visible under the pew. Churchyard flooded at the North East corner to a depth of approx of 2 feet. Boiler house flooded to a depth of about 18 inches (over the step). Main entrance still under water- Mike Redshaw made a barrier.

**Sunday 27th December**

0800 Rev Derek Baines, Jock Davidson and Robert Hawthornthwaite(Wardens) arrive to assess the building. Still standing water around the Church. Photographs taken. Services held in the school hall. Boiler house ‘bailed out’. The sump by the boiler house filled with approx 30 inches of water. Loaned a submersible pump, Jock Davidson used this very effectively.

**Tuesday 29th December**

Email sent to Diocese Advisory Committee (DAC) for advice, architect cc’d. Ecclesiastical insurance contacted by David Turner. Later phoned Rev Derek Baines. Heavy rain forecast. No sand bags available so compost bags from BandQ purchased and put in place. Carpets lifted following DAC advice. Telephone call from Stephen Blan of Quadra, insurance loss adjusters.

**Wednesday 30th December**

Leighton boiler engineer assessed boiler and certified ok, heating left on permanent setting. Concern expressed that water ingress may be from the ‘the sump’ outside the boiler house- keep an eye on the levels. Meeting in church with Stephen Blan . Discussed drying programme, raining. Boiler house emptied again.

**Thursday 31st December**

DAC advisors (Revd Conon Andrew Holiday and Mr Bill Buck) on site. Advised against dehumidifiers, advised general heritage based actions to prevent splitting of wood and floor slabs. Advised to reduce heating levels to slow drying process and keep main doors open whenever possible.

Boiler house slightly dry (weather slightly dry)

**In summary of The Flood:**

Initial consultation with our insurers (Ecclesiastical) shortly after Boxing Day discovery, would indicate that the damage caused by the flooding, plus the consequential redecoration, is fully covered, but as the drying out process is still in progress, this will not be finalised until approx. Spring 2016.

**Jock Davidson and Robert Hawthornthwaite**

**Church Wardens**.

**Legal and Administrative Information**

The Parish Church of Hoole St Michael is located on Liverpool Old Road, Much Hoole, near Preston.

The address for correspondence during 2015 was 16 Middlefield Avenue, Leyland, PR26 7AE.

**The Members of the Parochial Church Council**

Chairman: Rev Derek Baines

Vice Chairman: Eric Barker (until September 2015)

Churchwardens: Eric Barker (until September 2015)

 Jock Davidson (from September 2015)

 Bob Hawthornthwaite

Secretary: Andrea Susnik

Treasurer: Barbara Wood

Pastoral Assistant: Rona McClure

Synod Reps: Jane Elphick, Eunice Houghton, Jock Davidson

EX Officio: David Turner, Phil Norton, Julie Tanham, Jean Dewhurst

Members: Bill Carr, Kathleen Leigh, Ted Hopkins, Pearl Read, Jean Smallwood, Margaret Kirkman.

None of whom received any payment for their PCC services and were elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting or co-opted at a PCC meeting at a later date.

The PCC is a charity with Excepted Status given by the Charity Commission.

The names of the main bankers are Royal Bank of Scotland, Penwortham Branch, and Barclays Bank

**Aims and Organisation of the PCC**

The aim of the PCC is to co-operate with the Rector in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the Church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. For the Mission Statement refer to Appendix A.

The PCC is structured with officers of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer; policy decisions being taken by the whole of the members after discussion. There are two subsidiary organisations with designated status:

* The Friends of St Michael’s and Development Committee – see Appendix B
* Hoole St Michael’s Messy Church – see Appendix I

**Electoral Role and Average Attendance**

The number on the Electoral Roll is 110 – a decrease of 3 from 2014.

Our average weekly attendance is 68 with 6 children, a slight drop on 2014

**Objectives and Activities**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church and to become part of our Parish. The PCC maintains an overview of worship and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our Parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning the activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Commission’s guidance on public benefit, and in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. The PCC tries to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of the Parish community through:

* Worship, prayer; learning about the Gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus
* Provision of pastoral care for people living in the Parish
* Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St. Michael’s which falls within the working remit of The Friends of St Michael’s and Development Committee, which operates under the guidance of the PCC.

**Review of the Activities of the Church**

Issues discussed fully by the PCC include:

* Arrangements for our main festivals throughout the Church’s year;
* The welfare of parishioners, including those with any special needs;
* The progress of Michael’s Club is reported, the Minister also giving an overview of his involvement with the local Church and county schools;
* Financial issues affecting not only our own Parish and Diocese but the broader mission of the Church in general, incorporating wherever and whenever possible overseas assistance;
* The maintenance and improvement of the Church and Churchyard;
* Any issues arising from the Deanery Synod reports;
* Arrangements for regular ecumenical services throughout the year

**Main Events in the Life of the Church**

Voluntary help is willingly given by many members of the Church and community, in the preparation and implementation of the main events in the church year. This includes the compilation and distribution of a monthly magazine for the benefit of Church members, the wider community and others interested in the life of our Church. Details of the events of this year are covered in the various reports presented elsewhere in this report.

Appendix A St Michael’s Church Mission Statement

**Your God, Your Church, Here for You!**

Founded in the grace of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ, celebrating the love and service of the Lord and life; we the people of St Michael’s will share Christ’s love and values with people of all ages so that through prayer, teaching and sharing we will grow together in the love of God our creator.

We invite you to join us in

Our Worship

Our Faith

Our Fellowship

Our Mission

**May The Lord Bless You And Keep You**

Appendix B PCC Treasurer’s Report

A treasurer’s report is not normally part of this document. This year, however, it is our intention to provide as much information in advance of the APCM as we can. The result should be a more streamlined efficient meeting. If you have any queries, please submit them in writing to me, in advance of the APCM which will be held at 1930 hrs on the 14th March 2016 in St Michael’s C of E Primary School Hall.

All in all, the financial status of all our groups is in good health. All show a surplus this year and there is therefore an increase in overall cash holdings. (see page 24).

The PCC Barclays Savings account shows a significant increase in balance at year end. This is as a result of £16,0000 being transferred from the main Royal Bank of Scotland Account (it’s main source is the result of the submission of the Gift Aid claims outstanding from 2014 and 2013). However, as you will all be aware, quite a significant amount of expenditure is expected in 2016, in order to keep our church well maintained, so we may not be as financially healthy next year.

The Friends account has had very little movement in 2015 for reasons already covered elsewhere in this report. However, unlike 2014, they are now in the black. The major difference between the figures is in relation to the special appeal from 2014 which should be self-explanatory.

Messy Church started its own bank account this year – it is a “Designated” account, as is The Friends. Its operation therefore comes under the umbrella and control of the PCC but with the remit to operate on a day to day basis as agreed by the PCC.

All the other accounts in this report are “Restricted” and each respective Committee has control of its own finances. Because the Church groups are included in this report, they are able to claim charitable status.

**Appendix B (cont.) PCC Treasurer’s Report**

The operation, recording and reporting of all the church accounts is governed by the Charity Commission and the Church of England guidelines. A copy of this report is sent to Blackburn Diocese and the Charity Commission for their records together with online submissions for statistical use by the Diocese and Church of England.

Please note, any figures shown in orange/brown indicate that these funds are “restricted”. This means they have been donated for a special purpose and can only be spent on that purpose which must be clearly shown.

When the accounts were examined by Mr Harrison quite a few anomalies were raised and the relevant author was advised by email of any changes made on his recommendation. Could all those involved in writing up reports or producing financial figures please note the following:

* **Donations**: Must be listed by name with the amount given to each recipient and recorded in each written report. The total donations given should be shown in the relevant finance report.
* **Fund-Raising**: GROSS INCOME figures should always be recorded and ALL EXPENDITURE recorded in the outgoings, the difference between the two being the NET profit or loss as the case may be for each event. In some cases this is not being done.
* **Gift Aided Donations**: A signed authority (preferably in the form of a Gift Aid form) is an absolute necessity before any claims to HMRC can be made. Claims to HMRC should be submitted in a timely manner, ideally within the first 3 months after the year end. It should be noted that a newly worded Gift Aid form will be in force from April 2016 for all new tax paying donors.
* **Balancing the Books**: Please ensure accurate recording of all monies received and spent with related information such as date, who from or to and what it is for; include back up receipts and paperwork if at all possible. No receipt or Invoice? Then write a note in your file. Scraps of paper or scribbles on used envelopes should be avoided!
* **Debtors and Creditors:** Please take this section into account when sending me your financial information. If any assistance is needed, please contact me.
* **Assets:** These items should be reviewed annually both in their value and whether they are obsolete or new acquisitions – eg the tables and the vase purchased in 2015

The examined accounts will be made available to all via email, hard copy in church, the website, church notice board and church magazine and on request. It will be available approximately 14 days in advance of the APCM in accordance with guidelines, thus giving every opportunity to review, comment or query.

Where there are differences of any significance, or the difference may not be clear, between the 2015 and 2014 figures, I have supplied an explanation under separate cover as being too detailed to include in this report. This will be distributed in the same manner as the accounts.

**Breakdown of Donations to Charity by the PCC**

FOMO £900.00 SHARE £900.00

Okorum Village £900.00 1st Hoole Scouts Group £900.00

Royal British Legion £80.00 Barchester Fund £1,276.00

Michael's Club £70.00 St Michael's School £3,250.00

**Total Donations: £8,276.00**

**Barbara Wood**

**Honorary Treasurer**

Appendix C The Friends of St Michael’s and Development Committee

The Friends have had a difficult year. Our Chairman Eric Barker suffered ill health part way through the year, from which sadly he did not recover, and his death has had a significant impact on the Friends. Eric had chaired the Friends for a number of years, and been very much the inspiration behind many of our fundraising and social events. In particular, the week-long programme to celebrate the transit of Venus in 2004, and more recently the project to design and erect a weather vane to commemorate the 2012 transit.

Consequently, our programme was limited in 2015, and our main event was the "Band in the Park" held on 11th July. There were moments when the committee felt it would be a miracle if the event was in any way successful, but due to everybody's hard work, commitment and not a little determination, those attending enjoyed a variety of stalls, food and entertainments, and of course the band. We raised £757 for Friends funds, which in the circumstances we felt pleased with.

Towards the end of the year, I was elected the new Chair of the Friends, and we produced a newsletter updating our members and commemorating Eric's significant contribution as Chair. He will be a very hard act to follow, but we hope to develop the Friends in a manner sympathetic to Eric's leadership and style.

We have met as a committee in December and welcomed three new members - Jock Davidson our new Church Warden, Julie Bayldon and Peter Parker. We have agreed to update both our membership list and the method by which we contact people, and several Friends have already responded positively to our suggestion that newsletters could be sent electronically and subscriptions paid by Standing Order. Both these measures will reduce our admin costs considerably. We have also resolved to hold a fund raising social event in the summer, and to offer two further events to Friends and their guests during the year. Our finances look healthy, with £40,092.19 in our bank accounts. However we are aware that our reserves are reducing and that there are a number of significant projects coming up relating to the fabric of our ancient church, and our Treasurer Sam Burns advises us not to be too complacent!

Many thanks are due to the committee members who have pulled together during this difficult year, and also to David Turner and Sam Burns, our efficient secretary and treasurer respectively.

**Jane Elphick**

**Chair of the Friends of St Michael's.**

**Appendix D Messy Church**

Saturday Afternoons again were made over to Messy Church, our alternative Congregation met ten times during 2015. Early in the year gave us the Pharisee and the Tax Collector, followed by making mobiles to illustrate Temptation. We healed Bartimaeus then concentrated on Easter. Handicrafts included making very fiddly bead bracelets and microphones made out of kitchen roll tubes. We made jointed figures and Middle-Eastern houses.

During the Band in the Park event there was the opportunity to make these microphones and jointed figures again.

After the summer break September’s theme was the biggest party ever. No party is complete without pass the parcel. October had us making horses and carts, a fish collage to display in Church and our food craft girls excelled at making pillars of cloud and fire using Ice cream cones, strawberries and marshmallows.

Our display at the October event at the Village Hall was very busy.

We had two donations enabling us to buy more puppets and special thanks go to Rebecca Catterall for attending a puppet training course. This resulted in our puppets being used to great effect during the year, culminating in the real meaning of Christmas. We know the congregation enjoy the performances in Church.

**Jean Dewhurst**

**Co-ordinator**

**Appendix E Michael’s Club**

The group continues to meet every Sunday during school term time except the 4th Sunday of the month when the children and their families are encouraged to attend the Family Service in church. Michael’s Club starts at 10.15am and the children continue to join the church congregation approximately half way through the 10.30 am service.

The format of Michael’s Club continues with the use of a DVD set called ‘Friends and Heroes’. The children watch the videos which relate to Bible Stories. These are followed by lessons which are used in conjunction with the videos. The children read a prayer at the end of the 10.30am service, taken from the ‘Friends and Heroes lessons.

We have 20 children who attend Michael’s Club, but the average attendance is 12. Some children can only attend when they are at home with their mothers, and on their fathers weekends are missing (two families). The rest of the children attend when they have no other family commitments or activities.

Michael’s Club donated £50.00 to the Water Appeal. We believe it is essential for children to be aware of their Christian social responsibilities.

Above all, we aim to develop and encourage each other in the faith of God so that each one of us can honestly say **‘Thy Will Be Done’**

**Kathleen Leigh**

**Michael’s Club Leader**

**Appendix F The Ladies’ Group**

**Aims and Objectives**

* To promote friendship
* To introduce others into the fellowship of the Church
* To give practical service to both Church and Community

The year of 2015 followed in the previous years’ successes, with an excellent programme of events including our 40th anniversary celebration. A group photograph taken specifically for this event was distributed to the 40 members who attended a most enjoyable dinner at the Rufford Arms Hotel in February to which Mrs Jean Spalding, our original leader, was warmly welcomed. We also donated a brass flower vase to St Michael’s Church with the following inscription: “Hoole Church Ladies’ Group 40th Anniversary – February 2015 - In perpetual memory of Past Members”.

The group membership was maintained at a healthy 45 and our well-received programme included a trip to Leighton Hall, near Carnforth, in early summer. Again, following the success of our garden party in June, our main fund raising event, we were able to donate to local worthy causes including:

* St Michael’s church in memory of Alice Wood £25
* Leprosy Mission £140
* Hoole St Michael’s Social Committee – Tables £105
* Hoole Village Hall £50
* Derian House £522.50
* St Michael’s Primary School £100
* Michael’s Club £100
* 1st Hoole Uniformed Scout Group £100
* Tracey Taylor School of Dancing £50
* Hoole St Michael’s Messy Church £50
* St Michael’s Church – Brass Vase valued at £567.54

**Total Donated £1810.04**

Following yet another well attended Christmas Coffee Evening at the beginning of December we sent a sizeable cheque to the Derian House Children’s Hospice in Chorley (see above).

The group ran a tombola stall at the Much Hoole Spring and Christmas Fairs and were pleased to donate the proceeds to the Much Hoole New Village Hall Fund (see above).

We hope for another successful year in 2016 and thank all the members for their excellent support.

**Erika Penrose**

**Group Leader**

**Appendix G The Men’s Fellowship**

**Aims and Objectives:**

* To promote fellowship between the men of the Parish
* To give practical and financial help to both Church and community
* To provide financial assistance to both local and national and international charities
* To raise funds to carry out the above by, and through, annual subscriptions, raffles and the organisation of an annual race night, and to finance our monthly meetings.

The year began in much the same way as previous years with our monthly meetings and a mix of interesting guest speakers; one such meeting being our traditional joint meeting with the Church Ladies Group.

However during the earlier part of the year we had become increasingly concerned at the dwindling numbers at these meetings, which came to a head at our AGM in May, when only 5 members were in attendance. Those who were present were keen that the Men’s Fellowship should continue although some changes would have to be made. On a positive note this meeting authorised the continuing support to various charities and a payment to the PCC for churchyard maintenance.

The following donations and payments were authorised:-

* St Michael’s Church (towards Churchyard maintenance) £300
* St Michael’s Social committee (cost of one new tables for social events) £105
* Meningitis Now (Charity promoted locally by the Wignall Family) £100
* Salvation Army (Charity supported regularly by Men’s Fellowship) £50
* Scope (Charity supported regularly by Men’s Fellowship) £50
* **TOTAL DONATED £605**

The following Committee members were re-elected at the AGM.

Chairman Bob Hawthornthwaite.

Secretary Stuart Tighe.

Treasurer Stan Pickles.

Speaker’s Booking Secretary Ted Hopkins.

Eric Barker had notified us of his wish to step down as race night coordinator, and this position was held over in abeyance, however due to the seemingly decline in interest in this event it was thought that we may have to look to a different event in future for our fund raising.

During the late summer we were saddened by the death of two of our members, Eric Barker and Peter Blakeley, both will be greatly missed by both the Men’s Fellowship and the Church in general.

Our first meeting after the summer break was an open meeting held this time in the lounge of the village hall; it was suggested at this meeting that for a twelve month trial period, we should hold our monthly meetings in the village hall lounge as a possible way of encouraging new members. Our year ended in the traditional way with a Christmas meal held for the second year at Bryn Cottage, this choice being widely acceptable to the membership, and all who attended enjoyed a pleasant evening.

**Stan Pickles**

**Treasurer**

**Appendix H The Social Committee**

**Aims and Objectives**

* To promote friendship
* To introduce others into the fellowship of the Church
* To give practical service to both Church and community
* To give financial assistance to local charities by organising fund raising events during the year.

Events this year started in February with a very enjoyable Parish Party, entertainment provided by the Southport U3A Drama Group followed by refreshments.

A Parish amble along the canal at Lathom was enjoyed by everyone on a lovely Spring evening in May, followed by welcome refreshments afterwards.

In July we organised a trip to the Hot Ice Show in Blackpool which was a fantastic show and extremely enjoyed by everyone. So much so that many requests were made for us to go again next year!

The Harvest Supper on 12th October was once again a tremendous success and very well attended. Hot pot pies and a delicious assortment of cakes were provided for the supper. Entertainment was by a local Country and Western Duo together with a short display of Line Dancing from six members of a local line dancing class. A very enjoyable evening was had by everyone.

The Committee purchased tables for use by the church groups through the help of donations from the Mens Fellowship and the Ladies Group. These have been added as an asset in the finance section of this report.

The committee also provided refreshments in church following the Christmas Carol Service.

The money raised from these events has enabled the committee to make donations this year to :

* St Michael’s Church in Memory of Eric Barker £50
* Help for Heroes £60

Further donations will be made in January 2016

**Helen Ross**

**Treasurer**

Appendix I The Church Flower Fund

The flower ladies work on a rota to decorate the church on a weekly basis. This is funded by donors throughout the year starting at Easter after a Lent of no flowers (other than the daffodils on Mother's Day). We are currently updating our sponsor records to ensure that whenever possible we can provide what may be of personal significance as near to the sponsor's wish as possible. The role also includes the special decorations at Easter, Harvest, Remembrance Day and Christmas.

**July:** Revenue raised at The Band in the Park on the 11th July was a “Friends” enterprise incorporating all the church groups and outside stalls as well. The Flower Ladies had a stall selling flower arrangements. Our contribution to the overall profit that day was £83.50.

**September:** At harvest the windows are filled with donated fruit and vegetables. After the service these products, along with donated harvest baskets, are given to local people (this list was updated). All remaining fruit and vegetables went to St. Catherine's Hospice and non- perishables to the Food Bank.

**October:** At the community service held on a sunny Sunday afternoon at the Village Hall, we worked alongside the Methodist Church with four displays. They were inspired by the history of our church and the chapel from 1208 to today. The messy church also kindly decorated glass jars for us to fill with flowers and give out to local people.

**November:** The church was decorated with large poppies in vases for Remembrance Day as well as hand-made poppies surrounding a Tower of London poppy. At the Craft Fair a demonstration of flower arranging encouraging visitors to take part was held.

**December:** For Christmas a rooted Christmas tree was purchased - hopefully to last for many years! Miniature roses in pots were also used in the windows and then planted in the border area. Arranging the church flowers two weeks before the event proves a success - allowing the junior school children to enjoy the surroundings at their church service before they break up.

**Weddings and Funerals:**

Over the year we also covered 6 weddings - working closely with the couples offering flowers to suit on windows, pedestals and lychgate.

**Donations Received and Given**

As well as financial donations there are many valued gifts received such as:

* Harvest bread sheaf from Mr and Mrs W Swarbrick from Croft bakery
* Christmas wreath from Mrs Ball
* Fruit and veg from Woods, Knoll lane
* St Michael’s Church (towards cost of new CD Player) £100

Flowers are there to remind us of the beauty of the world we live in, and to be in thanks to our Lord.

**Julie Bayldon**

**Flower Group Leader**

**Appendix J The Pastoral Team**

Our Pastoral Assistant, Mrs Rona McClure has continued to work very hard visiting the housebound and sick in their own homes and in hospitals and care homes.

We have had a number of people admitted to hospital this year so her travel has been extensive.

Rona continues to support Baptism preparation and takes part in the Baptism services creating a bridge between church and laity. Without her support life would be very different for those in need.

**Derek Baines**

**Rector**

Appendix K The Ministry Team

The team met twice in 2015.

Our June meeting looked at the proposed “Vision 2026” which was now launched.

We planned the village act of community worship which will involve the Methodist Chapel as a replacement for the historic walking day. The above was held on the 4th October in the Village Hall put together by a committee comprising members of both churches. We were blessed with good weather and held the service outdoors supported by St Michael’s school choir. Because we had put a leaflet through every letterbox in the 2 ½ villages, people heard our singing and knew exactly what was happening. 85 people attended the event.

We agreed a change in the pattern of worship at Christmas moving the Christmas Carol Service to 4.30 p.m. and the Christmas Day Eucharist to 9.30 a.m. Both were a success.

In November we were joined by the Reverend Dave Banbury, Diocesan Missioner for advice.

We completed a “healthy Churches Audit” and were pleasantly surprised by the positive way in which St Michael’s works and is viewed.

We looked at the church past, present and future recognising the changing demographics within our community and within the Church of England at large.

We will meet again in January 2016.

**Derek Baines**

**Rector**





















**Independent Examiner’s Report for the year ended 31st December 2015**

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2015, which are set out on pages 17-24 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 (using the receipts and payments method) and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 3(3) and section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of Regulation 25.

Basis of this Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner’s Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
* to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
* to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
1. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

# M.W. Harrison F.C.A.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

These accounts are to be promulgated at least 14 days in advance of the APCM (14th March 2016)

They will then be presented at the APCM and when signed will be accepted as a true and accurate record

The Chairperson: Rev Derek Baines \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Treasurer: Barbara Wood \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_