

**The United Benefice of
Lichfield: Saint Michael and Saint Mary
Wall: Saint John**

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish
of Lichfield, St Michael and St Mary
Registered Charity Number 1139017

**ANNUAL REPORT
and
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
of the
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
for the year ended 31st December 2022**

Our Vision:

(based on the Diocesan Vision Statement)

As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we pray that the people in our parish encounter a church that is confident in the gospel, knows and loves the community, and is excited to find God already at work in the world.

We pray for a church that:

- **reflects the richness and variety of our community and is intentionally inclusive.**
- **partners with others, especially St Michael's School, in seeking the common good and working for a more just world.**
- **recognises and responds to God's call to be good stewards of creation.**
- **offers opportunities for everyone to grow in faith and active discipleship.**

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A. Administrative Information

Saint Michael and St Mary is a parish with one centre of worship, the Parish Church.

Saint Michael on Greenhill
Church Street
Lichfield
Staffordshire
WS13 6ED

It is part of the Diocese of Lichfield and is situated in the Deanery of Lichfield.

The correspondence address is:

The United Benefice Office
St Michael's Church
Church Street
Lichfield
Staffordshire
WS13 6ED

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent (Licensed to Parish)
Non-Stipendiary (Licensed to Parish)

Abbie Walsh (from April 2022)
Ruth Bull

Churchwardens:

Sue Jones
Lyn Shiel

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Liz Clarke
Ted Green (PCC Secretary Jan-June)
Steve Oliver

Lay Members:

Ray Allen
Maureen Brand
Richard Brooks
David Easton
Lynn Edge
June Frayn
Mike Godfrey (Lay Vice-Chair)
Mike Jones
Brenda Liptrot
Viv Oliver (Treasurer)
Joe Sneddon
Alan Toplis
Veronica Morris (PCC Secretary June to December))

B. Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The appointment of members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. Members of the current Parochial Church Council and Ministry Team, guided by the Holy Spirit, proactively seek to draw church members into participation in all aspects of church life and governance. We strive to foster fully participating and inclusive congregations across the various services and activities.

C. Objectives and Activities

St Michael and St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, The Venerable Prebendary Simon Baker (until April 2021), in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church of St Michael on Greenhill.

During 2021 Saint Michael's has been engaged in mission and ministry guided by the current Mission Action Plan.

The PCC sees the core purpose of worship in the following terms:

As God's worshipping family,
sharing Christian faith,
hope and love with others.

D. Public Benefit

The trustees of the Charity are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit and have had regard to it in their administration of the Charity.

The trustees believe that by promoting the work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Lichfield: Saint Michael and Saint Mary it helps to promote the whole mission of the Church (pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical) more effectively, within the Ecclesiastical Parish, and that in doing so it provides a benefit to the public by:

Providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers.

Promoting Christian values, and service by members of the Church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

E. SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

The PCC has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). Safeguarding is a standard item on all meeting agendas. It is a subject matter that is taken very seriously by the PCC and appropriate strategies are decided upon to ensure we are fully compliant with best practice and guidance.

All PCC members have completed a DBS check and completed C0 and C1 of the Diocesan Safeguarding training. Our Churchwardens and leaders of certain activities have completed C2 Safeguarding training. All the Ministry Team members have completed C3 training and the Rector completed C4 training.

F. Mission and Ministry

Review and Prospective of Parish and United Benefice

I was licensed to the parish in May of 2022. I joined a Church and community which many creative and worthwhile things were already happening and I am grateful to work with and among so many committed and faithful people, both clergy and lay.

In August we returned to a fuller way of worshipping, including the ministry of servers, midweek Eucharists, and the sharing of the common cup at communion again. We have grown in confidence with our social and community events as well, and it has been good to see people benefit once again from gatherings such as the film club. Our special services for the Advent and Christmas seasons have been well attended and a joy to celebrate together. We have gathered in prayer and study, for example, our introduction to Matthew's Gospel and Advent quiet day. Our Mother's Union has many faithful members and continues to enhance the spiritual life of St Michael's. I am grateful for those who continue to take communion to those at home, and offer worship to those in care homes, so that our connection to those members of our community who are not able to attend in person is sustained. Our Magazine distributors continue to make their deliveries, keeping this important connection going.

We have developed our mission and outreach with a range of activities – mixture of both new and existing things, including a Place of Welcome over the winter in partnership with Lichfield Community Fire Station, a "family film club" with free lunches during half terms and holidays and an Eco Fortnight

Thanks to the commitment of all those who support and lead, our children's ministry goes from strength to strength. We have a lively and well attending monthly Family Praise, and our Messy Church and First Steps worship activities are thriving both in number and in spirituality. There were 23 Baptism Services during 2022 with congregation members acting as sponsors at these.

The varied and high-quality musical tradition of St Michael's continues to enhance our worship and offer us a little foretaste of heaven both on Sundays and in our special seasonal services. Our new Junior Choir are flourishing and we look forward to

developing their role in leading our worship. It has been wonderful to hear our bells rung once again after Covid – with many thanks to our ringers.

We have worked on sustaining our close relationship with St Michael's School this year. We have worshipped with the staff and children, both in school services, and in our Sunday morning Family Praise service. We have started a small Homework Club for St Michael's children, and a school uniform exchange project. We continue also to reach out to the other schools in the parish and hope to develop this in the future, including with our new ecumenical "Open the Book" schools team.

This has been a brilliant year for us in terms of "getting back to normal" after Covid and developing new directions for our ministry as well. We have much to do together in the coming years in developing our discipleship and finding ways to serve our community with its many challenges. I hope that our Parish Rooms project may offer us some new possibilities in this area also. I look forward to our next year together, with much excitement and hope.

Rev'd Abbie Walsh

During 2022 St. Michael's held a total of 23 baptisms, 4 weddings, 21 funerals

G. STATUTORY REPORTS

1. Electoral Roll Report

At the end of 2022 there were 144 people on the electoral roll of whom 11 were resident outside the parish. This was a reduction of 5 from the previous year. The electoral roll is really important and therefore people are being encouraged to add their names, not only those who attend Sunday services but also adults who take part in worship events for young people

Mike Godfrey

2. Annual Report on the work of the PCC

Both PCC and standing committee met six times during the year. With the appointment of the new Rector a review of how the meetings were organised and structured has taken place. Standing committee now meets two weeks before PCC to set the agenda and the PCC meetings now follows a standard agenda including ministry, church buildings and churchyard and finance.

Under ministry PCC has received regular reports from and provided feedback to the rector on worship, mission and pastoral matters. The return to the common cup following Covid was closely monitored. Of note have been the strengthening of relationships by the Rector with the school including a homework club and a school uniform bank, the re-introduction of the film club for grown-ups and the launch of a family film club. Children's ministry is also flourishing with First steps and Messy church. With regards to safeguarding a priority has to get all PCC members DBS checked and completing the required training – this has been achieved.

PCC have also regular updates on the new church meeting rooms project and approved expenditure to repair leaks in the church roof. The church clock has been repaired and is back in position and the next step is to have it electrified. Similarly plans to put in a new AV system are being progressed.

Outside the church, PCC has received regular reports on matters to do with the churchyard and approved Faculty applications to the diocese to support tree planting and tree removal, hedge replacements and a new watering system. A bench outside the main door of the church has been repositioned and approval sought to replace the defective bench close by.

If you want to know more about the work of the PCC or get more involved please look for the approved minutes on the notice board at the back of church or find them on our website (from April 2023). In addition There will be summaries of the work of PCC in the church magazine.

*Veronica Morris
PCC Secretary*

3. Churchwardens Report – Our Worship Centres (Fabric, Goods and Ornaments)

General maintenance of the church has continued this year, including the PAT Testing of all our electrical equipment.

We are very grateful for the donation of a fridge which has meant that we can now store perishable food in the kitchen for our 'Family Film Shows', 'Messy Church', and our monthly 'Film Club'.

PCC approved the purchase of new 'Cinctures' in red and white which are the belts that our servers use.

The inventory and log book are signed and up to date.

*Sue Jones and Lyn Shiel
Churchwardens*

4. Finance Review (Treasurer's Report)

See separate report.

FEES REPORT by PAT TOPLIS

St Michaels Church, Lichfield

PCC Fees Account

2022

Brought Forward		501.79		
INCOME			EXPENSES	
Bellringers	480.00		Cash Fees Float	4,000.00
Burials	2,434.00		LDBF Assigned Fees	4,685.00
Choir	80.00		PCC General Account	10,182.00
Crem Only	1,562.00		Sexton	560.00
Funeral Service	2,571.00			
Heating	840.00			
Intern Crem Rem	3,320.00			19,427.00
Monuments	1,576.00			
Organist	1,435.00		Carried forward	190.64
	0.00			
Sexton	560.00			
Verger	985.00			
Registers	0.00			
Visiting Minister Fee	836.85			
Weddings	2,436.00			
Other				
		19,115.85		
		<u>£19,617.64</u>		<u>£19,617.64</u>

St Michaels Church, Lichfield

PCC Fees Account Cash

2,022

Brought Forward		0.00		0.00
INCOME			EXPENSES	
From PCC Fees Account		4,000.00	Verger	985.00
			Organist	1,435.00
			Choir	80.00
			Bells	480.00
			Retired Ministers	836.85
			Sexton	0.00
			Cash banked	183.15
			Carried Forward	0.00
		<u>£4,000.00</u>		<u>£4,000.00</u>

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MICHAEL AND ST MARY LICHFIELD

I report on the Fees Account of the Parochial Church Council of St Michael and St Mary Lichfield ("The PCC") for the year ended 31 December 2022.

To the best of my knowledge and understanding the accounting records and preparation of accounts meet the required criteria.

No matters have come to my attention which are unclear and in need of further explanation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MWA Godfrey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

MWA Godfrey

6 March 2023

7 Seward Close

Lichfield

Staffordshire

WS14 9DL

5. Deanery Synod Report

This report on the proceedings of Lichfield Deanery Synod in 2022 has been written so that it can be used for the APCMs of St Michael & St Mary Lichfield and St John Wall.

The Lichfield Rural Dean, Revd Jan Waterfield, resigned in mid-2022 for health reasons. She was replaced by Revd Lynn McKeon, the Asst Rural Dean, and our Rector, Revd Abbie Walsh, has now been appointed as Asst Rural Dean. Ted Green remains as Synod Treasurer until the end of this trimester in mid-2023 and will then be retiring from the post.

The elected lay representatives to Deanery Synod for 2022 were:

St Michael & St Mary: Liz Clarke, Ted Green and Steve Oliver

St John, Wall:

Shaping for Mission (S4M). At the first meeting of the year Chris Baker, who had been chairing the Deanery S4M team, gave an overview of the work done in the preceding two years to meet Diocesan requirements. These had included the shaping of deaneries to be effective at developing discipleship, encouraging vocation and inspiring evangelism. Lichfield Deanery had made recommendations and developed a plan for the Diocese to implement, but 'the goalposts had been shifted' and the Diocese now required deaneries to implement their own plans, without assistance. At the last meeting of the year Abbie Walsh, who had taken over the chair from Chris, presented proposals for three initiatives that the Deanery could take forward during 2023 (see below).

Lichfield Deanery Synod held four meetings in 2022, none by Zoom.

16 February at St Anne's Chasetown. RAISE. Following Chris Baker's presentation, Rod Clark (St Chad's) spoke about a parallel mission to encourage churches to go deeper into their prayer lives. The aim of RAISE would be for each member church of Lichfield Deanery to be a House of Prayer, expressed in a way that would be appropriate to its ethos, tradition and spirituality. Rod explained five dimensions of healthy prayer and made several recommendations on how they could be achieved. He explained that he was planning to set up an implementation group by Easter and asked for volunteers to join him.

9 June at St James the Great, Longdon. Richard Westbrook (St Anne's Chasetown) spoke about **Hands at Work in Africa**. This project started 20 years ago, working in eight countries in the NE of Africa, to help local churches care effectively for the orphaned, widowed and dying by setting up Life Centres. Richard and his wife became involved 16 years ago and set up Link for Life, helping young people from the wider Penkridge area self-fund work in Africa for the project. St Anne's was providing financial help to Hands at Work, but there were many ways to support the project and Richard said he would be happy to provide further information.

12 September at St Chad's Lichfield. Burntwood Be a Friend Community Project. Kathy Lewis, Volunteer Coordinator of BBAF, gave a brief outline of how several churches and charities came together at the start of Covid to help vulnerable residents. In November 2021 the project received a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and was able to lease a shop that is central to the project. As well as providing

free or cheap food to members BBAF also runs well-being activities for the vulnerable and gardening and walking groups.

22 November at Christ Church Gentleshaw. Implementation of S4M in 2022/3. In her role as Chair of the Deanery S4M team, Abbie explained that the new team had prioritised three areas of the Deanery Vision for action in 2022/3. Dates for planning meetings had been set and **all were welcome to attend, particularly those with expertise in the subject** (just let Abbie know in advance):

Wednesday 7 December 2022 – Cost of living and new estates

Wednesday 28 March 2023 – Young people and schools

Wednesday 26 April 2023 – Care for Creation

Wednesday 28 June 2023 – Review of progress and setting of next steps.

Abbie explained that nothing would be achieved without prayer and RAISE is there to help us pray. A copy of her presentation was sent to Synod members and is available to members of the congregation through Ted Green.

Ted

Green

PARISH INFORMATION

The following are a list of groups and activities that are an integral part of our Church's mission, ministry and fellowship.

Children and Youth Work

- First Steps
- Messy Church
- Junior Praise
- Camas
- Family Film Club

Our Worshipping Life

- Bellringers
- Music Department
- Junior Choir

Church Fellowship

- Mothers' Union
- Film Club
- Tuesday Club
- Walking Group
- Sewing Group

Charitable Work

- Pathway Project
- Lichfield Foodbank
- Water Aid
- Angel tree
- MacMillan
- St Giles
- Childrens Society
- Embrace
- US (United Society – formerly USPG)
- Church Army

Schools

- St Michael's VC Primary School
- Scotch Orchard Primary School
- Streethay Primary School
- Five Spires Primary Academy
- Abacus Nursery
- King Edward VI School
- Saxon Hill School