



Annual Report 2018

Discipleship

Outreach

Serving the Community



Reverend Canon Simon Jones
Rector, St Michael's Stoke Gifford

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

Hebrews 13:8

I spoke recently about one of our key Church values: ‘continuity and change’.

We value being faithful guardians of an unchanging message about the person and work of Jesus, and the need for personal salvation and sanctification. We also recognise that ‘change’ is here to stay! Approaches to ‘discipleship’, ‘outreach’ and ‘service’ will need to change according to culture and context.

So what does ‘continuity and change’ look like for 2018/19?

Continuity

As a result of gathering leaders together in 2018, we discovered a need to re-focus our Church’s vision. The PCC, Ministry Heads and Core Leadership Team have developed an action plan which sets out our vision, values and key objectives over the next three years to further the vision of St Michael’s to be a Christian Heart at the Centre of the Community by living to make a difference.

This plan covers the period from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2021. It is a ‘living document’ and is being updated as conditions and priorities change.

During 2018 we improved how we ‘reach’ people, strengthened how we ‘teach’ people and resourced how we can ‘release’ people.

Later in this report, you’ll see many example of how we have lived this out in 2018, through Discipleship, Outreach and Serving the Community.

Change

Exciting change for Joel Preston, who stepped down as Youth minister at St Michael's to take a national role with Youth for Christ. Joel has now become one of our Mission partners, and we're excited to continue our support for his work in this wider Youth ministry. We've welcomed Ewen Greenlees, Megan Clews and Chris Fuller to the Youth team and they are doing a fantastic job.

Big change for Dave Carey, who has served as facilities manager for 22 years. Dave was an integral part in the extension and refurbishment of the Old School rooms in 2003. In the early 1990's he shared a vision that the neighbouring land would be owned by the Church. Dave has played a key role in the vision for the St Michael's centre and in making it a reality. His attention to detail and instinct for cost-saving enabled the St Michael's Centre to be opened in 2015. Dave, we shall miss you, but look forward to worshipping alongside you in your retirement.

More change for Karen Needham, who has sensed God calling her to step down as Children's minister. Karen has led our Children's ministry for nearly 15 years. Her heart for encouraging and developing young disciples has been inspirational to several generations of families attending our Church. Karen has developed Messy Church, grown a team of Sunday Club leaders, led ministry in the school, overseen pre-school ministry via Beehive, creche and been a member of Preschool and Nursery management committee (which she will continue with!). I am so grateful for Karen's service, her leadership and wisdom. We look forward to all that God will lead her into at St Michael's over the coming years.

All change for the Churchwardens too. Alex Clare steps down as Churchwarden after 6 years of service. As a member of our core leadership team, he has brought wisdom, faith, determination and an unwavering care for people. Enjoy retirement Alex and thank you for sharing the journey with Ian Osborne (our other wonderful Warden) over the six years of your tenure.

Change management has been led by Ian, as Director of Ops, Laura, Alison, Joe, Andy, and Caroline in the Church office. They have served with all the encouragement that good administration brings. Well done to you all.



2018 Changed into 2019

My thanks to Mark Watkins, as PCC secretary, and all PCC members for your leadership and teamwork during the year. As we reform the PCC at the APCM, my thanks to those stepping down from office this year. The St Michael's Church Centre trustees have served alongside the PCC to make sure our buildings facilitate our Vision. Thank you to John Spens, our chair of SMCC, and the whole team for keeping our focus on *building a community* not simply a *community building*.

Over the coming months, we will be adding several new key staff team positions.

We welcome Tom Benyon as our newly appointed Associate Vicar. Tom will be taking some responsibility for small group discipleship, teaching and ministry on new housing areas. Welcome to Tom, Sara, Eli, Zac and Rafa as they move shortly.

By the time you read this, we will have advertised for two significant roles in our 'next gen' leadership. Children's minister and Youth Minister. Please pray for the right people to apply and for wisdom for our interview panels.

We do hope you can join us for our half night of prayer on Thursday 30 May from 7.30pm until midnight.

Prayer is the engine room for the church and the more we pray, the more we see God's hand at work in our church life.

Change for Simon

Don't worry! I'm not leaving St Michael's, but I have decided to step down as Area Dean for Kingswood and South Gloucestershire. I have enjoyed 8 years of service in this role serving the 20+ Churches in the deanery. The time has come to refocus my energies on St Michael's and the leadership required for us to grow to the next stage.

My thanks to Julie Bradley for her partnership in leadership here and for enabling me to take the wider responsibility of Area Dean. Julie's pastoral care at St Michael's continues to be a blessing and I look forward to our ongoing partnership in the gospel.

Thank you to you all.

We, together, are the Church. The Church was never meant to be a me thing, but an us thing. Lets 'make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace' (Ephesians 4:3), as we continue into 2019.

Love to you all,



Discipleship in 2018

Strengthen How We Teach

At our vision night in 2018 we launched 'The Bible Course', an 8-session course helping us explore the world's bestseller. It proved accessible and interactive, and was used by individuals and Lifegroups as well as the focus for our Sunday morning teaching at Church. In the early part of 2019 we are making available another course, run through Lifegroups, entitled 'The Wisdom House' based on a best selling book by Rob Parsons.



Discipleship through Children's Ministry

In Sunday Club our aim is to "have fun together while growing in our relationship with God" and we very much see it as this being for the adults and children alike. We have 5 groups ages from birth to 11 years old, which meet each Sunday morning during the 10.30 service. In Creche (birth to 2 1/2) and Bubbles (2 1/2 to 5) we use the Imaginor programme which tells Bible stories using a puppet called Jack and in Splash (5 to 7 year olds), X-Stream (7 to 9 year olds) and Pathfinders (9 to 11 year olds) we base what we do on Scripture Union Material. We are blessed with lots of children and a team of over 40 adults.

Discipleship through Youth Ministry

The youth discipleship groups have been restructured this year as we observed areas for change and chatted with the young people. The new programme launched in January 2019 with groups called FXG (Years 7-9) and WORD (Years 10-11). Both groups meet on a Wednesday evening and Sunday morning. We have seen an amazing level of growth.

Particular highlights have been the Youth Christmas Ball and the Annual Youth Retreat. The Christmas ball was an amazing time to gather and celebrate. We saw 30 young people attend including some from our outreach youth group, CLUB. The night included reception drinks, a 3-course Christmas meal, a quiz and a disco including Jack Bishop's world-famous dancing! In February 2019 the Youth Retreat saw 4 leaders and 15 young people head off for three days and we were overjoyed at the feeling of family among the young people. It was amazing to see them meeting God and spurring each other on. It was also great to see Sam Bretton and Jonny Mead step up and lead worship for the retreat.



Discipleship through Pastoral Ministry

A huge amount of care and prayer goes on within the life of St Michael's wherever people are naturally connected – for example in Life Groups, friendship groups, ministry areas and support networks (like the young mums). A team of people who have a particular heart for pastoral ministry make themselves available to support the work in specific ways – offering prayer ministry during Sunday services and celebrations, or by being available to listen as a pastoral presence in the Coffee Shop during the week, and responding to specific pastoral needs that need a particular response as they arise. In February Louise Mill from Network training delivered a training day on Listening skills, and a number of people are currently accessing the bi-monthly 'Life Recovery' training course provided by Crisis Centre Ministries. We joined in with the Archbishop of Canterbury's call to prayer with the 'Thy Kingdom come' initiative in May, and have recently launched a monthly prayer diary to help people pray for all that is going on in the life of the church. It was great to be able to host the 'Honesty over Silence' event with Patrick Regan in November. This is now being followed up with a pilot 'Kintsugi Hope' group, which seeks to help people explore issues like anxiety, depression and low self-esteem in a safe and supportive environment.

Discipleship through Lifegroups

We continue to try to develop an organic culture of discipleship within our Lifegroups. We aim to not only grow our groups numerically but spiritually too. We aspire to equip members and leaders by deepening their biblical knowledge and encouraging their prayer and worship life, enabling everyone wishing to engage to become deeper followers of Jesus. We believe that they are places of challenge, as well as security. A place to share the highs and lows, have fun together and care for each other cultivating a sense of community and family. Over the course of the last year our Lifegroup Leaders have had the opportunity of attending a variety of training sessions, we have an in-depth two year discipleship course running which some Lifegroup Leaders have signed up to, along with others who are doing the Growing Leaders Course. A wide variety of resource materials have been used across Lifegroups to best meet the needs of those attending.

Discipleship through the Pre-school and Nursery

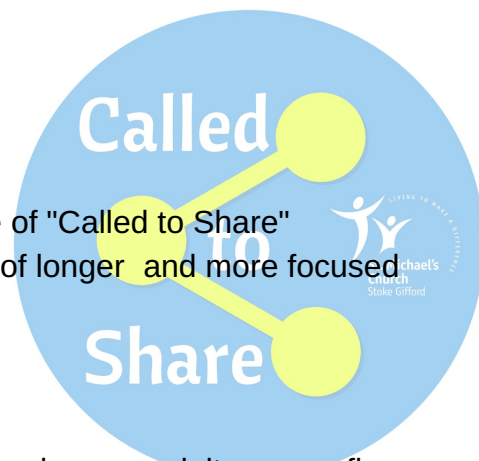
Investment in the learning and development, nurture and care of the nearly 100 children entrusted to our care each week lies at the heart of the vision of the Pre-School and Nursery. Last year saw the creation of a new 'Butterfly room' for the rising 3's to help ease the transition of the children through the Nursery. Our experienced and dedicated 20+ strong staff team are capably led by Kelly McCloskey, who supports them all in their ongoing learning and professional development. Two members of staff have recently achieved their Level 3 NVQ qualification, one of them doing so through an apprenticeship. We currently have another member of staff working towards qualification through a work-based apprenticeship programme.

Discipleship Church Weekend 2018

Our 2018 Church Weekend was attended by over 150 people. The theme of "Called to Share" included key sessions led by Philip Jinadu - it was great to have this time of longer and more focused teaching time, as well as fellowship.

And it doesn't end there..

Discipleship has also been lived out through our worship teams, student and young adult groups, flower ministry, and more.



Outreach in 2018



Improve How we Reach

In 2018 there were more evangelistic events in the auditorium (Steve Legg, a Christian comedy magician in October 2018, Carols & Comedians December 2018 and Jonathan Veira February 2019, to name a small selection). These events have been well attended and provided us with opportunities to invite friends and family to fun, enthusiastic evenings where the Christian faith has been clearly demonstrated.

As a result, our January Alpha course has three groups of guests attending. As we move forward there will be another resource made available through Lifegroups entitled 'Talking Jesus', which will equip us to share our faith more naturally.

Outreach through Youth Ministry

Our two weekly Youth Clubs, Teen Central and CLUB create a space where young people can come to have fun with friends. Our volunteers seek to love and encourage the young people, sharing their faith in Jesus along the way. In Teen Central (Years 7-9), we have been able to offer prayer to the young people as they share their worries, stresses and situations with us. In CLUB (Years 10-11), we ask a 'Big Question' each week, which starts the conversation about faith and allows the young people to share their opinions. We have around 45 young people attending each week, staffed by 7 amazing volunteers - they are all so appreciated!

Outreach to the Retired

Our ministry to those who are retired in our community continues to blossom and grow. This is partly as a result of the quarterly newsletter that is now being produced, which helps people know what is going on and join in with other activities as appropriate. Our Sunday Lunches for the over-65s continue to be hugely popular; we regularly now have to hold a waiting-list – the new oven planned for the Old School Rooms kitchen can't come soon enough!

The Sunday afternoon teas for the over-65s are also always well-received; these have the added bonus of giving many of our guests the opportunity to connect with church at our traditional evensong service. We also held our first ever 'Songs of Praise' service last summer when a number of St Michael's guests were able to share some testimony with other guests, who might not normally come to church. As well as the well-established team who go into Osbourne Court to do services twice a month, we now also have a regular worshipping presence fortnightly at Beaufort Grange Nursing Home and monthly at the Stoke Gifford Retirement Village. It is exciting to see people who might not have been to church for years re-connect with God, as well as bless those who have walked faithfully with the Lord all their lives.

Outreach through the Mission Action Group

Through the Mission Action Group, support for the 14 mission partners of St Michael's Church continued, through finance, prayer and communication. News updates from our mission partners were circulated to members of the Mission Support Group, which includes all the link people for our mission partners and a core admin team of three people. The main group met twice in 2018, to share news updates and pray for our mission partners. 'Mission Partner of the Month' continued to profile one of our mission partners each month throughout the year. Workshops were held on new ways to improve our communications, including storytelling and use of short videos. A small group was set up to look at use of social media for sharing news and prayer requests from our mission partners. Display boards in the church porch and Old School Rooms were updated, to pinpoint where our mission partners are working around the world and what they are doing. Mission webpages on the St Michael's website were also updated. Six church members went on mission trips in 2018, to Uganda, South Sudan, Kenya and Moldova.

Our support for Lynne Knight, Family Impact, came to an end in May 2018. An application to become a new mission partner of St Michael's was received from Joel Preston and this was approved. Joel started working with Youth for Christ in October 2018. Two projects were supported with HOTC tithe funds in 2018: a classroom was built by volunteers from Peace and Hope Trust and local residents in a village in Nicaragua. Funds were also sent for building a community training and resource centre in Uganda, linked to our mission partner SIITA Nest. Several other projects will be supported through HOTC tithe funds in 2019.

Outreach in Children's Ministry

We have a great relationship with St Michael's School and lead 2 assemblies each week, a real highlight for the children is when a group from church do an assembly called Open the Book, where we act out Bible stories and encourage the children to think about what the story means to them. We also teach Reserved RE (which is RE from a Christian viewpoint) termly with years 1 to 6. This is a great opportunity to encourage the children to think about their relationship with God and what it means to them. Another highlight is celebrating the Christian festivals with different year groups, at the moment we do Christmas Experience, Easter Experience, Harvest and, starting this year, we are going to do a Pentecost Experience.

On the first Wednesday of each month we run Messy Church which is a great opportunity for families to worship together. We start with crafts based on a bible story, then we have a short service and eat together

Coffee Shop Outreach

The Coffee Shop ministry has been encouraged to see some of our regular customers joining in with church and community events and activities held in the OSR and SMC, such as Harvest Supper, Over 65s Lunch and Goldies, and making use of the community library. In 2018 the ministry delivered the annual Coffee Shop leaflets in Stoke Gifford and this led to new customers visiting us. We currently are planning board game afternoons with a range of games from Dominoes to Scrabble.

Outreach through the Pre-School & Nursery

The ministry of Pre-School & Nursery is a very real expression of our vision, with our Christian ethos being foundational to practice in the ordinary, everyday life of the Nursery. The children are introduced to simple prayers, bible stories and Christian songs – many of which they take home and sing to their parents! We invite families to come and join the children for Christmas Nativity, Easter and Leavers services in church, and we also offer opportunities like the Mother's Day tea party, Children in Need 'Stay & Play' session and our always popular and well-attended annual Fun Day. A trickle of families from the Nursery find their way into regular worship on Sundays; many more continue their connection with St Michael's through Messy Church, and a considerable number of Nursery children (past and present) come to the Crib service on Christmas Eve. It is always a joy to see them!

Digital Outreach

Our Website continues to be used as both an information tool for church family, and as a way to reach people who might not know anything about us.

Our page on the Church of England site "A Church Near You" is kept up to date, whilst signposting people to our own website. We regularly hear from people who have found out about us this way.

2018 saw an increase in our Social Media engagement, and our posts are regularly shared by local pages such as the Bradley Stoke Matters page, which increases the reach.

This coming year we are aiming to maximise the use of Google My Business, as well as continued use of existing Social Media platforms (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter).



Serving in 2018

Resource How We Release



This year, more people have stepped up to lead fresh initiatives, including a Kintsugi Hope group, 'Hope for the future', Monthly prayer diaries, new Lifegroup leaders, young adult leaders, Parenting teenagers course and much more besides. Currently we have 9 people on our growing leaders course which runs until June this year. I wonder what God might be calling you to in 2019? There are always opportunities to serve as a volunteer in the Coffee shop, Over 65's, Messy Church, Youth and Children's ministry and more. Also, there will be a few opportunities this year for St Michael's teams to be seconded to support other Churches in their Sunday and midweek ministry. If this excites you, please email me.

Serving through Pastoral Ministry

We regularly offer a variety of courses such as the Marriage and Marriage Preparation Courses, Parenting courses and Divorce Recovery Workshop, these are designed to help equip people in different seasons of life. In March, for the first time, we offered an alternative service for those who find Mothering Sunday a difficult day. And in December we launched a new initiative called Hope for the Future– an informal opportunity for those who are experiencing loss to draw near to God.

In 2019 we are planning to host a Care for the Family training day for bereavement visiting, and also to look at ways in which we strengthen support and care for elderly members of our 9am congregation, who may not be in Life groups.

We are also looking at how we develop and resource the ministries of Welcome and Hospitality across the congregations.

It has been good to see the Connect Facebook page used for a wide variety of purposes – not least seeing who wants to join in the Connect Supper Club evenings, each month

Serving through the Coffee Shop

The Coffee Shop is a church ministry serving the local community, giving people somewhere to meet with a welcoming and friendly Christian atmosphere. In 2018 we saw the departure of our long-serving food technician and the introduction of new menus. We welcomed new volunteers and members of staff to the team. The continuing shortage of volunteers has meant the current business model is unsustainable and a new model is being introduced in 2019 ensuring we can open every day, but still valuing volunteers working alongside the staff team.

Serving at the Pre-School and Nursery

April 2018 marked the 10-year anniversary of the move across to the Old Vicarage and the extension of the Pre-School provision (sessional, term-time only) previously located in the Old School Rooms to include Nursery provision (all-day, all-year round) as well. It has been an adventure of faith from the beginning, but God has been incredibly faithful in meeting the needs of this beautiful ministry.

Maintaining this large Victorian building has its challenges but last year we were able to invest significant expenditure on outdoor painting and repairs, as well as a complete re-wiring of the main circuit boards. This year our priority will be internal re-decoration. We really value the ongoing prayer support and practical help given at the annual work party of many in church.

Serving through Children's Ministry

We have two Baby and Toddler groups, Beehive which meets on a Thursday at St Michael's Old School Rooms, and Saplings which meets on a Friday at Wallscourt Academy in Cheswick. It is great seeing the relationships formed between the children and grown ups and both places are friendly and welcoming to all who come. Both groups have a mixture of stories, crafts, songs and free play.

Serving through Youth Ministry

Our work at Abbeywood Community School continues to be a great opportunity to serve and love the community. We offer mentoring sessions on both a group and 1-1 basis for students at Abbeywood who need extra support. The sessions are focused on the needs of the individual but broadly aim to increase their confidence, resilience and ability to be self-reflective. It is such a privilege to be alongside these young people, hear their stories and speak words of encouragement and love into their situations. We are currently in conversation with the school about a few new ideas and are looking to grow our team.

Other initiatives included our Halloween Outreach, where our young people spread out across Stoke Gifford giving out sweets and offering prayer. This was an encouraging evening as we saw young people being bold and praying for individuals in the community. It was also great to hear how many people knew of St Michael's and had positive things to say about the work and ministries that had already impacted their lives. In 2019 we are partnering with Tearfund in their local events to empower young people to work for justice.

It has been wonderful to see the young people continue to use their gifts to serve the church, from helping with audio/visual in our Sunday celebrations to serving food at our Over 65's Lunch to running the St Mike's Youth Instagram account. We love seeing the young people grow as they serve the community.

Serving through Life Events

Through our "Occasional Offices" and Life Events (Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals) we have been able to reach and serve many people in our community. In 2018 there were: 17 Baptisms, 4 Weddings, 6 Funerals and 7 services at the crematorium officiated by Simon or Julie.

In 2019 we hope to make use of the new Church of England digital resource "Life Event Diary" making keeping track of these important events more streamlined, and enabling continuing conversations.

Serving every week

We have always been a church that encourages service. The increased use of ChurchSuite to manage these rotas means we can easily see just how many people are involved across all areas of ministry! These rotas include serving on a Sunday in various capacities, serving as part of our daily pastoral presence, and many more.

In 2018, our Church Suite rotas included:

164
people

349
dates

2070
serving instances

Making it Happen....

Church Council Report

from Mark Watkins, PCC Secretary

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the executive committee of a Church of England parish and consists of clergy and churchwardens of the parish, together with representatives of the laity who are elected by Church members at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Elected members typically serve a 3-year term, with the option of standing for a second term.

Legally the PCC is responsible for the financial affairs of the parish and the maintenance of its assets, such as the Church and associated buildings (although at St Michael's the running of St Michael's Centre is the responsibility of St Michael's Church Centre Ltd), and for promoting the mission of the church.

The PCC is supported by key focus groups and committees which report back to the PCC throughout the year. These groups include:

- Finance: to keep track of the church finances and propose budgets for the year
- Mission Action Group (MAG): to manage the mission budget and maintain our focus on mission, both at home and abroad
- Fabric: to ensure that the church fabric is stewarded well
- Coffee shop steering committee
- Pre-school and Nursery (PS&N) committee
- Joint Policy committee: To ensure that our policies are up to date and fit for purpose across all aspects of Church life (PCC, SMCC and PS&N)

Last year the PCC made a request to the Diocese that an additional clergy member be appointed to St. Michael's and after a selection process involving PCC members, Tom Benyon has been appointed as Associate Vicar to support Si and Julie.

Our annual Gift Day was held in November, to which we had an amazing response, thank you. Your generous contributions have allowed us to continue to fund all the fantastic work that St. Michael's is involved with, both within our local community and further afield. However, the quinquennial inspection of the Church building has revealed that the roof is in desperate need of repair and will need to be replaced in 2019, so your continued contributions are even more important than ever! On a more positive note though, towards the end of last year, following the repair work to the Tower, we obtained approval to be the first Church within the Diocese of Bristol to install electronic bells, and the sound of bells once again rang out over Stoke Gifford after many years! Finally, I would like to thank everyone for all their help and support in making St. Michael's the welcoming and inspiring place it is, and I look forward to another great year!



Church Finance Report

from Rob Farrell, PCC Treasurer

It's great to be a member of a growing church here in Stoke Gifford. This growth is enabled through the giving of time, talent and money by the church members. In 2018 we were able to invest in a number of church ministries such as children's work, youth work, life groups, mission (overseas and UK) and numerous other ministries. We were also able to make significant repairs to our church tower. In 2019 we are looking to continue our ministry investment, helped by the appointment of our new associate vicar. We also need to continue to invest in our church building with essential repairs being undertaken on our church roof.

By the grace of God, the generosity of the church members and a surplus from the PreSchool and nursery we had a small financial surplus in 2018. As the development of our ministries continues, we encourage all those who call themselves members of St Michaels to experience the joy of investing generously in God's kingdom.

A high level breakdown of our church finances is below. Please speak to Alison Volkmer (Financial Controller), me or any member of the Church Finance committee (names available on request) if you would like any further detail on our church income or how this money is spent.

Income

Income	2018
Regular donations	£ 250,599
Lump sums	£ 55,894
Gift aid	£ 66,437
Income from charitable activities	£ 19,012
Grants received	£ 88,594
Coffee Shop	£ 74,917
PreSchool & Nursery	£ 421,382
PreSchool & Nursery Grants	£ 127,974
Investment Income	£ 2,222
SMCC Contribution (facilities & admin)	£ 89,102
Total	£ 1,196,133

Expenditure

Expenditure	2018
PCC & SMCC Employment Costs	£ 157,265
Ministry Costs	£ 17,433
Banking & Audit Fees	£ 4,800
Facilities, Utilities & IT	£ 94,603
SMCC Contribution	£ 79,200
Youth & Student Work	£ 18,165
Parish Share	£ 144,000
Coffee Shop	£ 77,463
PreSchool & Nursery	£ 537,265
Grants given out	£ 54,863
Total	£ 1,185,057

Church Finance Report

(continued)

Funds

Unrestricted funds	At 01 Jan 2018	Net movement	Fund transfers	At 31 Dec 2018
General fund	£ 86,248	£ 24,117	-£ 37,815	£ 72,550
Windfall fund	£ 120,187	£ 493	£ 11,612	£ 132,292
Brimble fund	£ 14,650	£ -	£ -	£ 14,650
Service fund	£ 1,383	£ -	£ -	£ 1,383
Missionary & Bursaries fund	£ 5,664	-£ 28,860	£ 31,215	£ 8,019
Fabric fund	£ 4,468	-£ 1,061	£ 3,000	£ 6,407
Library fund	£ 8,722	-£ 1,466	£ -	£ 7,256
Vicarage redecoration and music fund	£ 4,329	£ -	£ -	£ 4,329
Coffee shop fund	£ 813	-£ 2,546	£ -	-£ 1,733
Pre-school and Nursery fund	£ 139,090	-£ 82,169	£ 93,782	£ 150,703
Pre-school and Nursery Repairs fund	£ 25,357	-£ 31,990	£ 20,000	£ 13,367
Pre-school and Nursery Mission Hardship fund	£ 4,806	-£ 2,930	£ 2,580	£ 4,456
Total Unrestricted	£ 415,717	-£ 126,412	£ 124,374	£ 413,679

Restricted funds				
Sharing fund	£ 6,817	-£ 465	£ -	£ 6,352
Fabric HOTC grant fund	£ 12,000	£ -	£ -	£ 12,000
Rowe Trust fund	£ 477	-£ 210	£ -	£ 267
Parish weekend fund	£ 796	£ 89	£ -	£ 885
SIITA fund	£ 5	-£ 3,605	£ 3,600	£ -
Nursery Education Grants fund	£ -	£ 127,974	-£ 127,974	£ -
Children's Ministry	£ 18	£ -	£ -	£ 18
Health & Safety Officer	£ -	£ 208	£ -	£ 208
Church Repair fund	£ -	£ 13,497	£ -	£ 13,497
Total Restricted	£ 20,113	£ 137,488	-£ 124,374	£ 33,227

TOTAL FUNDS	£ 435,830	£ 11,076	£ -	£ 446,906
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Church Fabric Report

from Martin Allen - Chair of Fabric Committee

During 2018 the Fabric Committee has been working on the following:

Refurbishing the church tower

The refurbishment of the tower was completed on-time and within budget.

Lowering the bells

The process to obtain a faculty (permission) from the DAC to lower the bells onto the belfry floor was started in 2017. The faculty was granted in March 2019.

Sound of bells

The vision of bringing the sound of bells back to St Michael's was supported by The Venerable Christine A. Froude, Archdeacon of Malmesbury, who issued a temporary licence in September. The system was installed in December and has received overwhelming support, not only from the congregation but from the local community. Work is continuing to fine tune the ring tones.

Quinquennial Report

The Quinquennial (five-yearly) survey was carried out in September 2018 and identified major work to the church which needs to be completed within the next 12 months.

Projects 2019

The Quinquennial Report identified that the entire church roof needs to be removed, the timbers repaired, the roof re-felted and the original roof tiles re-laid. The roof was last replaced in 1880. The Fabric Committee is seeking a faculty to insulate the roof prior to the re-felting.

Further work is required to the gutters and roof valleys and the repointing of the gable ends and coping stones to eradicate the damp patches on the tower base and the east and west walls.

Of further concern is the condition of the south wall which was re-pointed some years ago with cement. The cement is causing serious erosion in the stonework and needs to be raked out and then the wall re-pointed with lime mortar. An additional application (Notification B, minor works) is required for this work.

A second faculty will be required for the continued use of the bells once the temporary licence expires.

Finance

The balance of the Fabric Committee account at the end of 2018 was £6,407.31. From 1 Jan 2019 the Fabric Committee will continue to receive £250 per month from the Parochial Church Council for maintenance and capital works to the church.

Fabric Committee

I would like to thank the team for all their time and effort during the year.

Secretary: John Peppin, Members: John Bailey; Alex Clare; Mike Peacey; Paul Smith; Joe Sanderson

Associates: Marcus Booth; Alan Crofts.

Heart of the Community Project

from the Chairman of St Michael's Church Centre Ltd

John Spens

We look back on 2018 with much gratitude to God. We received permission from the Charity Commission to use the capital in the Old School Rooms Trust fund to complete urgent repairs and improvements to the Old School Rooms and Coffee Shop.

The balance left will be put towards the fit-out of the church offices. We had a wonderful gift day in May raising over £350,000 which meant that by the year end, we had paid off over £200,000 of the loan debt, given £75,000 towards the repairs to the church tower, set aside £100,000 for home and overseas mission in 2019 and put the remainder towards the office fit-out.

St Michael's embarked in a determined fashion to spear head new areas of mission and outreach. As we began the year, St Michael's Centre became a dormitory and launch pad hub for the HOPE mission. This was a different challenge for the staff but with the support of volunteers, this was a very successful event. As the year progressed St Michael's hosted a series of events designed to bring in the wider community; these included comedians, choirs, musical events and magicians. These brought many new people in to the centre.

Our relationship with St Michael's School continued to strengthen and perhaps the highlight was the performance of the Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson and her troupe. This was another challenge for operations staff, providing rehearsal facilities for a professional theatre troupe and building a bespoke stage for their use. The growing demand on room rental meant the full time employment of an Events and Centre Manager (Andy Mead) and the year saw a range of 'blue chip' clients using our facilities: the MOD, MacMillan Cancer Care, Exeter University, the NHS plus a wide range of smaller organisations.

St Michael's has received brilliant feedback on the services provided by our staff so thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make 2018 a year to remember. 2019 looks to be even busier with more new clients and a number of large Christian conferences and celebrations already booked.

We continue to serve the local community through hiring out our centre for many different and varied activities. These include our uniform groups (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts) Keep Fit, Golden Oldies Singing Group, Link Club as well as many Church run activities including Beehive, Messy Church and Men @ Home. Over the last year we have had over 1800 more people use the building for community group activities compared to the same period last year.

Completing our buildings and repaying the remaining £1.5m of loans will require our continued sacrificial giving over the next few years. God has been so faithful to us as a church and we continue to trust Him to provide everything that is needed. It's brilliant to look back on all God has provided so far and to see how these new buildings can facilitate God's work and enable the church to serve the community in so many different ways.

