

## **Mission & Outreach Committee Summary for APCM 2025**

The focus of this steering group is in seeking opportunities to “Make Jesus Known” and to serve the wider community of Colehill. However, everything that happens at St. Michaels happens because of the love and dedication of our church family, not because of this committee in isolation.

We have been identifying opportunities and locations in Colehill where information about church services and community activities can be promoted. Prayer cards and resources are available in church and at all key events in the church calendar which is open to the wider Colehill community.

One of our committee members has been proactive in taking Christian literature and church information out to our local community housing. Another has visited Brownies to teach them a song for Remembrance.

Thanks to the creative gifts and the generosity of time of individual church members, the willingness of the church family and the local Guides to help, we have established a pattern of Family Craft Activity mornings throughout the year which are proving popular with children of all ages and their parents, grandparents and carers.

Once again we enjoyed a summer “Cream tea and Songs of celebration” back in June. Our thanks to our church choir and to the Community Choir who made this such a success. Whilst the aim of this event was Mission & Outreach, £487 was raised and shared between church funds and the Royal School of Church Music.

In September 2024, we opened the church for the annual Dorset Heritage week and were able to welcome visitors from near and far to explore St. Michaels both as a historic building and as a living centre of our community, whilst enjoying refreshments and a friendly chat.

This year we have trialled “open door” mornings. The church will continue to be left open as a quiet space for visitors to experience peace and solitude within the church.

**Colehill Community Cafe**  
**Report on:**  
**Activities during the calendar year 2024**  
**For presentation to the APCCM (Parochial organisations and activities)**

The Church Management Committee is extremely grateful to all the volunteers, new and old, who make it possible for the Cafe to open and serve the community.

In 2024 the Colehill Community Cafe opened for 42 weeks of the year; to include the Community Café Christmas Lunch on 18<sup>th</sup> December. The weeks of closure (8 wks) for 2024 included 1 week for Holy week followed by 2 weeks of School Easter Holidays, 4 weeks of August and Christmas Day.

There were 3 Team events which included Team meetings on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan & 31<sup>st</sup> July and the annual cleaning event on 7<sup>th</sup> August (during the August closure week).

The Cafe opening hours were shortened by ½ hour at the July meeting to: volunteers arrive, set up & prep at 10.30am, the Café opens for coffee & cake at 11am (instead of 10.30am) with Light lunches 12 – 1.30pm (last service 1.15pm). 1.30 – 2pm – clear away and end hire of the Main Hall.

A general total of 975 attendees were served over the course of 2024, however, attendee numbers dropped slightly in the second half of the year. The approximate number of people served in the 6 months from Jan – Jul 24 was 682 and in the 3 months from Sep – Dec 24 was 293. The weekly mean average number of attendees from Jan – Jul 24 was 26.3 and in Sep – Dec 24 it was 22.5. This average loss of 4 attendees per week was made up of a loss of 2 Church based attendees and 2 community attendees. We are still trying to get the message out there that the Cafe is offered to the whole community, not just churchgoers.

We also lost 3 volunteers from the Serving Team as the year ended - two of our members are having some time away and one has had to step down due to ill health. These vacancies will look to be filled in the New Year.

Continuing to offer food on a donation basis, the Community Café generated a gross surplus of £1,860. With an additional income of £1,360 received in gift aid, the total generated for 2024 was £3,220. £915 was made in donations, including £40 to St Michael's School, £250 to Christian Aid during Lent and £625 was presented to Wimborne Food Bank from the Christmas lunch donations. The net surplus, held with the PCC, is £2,300.

Expenses included the purchase of retirement gifts for two retiring members of the team and the annual renewal of the kitchen TR19 Certificate. The services of a commercial kitchen cleaning company were purchased again but solely for the provision of the required TR19 Grease Certification (instead of the full deep clean purchased in 2023). Since the introduction of TR19, a document (TR19 Certificate), showing that the kitchen fan and ducting has been cleaned to specific standards, must be presented to the insurance

company to prove due diligence in the event of a fire. This Certification is valid for one year. The cost, for just the TR19 compliance, was £450.

The August closure for maintenance saw the Cafe Team attend to clean and tidy the fixtures, fittings, utensils, pots, pans etc within the Kitchen and Kitchen Store Room. The chores were divided into three levels of ability and each chore was given a time of between 30mins – 1.5 hours (depending on complexity). Cafe volunteers signed up for the chores they felt able to complete. Suggested attendance times were provided to prevent too many volunteers being in either the kitchen or store room at a time. Most of the chores were taken and completed and the system seemed to work well. This system will be utilised for 2025 and, once again, will be open for other Church & Centre volunteers to add their assistance. Heartfelt thanks to all those who helped out, especially those who took on multiple, and the more complex, tasks.

Ten new aprons were purchased by the Church for use by the Cafe Team and other Church groups providing refreshments at events. These were purchased in the Church green and were embroidered by Hilary G with the Church logo to create unity and identity for those volunteering their services.

The café continues to provide a welcome opportunity for companionship and conversation as well as good food.

The team would like to request that the Lent takings for 2025 are split between Julia's House (Children's Hospice) and Routes to Roots (homeless charity) and for the Christmas Lunch takings to, once again, go to Wimborne Food Bank.

## APCM Report from Eco Church Sub Committee April 2025



**Headlines** 2024 was another exciting year for Eco Church at St Michael's we...

- Completed the installation of 40 Solar Panels on the Church Centre Roof following a detailed survey and report from Low-Carbon, Dorset.
- Celebrated Climate Sunday in Café Church.
- Celebrated Creationtide over three Sundays
- Negotiated the possibility of installing 2 Electric Vehicle Charging Points in the Church Centre Car Park.
- Held an eye-catching exhibition of Creation inspired artwork and poetry throughout Dorset Architectural Heritage Week
- Installed new recycling bins throughout Church Centre

**Meetings** The Eco Church Sub Committee has met five times in 2024. At the final meeting in 2024 Anne Bowley resigned from this committee and has yet to be replaced. We are very grateful for all that Anne was able to bring and are assured of her ongoing support in our endeavours.

**Ecological Management of Church Grounds** We continued with our registration to the Living Churchyard project of Dorset Wildlife Trust. Various spring bulbs and flowers, some from the Candlemas service, were planted in the autumn and are now beginning to show this Spring. Two areas of the churchyard were planted with wildflower seed in co-operation with the Parish Council. Graham has continued to monitor the state of the church lands and has monitored the trees donated by OVO Energy's charitable Trust and Colehill Parish Council. Some remedial arboricultural work was carried out in the woodland area for safety reasons. Graham has kept the grounds tidy and maintained hedges and formal mown areas with some assistance. Margaret Gillingham continued to manage the bedding areas. We are grateful to them for their continued work on our behalf.

**Eco Church Status and moving forward** We have begun working towards the Gold Award, the goals of which have been updated in 2024...

1. **Worship** Care for creation continuing to have a regular and significant inclusion in our worship programme through intercessions, hymns, liturgy and teaching. Care for creation has also been a craft theme in the activities of our Cherubs Toddler Group which has majored on sustainable craft activities. We kept a Climate Sunday observance with a Café Church service. We celebrated Creationtide through three of the five Sundays and it was further enriched by an exhibition on Creation prepared by the craft group and Creation poetry written by the Congregation and past school students. These made a significant point of interest and witness when we opened up for Architectural Heritage Week. The Bishop of Sherborne visited to consecrate our PV installation.
2. **Buildings and Energy** Our main achievement this year was the successful installation of 40 fully optimised Solar PV panels, 2 storage batteries, a hybrid inverter and an

Eddi diverter which diverts surplus energy to the immersion heater. All this was carried out by our chosen Contractor DES Sustainable Energy Ltd. Due to grants this work was at no cost to the church. This was done in conjunction with the Fabric Committee and its ongoing maintenance is now in their hands. We continue to use electricity suppliers from renewable and sustainable sources and gas suppliers whose product is either sustainable or offset for carbon and we are monitoring our Church's carbon footprint. We use sustainable cleaning products. Karen has tried hard to encourage our Centre hirers to observe our environmental and ethical standards with mixed success. One new hirer did invite me to visit one of their sessions to explain our stance and they were helpful and enthusiastic. We wish to thank Karen Rimmington and Karen Scott for their support in the Church Centre and Alan, Brian, Graham and Eric for their continued efforts to reduce our carbon footprint.

3. **Land and Nature** We still need to further the intention to make our grounds more available for spiritual, mental and physical wellbeing. We need to carry out a more regular and recorded survey of flora and fauna on our land and the conservation methods we adopt.
4. **Community and Global Engagement** We continue to be highly committed to Wimborne Win on Waste by collecting items from the congregation on the Sunday before the Wimborne Collection. We have increasing links with the award winning Wimborne Community Garden. We are members of Planet Wimborne. Our Commitment to Christian Aid and Fairtrade help us to keep abreast of Global issues which are also regularly visited in worship and discussions. Our status as a Fairtrade Church has helped to sustain Colehill's recognition as a Fairtrade Community. This has recently been further recognised by the erection of Fairtrade Community signs at various entry points to Colehill courtesy of Colehill Parish Council. We need to become more involved in local and national political action in support of measures against Climate Change, Climate Injustice and loss of Biodiversity and increase our understanding of these issues. See EV Chargers below. The negotiation for these chargers and our association with Low Carbon Dorset have been a useful start in engagement with Dorset Council.
5. **Lifestyle** Sharing the Lent Lifestyle Log initiative helped to embed our individual and corporate commitment to reducing our personal carbon footprints and to sharing our ideas and actions with others. Regular Eco-Tips in our E Notices help to point the way. The possibility of installing EV chargers will support the change to Electric Vehicles in our community.
6. **Award** We will now work towards our Gold Award. With that in mind our recent focus has been on sustainable energy supply and systems.

#### **Further Steps to work towards Gold Award...**

- We need to host more guest speakers to inform us on lifestyle and environmental matters
- We need to work on a Climate Change Resilience Plan
- We need to consider the use of rainwater
- We need to consider the possibility of using recycled paper in the office

- Reduce the carbon footprint of transport to church eg Lift sharing
- Continue to improve the level of awareness of the congregation
- Maintain a working relationship with the Parish Council and Dorset Council regarding our environmental matters
- We need to become more proactive in campaigns concerning national and global environmental issues
- Become more aware of using the LOAF (Local, organic, animal friendly and fairtrade) paradigm in purchase and preparation of food
- Check on the ethical credential of any investments held and encourage personal ethical investments
- We need to further explore how to make our church grounds available for spiritual and mental refreshment
- We should continue to search for ways to connect with Creation and help it such as encouraging wildlife friendly gardens.
- We need continue to encourage hirers of the Church Centre to follow our Eco ethos more, eg recycling, Fairtrade products, single use plastic.

We have made considerable strides this year, particularly in terms of energy provision and plant. We need to build on this as we work through our 7Year Plan to Net Zero. We have outlined above what areas we need to work on next. There seems to be a growing sense that we are working in harmony with the whole congregation in this venture and that we are moving forward together in this work. This is particularly underpinned by the links in our worship which are contributed by so many either in leadership or by response. We are a small sub-committee and many of us are actively involved in other areas of parish life. We would value, and benefit from, support in our endeavours, from other members of the congregation or community. If you are able to support in any way please contact John Spatchet or Graham Kewley.

John Spatchet, February 2025

## **CHURCH FLOWERS REPORT TO PCC 2025**

A plea to the congregation in January 2024 was fruitful and eleven more volunteers signed up to join the flower arranging team – almost enough to mean that, aside from the major festivals, each volunteer only has to take charge of one fortnight a year, which really suits everybody. Their efforts have been well received, as was the decoration of the Church at Easter, Harvest and Christmas, when we joined forces with the Craft Group.

Barbie Watson

# St Michael and All Angels, Colehill

## Annual Report of the Fabric and Reordering Committee 2024/25

Issues related to Fabric and Reordering have been dealt with throughout the course of this year in a less formal way than in previous years. It is recognised that regular meetings are required moving forward.

General maintenance tasks continue to be undertaken by core volunteers. Where necessary contractors are engaged to ensure regulatory compliance.

### CHURCH FABRIC MATTERS CONCLUDED

- Ongoing clearance of gutters.
- Routine management of grounds and paths
- Repairs to leadwork and resealing joints around dormer window and vestry/tower abutment. (N.B. this was an attempt to rectify water ingress issues which continue to cause some problems during wind driven rain events!)
- Mechanised drop down projector screen fitting (Faculty approved)
- Removal of redundant cabling and obsolete pipework
- Upgraded bird deterrent devices in porch roof.
- Gable crosses removed by roofing contractor for renovation (consequence of storm damage)

### CHURCH CENTRE FABRIC MATTERS CONCLUDED

- Main hall floor resurfacing
- Annual deep clean of kitchen extractor hood
- Redecoration of main hall paintwork
- Fitting of finger trap guards to selected doors
- Replacement of CO alarm in kitchen
- Fitting of solar PV system with battery storage capability to Church Centre roof
- Replacement of door handles and locking mechanisms to several internal doors
- Review and disposal of obsolete storage from sheds, roof space and general store
- Improved window cleaning regime
- Ongoing clearance of gutters
- Redecoration and repair to timber window frames (Alec Moore room)
- Replacement of basin taps throughout (including WC non percussive units and repair to kitchen tap)



## SIGNIFICANT MATTERS FOR 2025/26

- Installation and commissioning of mounted projector (Faculty approved). This is anticipated to be complete by the APCM 2025 however ongoing at the time of writing this report. This will complete the reordering project.
- Continued investigation of water ingress to south dormer and vestry/tower abutment and permanent remediation solution.
- Installation of Wifi bridge to improve wireless connectivity between Church and Church Centre (subject to Faculty approval if necessary)
- Power flush and remedial work to Church central heating system
- Works associated with Quinquennial Inspection 2024 (Report pending)
- Redecoration and upgrade to WC facilities (carry over item)
- Installation of EV charging points in car park (subject to PCC approval)
- Review of tree survey

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Regular site walks are undertaken to identify hazards and monitor overall building condition. Gritting of paths and hardstanding undertaken as required.
- Risk assessments have been updated as necessary, including review to Fire Risk Assessment. N.B. Event risk assessments are reviewed for all key activities including those core activities on the Safeguarding dashboard. All records are held on Dropbox for audit purposes.
- Continued compliance monitoring and servicing regimes in place (Legionella, Fire alarms, Firefighting equipment, Emergency lighting, Lightning conductor, PAT testing and Working at height/PUWER inspections)
- Replacement stepladder purchased to replace defective item in kitchen store.
- COSHH records updated to include new eco products
- Food hygiene training updates undertaken where necessary (See Community Café report)
- First aid equipment has been checked and enhanced
- Whilst we have seen some medical related incidents over the last 12 months, there have been no significant injuries or RIDDOR reportable incidents. Emergency contact forms continue to be reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

Refresher training on a variety of compliance and H&S control measures for all regular volunteers is programmed for spring 2025. Dates to be confirmed.

All regular (and occasional!) volunteers and Centre users are reminded of their responsibilities to report defects or health and safety issues in a prompt manner and to cordon hazards or remove items from use where they may pose a danger to others.

Working at height activities are subject to individual risk assessment and the PCC cannot be held liable for acts or omissions by persons undertaking uncontrolled tasks on church premises.

The ongoing support of PCC and volunteers to ensure that the premises and activities undertaken at St Michael's remain safe, is very much appreciated by the Church wardens.

Graham Kewley

## Finance, Stewardship and Fund Raising Committee

The committee is responsible to the PCC for overseeing the financial running and performance of the accounts for St. Michael's, considering all aspects of stewardship and planning stewardship campaigns, and for fund raising for specific projects. It is not responsible for the general fund raising activities and events which are run as a normal part of fund raising for the Church.

The committee has met twice during the year. These meetings have included:

1. Reviewing the accounts to the end of September, and the likely outturn for the year.
2. Considering initial thoughts regarding the budget for the coming year, with particular regard to the level of parish share.
3. Considering a possible "Friends of St. Michael's Scheme."
  - a. This review was undertaken and presented by Lindsay Wood. The committee agreed that the likely return from such a scheme would not merit the work required to run and administer it.
4. The committee considered a reserves policy which was agreed subsequently by the PCC.
5. The committee considered a proposal to increase the working hours of Karen Rimmington, and to fix her rate of pay for the year to come. This was subsequently approved by the PCC.
6. With regard to stewardship, the committee considered and approved a proposal to promote a *Legacies-Gifts in Wills* campaign around the patronal festival this year. Again this was subsequently approved by the PCC.

Alan Motson

27 February 2025

## MU Report for APCM 2025

We continue to thrive at Mothers Union Prayer and Fellowship with 15 members, 2 having been enrolled last September

We support and donate personally to Salisbury Women's Refuge and Away From it All caravan at Rockley Park. We have a very keen interest in our Link Diocese in the Sudan and support wherever we can.

Our monthly meetings on the second Thursday of the month at 2:30 take the form of readings and prayers often using reflections and intercessions that come from Salisbury as a basis for prayer and discussion. Tea and chat follow of course

We hold a summer tea in July and a Christmas party. Lunch at the Stocks is a popular event, usually twice a year.

We have a Deanery Advent Carole service at the beginning of December at St Mary's West Moors when MU in the Deanery come together. tea and cake afterwards of course

We are very grateful to Jill Beech who keeps up with all paperwork collects subs and generally keep us informed and reminded of meetings and events.

We would welcome any new members, men included. Any enquiries please contact Val Chisholm. Hilary Motsam. Di Shove.

## Choir Report to PCC. 2024 for 2025 APCM

Membership of the choir remains consistent with Angie, Brenda, Jemma and Becca joining the sopranos when they can. Kerry and Leonie support us playing the organ and Jenny still returns to help us out when she can.

In April the PCC supported Jo to attend the Festival of Faith and Music Conference in York organised by the Church Times and RSCM. It was a great opportunity to meet with like-minded people, hear prestigious speakers and discuss issues. Some new repertoire for the choir was purchased as a result of attending the conference. Jo has also attended Brownies and Guides to try to make links with the community and raise awareness of musical opportunities in church.

In July we acknowledged John Spatchet's 50 years of singing in the choir with an RSCM loyalty medal and certificate. A photo of him, alongside Barbara who has been in the choir for an amazing 81 years, was published in Church Music Quarterly magazine.

Apart from the usual Sunday Services and music for Easter and Christmas the choir also took a leading role in the Cream Teas and music to celebrate RSCM music Sunday in June and some choristers from other choirs in the Deanery joined us for a choral Evensong to celebrate our Patronal festival in September. We also went to sing carols at Hyacinth House as well as the local pubs in December where we collected £223.68 for the Children's Society.

The choir have also purchased themselves new hoodies this year, embroidered with the church logo.

We are very lucky to have a 4-part harmony choir in a parish such as ours. I especially would like to use this opportunity to thank all the volunteers that enable this to continue.

Jo

## Card making for South Sudan – Report to APCM 2025

2024 was another successful year for the card making project. We raised nearly £1000 again and sent £650 out to Yambio in November 2024.

We continue to sell the cards wherever we can find an opportunity and there is now a small selection available at the Community Café every Wednesday. Although the costs of the materials have gradually increased we have not changed the price of 50p per card which we feel is reasonable for a “recycled” card.

Instead of meeting just once a month we are now planning to meet twice a month. In addition to making new cards we will also be preparing and packing etc during these sessions.

Following the sad death of Sheila Soper last year we have now lost our direct contact with our link Deanery Karika but there are now other reliable ways to send money out to Bishop Samuel to support our friends in Karika.

None of this would be possible without the loyalty of those who are members of this group and the continuing support of all those at church who donate old cards and then buy new ones. This all helps to make this project a success and I am very grateful to all involved.

Jill Beech

## Wimborne Christian Aid Committee Report 2025

Christian Aid (CA) supporters went into action last month (**March**) when the overseas aid budget was cut to its lowest level ever. Church members across Wimborne signed a petition demanding that the level be restored. It's a really sore point for CA because we have campaigned long and hard to get the level up to 0.7 % of GDP which was only achieved in 2017. And now it's down to 3%. Mostly the local group does more fund-raising than consciousness-raising so people welcomed the opportunity to take action on this issue.

Maybe we'll have more opportunities going forward because we have a new chair – Marianne Mangham, curate at the Minster. Having worked in Jerusalem and Gaza, Marianne brings a wide perspective to the committee and has already worked hard with students at QE school to raise awareness of development issues.

Christian Aid Week (CAW) last **May** raised just short of £3,000, quite a drop from 2003 which raised nearly £4,000, itself down from £4,400 in 2022. But that amount still went towards helping the poorest of the poor lift themselves out of grinding poverty.

St Michael's members can really pat themselves on the back because you raised over a third of the total – in the region of £1,200! Some of our Lent collection was saved for CAW, we had a very popular parish lunch and Eileen Roe did her usual house-to-house collection. She is one of only three people in the whole area who still does this. Eileen sees it as an enjoyable task and her neighbours respond enthusiastically. If only we could bottle her magic!

**Autumn** saw an innovation – two lunches were held during Creationtide. The Methodists hosted a frugal one after the style of the bread-and-cheese lent lunches. It raised £125. St Michael's held a two-course lunch with much locally sourced food and drink. The community garden, people's gardens, orchards and allotments were raided and hedgerows were foraged for blackberries. We found Dorset-processed cheese, butter, flour, tea and coffee and naturally we used milk from Allen Valley Dairy. Farmer Sophie Alexander gave an inspiring talk on sustainable and organic farming methods. You ate your way to raising £800 – thank you!

The frugal yet definitely festive **Christmas Eve** lunch was well supported by last-minute shoppers with the ad hoc folk musicians aiding digestion as usual. A variety of homemade soup accompanied by excellent fresh bread was on offer and £750 was raised.

The annual **January** Quiz made £382.50. Much hilarity emanated from the table which came last. Irene Selway is a popular quizmaster – probably because she doesn't OD on questions about footie and the current pop scene.

So once again the **Lent** Lunches are on us again as we go to press. This year the focus is on Guatemala and the first lunch raised an amazing £1034.75

The CA committee would like to thank our generous hosts, Wimborne Methodist Church, which is where almost all of our events are held. *Sharen Green*

At the first Deanery Synod since our last APCM thanks were given for the life of a great friend of St Michael's, Sheila Soper. Tribute was paid to her stalwart support to Sudan and South Sudan where she visited regularly at her own expense. Her unfailing support for Christian Aid was acknowledged, as was her work as a governor of St Michael's Middle School. Synod allocated £3000 to support Sudanese medical student Tito Matatia.

The November meeting brought good news to those parishes which have listed buildings. Fifty percent of the deanery's buildings are of Grade I or Grade II classification. Although a privilege and a joy, this brings added financial burdens. The Historic Churches Trust which runs the popular Ride and Stride event raises money to help. Parishes are invited to apply to the trust when contemplating major projects.

We also heard from Evie Ford of Corfe Mullen of an innovation called Walk and Talk mentoring. Young people go for walks with (DBS checked) adults in groups comprising six adults with ten children. The idea is that each child can have an informal one-to-one chat as they visit interesting places and share a snack. They get the chance to form good relationships with trusted adults and to open up to them. This is believed to be good for their mental health.

The discussion on how churches can become greener came up with the idea of installing composting loos and digging up church gardens to grow vegetables! Lots of churches in the deanery have achieved bronze and silver awards for their church yards and St Michael's is in pole position with its solar panels which have been installed – and blessed – since the meeting.

The hosts of the most recent Synod played a blinder! St Mary's Ferndown produced a huge stack of pancakes with various yummy toppings – well it was Shrove Tuesday. The ideas in the draft Deanery Plan went down very well after that. Aspirations include working across the deanery to share training and ideas for more impact, a deanery Facebook page and recruiting child volunteers to help the adults with their IT!

Safeguarding should be part of every meeting and the importance of governors for our church schools was stressed – we need to enlist more of them. And it is hoped there will be follow-up training for Lay Pastoral Assistants.

Sadly, we learnt that Archdeacon Antony MacRow-Wood is retiring. His last service will be at 6.30pm at Wimborne Minster on Sunday, June 22. *Sharen Green*

## Childrens Society Report for AGM

### Coffee Morning and Box Opening 9<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Boxes and donations	£536.97
Carol singing	£70
Raffle	£81
Cakes	£58
Books	£21.10
Bricabrac	£41.50
Tea/coffee	£37
Sunday tea/coffee	£29.64

Cash donations totalled	£875.21
Card donations totalled	£122.89
Total paid to TCS 10.4.24	<b><u>£998.10</u></b>
Donation paid direct to TCS	£50

**Total £1048.10**

In September 2024 I represented St Michaels Colehill on the Wimborne Deanery Branch Bring and Buy stall at Wimborne Minster's coffee morning and box opening in Church House.

In November 2024 I represented St Michaels Colehill on the Wimborne Deanery Branch Bring and Buy stall at the Wimborne in Bloom Charities Fair in the Allendale Centre.  
£223.20 was paid into the Wimborne Deanery Branch Committee bank account.

During December 2024 we purchased TCS Christmas cards to sell after coffee on Sundays.  
**Sales of cards raised £130.50 for Childrens Society**

The Crib and Christingle service December 2024 leaving collection raised £283.80  
Choir Carol Singing raised £222.98  
A further £36 was donated for Christmas cards.

**Total**            **£542.78**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those at St Michaels Church who have helped to make our fundraising so successful and look forward to our own Box Opening event in March 2025.

Sandra Collett



## **Report from the Craft Group**

The group continues to meet and work on various projects related to Church Festivals and Seasons. There is a core membership of 10. We don't meet every Saturday but when we do, they are happy social occasions where, along with a bit of work, there is a lot of chat and friendship.

Over the past year we have helped decorate the church for Creationtide, Christmas and the coming Easter. We will have completed a hanging for Pentecost in June and have a design ready for Christmas 2025. Also in the pipeline is a set of 'Stations of the Light'.

Our banner for Creationtide 2024 was featured on Bishop Karen's Christmas Card – our 15 minutes in the limelight!

Although we are all getting slower and less nimble-fingered, I hope people will feel they can still come along and enjoy the friendship washed down with tea and cake! Laughter makes the mornings special.

Hilary Gooding  
14<sup>th</sup> March 2025

## CHERUBS TODDLER GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Every Friday morning in term time a group of preschoolers and their adults meet up for Cherubs playgroup. Run by Church Volunteers, Mums and Dads, with a bit of help from their preschoolers, we are very well attended each week. The usual format is that the children play with our amazing selection of toys, puzzles, play dough and when the weather permits, in our outside area. We always provide a craft that's topical and with an emphasis on sustainability. A lot of the materials we use for our crafts are foraged from the local woods.

We always end the group with a story and song time followed by an interactive prayer. Occasionally we get guests in to read to the children. We've had staff from St. Michael's School, a local author and grandparents come to read their favourite stories. We are hoping to expand on this in the coming year and would welcome any budding storytellers!

Once a half term we have toddler church - it's organised chaos but very enjoyable. We all go over to the church and the children get to experience a short preschooler appropriate service.

We try to get involved in community activities. Every November we hold an adults only wreath making workshop. All the foliage is donated or foraged and all proceeds this year went to the Wimborne Foodbank. It's open to all of the Church community as well as Cherubs and is so much fun. We always have a stall at the Church Fayres.

In the summer we made a scarecrow for the Wimborne Community Garden. We were donated a bale of straw by one of the dads that attends cherubs and the team collected things like shirts and skirts. We brought the bale of straw to our Friday session and the children filled tights and bags with the straw. Together we formed the body of the mummy scarecrow (we named her Flora) and then filled a baby grow with straw for the baby scarecrow. We made sunflower petal stamps and the children each decorated an A5 piece of fabric with a 'sunflower'. These were then stuck all over the mummy scarecrow to decorate her dress and skirt. She looked amazing and I'm delighted to say....we only went and won!

Flora and her baby were then displayed in the church alongside the church's scarecrow (2nd place - St. Michael's Church community did very well that day!) Once everyone had a chance to enjoy Flora, she was taken apart with the straw being donated to people that use it for their pets and the fabric squares we used to decorate her were all given to Hilary. She has made them into the most incredibly beautiful tapestry that we hope to display on the wall in the church centre.

The importance of having a group of this nature can't be underestimated. Having a small child can be very lonely, not to mention stressful, so the chance to get together and support each other is so important. Friendships have been made in our group that have continued long after the group has ended and children have started school. We've supported people through some of life's trials and offered a listening ear to many a worried parent. We are so very lucky to have this group and thankful for all the hard work that goes into the running of it. We deliberately don't ask for pre booking and payment on the door. We also keep an this to a minimum and on a donation basis to make sure it's as accessible as possible.

Overall, we should all be very proud of Cherubs. It's a wonderful group and an asset to the community.

Hannah Bush, Cherubs Leader



## REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD 15.3.25 To Wimborne Deanery Synod Venue St Paul's Church Salisbury.

"Lively discussion and robust debate" The meeting was quorate and no one stated any conflict of interest over the agenda items. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising were approved. Synod opened in prayer.

### Presidential Address

Bishop Stephan reflected on the current tensions and uncertainty in the world and also the loss of Trust in the church. Lent is a time to repent for our failures and decide how we move on from them. In times of uncertainty, we can seek comfort in certainties, but this can lead to political extremism. He shared with us his reflections following his reading of the autobiography of Pope Francis. The pope writes that the sin of certainty is the enemy of unity and tolerance. If you are without doubt, then there is no mystery and so no need for faith. Faith in the face of certainty is what is needed now. We need faith in God, the church and each other. Bishop Stephen ended with a question; "what one thing do you think matters the most?".

### Safeguarding Annual Report by Head of safeguarding, Suzy Futcher.

Suzy outlined the reactions she had encountered following the publication of the Jay/Makin report. Ahead of the meeting she sent delegates a detailed report which demonstrated the actions Salisbury is taking with regard to the Makin recommendations. The national church team is working on their own response to this, but Salisbury diocese wants to ensure we respond swiftly and appropriately to some very challenging and significant recommendations which at least in part can be responded to locally. Suzy leads a multiagency team that have backgrounds in police, social services, education and safeguarding. The team undergo external supervision and have access to well-being support.

In January 2024 Salisbury was the first diocese to take part in an external audit, the results demonstrated that Salisbury safeguarding is on a par with, if even better than secular services. Suzy thanked PSO volunteers.

To ensure safeguarding practice is embedded at parish level two new tools have been introduced to help parish safeguarding officers. These are parish dashboard and the safeguarding hub (this is to replace DBS microsite). Suzy advised that the dashboard can be modified where there are multiple parishes in a benefice; the PSO needs to speak with safeguarding team in order to action this. It is standard on the dashboard for two people to be able to make changes. It is possible to add more but if you do, Suzy advised that there must be procedures in place so that information is amended appropriately. The team are working toward a direct link on the Salisbury website so that members of the public can have direct access to the team in order to raise concerns. The team are also looking at how best to keep links with PCC whilst maintaining confidentiality around cases.

Suzy advised (one of the Questions) that Safeguarding should be a standing item on the agenda for every PCC and Deanery Synod meeting. She concluded saying that significant change was possible and she was looking forward to being part of that change. Bishop Stephen formally thanked the safeguarding team.

### General Synod Report given by Debbie McIsaac and Rev Ruth Howlett -Shipley

-safeguarding. Synod heard statements from victims and survivors of John Smyth. Motion expressing repentance in the Makin review for the churches past safeguarding failures was passed unanimously. Synod stopped short of transferring all church safeguarding functions to an external organisation, at least in the short term.

-Improving diversity. Equality was central to a lively debate on racial justice which led to the agreement of recommendations of the Archbishops' Commission for Racial Justice, including the appointment of a racial-justice board, panel, and lead bishop. Synod agreed request that "at least three and up to five young adults" represent, at Synod, a group of up to 200 young adults from across the dioceses to succeed the Church of England Youth Council, which was disbanded in 2019, owing in part to lack of funding. There was also support for working class vocations ministry.

The sessions also brought the long-awaited final approval, of a new system for clergy discipline, in the form of the draft Clergy Conduct Measure. Its three-tier system for sorting complaints according to their gravity replaces the widely criticised Clergy Discipline Measure. Grievances will be sorted out at local level, cases of misconduct will be assessed and if upheld, the bishop can impose penalties, if serious misconduct it is then possible for council to remove members of clergy. The council can also take a restraining order on those who have made a vexatious complaint.

National Church Governance Measure concluded with just one amendment, out of several tabled. This amendment required the new Church of England National Services to have, in spending decisions, "particular regard" to the "provision for the cure of souls in parishes where such assistance is most required".

There was a debate on proposed changes to the rules followed by the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC). The CNC is soon to consider the nomination of the next Archbishop of Canterbury. Women continued to feel discriminated against and not heard.

Church Buildings for Mission "Architecture has been described as frozen music but ecclesiastical architecture often means frozen people"

Led by Bishop Andrew, Jonathan Triffitt ( Director of Mission and Ministry) and Dan Crooke ( DAC Secretary and Church building team manager) this item provided an engaging discussion to bring synod members up to date with developments in the national and local church buildings scene; their vision for the future ; a “Faculty process” update made simple and plans for an Anglican heritage trust. The session also provided space for members to discuss current challenges, concerns and possible solutions with regard to stewarding historic treasures.. 60% of buildings in this Diocese are grade 1, 2 or 2\* listed. Heritage is inherent to mission, modern secular society in Britain admires and values these old buildings.

Government listed places to worship grant scheme has been extended for 1 year from January 2025. Meaning that churches can claim VAT back on all church repairs, however there is a cap of 20k per year. Salisbury are lobbying to get this scheme extended and to increase the amount that can be claimed before a cap. Bishop Andrew has a template that can made available to those who wish to lobby their MP.

Bid for lottery funding for 2 year project Anglican Heritage Trust that could give assistance to churches in danger of closure because of issues with guttering or insurance.

Dan Crooke gave a short presentation on the work of DAC . This is a small team of 4 part timers who do not just deal with Faulty applications, list B applications but provide church warden training, expert advice, customised training for church building teams site visits and assistance in applying for a faculty. Faculty is required because church buildings are exempted from planning permission through local authority ( not the case in Jersey where vicar had to wait 13 years for council to give permission to build a toilet). DAC services are free at point of use because they are paid for by share. This includes quinquennial inspections which in other diocese need to be paid for by individual churches. DAC makes allowances for mission. Dan advised that when applying for a faculty, describing how works can assist mission would be helpful. Dan is happy to speak at Deanery synod.

Coming up....

- New buildings management portal to process faculties ( training will be available)
- On line Faculty training package
- External Review of the process of the church buildings team and diocesan advisory committee.

Katie Fitzsimons , Diocesan Director of Education provided the Board of education report on 190 church schools in the area.

#### Palestine and Israel motion

Robust debate following Dean Nicks proposal to commit the Diocese to:

- Pray for all peoples of Palestine and Israel, be they Jew, Muslim or Christian
- Support the Christian community in Gaza,
- support the return of pilgrims to the holy Land once safe to do so
- Make ourselves informed about the conflict so that we can advocate with grace for the oppressed. “What we advocate is exemplified in the way we advocate”.

A delegate of Jewish heritage was greatly distressed by this motion and at that point chose to identify a conflict of interest. The decision was made to stop the debate and leave the item for a subsequent synod.

#### Synod questions \_ The following topics were ;

- Guidance regarding the placing of solar panels on church roofs; guidance available from Church buildings council, DAC, ecclesiastical insurance.
- Deaf units in Anglican schools
- Safeguarding ( see earlier)
- Apportionment ( discussions on going)
- Sale of church silver ( this would require a Faculty) and guidance can be found from the church building council.
- low income parishes-built into the new share scheme there is specific relief from the income on the Stipends Capital account for low income communities.

Finally, Synod approved the updated rules of Deanery Synods.

In summary these changes are;

- “Rules of Deanery Synod” replaces “Constitution and Rules”.
- Reordering text so it is easier to read and areas of duplication removed. Gender neutral language has been introduced. Any meeting/vote/place includes remote or hybrid meetings.
- Formula for lay reps remains unaltered
- Only officer Deanery legally required to appoint is the Secretary. In this diocese the Deanery Treasurer plays an important role and is therefore included. The role of Deanery information officer has been removed.
- No longer a requirement for Deanery standing committee to submit audited accounts and estimated expenditure.

Synod finished at 13.00hrs.

AJD 18.3.25