

ST DAVID WITH ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

**ACTIVITIES REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015**

Churchwarden's Report

Over the past year, Church life has proved to be both exciting and challenging for us all. The level of volunteer support generously offered has ensured daily and monthly tasks continue, at the same time offering knowledge, skills and energy necessary for specific projects. This enabled a small team to work at length on the various aspects of safeguarding, resulting in a Parish Safeguarding Policy agreed in March 2015. Diocesan updated Safer Recruitment process followed, after which a Parish Safeguarding Officer was appointed in November. Both St David's and St Michael's now have representatives able to offer safeguarding support with Evidence Checking administration.

This year has seen various stages of St David's Transformation Project emerge, leading to the stage where the builders have started work on major repairs. Volunteer support continues to be an essential part of this huge project, offering their commitment, time and skills where needed. This was very apparent when it was time to move up more towards the front of the church. How would we manage!! As always, if something is done well, it can look effortless, but in reality requires a lot of work. So many people have made it possible to for St D's to continue offering welcome, worship and friendship each week.

In September we welcomed Christopher as a Deacon and as our Curate. In his first year of ordained ministry I'm sure he will find our Parish to be a valuable training ground. It's been good to support him and we wish him well.

As a churchwarden, I would like to say that I am so glad to have Dave as a churchwarden too. Away from the major and demanding role he plays as project manager, I value Dave's partnership in the sharing of our CW responsibilities, be they easy or difficult.

I am grateful for the commitment of all volunteers whose ministry is vital as we strive to fulfil the mission of St David's Church.

Avril Pattinson Church warden

St. Michael's DCC

The St Michael's District Church Council met on five occasions in 2015. There are currently 14 members including the clergy and average attendance at meetings has been 11. There are vacancies for loyal members of the congregation to join the Committee and elections will take place at the forthcoming APCM. The Chair is currently held by Canon Tom Honey and meetings are usually on a Wednesday evening.

The main points of discussion have involved the completion of the Organ and Heritage Project, the financial affairs of the Church, Fabric issues, Music, Lectures and Fundraising. The DCC is delighted to confirm St Michael's eligibility for government grant money to replace asbestos downpipes and re-route rainwater which has been damaging the building. Kind thanks to Dave Allin who is helping with advice and has attended the last few meetings. Another exciting development has been the Parish Giving Scheme, as explained by Katie Roscoria (Mission Resources Advisor for Exeter Diocese). The advantage of the scheme is that the Diocese deals with each individual, easing the workload of the parish. As we are running at a deficit, everyone is encouraged to join the scheme. The DCC marked, early in 2015, the passing of Canon John Thurmer who attended the meetings and gave so much to this church. We are exploring the cost redecorating the church, using his bequest in a way that will provide a lasting memorial to him.

Elizabeth Hewitt, Secretary

St. David's Charitable Giving 2015

Month	Charity	Link person	Amount
01/01/15			
February 22nd	YMCA	Tom Honey	£261
March			
April 26th	Soup Evening	Andy Atkins	£332
May	Christian Aid	Sarah Black	
June			
July 12th	Refugee Support Group	Mollie Curry	£268
August			
September			
October 4th	Goodwill Village	Michael Grey	£130
November 22nd	The Angel Tree	Margaret Grimsey	£556
December			
St David's 2014			

Mollie Curry

Christian Aid

In 2015 the Christian Aid fund raising was organised separately at St Michael's and St David's. In St David's we had collections on the 2 Sundays around Christian Aid week (10-15 May) and also donated the proceeds of the edibles stall that month (£107). We raised over £500 for Christian Aid this way.

If anyone has ideas about what else can be done for Christian Aid this year (week May) please speak to one of the clergy.

Sarah Black

St David's Soup Kitchen

The soup kitchen is now in its 13th year. Doesn't time fly! Our numbers are usually still up between 30 and 50, although over the last few months, due to the Council extending the winter provision for December, January and February, they have been down to the low 20s. This goes to show that if more money was to be made available and the likes of St Petrock's had more funding, we could get more people off the street (there will, however, always be a small number who much prefer to be independent, even if this means rough sleeping).

We have been very well supported with volunteers and soup-makers and on the clothes front, we have been inundated from a number of sources, which has been much appreciated. However, it has also meant we have had to have a good sort out and pass some of it onto various charity shops as storage is a big problem for us.

We are hoping to put our name forward to Waitrose once again as one of their community charities (last time they generously gave us £700 towards the work).

Once again, a very big thank you to everyone who has been involved with the soup kitchen in whatever way – we could not do it without your support.

Roger Beer

St David's Toddler Group

St David's Toddler Group meets EVERY Thursday, (10.00-12.00) except during August. Adults are welcomed with a cuppa and children have milk, 'healthy snacks' of fruit and rice cakes during the morning. The Parish room is a friendly, safe place for children to play while mums/dads/grandparents relax and enjoy time with others. We have a wide range of toys available with painting and a sandpit; also there is always an activity such as playdough, craft project or cooking. The session ends with singing nursery rhymes accompanied by the children playing musical instruments!

All this for £1.00 a family.

We have had a busy year with about 8 families coming regularly, normally up to 6 children at every session, which fills the Parish room! Currently their ages range from 15 months to three years old, coming from different parts of the city. Some of our children had outgrown us last summer and we had a quiet start in September, however we have an increasing number of families coming regularly now .

Our 2015 summer outing was a train trip to Dawlish seaside. We ended the year with a Christmas party for 20 children, Father Christmas kindly left a sack full of presents!

Our dedicated team of helpers, Barbara, Sam, Freya and Julia make sure the adults and children can enjoy themselves, taking it in turns to run the group each week, welcoming families, putting out toys and providing refreshments (milk, rice cakes and fruit as well as hot drinks for adults). We welcome further offers to help our on the rota.

Our details are posted on the Church's website, we are on (DISC) Devon County website with details of services for children. As we are a small friendly group, families get to know each other well and we know that they continue to keep in touch once the children have outgrown us.

We are extremely grateful to the Church for providing the premises and supporting us as an outreach group. We endeavour to maintain links with the church and families are informed of Christmas and Easter services as well as the summer fete (providing a draw prize.)

Julia Spruntlis

Report from the Christianity Deanery Synod

Introduction

Deanery synods are the next layer in the Church political administration beyond the PCC. They fit between PCC and the Diocesan synod and elect members to the diocesan synod and general synod. All the clergy living/working within the deanery are automatic members, as are any lay members of the General Synod who live in the Deanery. Lay members are elected by the PCC's of churches within the Deanery on a 3 year cycle, which ended in 2014. There are 2 chairs: the Rural Dean and the Laity Chair, elected from the lay members, currently David Smith.

Our parish has 5 representatives on Deanery Synod, currently these are : Richard Barnes; Sarah Black, Chris Heaven and Hilary Todd. We have one vacancy.

Meetings

There are 3 meetings/year, which take place in different churches within the Deanery. The Deanery Synod discusses issues important to the parishes, has a business meeting with reports from the Secretary, Treasurer, Lay Chair, and Area Dean, and then has presentations on different issues. The meetings in 2015-6 were held at:

St David's, where there were talks on: (i) the Parish Giving Scheme (by Katie Roscoria, Diocesan Mission Resources Adviser) and (ii) Heading up a team in a large parish (by Simon Austen, incumbent at St Leonards)

St Margaret's Topsham, where the talks were on (i) Missionary Community Development, helping teams make their mission action plans, by Penny Roe; and (ii) Getting Involved in overseas Mission, by Steve and Anne Griffiths who spoke of their work in Africa, Cambodia and Singapore.

Sarah Black

Traidcraft Stall

The congregation of St. David's church continued to support third world producers in 2015/16 by buying their fairly traded goods via the Traidcraft organisation. There were Traidcraft stalls on six occasions raising the following amounts :-

Date	Amount raised
April 12 th	£100.80
June 7 th	£113.25
July 26 th	£128.05
September 27 th	£140.45
November 29 th	£166.00
January 31 st	£136.49
Total	£785.04

Richard Featherstone

Barbara`s Edible Stall

The edibles stall at St David`s sells homemade food (mainly cakes, biscuits and jam) after the monthly family service. Members of the congregation bring items to sell on the stall to church before the service. The stall is run by a different volunteer, who also cooks for it, each month. This stall raises money for the church, provides delicious food for the congregation, and, for those people who like baking but no longer have people at home to bake for, an excellent reason to bake each month. Since the last AGM we have run the stall most months. We have had delicious contributions, and our average monthly take has risen. Unfortunately, the book recording all the figures is locked into the St David`s kitchen. From January - March 2016 we raised £217.16. Thank you to everyone who helps our stall, running them, cooking for them, and, most importantly, buying from them.

Sarah Black

Music at St David`s Church

2015 proved to be another good year in the musical life of St David`s Church. The choir maintained healthy numbers and balance of voices and, except for family services, sang at all the 9.30am Sunday morning services throughout the year

The choir`s repertoire continues to include anthems from the “classical” repertoire, as well as songs from Taizé, Iona and the world church, together with items specially composed or arranged. Often the choir is joined by one or more solo instrumentalists.

We were able to continue to welcome guests into the choir for special events – notably the Christmas Carol Service, when more than 30 singers took part; Advent Sunday; Christmas Midnight Mass; Candlemas; St David`s Day; Holy Week and Easter; confirmation and wedding services. A small group of singers also made contributions to each of the 2015 Lent series of Tuesday evening meetings.

Able, but gently and sensitively led by Robert and Susan Mitchell, and with assistance from Ruth James and Richard Featherstone, our church orchestra consistently provided music for the monthly Family Service. With a membership of about 15 regulars, the Orchestra makes room for a huge range of age and ability, from novice to expert. As well as making (we hope) a valuable contribution to worship, the Orchestra offers a supportive and unthreatening environment for beginners to experience collective music-making of a high standard and to play occasional solos during communion. In July summer, we celebrated a good year by sharing a Budleigh Bonfire Bash with the In Betweeners.

While choirs and instrumental groups tend to attract the most attention, it should not be forgotten that our organists provide the bedrock of music for our worship, week by week. We are hugely indebted to Robert Mitchell, Ian Smith and John Scarfe, who worked so conscientiously throughout the year. Sadly, after Christmas, John had to step down from doing regular work with us, but will continue to be available on an occasional “locum” basis.

In addition to regular services, St David`s continued to provide a venue for concerts. During 2015, we were delighted to welcome several visiting choirs (including a gathering of local community choirs) as well as enjoying a particularly memorable evening with the Cologne Chamber Orchestra.

Nigel Walsh
Director of Music

St David's and St Michaels Parish Fete – Saturday 4th July 2015

We tried a slightly new approach to the fete this year, in the first place opening up for business at 11.30 and also welcoming outside stall holders (paying a 10 percent pitch fee) in addition to our usual St Davids stalls. Some of the organisations which took part were Guide Dogs for the Blind, Blood Bikers, the Wildlife Trust, Hospicecare and Icicletricycle. This proved very successful and the church's total takings for the day including the proceeds of the Draw amounted to a figure in excess of £2800. We all enjoyed the great range of food and drink provided by Cathy and her team and for the first time the Exeter cadets also came to lend a hand, in particular helping Joanna with the very popular children's games area. The City of Exeter Railway Band played with their usual gusto and also gave children the opportunity to try out brass instruments. Thank you to everyone who planned for and took part in the day. It was much enjoyed by all and a real community event.

Sam Wellbelove

St. David's Ringers report

A quiet year with just one quarter peal rung on the bells after someone jokingly said, on a sparsely attended practice night, "Why don't we ring a quarter?"!

However this shouldn't be taken as a lack of interest and both traditions of ringing [call changes and method] are flourishing at St David's under the leadership of Jimi Kerlake, our Ringing Master. There are regular focus methods for practice nights.

St David's entered teams in various competitions winning the Centenary Cup for First Place in the B Section of the Ide 6 Bell Festival and didn't come last in the South Devon 8 bell competition.

We welcomed Jan Earle to St David's in the New Year; her previous tower was The Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Quebec City. There are 8 churches with bell towers in the whole of Canada, there are ten in Exeter! Change ringing is very much an English and Anglican tradition.

This year marked the 25th anniversary of the Exeter Colleges' Guild making St David's their home tower and we have a flourishing band of locals and alumni who are now also locals.

Geoff Crockett, Secretary of the St David's Ringers.

St David's and St Michael's Lunch Club

The Lunch Club meets every month and has been attended by members of both churches. Over the last year we have had a steady attendance of between 15 and 20 people. In term time we meet at the @34 Restaurant in Exeter College. Meals are cooked and served by students on a catering course. The cost is very reasonable – a 3 course meal for under £10, though coffee and/or a glass of wine might push it over.

A leisurely lunch gives us the opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones. The menu is tasty and quite adventurous; the atmosphere is very relaxed and informal. It is one of the few occasions when members of the two churches meet together. It's a thoroughly enjoyable and worthwhile meeting place.

Tom Honey

Flower Guild report

There are no changes to the Flower Report since last year.

The few flower arrangers have decorated the church at Easter and Christmas and occasionally at other times.

Our two retired florists continue to give their invaluable help whenever we need them. It is so helpful that they are willing to offer their skills to benefit the church. Over the past year we have used their skills less as Beryl Takle has skilfully helped us more.

I am sincerely grateful to Viv Glanfield, and Beryl who always manage to arrange the flowers beautifully in my absence. Sincere thanks should go to Beryl Takle who helped arrange the flowers at Christmas before she went away. They looked wonderful and lasted very well.

If other members of the congregation would like to volunteer and increase our very small group we would be delighted. No flower arranging skills are required as we are willing to support any new volunteers.

Flowers and materials do not seem to reduce in price but as we are arranging fewer flowers our expenditure over the year is not high at approximately, £90.00 for 2015. We use our own flowers and greenery wherever possible to reduce costs.

Di Jacob

St Michael's Heritage Lottery Fund Project

St Michael's Pipe Organ and Peregrines, Heritage and Music proposal was accepted for funding as an **HLF "Your Heritage" Project** at the end of 2012. With £40100 in stages from HLF, £12800 that St Michael's members and friends had already raised, £4500 from Viridor Credits (Pennon Fund) and £650 from Allchurches (Ecclesiastical Insurance), the approved Budget was £58,500.

The Project "**Celebrating 150 Years of Music, Education and Heritage on Mount Dinham**" formally started in Jan 2013 with receipt of 50% grant (£20050) from HLF. The Interim Reports to HLF were completed in Dec 2013 and the next 40% (£16040) of their funding was received. The Project was 98% finished at end of 2014, and completed in March 2016 after extensions were granted for permissions, Faculty and production for the external Interpretive Display Board.

Finances - Over the course of the Project, Income, including further small donations and £1000 kindly received from Devon Birds specifically for Peregrine streaming, has totalled ~£56k so far. A final 10% = £4010 is due from HLF on submission of Final Report and Evaluation & Invoicing Form. Expenditure has totalled ~£61k, with £1,000 for the external Display Board.

Main Acknowledgement - An HLF Acknowledgement Plaque is displayed in the church and the HLF logo is on the newly acquired external Information Board.

Organ - A large, 3 manual, pipe organ, dating back in part to 1867 at St Jude's Church, Birmingham, was acquired in April 2011 from Clayesmore School, Dorset, when they re-ordered their Chapel. Our Organ Builder, Tim Trenchard, produced new superstructure, wind-chests, 2 swell boxes, pedal pipes, wind-trunking, and 48 ranks of pipes are installed in the tall, narrow Organ Chamber at St Michael's. The manuals, pedals and stop jambs use electronic encoders/decoders to link the console to the electro-mechanical action which controls the ~2500 pipes. The quality of workmanship is highly commended, and the completed organ speaks

wonderfully into the church.

Peregrines – £1000 of sponsorship from Devon Birds helped cover the internet streaming costs during hatching and fledging in 2014 and 2015. There were over 50,000 clicks on the Peregrine page of the website from March-July 2015; about 10 times the normal website usage.

Website – Yello Studio's high quality website <http://www.stmichaelsmountdinhams.org.uk/> is easy to keep up-to-date with main pages, current and past blog posts and events, and images. It's a wonderful resource for getting St Michael's noticed and appreciated far and wide; not to mention a little humour and satire from its St Pythag's altar ego. The **@StMikes_Exeter** twitter account also gives latest news and a BT MyDonate account for St Michael's Heritage is linked for donations.

Schools Outreach – St David's School continue to hold weekly Assemblies in Church.

Music Outreach – In 2015 St Michael's Choir had a Summer trip to Wolfenbuettel near Hannover in Germany singing Concerts and Services, and sang Carols in the Chapel at Killerton House in December. The 2015 Monthly Recital Series organised by Alex West complemented David Beadle's St Michael's Lectures, and culminated in a full and exciting Workshop and Recital day with Voces8.

Heritage - Heritage Open Days in Sept 2015 were appreciated by 50 or so visitors. Richard Parker and Oliver Nicholson sourced an external descriptive display board from local

Richard Barnes

St. David's Building & Fabric Committee Including the Maintenance Working Party

The activity on the general fabric of the church has been fairly quiet this year as we completed the efforts to secure funding for the major repair and transformation. However we did complete some outstanding repairs identified in the 2010 quinquennial report and finally completed the long awaited south porch gates. At the end of the year we received a generous donation for the fabric fund and in 2016 we will seek to deal with some of the outstanding issues at the east end of the building.

Dave Allin

St. David's Transformation project

After some 4 years of grant applications and investigations it is very good news that in February 2016 we will start the repair work on the west end of the church. In December 2015 we received the good news that HLF had agreed to our submission for the £198,000 to complete the delivery of the works we detailed in the discovery phase that they supported in 2015. The PCC agreed that we should sell the property at Wrefords Close and allocate the first £220,000 of any proceeds to the works. This combined with other grants from Pennon Environmental, Garfield Weston, Bernard Sunley, The Cooper Legacy and All Churches Trust gives us sufficient funds to perform the repairs and a good amount of the other parts of the transformation.

The initial repairs, performed by Corbel Construction, will last around 6 months and comprise

- Move the font to a temporary location, move the font cover forward to its new location and the removal of the old floor
- drilling and casting of 42 concrete piles that anchor into the bedrock below the church,

which lies at depths of 2 to 8 metres. Then casting a concrete ring inside and outside the building to link all the piles together

- drilling through the walls and inserting stainless steel beams to carry the weight of the walls on the new pile foundations. Then grout in the beams
- Cast a new concrete subfloor inside the church, replace the font about 2 metres forward of its old location, install insulation over the floor and install top floor including pipework for underfloor heating
- Cast a new concrete path outside the church to cover the piles and beams. This will provide the base for a new path all around the church
- repair the damage to the arches and repoint all the cracks in the stonework. This will include placing stainless steel reinforcement
- Put new plastic membrane over the failing asphalt roof at the balcony and top level of the west end
- replace the decaying cedar shingles and failing lead on the spires
- restore the wood and tile covering
- restore the toilets with a new entry from the west end vestibule. During these works we will also arrange for a new gas supply for the heating to be installed and repair the stained glass windows that have cracked with the movement of the building. At the end of this first phase we will have a stable building and no longer have to catch the water cascading in to the west entrance during heavy rains. However we still have a number of other parts of the transformation part of the project still to do before we complete our overall vision. These comprise\
- Build the new kitchen and meeting rooms in the north and south arches on the foundations provided by the builders. We have the funds for this and will be reusing some of the wood released by remodelling the pews.
- Remodel the pews to shorter, and moveable benches. This will be done in two steps for cost and time reasons. See the article 'are you sitting comfortably' for more details
- Install new heating to replace the noisy and rather ineffective radiant fires we now have. We will run the tender for this during the repair works and hope to do the work in late 2016.
- Improve the lighting with LED bulbs in the existing nave and chancel lights and replace the spot lights with better LED versions.
- Replace the fixed dais with a moveable stage to allow more flexible use of the nave to suit both concerts and plays.
- Augment the shortened pews with chairs to return the capacity of the nave to the 350 dictated by the fire limit.
- Replace the rather unappealing tarmac paths with a better material and reshape the north path to allow wheel chair access right from the pavement into the church. This will include lighting and signage.

While we have enough funds to do the repairs and some of the other parts we still need to raise more funds to complete the whole vision and deliver the warm, open, welcoming space that we shaped at the parish day. We are still applying for more grants for the parts not yet started.

Dave Allin

Communications

We continue to share news and events on Facebook and Twitter. We have 70 Likes on Facebook and 885 followers on Twitter. The website is kept up to date.

As part of the Transformation project we are creating a new website which will be online soon and give us more scope for sharing information about the Church.

The Churchwardens are currently collecting contact details from everyone including email addresses so that we can communicate, news, events and notices to everyone.

Sue Holden

Womens Group

Another successful year for the Women's Group. A number of events have been held throughout the year including:

1. Pub games and skittles in the Church - complete with beers, pasties and home baked puddings
2. Advent reflections at the Lady Chapel - showcasing some original music and performances
3. New Year Dinner and Belly Dancing - highlighting you are never too old to shake your bits!

Attendance at the events continues to grow with congregations from St David's and St Michael's coming together with friends joining too.

Events for 2016/17 are already in hand and huge thanks to Molly, Helena, Ann, Mary, Paula and the many volunteers who help make these events so memorable and enjoyable.

Emma White

St David's Servers.

Under Christopher's leadership, we have retained twelve servers throughout most of the year and have managed to have four present at most 9.30am services.

In addition, two gentlemen from St. Michael's serve at some of the 8am Sunday services - as does Ian - for which we thank them.

There is a very good sense of comradeship, friendship and cooperation among the servers and we are indebted to Tom for his patience when new servers are being trained.

Some of our servers are now Companions in the Exeter Chapter of the Company of Servers and have attended meetings - notably an afternoon at the Cathedral when we were shown the beautifully worked vestments, the sacred vessels and the ancient books. Refreshments and a robed procession to Choral Evensong followed.

We offer a huge thankyou to Christopher Smith for his loyal and dedicated service as Head Server over a number of years. We wish him well as he starts a new chapter in his life. We will all miss him.

Finally, if anyone feels called to serve with us in this quiet ministry, please come forward. We will always welcome, train and support new volunteers.

Christine Smith.

St Davids church cleaning group

Once a month something lovely happens at StDavid's church. The general congregation notice the effect of this thing but do not know when it happens and who is involved. What is this lovely thing?

The Cleaning Fairies. There are ten of them who clean a specific area of the church each month. All the cleaning team feel that this is an important ministry within the life of our community as the church is so well used both during the week and on Sundays. We like to keep the church looking loved and cared for, which it is. We are very happy to be anonymous and would be over joyed if there are other 'fairies' out there who would like to join in. Of course as the church restoration develops the cleaning needs will no doubt change and maybe increase. We meet twice a year to talk over any needs or issues although this does involve serious tea drinking and thoroughly excellent cakes. Please talk to Avril if you would like to know more.

Mollie

Junior Church Report, 2016

The Junior Church at St David's runs during each Sunday service, other than family services, during term time and we hold the sessions in the Parish Room. It is run by a small group of volunteers with helpers. This year Susan Mitchell has stood down and we give thanks for her dedication, love and joy that she always brought to her sessions.

The ages of the members range from 4 to up about 14, but we sometimes have younger ones coming to join us for craft with their carers from the Sunday Service or older members who come back to help and assist from time to time. The size of the group at any one session does vary and can range from a small and perfectly formed 3 to an exciting and free-flowing 15 or so.

The Junior Church sessions are a really valuable time for the members to be able to share their beliefs, their world view and their experiences safely with the leaders and each other, and through the prism of the Bible and the wider Church community.

The sessions usually follow on from the readings for that Sunday or we run a theme for a term, perhaps parables. The sessions begin with a short time of shared introductions, a reflection on the readings for the theme, a time of group discussion and then a related craft activity, game or by preparing a play. We then join the congregation for a blessing or Communion, share our activity if opportunity allows and we then go back to the Parish room for a time of closing reflection and prayer.

The members really do love sharing what they have been talking about in their sessions with the congregation during the Sunday Service and this is always received really warmly by the Congregation and, again, that feeds the member's confidence in their understanding of the theme and re-enforces them in turn.

The members of Junior Church are a welcoming and loving group and it is always fantastic to see them working together to pool ideas, explore the theme and expand upon it, and for the younger members to work alongside slightly older ones. The children really do respect each other and there is a lot of care taken of and by each member for the group during the sessions.

Sarah Harrison