

St. David with St. Michael and All Angels

**ACTIVITIES REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

Parish Activities Report Presented to the APCM in April 2017

Churchwardens' Report

**Dave Allin
Avril Pattinson**

Over the past year, Church life has continued to be both exciting and challenging for us all. The daily tasks of the parish continue to be supported by an active group of volunteers and we are able to sustain not only the wide range of services but also other events. In line with every endeavour run mainly with volunteer support, we would welcome in 2017 new candidates for the many and varied tasks of a busy and thriving parish.

In November 2015 we appointed a Parish safeguarding officer and with both St David's and St Michael's having representatives we are able to offer safeguarding support with Evidence Checking administration. This has progressed in 2016 and we are getting increased support from the diocese with the newly appointed post.

This year has seen projects in both churches, make significant, if delayed, progress. At St. Michael's the new organ is complete, live video has been streamed of the Peregrine falcons and the rainwater goods renewed. As they enjoy the wonderful music in a dry church, thoughts move to the next challenges of decoration. The St David's Transformation Project has almost completed the first stage with the underpinning and repair of the west end and our thoughts now move to the next stages of the transformation. We must thank the many people who have made it possible for St David's to continue offering welcome, worship and friendship each week during this period and have given so generously of their time to the weekly worship and the projects.

In September we joyously celebrated the ordination of Christopher our Curate and reflected on the talents he has brought to the parish. In December we said goodbye to Tom as he and the family move to new opportunities and challenges. We are now into the Interregnum and busy with Parish Profiles and all the many tasks required to both sustain the parish and ensure we attract the very best incumbent.

As churchwardens we both benefit from the mutual support of each other and the help of many others.

St Michael's DCC Report 2017

Lizzy Hewitt

The St Michael's District Church Council met on four occasions in 2016. There are currently 13 members including the clergy and average attendance at meetings has been 10. 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 Fr Christopher and meetings are usually on a Thursday evening. The main points of discussion have involved the completion of the Rainwater and Drainage Project, the financial affairs of the Church, Fabric issues, Music, Lectures and Fundraising. Richard Parker and Richard Barnes led the project to re-route rainwater which has been damaging the building. This has ended the leaks at the east end of the church. Funding was provided by the Heritage Memorial Fund. We are now exploring the cost of redecorating the church, using a bequest from the late Canon Thurmer but need to find a significant sum of extra money before this can commence. The website has been updated this year and reflects the welcome extended to diverse members of the congregation. The Lecture series has continued to be successful. The Canon Thurmer Memorial lecture in May was well attended and plans are afoot for an event in 2017 supported by Nick Dixon, involving the peregrines and poetry readings. The choir continues to flourish under the baton of Erika Borley and they enjoyed performing in concerts as well as our services and completed a successful week in Winchester over the Summer.

Assistant Curate's Report

**Revd. Christopher Durrant
(Assistant Curate)**

This past year has been extraordinary. I was ordained priest in September, and after Tom retired from the parish in January, I've been the only licensed priest in the parish! I'm extremely grateful for the generous support of both Dave and Avril as superb Churchwardens, and also the wise guidance of Preb. David James. As I preach, preside and accompany the people of our parish in their lives, I see many signs of healthy growth and change in each of our worshipping communities at St. David's and St. Michael's. As we celebrate the progress of our transformation and roofing projects on both church buildings, so we continue to address matters of good financial governance and the enabling of pastoral care. This coming year, I'm most excited about further developing relationships within the wider parish community, especially with our local schools and Exeter College. May God replace our anxious hearts with His merciful heart; may we become a community practiced in forgiveness, ready to accept each other and the incumbent God is preparing for us.

St David's Junior Church Report

Sarah Harrison

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.

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. 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, sharing 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. The children are amazingly insightful and thoughtful and it is a pleasure and privilege to be alongside them.

St David's Ringers Report 2016

Geoff Crockett

2016 has been a much more active year in terms of Peals and Quarters. Two Peals were rung on the bells both to mark occasions in the church's life. On St David's Day a Peal of Dewi Sant Surprise Major was rung as a prelude to the Transformation Project launch party and on 1st October a Peal of Superlative Surprise Major was rung to celebrate Christopher Durrant's priesting.

Whilst the Peals were rung by visiting bands, the resident band, augmented by friends of St David's, rang ten quarter peals during the year, several of which were for specific reasons.

One was rung in memory of Jan Earle who joined us only last year from Canada and who died very suddenly in August. Another was rung to celebrate the birth of Nathaniel Kerlake to Kathryn and James, two of our ringers. Born in April, Nathaniel is already sitting up and taking notice of the bells. Finally in December a brand new method was rung to say farewell to Tom Honey.

Both traditions of ringing [call changes and method] are flourishing at St David's under the leadership of our Ringing Master, James Kerlake. There are regular focus methods for practice nights and practices for forthcoming competitions.

Four competitions were entered during the year and the band won The Price Shield for First Place in the Novice Competition at East Ogwell and The Hooper Cup at the Ringing Festival at Kilmington.

St David's has been the home tower for the Exeter Colleges' Guild since 1990 and their continuing presence is much appreciated.

Communications Report

Sue Holden

The St David's weekly service sheet has news and events on it and is available to take away, previous copies can be found in a folder.

The noticeboards are kept up-to-date.

The parish magazine - New Leaves, has a new editorial team and designer.

We continue to share news and events on Facebook and Twitter. We have 84 Likes on Facebook and 980 followers on Twitter.

Our new website is live and is kept up-to-date with all our information and news.

The Churchwardens are currently collecting contact details, including email addresses so that we can communicate, news, events and notices to everyone. Those not using email will have an email buddy.

St David's Toddler Group

Julia Spruntulis

The 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 5 families coming regularly, normally up to 5 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, including one tiny baby!

Our 2016 summer outing was a train trip to Dawlish seaside, we are very grateful to Betsy Allen for letting us borrow her beach hut! We ended the year with a Christmas party for 10 children, Father Christmas kindly left a sack full of presents!

A photographer joined us for one session as did Kirsten who was successful in selling us some of her Usborne books.

We have been delighted to welcome Elspeth to join our dedicated team of helpers, Barbara, Sam, Freya and Julia who 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).

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.

St David's Building Committee

Dave Allin

The activity on the general fabric of the church has been placed in abeyance as we have worked to complete the major repair and parts of the transformation. The activities have been restricted to essential activities of changing bulbs, solving leaks and painting the toilets in the parish rooms with the assistance of the YMCA. In 2017 we will seek to address the backlog that has built up.

St. David's Transformation project

Dave Allin

After some 4 years of grant applications and investigations it is very good news that in March 2016 we actually started the repair work on the west end of the church with a target to complete the main works in August. The reality of the project has been rather different and completion is now planned for March 2017.

The initial repairs, performed by Corbel Construction, comprised

- Move the font to a temporary location, move the font cover forward to it's new location and the remove 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 it old location, install insulation over the floor and a 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 have arranged for a new gas supply for the heating to be installed and repaired the stained glass windows that have cracked with the movement of the building.

The project has been delayed by a number of factors that were not identified in the development phase which we conducted with the first HLF grant. The major problems have been:

- Finding the foundations of the old church under the floor. This was unexpected as we understood that the bishop, as part of the 1896 faculty, had insisted that the building have the same footprint as the old church. This discovery, as well as higher archaeology costs, required longer needles to be used. In this phase we also found the rake-out from a Roman kiln.

- Finding that the north and south arches had moved more than expected. This has required extra repair work and some reinforcement of the stonework.
- In the development phase we 'located' the bedrock. Sadly the piling contractor drilled through the located layer and hit water at around 8.5 metres. This led to extra costs for more longer piles and some floor redesign.
- Challenges for the prime contractor to source and schedule suitable sub contractors.

In parallel with the prime works the new kitchen and meeting rooms in the north and south arches have been prepared as a 'flat pack' using wood from the recycled pews. We have also conducted a tender and have offers to install the new heating. We may also complete the path on the north side while the groundworks contractor is available.

In 2017 we have to identify what we can do of the remaining tasks and how to raise extra funds to:

- Remodel the pews to shorter, moveable benches. This will be done in two steps for cost and time reasons. See the article 'are you sitting comfortably' for more details
- 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.

Projects at St. Michael's.

Richard Barnes

St Michael's HLF project - "Celebrating 150 Years of Music, Education and Heritage on Mount Dinham" was formally completed in Feb/Mar 2016 with the external Interpretive Display Board installed and a 50-photo Record of the Project submitted. We received the final £4010 from HLF.

Roof Repair Project - Way back in January 2015 Richard Parker & I huddled over a laptop preparing a submission to the then Chancellor's Roof Repair Fund for Listed Places of Worship, advised and helped by numbers from our Church Architect, Jonathan Rhind. The core of our case was:-

"The rainwater goods of the lower-level roofs had been replaced in the post-war period with asbestos and, later, with narrow gauge plastic rainwater goods. They are now badly decayed and inadequate to meet the overflow from the high roofs, causing serious water damage to parts of the building. We seek grant aid to redesign our high level gutters to improve their functionality; to

replace the failing rainwater goods with appropriate cast-iron pipes and gutters and to resolve the drainage issues identified in our 2011 Quinquennial Report.”

Somewhat to our surprise we were successful, securing a grant of £78,800 towards work costed at £101,220, with £17k to be reclaimed from VAT, £3,500 to be raised as donations and £2k to come from church reserves. These grant applications are a balance of hope and showing willing, and asking for 78% had seemed about right.

The Project was mainly managed for us by Jonathan Rhind Architects and the main contract for gutter repairs, new rainwater goods, e.g. downpipes, scaffolding etc. was let to the bid from Williams & Burrows, who are also involved in the restoration of the Mount Dinham Free Cottages for Cornerstone.

Allowing our Peregrines time to fledge, work commenced 1st August 2016 with 50% of the RRF Grant in the bank. Our Progress Report in Nov 2016 released the next 40% of the Grant and with work complete shortly afterwards we prepared Completion, Evaluation, Photo Record and Maintenance Reports and received our Final Payment in Feb 2017.

We were able to write:- “The project dealt with three main areas: the high-level parapet gutters, the rainwater goods and the below ground drainage.

“The high-level works installed additional ‘weepers’, small overflow pipes, at the level of the nave, chancel and transept parapets to ensure water does not build up behind the parapets and penetrate the roof. Excess water will be directed away from the building as though by traditional gargoyles.

“The project replaced all the rainwater goods with square-section cast-iron gutters and downpipes, matching the Victorian originals. At ground level and below, a drainage survey revealed that much of the system was in poor repair and many gullies were blocked. The old downpipes simply ran directly into the ground, allowing no access to the drainage gullies.

“The project refurbished and improved drainage, by repairing and clearing the gullies, and by improving access to the gullies by installing drainage openings and covers, thus ensuring rapid run-off of rainwater and improving maintenance.”

Thanks to Adrian for paying the Invoices, dealing with cash flow issues, and making VAT reclaims. We are also very grateful to Exeter Historic Buildings Trust for a gift of £3k and to All Churches Trust for £2k. The Unusually Good Book Sale (with Refreshments) was also a good fund-raiser.

We gratefully acknowledge the LPOW Roof Repair Fund without which this important work could not have been done, and thank our main contacts, Sarah Drewell at LPOW and Mark Raby at Jonathan Rhind for their work and help. We also thank Richard

Burrows and his team for the sensitive way they carried out their work around our weekday Services.



St David's Church Traidcraft Stall Report

Richard Featherstone

There was a Traidcraft stall at St David's on seven occasions in 2016 raising the following amounts:

	£
Jan	128.98
Mar	212.80
May	125.70
July	97.15
Oct	110.25
Nov	177.36
Dec	83.20
Total	935.44

The stall organised a supply of 'Real Easter Eggs' and 'Real Advent Calendars' via Traidcraft and this was popular amongst churchgoers. Orders for Easter eggs in 2017 will be taken on Feb

19th and 26th for delivery on March 19th. The church community has shown its support of the charity by buying its fairly traded goods, a high proportion of which are organic.

We are grateful to Mary Ellis of South Street Baptist Church who orders in the goods for several churches and prices them up. We are also grateful to Alistair and Julia who often help with selling.

The history of the development of Traidcraft can be viewed on the organisation's website. It is a fascinating story.

St David's Community Christmas Concert Sam Wellbelove

Since we were unable to hold our usual summer fete due to the Transformation Project, we organised a fundraising concert which took place on the evening of 27th November and which involved several members of the local community as well as members of St David's congregation. Highlights included the YMCA singing group and the sword-fighting display. There was a huge diversity of talent across all age ranges from classical music ensembles to belly dancing. The sale of mulled wine, mince pies and draw tickets all added to the monies raised which totalled just under £700.00.

St David's Servers

Christine Smith

Once again, we have been fortunate in attracting and retaining servers. We have 12 on rota for the 9.30am services and 3 additional servers helping at the 8am BCP services.

We have said goodbye and thank you to Catherine, have welcomed back Christopher and welcomed Julia and Shaun to the team. We hope that they will enjoy the sense of fun, friendship and caring as well as the devotion and solemnity of the liturgy.

The Exeter Chapter of the Company of Servers - of which many of us are members - has enjoyed meetings at Churston Ferrers, Plympton and Escott Churches. Our most recent meeting was at St David's where Rev. Christopher presided and our Chaplain, Preb. Alan White admitted 3 new Companions including 2 from St. David's.

As Head Server, I thank the whole team for their great willingness, friendship and cooperation. I believe that we are in good heart and good shape for the year ahead.

St David's Soup Evening

Roger Beer

Here we are again. We are now in our 14th year. Our numbers are around 20-30 at this moment with a high of 50 now and then. This has been helped by Safe Sleep, a scheme run by Julian House as this year the Council did not have the money for the winter provision. We have been supporting Safe Sleep with soup, cheese and bread left over from our own soup evening.

We are still very well supported with volunteers and will shortly be starting a rota so we do not have too many on one night.

For the second time, we were chosen as one of three community charities by Waitrose just before Christmas and have received a cheque from them for £380 which will go towards clothing (men's jeans, socks and underwear), rucksacks and sleeping bags. We are also still being supplied with bread by Sainsbury's Alphington on a weekly basis and we are very grateful to the bakery team there for their continued support.

Once again a very big 'thank you' to everyone who has been involved with the soup evening in whatever way.

St David's Women's Group 2016-2017

**Helena Walker
et al**

It has been another eventful year for the women's group. We all enjoyed a game of 'Call My Bluff' in the early part of the year. Jeremy Lawford kindly provided suitably difficult words and the women assembled in the St Thomas Church Hall to divide into teams to try to flummox the opposition with various definitions. This was so successful in terms of the effort that the teams put into the definitions that we have lots of words left over. We hope to be able to convert this into a whole parish Call My Bluff when the back of St David's is ready for a social event. The women's group will be happy to organise this.

The next event was line-dancing – again in the St Thomas Hall. We hunted around for someone to bring music and teach us and were so pleased to find a group of people who were happy to come and teach us – as we were a mixed bunch aged 14-84! The evening was well-attended with women from St David's, but we have always invited St David's women to bring their friends and this occasion was attended by over forty women, so was a very pleasing outreach event too.

The planning team for the women's group has held to the idea that we would like to have at least one spiritual event a year and this year we repeated the Advent Reflection – a short time to draw breath before the onslaught of Christmas preparations. This was

ably led by Hilary Francis with musical accompaniment by Bee Harley. Bee composed music for this, and we are indebted to both of them for a truly gentle and restful interlude.

And finally the New Year's Dinner, held this year at the Dinosaur Café at the Clock-Tower. Ayshe prepared us a three-course Turkish-themed dinner and the planning team arranged quizzes and party games.

The planning team has aimed to keep the events to a cost that is manageable to most in order to be fully inclusive. This is usually £9 and includes food, drink, venue-hire, organisers (eg the line-dance teachers) etc. The dinner was priced at £12.50. This means that when people have paid to attend the event there is no further expenditure.

At the Dinosaur dinner (as indeed in previous years) we have asked people to suggest future events, and we have acted on these. We have also asked others if they wish to join the 'Party Planners' and this year we are joined by Hilary Todd.

So this is from the women's group planners: Ann Watts, Helena Walker, Mollie Curry, Emma White, Hilary Francis, Hilary Todd, Mary Kirkland.

Music at St David's Church

**Nigel Walsh
Director of Music**

2016 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 ordination services.

Robert and Susan Mitchell, with assistance from Ruth James and Richard Featherstone, have led our church orchestra in consistently providing 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 and Ian Smith.

In addition to regular services, St David's continued to provide a venue for concerts. During 2016, we were delighted to welcome several visiting choirs and instrumental groups.

The Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament [CBS]

Fr. David Hastings Ward superior

The Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament [CBS] is a devotional society in the Anglican Communion which is dedicated to venerating the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

It is the oldest Anglican devotional society and was founded in 1862 during the period of The Oxford Movement.

Its motto is Adoremus in Aeternum Sanctissimum Sacramentum which in translation is "Let us forever adore the Most Blessed Sacrament."

The CBS rules are that members should take part in the celebration of the Eucharist on all Sundays, greater festivals and holy days whenever possible. In addition members are encouraged to promote the reverent celebration of the Eucharist as the Church's daily offering and to make special intercessions on a regular basis.

Throughout the country there are what are known as Wards of CBS often attached to a local church and here in Exeter we have a Ward based at St. Michael and All Angels, Mount Dinham. Each Ward is usually dedicated to a saint and our Ward is named after St. Clement, one of the local churches which existed in our area many years ago and which was located somewhere in the region of the present St. David's Station.

Each Ward has a Ward Superior whose responsibility is for the local members and in turn is related to the District Superior, which in our case is in Plymouth and who covers the whole of the South West. Bishop Roger Jupp is the Superior General for the United Kingdom.

The St. Clement Ward meets once a month for a Plainsong Mass on a Tuesday or Thursday at 6.00 p.m. usually a Holy Day and celebrated by the Ward Superior.

The Ward has a total of 15 members who endeavour to attend the monthly Mass and as members they receive the national CBS Quarterly Newsletter and Prayer schedule.

I have been a Life Member since 1992 and became Ward Superior soon after I moved to Exeter to be the Chaplain at HMP

Exeter, and apart from a break when I retired as Honorary Assistant Priest at St. Michael's, I continue to look after the St. Clement Ward. New members are always welcome.

All, whether CBS members or not, are welcome at our monthly Mass, the dates of which are posted at St. Michael's.

If this short article about CBS whets the appetite to find out more then I would be most pleased to supply further information. Meanwhile your prayers are asked for the work of CBS both nationally and locally.

Peregrines at St Michael's.

Richard Barnes

2016 was the 20th successive year that the Exeter Peregrine Falcons resident on the spire of St Michael's Church have bred here. The current pair has been active since 2009. In 2016 they laid 4 eggs during the last week of March, 2 males hatched early in May and fledged mid June. One had an "interesting" first few days being rescued from the ground several times and returned to roofs, once being fed by a passing vet with road-kill squirrel!

Both juveniles were doing well, but late in July one suffered a fatal flying accident in Paul Street. The other appears to have developed his hunting skills well, taught by the adults, and naturally dispersed to find his own territory in the late Autumn. Although many cities now have a resident pair of urban Peregrines breeding, the high mortality rate in their early years keeps the increase in numbers quite modest.

The nest box camera broadcasts to the internet throughout the breeding season from March to July, and during this time hits on our website were many times higher than the rest of the year. For 2017 a new HD camera has been installed by Jason Fathers of Wildlife Windows, funded by Nick Dixon from direct sales of his excellent new booklet here and elsewhere.

Intermittent problems with our broadband line throughout February were hard to resolve, but things became more stable just in time for egg-laying. As I write we have 2 eggs laid and hope for a couple more. See <http://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk/peregrine-falcons/>

Edibles Stall

Sarah Black

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.

In 2017 we had an edibles stall in January, February, March, April, May, June, July, September, October and November. We raised a total of £467.49 and gave the May sum to Christian Aid. Thank you to everyone who helps with our stalls, running them, cooking for them, and, most importantly, buying from them.

Christian Aid

Sarah Black

In 2016 Christian Aid week was 15-21 May. Rev and Mrs Honey organised a garden party and garage sale at the vicarage on the first Saturday, which was very well attended and a most enjoyable event. We had a collection in church, and gave that month's money from the edibles stall to Christian Aid.

This year, Christian Aid week is from 14-20 May. There will be a focus on helping refugees, and we are all encouraged to hold a Big Brekkie. Please think of sending off for the free pack so we can hold as many Big Brekkies as possible throughout the parish. If anyone would like to help me with one in St David's please get in touch.

Deanery Synod

Sarah Black

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, Hilary Todd and Charlotte Townsend.

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 2016-7 were held at:

Heavitree, where the meeting focussed on work with the vulnerable in society with talks about the work of St Petrock's and The Childrens' Society:

St Stephens: where there were talks from the chaplains of Exeter School, St Peter's School and the University;

and in February there were a series of events when Bishop Sarah visited the Deanery as part of the Bishops' Mission in which a bishop visited each Deanery in the Diocese for a few days.

This year is the start of a new Triennium (3 year period) when all representatives to the Deanery Synod stand down and new ones are elected (or re elected). Please contact one of the clergy team if you wish to become one of the parish's representatives.

St Michael's Lectures

David Beadle

I was heavily committed to completing a doctorate in 2016, and have been working my way through quite a few personal difficulties through 2016-2017. Nonetheless, we managed to compile a varied programme of lectures with such diverse topics as mental illness, PTSD, farmed animal welfare, the role of the church in healthcare, racism and ethnocentrism in the interpretation of Scripture, and deliverance ministry. Furthermore, Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Exeter, Nicholas Orme, gave the inaugural and well-attended John Thurmer memorial lecture, on a "Short History of England's Cathedrals", which was followed by a celebration in Canon John Thurmer's honour. I would have been unable to take care of all this without the help of Br Michael Jerome in coordinating the series, Mr Jerry Sugg with his technical and organisational support, and Mr Tony Pugh with his ongoing diverse support on lecture evenings. I remain extremely grateful to them, and to everyone else who has assisted in the delivery of the lectures, with especial thanks to Mr Richard Barnes, to the editors of *New Leaves*, and to Mrs Wendy Milne and CTAX for their continued assistance in publicising the lectures. It was, however, unlike previous years, not possible to turn in any significant profit towards the running of the church, partly due to my reduced ability to produce early publicity and partly due to the costly business of a late cancellation of the November lecture meaning that the lecturer who came instead could not book his rail ticket from Chester in advance.

The results of a questionnaire, distributed and evaluated through *Survey Monkey* last year, suggested that most people preferred to continue with the Wednesday lectures and, in spite of rather smaller audiences this year, liked the regularity of monthly lectures. With this in mind we decided to try still to run monthly events but, wherever possible, to partner with other events and

projects. In February, we organised at short notice a lecture with Mrs Penelope Cowell Doe from the University of Exeter's Theology Department and from the South West Ministry Training Course on the recent and eventful deliberations on sexuality at General Synod. In March and April, Professor Oliver Nicholson ran in place of lectures a weekly Lent study group on Augustine's *Confessions*, which have attracted a strong core of supporters and more occasional participants. We are also hoping, in addition, to hold another lecture in memory of Canon John Thurmer at the end of May, and an inaugural lecture in memory of the Rev'd Dr John Hughes towards the end of the year. We are hoping to recruit a very high profile speaker for a second John Hughes lecture in 2018. Proceeds raised, as agreed by St Michael's DCC, will go towards a memorial for John Hughes. Furthermore, I will be working with a friend Miss Jessica Fawell, and local poet Dr Michael Rose-Steel, to run a peregrine festival in the 2018 nesting season, to raise money for the live-streaming of the birds.

St. Michael's Church Foodbank Report

Paula Lewis.

Members of the congregation have been regularly leaving items of food in the collection box at the back of church. Which has meant over the past year, 27 carrier bags of food and non food items have been delivered to the Foodbank distribution center.

Also our Harvest Festival challenge of seeing how many non consumable items it was possible to buy with £4, resulted in a collection of 3 cardboard boxes full of – toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, shower gel etc.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed.

The Foodbank are grateful for our donations and please continue to give.

Heritage Open Weekend Sat 10th – Sun 11th September 2016.

**Connie Cannon,
Paula Lewis,
Elizabeth Hughes**

On Saturday 10th Sept. Devon Historic Churches Trust held their fund raising event "Ride and Stride". Paula Lewis took part and received sponsorships to walk around Exeter to visit as many local Churches as possible. The walk raised £200 which was divided equally between Devon Historic Churches Trust and St. Michael's Church.

On the afternoon of Sunday 11th September a very successful Cream Tea for the local community raised a further £150 the Church.

St. Michael's Church was open all weekend and welcomed many visitors. Richard Parker displayed the history of the Church

and gave guided talks, while Nigel Browne made the organ available for people to hear and play.

Thank you to everyone involved in a very enjoyable weekend.

St Michael's Paper Collection

Connie Cannon

For 2016 the contributions have helped to raise a total of £848.54 for Church Funds.

January to March	2780 kg
April to June	2820 kg
July to September	2580 kg
October to December	2840 kg

Total – 11.02 tonnes @ £77.00 per tonne earned £848.54

A big 'Thank You' to John and Monica Darch for transporting the collections once a week to the recycling centre in Marsh Barton.

A reminder that newspapers, magazines, catalogues, phone directories, envelopes and junk mail are all accepted and very welcome.

In addition, cardboard and greeting cards (no glitter) are also acceptable, but these should be packed separately.