

**1 CHURCH
FAMILY**



'I came that they may have
and enjoy life, and have it
in abundance.'

JOHN 10:10

Benefice of Blagdon with Charterhouse, Compton Martin and Ubley



Living the story. Telling the story.

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 December 2021

of The Parochial Church Council of
St Michael's Church, Compton Martin

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I INTRODUCTION

As Christians, our first commitment is to God - and all our other vocations find their place within this commitment. Our principal expression of our faithfulness to God is in worship and prayer. This is followed by the way we grow and nurture our faith in God and each other, through talks and courses and telling our stories of faith. Then comes living our stories in serving others.

Our Church-Life is the telling and living of God's story throughout our lives so that the possibility of God is kept alive in our communities.

This Annual Review is our telling of the story of our Church-Life through 2021; a year which has involved beginning to discover what a "new normal" looks like after the Pandemic. It represents an enormous amount of commitment, effort and discernment. We thank everyone who has contributed to our Church-Life during 2021, including those who have now moved away from the area but who have worshipped throughout the Benefice and given so much to the Church family.

*Revd. Simon Lewis
Priest & Rector*

2 REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

2.1 Geography of the Parish

1. The ecclesiastical Parish of Compton Martin constitutes the village of Compton Martin and is in the County of Bath and North East Somerset.
2. There are two buildings belonging to the parish, The Parish Church of St Michael's, situated in Compton Martin and The Old School Room situated next to the church.
3. The Parish is in the Diocese of Bath & Wells, a part of the Church of England.

2.2 Correspondence

A: The Church Office, Easton House, Church Street, Blagdon, Bristol, BS40 7SJ

E: benefice.bcmu@gmail.com

T: 01761 463205

2.3 Parish Reference

Full name of the PCC	The Parochial Church Council of St Michael's Church, Compton Martin
Benefice	Benefice of Blagdon, Compton Martin and Ubley
Deanery	Chew Magna
Archdeaconary	Bath
Diocese	Bath & Wells
Church building address	St Michael's Church, The Batch, Compton Martin, BS40 6JQ
Church of England Church Building reference	St Michael's Church - 510296

2.4 Parish Personnel

Incumbent	The Reverend Simon Lewis
Churchwardens	Mrs Kate Reynolds
	Mr Jonathan Reynolds
Readers	Mr Gene Joyner
(awaiting appointment)	Mrs Nikki Burns
(awaiting appointment)	Mr Gerald Coles
(awaiting appointment)	Mrs Lucy Hemsley
Church Administrator	Mrs Laura Williams
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Gill Durbin
PCC Secretary	Mrs Sue Owst
Music, Arts and Drama Director	Mrs Rachel Branston
Benefice Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Officer	Mrs Kate Reynolds

2.5 External Organisation

For Buildings and Grounds

Diocesan Architect	Mr George Chedburn
Address	Chedburn Ltd, Glove Factory Studios, Holt, Bradford-on-Avon, BA14 6RL

For Finances

Bank	Natwest
Address	Knowle, Bristol (B) Branch, PO Box 3235, 290 Wells Road, Knowle, Bristol, BS4 9GB
Bank	Santander
Address	Customer Service Centre, Bootle, Merseyside, L30 4GB
Bank	West Country Savings and Loans
Address	Kestrel Court, Harbour Road, Portishead, North Somerset, BS20 7AN
Independent Examiner	Mr Chris Ball
Address	The Outlook, Ellick Road, Blagdon, Bristol BS40 7TU

2.6 Electoral Roll

1. The Electoral Roll (ER) is the official membership list of local Church of England congregations. Signing the roll means that you want to belong and shows a sign of your commitment to the Church of England via this parish. Only those on the ER may stand for election as a member of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of this parish, as a Churchwarden of this parish, or member of the Deanery Synod representing this parish; membership also allows you to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).
2. You need to be 16 years or over and be a baptised member of the Church of England either living within the geographical parish of St Michael, or if you live outside the parish but fulfil these requirements and have habitually attended worship for six months then you may also join. Additionally, those who fulfil all of the above but were baptised into another Christian community (e.g. Methodist or Roman Catholic) but who have made the Church of England at, St Michael, your home, may also join.
3. The ER Numbers for our Parish is: 38

2.7 St Michael current PCC Membership - From October APCM onwards

Pairsh Title	Name	PCC Champion	Year Elected	Year Co-opted	Term Ends	Nº. of Terms
Ordained (<i>Ex-officio</i>)						
Incumbent	Revd. Simon Lewis	Chair			Indefinite	
Reader/s	Mr Gene Joyner			2018	Annual Reconfirmation	
Churchwarden (<i>Term: Elected every year for no more than 6 years consecutively</i>)						
Churchwarden	Mrs Kate Reynolds	Vice-chair	2020		2021	Second
Churchwarden	Mr Jonathan Reynolds	Vice-chair	2020		2021	Second
Deanery Synod Representative (<i>Term: Three years</i>)						
Deanery Synod Rep.	Mrs Jean Luckett		2020		2023	Second
Deanery Synod Rep.	Vacant					
Elected (<i>Term: Three years</i>)						
Secretary	Mrs Sue Owst		2020		2023	Third
Treasurer	Mrs Gill Durbin		2018		2021	First
	Mr John Allen		2020		2023	Second
	Mrs Lucy Hemsley		2020		2023	Second
Co-opted (<i>Term: One year unless stated</i>)						
Administrator	Mrs Laura Williams	<i>Acting Secretary</i>		2019	Indefinite	

3 Structure, governance and management

3.1 Parochial Church Council

1. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England; it operates under the Parochial Church Count.
2. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules.
3. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.
4. Each elected PCC member is encouraged to be a member of a PCC Team. Ex-officio members (excluding Deanery Synod Representatives) may sit on any Team.
5. Non-PCC members invited to join PCC Teams are co-opted members. They are invited to join because of the gifts and expertise they have. Their term on a Team might be short-term (for example, the duration of a particular project) or long-term.

3.2 Charity Accounting

1. **From the Charities Act** “Charities have a major impact on our society, funding or supporting community work that otherwise, if it would seem to be outside the total responsibility of government, would not happen! So it is easy to see why governments are interested in all charities. They want to ensure that money given to charities is spent on the charity's aims and not wasted, so that people will keep giving.
2. “To achieve this aim successive UK governments have been developing charity law for more than 400 years. They have made charity trustees more and more responsible for the work and finances of the charity. **The members of the PCC are charity trustees.** The Charities Act (2011) defines charities as organisations that aim to provide 'public benefit' in one or more charitable areas or 'purposes'. It has also reinforced the Charity Commission's legal powers to be able to support and regulate charities.
3. “The Charity Commission created the Charities SORP ('Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice'), to give us clear guidelines on what information to keep and what reports to produce to meet our legal obligations. The Church of England has adopted the SORP as its standard basis for annual financial reporting by parishes, so that now we can provide the same information to both the government (for the general public) and the wider Church.
4. “What does this mean for you as a parish? As PCC members we are the charity trustees of the parish. We therefore need to understand what money is coming into the church, how we are spending it and why. In order to give a clear account of how the money has been received and spent, each parish has to produce the reports required by law.
5. “These accounts and reports help us to tell people how their money supports the mission of the church. They will also help us to show that the money given to us for running the parish or for specific aims such as youth or building work was used for those purposes. As PCC members we are responsible for the money, how it is looked after and for providing clear information about all of the money that belongs to the church.”

[The above is from The Charities Act and the PCC. Church House, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3AZ; ISBN 978-0-7151-1112-3; First published 2006 by Church House Publishing. Fifth edition published in 2017 for the House of Bishops of the General Synod of the Church of England. Copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2006, 2017]

4 *Aims and Purpose (how our Church operates and its intentions)*

1. The primary purpose of St Michael's PCC, along with all parishes across our nation, is stated in The PCC (Powers) Measure of 1956. It is promotion of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. **We do this in 'co-operation with our minister', the Reverend Simon Lewis, by 'promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical'**. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of St Michael's Church, and The Old School Room, Compton Martin, as a resource to help achieve the primary aim.
2. **From The Charities Act** "Although all charities have always had to meet the public benefit requirement, the Charities Act highlights it by requiring all charities to demonstrate, explicitly, that their aims are for the public benefit, including charities advancing education or religion or relieving poverty, which were previously presumed to be for the public benefit. Public benefit is assessed by two key principles:
 - a. There must be an identifiable benefit or benefits.
 - b. The benefit must be to the public, or section of the public."

[The Charities Act and the PCC. Church House, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3AZ;
ISBN 978-0-7151-1112-3; First published 2006 by Church House Publishing.
Fifth edition published in 2017 for the House of Bishops of the General Synod of the Church of England.
Copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2006, 2017]

3. Throughout 2021 we continued to explore the possibility of our parish working more collaboratively with our neighbour parishes in Blagdon and Ubley, including discussion of a potential merger with them as a single parish. In September we began a new pattern of collaborative and inclusive worship with parishioners from Blagdon and Ubley joining us on the second and fourth Sunday of each month for communion worship at St Michael's. It has been our aim to consult with those outside the PCC about the proposed merger. At the end of 2021 the PCC decided to pause their involvement in the merger of the parishes until they felt confident that this was the best decision for St Michael's.

5 *Achievements and performance (how our aims are fulfilled)*

5.1 **Worship Ministry**

- I. **Worship** A relationship with God (having faith in the existence of a living God) is not assumed. In a healthy Church it is spoken about and seen as central to the task of the Church. The aim of all the nurture and growing of faith in a Church community is to help us reflect on our own experience of the grace and reality of God - or to address the lack of it, if we so choose. A time of nurturing and growing helps us to tell our own story, whether of our earliest journey to faith or of our current experience of the faith journey we are on. This includes reflecting on the impact God has and is having on our lives, as individuals and as a community of faith. To be in a relationship with God is to be in a relationship with people - it is a shared experience of love.

Worshipping together is paramount to this shared experience of being in a relationship with God. Over the past year we have aimed to live as one worshipping community, learning to talk about our faith with each other rather than just giving an acknowledging nod to another's presence. Worship should never be seen as a habit; as something traditional to do. That marginalises God.

Worship moves people to experience God's love. But this won't happen every time we worship; sometimes we are just out-of-tune with God (just as we sometimes are 'out-of-tune' with our loved ones!). Experiencing God's presence in worship involves being comfortable with the use of *silence* to enable us to hear what God is saying. Equally the use of testimonies and stories in which people share experiences of God's action is vital. Along side this is the ministry music provides. All worship is about our God given senses being engaged in order that our relationship with God is nurtured and grows. One should enter worship expecting to be transformed by it.

There is the question of the sermon or talk as some call it: why do we have one? As Janice walked out of church after worship, she shook the vicar's hand and said "Nice sermon Vicar." The Vicar looked her in the eye and said, "That's great Janice. What was it you learned from it?" "Oh, sorry, Vicar," Janice replied, "I can't exactly remember but I'm sure it was a nice thought! Bye, got to go, lunch to prepare."

A sermon/talk prods us to reflect on our relationship with God; seeks to transform how we look and respond to the world around us; pushes us to have a conversation (prayer) with God; and to having conversations about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit with our friends or even acquaintances; maybe even strangers? They give context to the reality of God in our lives, and to why it is good and necessary to worship God. The presence of a gathered congregation makes this a shared or corporate experience enabling us to talk with one another about our faith. But if none of the above apply, what then?

Over the last year the sermons/talks given by the worship team have been positively challenging for many who have heard them; this is recognised by the different sorts of conversations that are now taking place amongst us. And there is a visible difference in the way some of us worship: an acknowledgment that their relationship with God is different than before. It is so wonderful to observe this, to see relationships with God deepened. And I thank God for this and give praise.

Thank you to everyone who has enriched our worship through leading intercession; reading Scripture; singing anthems, hymns and songs; playing musical instruments; being welcomers; being the ones ensuring refreshments are served; setting out our worship space and clearing away after. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to ensuring those who worship with us meet God.

Simon Lewis
(Priest / Rector)

2. Attendance Figures for Festival Worship Throughout the Benefice

	St Andrew's			St Hugh's			St Michael's			St Bartholomew's			Benefice Total			
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2020 online	2021
Lent - Mothering Sunday	46	LD			LD			LD	42	23	LD	21	69	LD		63
Palm Sunday	59	LD			LD			LD	28		LD		59	LD	0	28
Good Friday		LD	19		LD			LD			LD		0	LD	31	19
Easter Sunday	95	LD			LD		70	LD	42	47	LD	72	212	LD	42	114
Harvest Festival		34		39	LD		32	LD	36	31	LD	26	102	LD	21	62
Lights of Love (All Souls)		LD			LD			LD		38	LD	34	38	LD	44	34
Remembrance Services	239	LD	109		LD		46	LD	35	36	LD	27	321	LD	94	171
Carols by Candlelight		LD	57	128	LD	32	110	LD	39		LD		238	LD		128
Blessing of Crib	119	LD	51		LD		105	LD	30		LD		224	LD		81
Midnight Mass		47	15				38						38	47		15
Christmas Day	70	24	2				74	63	39	84	51	43	228	138		84

5.2 Contemplative Ministry

1. **Intercession Group** Every Monday a group meets to pray for all the Benefice and especially for those individuals who have asked for our prayers and are named in Church Link. Prayers are also offered for circumstances that affect people locally, nationally and worldwide.
2. **New Horizons/Eternal Light** It is in relationship with God that we may find our true purpose and start to explore the Spiritual Gifts which we have been blessed with and how we may use them. By focusing on a Contemplative culture, spending time deeply in the presence of God, learning how to listen and tune in to everything that is already within us, our gifts will be readily recognised and burst out into an energy of action for God's mission. Nikki Burns' vision for the development of St. Hugh's, as a centre for contemplation included monthly evening worship, using multi-sensory stimuli, which was attended by a small but regular group of worshippers. It is hoped to expand this experience and broaden participation during 2022.
3. **Morning Prayer and Evensong (known as The Occasional Offices)** Following successive lockdowns, the new pattern of worship begun in September 2021, made provision for Morning Prayer in each of our parish churches every week. Evensong at St Andrew's, supported by the choir established itself in the weekly pattern of worship.

5.3 Growing Ministry

I. Healthy Church

'A healthy church is one that has been touched and energised by the presence of God so it reflects something of the good news of the wholeness made possible through the knowledge of God and revealed in Christ, by the Holy Spirit.'

Being a Healthy Church is not about growing the numbers of people who come to worship on a Sunday morning. A Healthy Church takes its faith - its relationship with God - seriously and seeks to be Church to the very best of its ability: a Church with an outward focused vision giving support to the local neighbourhood.

You may wonder where this 'healthy' idea comes from. Jesus frequently said to people whom he healed, 'your faith has saved you': or put another way 'made you well', 'made you whole'. A Church that is healthy has been touched and energised by the presence of God and therefore, reflects something of the Good News of the 'wholeness' made possible in peoples lives, through a relationship with God as revealed in Christ, by the Holy Spirit. This is not a wishy-washy, pie-in-the-sky whim. It is grounded 'spiritual' realism and needs a reorientation of one's life compass, away from total reliance on humanities own self-sufficiency, to dependence on a relationship with God.

The journey we have begun is not a quick fix or a programme as such, but rather about a settled determination, whatever the false turns and setbacks may be, to develop the health of the Church, here in this benefice. Simply put, experience suggests that a healthy Church, because it is energised by its relationship with God, has an outward-looking focus in life, which seeks to find out what God wants of it. As this happens it lives its whole life seeking to bring about transformation in the lives of both individuals and social structures, by operating in small groups within a neighbourhood. This enables the Church to be a place for all people and a place that seeks to do a few things and do them well.

All were invited to a Forum to discuss our Healthy Church Pathway in July where we explored our strengths and weaknesses and ways to grow and nurture our church. These were guided by the Seven marks of a healthy church which have been embraced in the second half of the year, in the following ways:

Mark 1	Energised by Faith	New worship programme begun in September Lent Forum Intercession Group Iona Worship - online
Mark 2	Outward looking focus	Planning for Eco Church Mini Melodies Ukulele Choir Carols at the Pub
Mark 3	Seeks to find out what God wants	Contemplative Worship Lectio Divina (within meetings including PCC)
Mark 4	Faces the cost of change and growth	Our journey towards the creation of a common purpose and mission within our community (Pathways Projects)
Mark 5	Operates as a community	Change can be difficult and we need to rebuild ourselves as a community: - Ministry of Cake - Thank Cake its Friday - Messy Church
Mark 6	Makes room for all	Living in love and faith yet to be addressed
Mark 7	Does a few things and does them well	Key Pathways identified above Our one big focus should be HOSPITALITY - meeting, eating, having fun together and sharing fellowship

2. **Lent Forum** *Where is God in a Covid World?* was the question explored as part of our Lent experience through three weekly online forums which were also attended by parishioners from the United Parish of East Harptree, with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett. Particularly during lockdown our time sharing our stories and asking deep questions enabled us to draw closer to each other and to God.
3. **Marriage Preparation Course** During the year we ran two marriage preparation courses on Zoom. Thirteen couples met monthly for five sessions with Simon and Nick and Sarah Jarrett-Kerr. The course is build on the concept of designing a healthy “blueprint” for marriage to enable couples to build a a strong, healthy and stable relationship. Particularly during a time when preparation for weddings has been anything but normal, the couples benefited from being able to share their journeys with each other. Much thanks goes to Nick and Sarah for their dedication to this ministry.
4. **Messy Church** The frustration of knowing that there are good premises, good leaders, some good ideas, but few children and families turning up on Sunday’s to meet God comes from a realisation that we simply aren’t connecting - what we did in the past is not connecting with those unfamiliar with church. Messy church is a wonderful place of play and learning for children and their parents together. They share being creative making something relevant to the theme for the week; enjoy a yummy tea; hear the stories from the bible and share what they have learnt from their activities so they may reflect together at home. They are able to enjoy church as a happy, lively and inviting place to be comfortable, learn and grow. The feedback is very positive with the adults saying they enjoy hearing the stories from the bible in a simple, understandable format. Messy Church meets in the afternoon of the second Sunday of the month in St Bartholomew’s. We are always happy for more helpers to support our team on this Godly adventure.

5.4 Serving Ministry

Life-Events (Rites of Passage)

	St Andrew & St Hugh	St Michael	St Bartholomew	Crematorium	Benefice Total
Baptisms	6	1	0		7
Weddings	14	1	0		15
Funeral Ceremony	5	3	0	1	9
Burial & Interment	3	0	1		4

1. **Baptisms** As lockdown was lifted in the summer we began to receive large numbers of enquires from both local families and couples who had married in St Andrew’s, requesting baptism of their children. We were able to hold seven baptisms in the second half of the year. From feedback we received we know these were much valued. Several families chose to have their baptism within the regular morning worship enabling many of you to enrich your understanding of baptism. Many more baptisms have been scheduled for 2022.
2. **Weddings** Due to continued restrictions only one wedding took place with very small numbers attending during the first of the year. However, from June we were able to celebrate marriages with a new freedom and joy. Thank you to all those who supported our wedding couples at their ceremonies through preparation of our churches, stewarding, provision of music and bell-ringing. Many of our weddings were live streamed.
3. **Funerals** Families were relieved to be able to hold funerals in church with fewer restrictions than in 2020 and fewer ceremonies were conducted at local crematoria. We continued to live stream funerals, either using existing technology at St Andrew’s or through hire of videographers.

Community Outreach

4. **Mini Melodies** A new group was formed after restrictions were lifted from Covid in September 2021. This group is aimed at pre school children with their parents, or in many cases grandparents. We meet together on a Tuesday morning in St Andrew's from 10.30am – 12 noon.

The children sing songs, very ably led by Rachel Branson and her ukulele, illustrated with pictures relevant to the song. They are read a story, we say a blessing on 'Our homes, our family and friends and ourselves' – then it is snack time. Children are served fruit and milk and the adults are served coffee and biscuits. The numbers fluctuate but we have contacts and attendance for twenty families and often on a Tuesday have 10 families attending. The adults tell us Mini Melodies is a very important date in their weekly calendar and we are there to give support and care to them all.

Penny Crawford is to be applauded for having the vision to restart this group from the old 'Prayers and Bears' which was held before Covid, and going round the village in early September to inform every family with pre school children that we were recommencing.

5. **Thank Cake Its Friday** began in October 2021. It takes place on the first Friday of the Month between 2.30pm and 4.15pm. We met in The Old School Room initially, but subsequently moved to the Village Hall.

The idea behind "Thank Cake" was to provide a social opportunity for people of the village to meet and re-establish bonds as we moved beyond the height of the pandemic. We provide free tea/coffee and a selection of homemade cakes. Although it was only held on 3 occasions before the end of the year, the response was positive and word was spreading about it in the village.

6. **Ukulele Choir** Inspired by our Musical Director, Rachel Branson, our Ukulele Choir began in September. We rehearse weekly on a Wednesday in St Andrew's and enjoy playing and singing a broad range of music, whilst we learn to play. We are of mixed ability and new members are always very welcome. We particularly enjoyed playing carols at the New Inn, Blagdon.

7. **Carols at Christmas**

- **Pub** This was a new venture to take the Christmas message beyond the walls of the church building and what better place! Held in the New Inn, Blagdon, a small band, including ukuleles, sang and played their hearts out along with the locals. We hope to expand this next year. It was also an opportunity to raise money for The Salvation Army.
- **Tree** Gathered around the Christmas Tree in Ubley, carols were sung by villagers with gusto accompanied by guitar and recorders. It was wonderful to celebrate Christmas as a village.
- **Carol Service** In St Hugh's, St Michael's and St Andrew's, Christmas readings and music were shared. It was good to reach out to the community and enable non-regular church members to share the good news of God coming to earth.

8. **Eco Church Planning Group:** Connecting to the living God, in a living world There is something irrepressible about the natural world. It is wildly generous, sometimes shockingly so, resisting all boundaries, as well as our endless attempts to tidy it up. The world outside our windows is constantly breaking through our routine to give us a glimpse of something beyond words; it could be the last of the sun's rays bathing the garden in gold or the chill of winter's frost turning a spiderweb into a work of art. They are all times when unexpectedly, we understand what God meant when he looked at the world and declared it "good".

It's not, of course, all raindrops and roses, as anyone who has ever planted vegetables or put out a bird feeder will attest. But whether it's an army of determined slugs or a bombardment of cackling jackdaws, there is a fresh, tumbling sort of energy in nature that is a joy to meet. God's creation is easy to love.

As Christians, that caring is our calling, protecting what we love turns "eco issues" into a powerful expression of our faith. We need a place in our Benefice to spark that; somewhere that rejoices in God at the heart of creation, encourages people to meet God in the living world, and inspires the necessary action to protect it.

Eco Church will find its focus in the building and grounds of St Bartholemew's, with other projects throughout the Benefice. There will be a place for animals, plants, and people. A broad 'congregation' will be encouraged, whether that is two-legged or more - bat boxes, bird boxes, pollinator patches, solitary bee hotels, a wildlife pond will all be ready to welcome God's creation into the church grounds, and make it a safe space for all. We aim for all our churchyards to become wildlife havens.

9. **Local-Community Publications**

- 9.1. **Pathways** Three Pathways newsletters, published in June, July and Spetember of 2021, were designed to involve and seek feedback from our community about the future of our benefice and the priorities of the church community. They focused on the Healthy Church Pathway, the journey towards legally unifying our churches as one parish and worshipping together. They also advertised a number of open forums to encourage members of our communities to meet together and discuss the future of our churches. Pathways was made available as hard copies in our churches, with electronic versions on our website, in Church Link and in Parish Magazines. It stimulated debate and help us to shape our vision.
- 9.2. **The Church Link** Church Link continued to be the main method of communicating with those on the electoral rolls of our three parishes and was also shared with many in our extended church family, including wedding couples. Using the free Mailchimp marketing platform, a weekly newsletter provided information on weekly and monthly worship, prayer requests, diocesan news, local events and a weekly reading and reflection. It also provided a link to online worship, both in our own Benefice and more widely through the Church of England's and Wells Cathedral's Youtube channels.
- 9.3. **Website** During the first part of 2021, when the country was in full lockdown, we used our website as a means of hosting online worship; A recorded our Sunday Eucharist and Isolation Radio broadcast were uploaded each week with most people choosing to share around 10am each Sunday. This was followed by 'coffee and chat' live-streamed via Zoom. The website also published details of the weekly Iona weekday worship via Zoom and provided updates on worship restrictions and lockdown lifting measures until autmn 2021. Once we were able to worship in person, forms on the website were used to reserve spaces at worship and ensure that we could accommodate everyone safely in our buildings. The website is now much more widely used than prior to the pandemic and is a good source of information on all our activities. In a world that is increasingly comfortable with technology, it is often the first place that people look for information about our church community. We hope to continue to expand its use during 2022 as further projects, including Eco Hub, are launched.
- 9.4. **The Link** The Link continued to be published monthly during 2021 with the edotors of The Link and the Bagdon Newsletter both contributing articles to their sister publication to reflect the wholeness of the Benefice. The Link was an important means of keeping the local community up to date during lockdown and as restrictions were lifted and events began to take place. Articles also provided information on the parish councils, local news stories and information from the Diocese and the Benefice. The link continued to be published online with a limited number of printed copies delivered to those unable to access technology. However due to demand, towards the end of 2021 we introduced an annual subscription of £15 for those who wished to have a copy printed by the Church Office.

We are grateful to Rachel Branston, who has been an amazing editor for The Link. At the end of 2021, Rachel announced that she would like to spend more time on other projects and we are seeking a new editor for The Link. If you would like to discuss the position, please contact benefice.bcmu@gmail.com.

9.5. **The Blagdon Newsletter** Covid lockdown restrictions meant we continued to publish the magazine in electronic form only in the first part of 2021. We have an email list of 200 households and others - including many from outside Blagdon, accessed the Blagdon Newsletter via the Issuu platform. Following requests from locals, it was decided to reintroduce a printed magazine from summer 2021 with an annual subscription cost of £15. As we were anxious to maintain the higher levels of colour printing and illustrations made possible in the electronic format, printing is now through the Church Office and magazines for subscribers are collected from St Andrew's Church on the first Sunday of each month, with additional copies printed for reading in our church buildings.

In the latter part of the year it was gratifying to see the return of events and the magazine was able to return to its former role of publicising and reporting on these for the local community. Many news articles are shared with our sister publication, The Link for Ubley and Compton Martin. Grateful thanks goes to Ken Parsons who is a fantastic editor.

10. **Community Events**

- 10.1. **Foodbank** We continue to support the Foodbank at Worthywood and donations were even more vital to clients in South Bristol during the pandemic. A collection box is located in the church porch and when it is full it is delivered to the Foodbank.
- 10.2. **Batty about St Michael's** We held what could be described as a successful event from 2pm - 5pm on Saturday 18.9.21. We had decided that it would be a welcome (back) for villagers. The aim was to make it an event that would appeal to all ages, including families – an opportunity to bring the community together. We set up with Bats in Churches info, a bat quiz and plastic bats hanging indoors. Toddlers enjoyed spotting the plastic bats! We also set up a photo quiz of features of the building, inside and out. When people found the locations, there were information sheets to read. Refreshments were served in the Old School Room and there was a cake stall outside. There were bat crafts and colouring for the younger children. We had plenty of people come along – including a couple from Bath, some of the families who are new to the village, as well as families we already know. Church members and villagers were also there. There was lots of positive verbal feedback e.g. *I've lived in the village all my life and I have found out new things about the church today. Lots of interesting information.* And one toddler learnt a new word, "Bat!" Thanks to all the church members and villagers who helped with setting up, baking and helping at the event. Generous donations meant that £295.55 was raised.
- 10.3. **Family Christmas Craft Morning** We planned this free event for Saturday 18th December. Unfortunately, the Covid situation at the time meant that we reluctantly cancelled it. Instead, bags of crafts materials and instructions were delivered to a number of families around the village in the hope they would make use of them. The bags were individualised with crafts that were age appropriate. We also delivered packs to some local grandparents! Ubley Churchwardens identified Messy Church Families and took bags for them too. Positive feedback was received, including photos of children doing the activities. This is an activity well worth repeating, although hopefully next time in person. We hope to start planning for 2022 in at the start the summer.
- 10.4. **Crib Service Christmas Eve** This worship took place outside – in the pouring rain! Even so a number of families came along, including grandparents. The re-telling of the Nativity story along with the Bible Society resources, all made for an engaging, interactive and enjoyable experience.
- 10.5. **Access Celebration** On 28th November the completion of the New Access to the church and Old School Room was celebrated by Simon Lewis and invited guests, who enjoyed wine and cakes after the blessing by the Rector.
- 10.6. **Thank you** To everyone involved in leading and organising these events our grateful thanks. Your gifting of time and talents helps your local Church - its people and its building - tell its story and live its story.

5.5 Church Management Ministry

1. **Administration** The work of administration throughout our Benefice involves organising 'life events' - baptisms, weddings and funerals - maintaining the benefice website, the Church-Link newsletter, ordering worship and office supplies, ensuring that our village newsletters are printed and distributed, dealing with enquires about hiring our buildings, attending meetings, and there is more that could be mentioned. Our grateful thanks must go to Laura for her studiousness and faithfulness to enabling us to focus on God's mission, and how we can bring that about in throughout our villages.

2. **Fabric**

St Michael Church

To facilitate God's mission in our villages we maintain the fabric of our church buildings and churchyards, and develop them to make them fit for the purpose God intends for them.

Inventory

- 2.1. The Churchwardens confirm that the *Terrier* and *Logbook* have been checked and are accurate.

Building

- 2.2. **Maintenance** Quinquennial report of September 2019. In 2021, items such as clearing of gutters and the open areas at ground level were carried out. The Cat 1 and 2 items were looked into and held over for action in 2022.
- 2.3. **Cleaning** The Church and Old School Room were cleaned by a cleaner who was employed on a weekly basis. She continued to be paid during the Covid-19 lockdown periods. Due to financial constraints we have paused the employment of a cleaner from April 2022 for the foreseeable future. A team of volunteer cleaners from the village is being organised by Helen Palmer.
- 2.4. **Key-holders** Those who have key access to the church up until April 2022: Simon Lewis, Jonathan and Kate Reynolds, James Bragg, Julia Halling-Brown, Michael Walton, Sue Owst, Carol Robertson, David (musician).
- 2.5. **Organ and Piano** The last inspection of the church organ was the 24th July 2019. The structure of the organ is sound. The conclusion notes that the sound board is the main area of concern at present and that the work outlined in the report is taken as soon as possible. This would include a comprehensive overhaul which is estimated to cost £9,262.00 (at 2019 prices) which could be reclaimed under the Listed Places of Worship grant scheme.

Due to financial constraints any further work to the organ has been suspended. The organ was tuned by Harrison and Harison in October 2021.
- 2.6. **Bells** The quinquennial inspection report September 2019 recommended an inspection on the condition of the bells which is now due. An average cost estimated at £400.

Churchyard

- 2.7. **Maintenance** The churchyard grounds are maintained during the summer months to an excellent standard thanks to the hard work of John Prosser and the kind funding by Richard Curry. John Prosser has been in hospital recently and despite his condition he has continued to keep the grass cut to his high standard with some help from Jonathan Reynolds. The condition of monuments was checked in the quinquennial survey and described as 'generally in a safe condition'. As recommended the monuments are checked at least once a year as part of the clean up churchyard party.
- 2.8. **Clearing** The church tidy up is an annual event led by Andrew Owst. The clearance of the grass cuttings could not be done during 2020 but will be organised in 2021 liaising with the landowner and David Gibbons.

Old School Room

Building

- 2.9. **Maintenance** The disabled toilet conversion has had building regulation consent organised by Andrew Owst. Execution of the works was held in abeyance until funds permit. Helen Palmer is seeking options to continue the project in the near future. On 4th October, Matthew Govan was given an order to carry out various repairs and decorations to the windows and joinery externally. The work has not yet commenced.
- 2.10. **Cleaning** The Old School Room is to be added to the volunteer cleaner rota. Julie Weaver will continue to oversee the building and Helen Palmer has taken on the organisation of bookings. It was decided to raise the rental to £10 per hour due to rising heating costs.
- 2.11. **Key-holders** Those who have key access to the Old School Room up until April 2022: Julie Weaver, Simon Lewis, Jonathan and Kate Reynolds, James Bragg, Julia Halling-Brown, Michael Walton, Sue Owst, Carol Robertson, David (musician).

Kairos Prayer

God of all time,
God beyond and behind time;
may we know what is too late
and what is too soon.
May we always recognise the right time
in the light of your timeless love.
Amen.

6 Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod Report of 2021

There were three Deanery Synod meetings in 2021

First Meeting

Held on Wednesday 20th January 2021 and was held on Zoom owing to the ongoing pandemic. The first part of the meeting was given over to elections for positions for the next three years.

Elections

- **House of Clergy** - Two new members from Deanery Synod were elected to the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group - Anika Gardiner and Nigel Williams. Victor Barley would continue to represent the retired clergy on Deanery Synod.
- **House of Laity** - Helen Barnes was elected Lay Dean and Graham Sage elected Assistant Area Dean.
- **Election to DMPG** - Edmund Marshall was co-opted to Deanery Synod and then elected to the DMPG. John Spencer and Jessica McInnes were elected to continue as Treasurer and Secretary respectively.
- **Co-opt to Deanery Synod** - Angela Fraser (Schools Chaplain) was co-opted to Deanery Synod.

Talk and Discussion: General Synod – Who, What and Why?

- Three reps from General Synod (GS) joined the meeting to inform Deanery Synod (DS) members of its purpose and described what is involved in order to assist DS reps who would be voting for laity reps to General Synod in the summer.
- GS was described as the legislative body of the C of E, whilst also allowing groups and members to bring matters to Synod for discussion eg women bishops, climate change, same sex marriages and mission amongst young people. Christina Baron a lay rep, said she had initially found it an incredibly steep learning curve but also very rewarding. A lot of the work of GS has an effect on the parishes eg frequency of PCC meetings and members can participate in committees such as working on the Diocesan re-organisation committee which will have an impact on the future of the dioceses. At the moment GS is pressurising the government on the budget cuts to Overseas Aid. During the next few years the Living in Love and Faith initiative will be an important issue for the whole church.

Second Meeting

Held on Tuesday 6th July 2021, via Zoom

Talk and Discussion: Emerging from Lockdown

- Stephen introduced Richard and Mandy Priestley who work alongside parishes in their roles as Encouragers of New Christian Communities in the Diocese. Within our traditional church communities we need to seek a mixed economy consisting of both our traditional services and new initiatives.
- Richard described his role as one of encouraging parishes in different situations.
- Whilst many churches still hold traditional services which remain very important it is useful to think of new ventures outside the traditional church in order to reach the wider Christian community. We need to consider what might be effective in bringing our communities together – possibly in a building other than the church. It is important to listen to what the community consider is needed – a hub of people could then be developed around for example: Messy church, Café church, breakfast club or outdoor church.
- The traditional church is important for some but doesn't suit everyone and we need to find different ways to reach people.

- Discussion after the talk included the following feedback:
 - There are some examples of community initiatives which grew out of lockdown which could be developed,
 - Need to be more ecumenical especially in rural settings and work with other faiths and share resources across the Deanery,
 - Acknowledge that things such as Café church can prove popular but don't necessarily lead to greater numbers in church,
 - Important for us to be not one or the other but both – keeping the best of the old but also to try and bring in the new.

Third Meeting

Held on Monday 11th October 2021 in Chew Magna Millennium Hall. This was the first in person meeting since January 2020.

Discussion: Emerging from Lockdown

Synod divided into groups to discuss their experiences of coming out of Covid restrictions. Points which came out of the discussions included:

- For those parishes in vacancy the services on Zoom had been very important in holding and bringing people together.
- When services resumed people were glad to worship and sing together.
- Although it was a useful tool Zoom services were not a substitute for services in person.
- Services held outside during lockdown were enjoyed by many and reached some who wouldn't normally attend a service.
- As we came out of restrictions Café church was very popular with people and a financial lifeline.
- Denise had run an on-line Alpha course and half who attended were international participants.
- It had proved beneficial to do things differently eg short 30min service each Sunday.
- Parishes had been enthusiastic to make things work and it was hoped to take the positive aspects which arose out of lockdown and create a greater variety of services/activities going forward.

News from Angela Fraser

- Angela read a statement she had prepared.
- The Diocese had seen a significant reduction in income during Covid. As a result it had carried out a restructuring exercise which would involve a number of redundancies and unfortunately Angela's post was one of those to be lost.
- Everyone was saddened to hear this news as Angela will be a huge loss to the Deanery.
- Stephen thanked her for her years of committed service.

(Jessica McInnes, Deanery Synod Secretary)

7 Finances

St Michael the Archangel, Compton Martin Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 December 2021

Receipts & Payments Account

	Notes	General Fund £	Fabric Fund £	Tower Fund £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Receipts						
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>						
<i>Regular Giving</i>						
Planned giving		13,084	60		13,144	12,830
Collections and other giving		2,105	152		2,257	484
Income tax recovered		3,396			3,396	4,834
		<u>18,585</u>	<u>212</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,797</u>	<u>18,148</u>
<i>Other voluntary receipts</i>						
Donations					-	683
Legacy			-		-	5,000
Parish Council grant		500			500	500
		<u>500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>6,183</u>
<i>Receipts from activities for generating funds:</i>						
Fete, bridge tournament & other activities		296			296	1,245
Old School		114			114	42
		<u>410</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>410</u>	<u>1,287</u>
<i>Receipts from Church activities</i>						
Statutory Fees		1,229			1,229	1,368
Non Statutory Fees		273		25	298	250
		<u>1,502</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>1,527</u>	<u>1,618</u>
<i>Receipts from investments</i>						
Interest received		127			127	185
		<u>127</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>127</u>	<u>185</u>
Total Receipts		<u>21,123</u>	<u>212</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>21,360</u>	<u>27,421</u>
Payments						
<i>Fundraising costs</i>						
					-	-
<i>Church activities</i>						
Charitable donations		30			30	80
Diocesan parish share		18,124			18,124	17,926
Insurance, heat, light & water		5,804			5,804	5,809
Old School Room expenses		828			828	809
Clergy / Benefice central expenses		4,264			4,264	553
Parish Admin & other running costs		1,599		15	1,614	3,214
Buildings & organ maintenance		769	1,356	54	2,179	2,390
Access Project			-		-	14,328
		<u>31,419</u>	<u>1,356</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>32,844</u>	<u>45,109</u>
Excess (deficit) of receipts over payments		(10,296)	(1,144)	(44)	(11,484)	(17,688)
Fund balances as at 1 January		13,867	12,068	57,055	82,991	100,679
Fund balances as at 31 December		<u>3,571</u>	<u>10,924</u>	<u>57,011</u>	<u>71,507</u>	<u>82,991</u>

The attached notes on page 2 form part of these financial statements

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 29 April 2022 and signed on their behalf by

Jonathan Reynolds (Churchwarden)
and
Kate Reynolds (Churchwarden)

Confirmed
Independent Examiner

Statement of Assets & Liabilities at 31 December 2021

		2021	2020
	Notes	£	£
<i>Cash funds</i>			
NatWest current account		46,038	55,046
Santander current account		24,713	23,348
Santander deposit account		5,560	5,540
Westcountry Savings and Loans deposit account		5,130	5,051
		81,441	88,985
<i>Debtors</i>			
Total assets		81,441	88,985
<i>Liabilities</i>			
Creditors		4,934	994
Endowment Fund	3	5,000	5,000
Total liabilities		9,934	5,994
Net assets		71,507	82,991
<i>Represented by:</i>			
	2		
General Fund (unrestricted)		3,571	13,867
Fabric Fund (restricted)		10,924	12,068
Tower Fund (restricted)		57,011	57,055
		71,507	82,991

NOTES

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts & Payments basis.
2. The General Fund represents money that can be used for the general charitable purposes of the PCC. Restricted funds must be used for the purpose for which the money was donated. Designated funds represent unrestricted money that has been earmarked for a specific purpose by the PCC.
3. The Endowment Fund represents money that must be retained and cannot be spent, although the income arising from the fund may be used for the general charitable purposes of the PCC.

Confirmed
Independent Examiner

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of St Michael the Archangel Compton Martin

I report to the charity trustees on examination of the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement - matter of concern identified

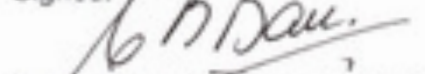
I have completed my examination. I have identified matters of concern that give me reasonable cause to believe that:

Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act.

The receipts and payments accounts prepared for the Parochial Church Council show an expenditure category 'Clergy / Benefice central expenses' totalling £4,264, of which £4,014 relates to reimbursement by St Michael's of its share of expenses paid by the Parochial Church Council of St Andrew's Blagdon on behalf of the Benefice of St Andrew's Blagdon, St Michael's Compton Martin and St Bartholomew's Ubley. The claim for reimbursement was initially without detail, however, subsequent enquiries have yielded some supporting monthly expenses claims, without full details and without copies of proper receipts and / or invoices. Furthermore, the expenses claims do not aggregate to the total sums reimbursed. The governance procedures relating to how payments are authorised and enacted on behalf of the benefice (for which reimbursement has been made) are unclear. To understand the basis for some items of benefice expenditure and the reimbursement by this parish, I have asked to see the specific resolutions (in this or previous years) of St Michael's PCC but none have been found.

I confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Name: **Christopher Brian Ball**

Address: The Outlook, Ellick Road, Blagdon, Somerset BS40 7TU

Date: 28 April 2022