

St Michael and All Angels' Eastington

One of the Cotswold Edge Parishes
Eastington, Frocester, Haresfield,
Moreton Valence, Standish
and Whitminster

*Our mission is to show God's love
for his people and nurture
his people's love for God*



Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 2016

Legal and Administrative

- Name:** Parochial Church Council of Eastington, St. Michael and All Angels.
- Location:** St. Michael and All Angels' Church is situated in Churchend, Eastington. The Churchyard which surrounds it is closed, maintenance responsibilities resting legally with Eastington Parish Council as well as the PCC.
- Correspondence:** The Secretary, Mr Chris Amys, 145 Gloucester Road, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire. GL10 2HE. 01453 821656. chris.amys@hotmail.com.
- Members:** Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected (up to 9) at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The PCC may co-opt up to 2 further members.

During the year the following served as PCC members:

Mike Naylor	Chair & Churchwarden
Muriel Bullock	Churchwarden (since April 2016)
Jill Simmons	Churchwarden (until April 2016)
	Honorary Churchwarden (since April 2016)
Robin Harris	Vice-Chair
Ian Hodges	Treasurer (until September 2016)
	(PCC member until April 2016 and co-opted since April 2016)
Chris Amys	Secretary
Celia Harris	
Beryl Frith	
Jacky Naylor	
Barbara Hall	
Jane Williams	(since April 2016)
Angela Reeder	(co-opted)

- Status:** The PCC is a charity, exempted from registration with the Charity Commission under the Charities (Exemption from Registration) Regulations 1996.

Independent Examiner: John Green

Bank: Lloyds TSB plc, High St, Stonehouse, Glos. GL10 2NL
C of E Central Board of Finance.

Aims and Organisation

The main purpose of the PCC is defined in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as 'to co-operate with the Minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical'.

Eastington PCC has maintenance responsibilities for the Church of St. Michael and All Angels, Eastington. The Churchyard around it is closed for burials and maintained by Eastington Parish Council, with assistance from the Church.

Eastington is one of 15 parishes in the benefice of Eastington, Frocester, Haresfield, Moreton Valence, Standish and Whitminster, referred to as the Stroudwater Team. The cure of souls shall be shared by the incumbent, whose office is that of Rector in the team ministry, and two other minister who have the title of vicar. All clergy within the Team have pastoral responsibility for identified parishes or communities so that each parish knows who their priest is in times of pastoral need. The team rector has a full priestly and pastoral role within the Team whilst holding an oversight role in addition.

Review of the Year

	2016	2015	2014	2013
Average Usual Sunday Attendance	20	23	22	21
Baptisms	10	18	20	7
Weddings	19	8	13	7
Funerals and Thanksgiving Services	2	13	14	13
Mothering Sunday	69	17	38	20
Easter Day Attendance	42	37	68	59
Easter Day Communicants	34	32	38	45
RSCM Music Sunday	43	40	-	-
Harvest Festival Attendance	49	42	46	37
Remembrance Sunday Attendance	31	47	43	44
All Souls Attendance	66	180	190	150
Christmas Carol Service Attendance	85	95	50	68
Christingle Attendance	205	190	193	189
Midnight Mass Attendance	40	52	45	58
Midnight Mass Communicants	34	38	40	46

Secretary's Report

27th January 2016 – The PCC discussed the proposed pastoral reorganisation and made a number of comments which were subsequently forwarded to the Archdeacon. The boiler was repaired and serviced. It was noted the roof was leaking above the library. The halyard was installed. The accounts for the year end 2015 were approved by the PCC.

13th April 2016 – After the annual meetings, Mike was elected Chair, Jill Vice-Chair, Ian Treasurer and Chris Secretary. Ian said he would like to stand down as Treasurer but was willing to stay on until a replacement could be found. The Standing Committee was appointed. Safeguarding policies were reviewed. Those licensed to administer communion was reviewed. It was also agreed to purchase a new chalice.

4th May 2016 – The Diocese started a formal consultation and the PCC submitted points in response to the documentation. The quinquennial inspection report was received. Mike and Muriel agreed to consider the report and make recommendations to the PCC. Burial Ground guidelines were reviewed.

6th July 2016 – A meeting was scheduled at a later date between the parishes and the Archdeacon to discuss outstanding issues with the pastoral reorganisation. Mike and Muriel made recommendations to the PCC following the quinquennial inspection. These were accepted and quotes are being obtained.

7th September 2016 – Following the pastoral reorganisation meeting, some minor changes have been made with the hope of a formal consultation to begin later in the year. Arrangements were clarified for qualifying connections for weddings. Ian announced he was stepping down as Treasurer and it was agreed to step up efforts to find a replacement. Letters were also sent out to families inviting them to the All Souls Service.

2nd November 2016 – The official consultation for the pastoral reorganisation had started. Checks were undertaken for the conductor and fire extinguishers. A number of requests were received from the Parish Council including a defibrillator inside the lychgate. The PCC did not think having a defibrillator inside the lychgate would be appropriate and suggested on the wall next to the old coal store. Arrangements were also in place for the upcoming Christmas services. It was announced Shirley had stepped down as Choir Director, and Chris has taken the role full-time. Previously Shirley and Chris shared the role.

Chris Amys, PCC Secretary

Electoral Roll Officer's Report

As of 31st December 2016, there were 56 names on the Electoral Roll, the same number as in 2015. The Electoral Roll will be revised in March and April 2017.

Chris Amys, Electoral Roll Officer

Churchwardens' Report

1. Appointment

There were three nominations for Churchwardens and following a vote Muriel Bullock was elected and Mike Naylor re-elected to serve as Churchwardens at the Annual Vestry Meeting on 13th April 2016. Jill Simmons was elected as Honorary Churchwarden.

2. Vacancy

The vacancy continued during the course of the year following the retirement of Revd Richard Amys on 31st May 2015.

Proposals are now in hand to form a new Team Ministry for the Parishes within the Cotswold Edge benefice together with the Parishes of the Severnside Group; Stonehouse; Selsley and the Stanleys.

The process of electing new team Rector will take place during the first half of 2017 who will join existing Team Vicar Revd. Charles Minchin. Another team vicar will be elected later in the year.

Meantime with the help of visiting priests we have continued to maintain our pattern of services with a lay led 3rd Sunday Evensong. The Benefice also continues to operate much as before and there are regular meetings of the Benefice Churchwardens to take care of day to day matters. A regular benefice service has been introduced which takes place on a rotating basis for the 3rd Sunday. Eastington now host a 5th Sunday Benefice Service.

3. Quinquennial Inspection

The Quinquennial inspection took place on 23rd July 2015 and was undertaken by Ruth Nicholls of Astam Architecture, Gloucester. The Report was finally received under cover of a letter dated 15th March 2016 and was circulated to members of the PCC.

A summary of matters needing urgent attention was agreed by the PCC with a view to obtaining competitive quotes for the necessary work from building contractors.

4. Churchyard.

The churchyard maintenance is the responsibility of the Parish Council and it is generally in good order following recent repairs to the wall and river bridge.

Part of the wall on the west side of the Churchyard has been repaired during the course of the year.

5. Other matters

The halyard for the flag pole has been replaced by J B Young Builders on 2nd February 2016 in conjunction with urgent roof and gutter maintenance work.

Mike Naylor and Muriel Bullock, Churchwardens

Eastington PCC Fund-raising Group Report

1. INTRODUCTION.

The remit of the Fund-raising Committee as determined by the PCC on the 4th February 2015, remains to raise monies for the Church, which includes both for the general and the fabric funds.

The General fund covers the running costs of the Church, and the Fabric Fund covers the maintenance and improvement of the buildings and the amenities available in them and in the churchyard.

2. ACTIVITIES IN THE YEAR.

The group has met on some three occasions in the year and organised or assisted with events which contributed to funds for the Church as follows:-

- a. Cotswold Youth Singers (CYS) 8th June. Donation from concert proceeds £400.00. A further donation of £150 was made on the 20th.
- b. On the 27th. June, provided a BBQ for the CYS as a "thank you" for their contribution to church funds.
- c. Summer splash & BBQ at The Nestings on 2nd. July which raised £183.20.
- d. Annual Quiz at OHMG Community Centre on 7th. October which raised £202.15, (£216.00 last year). OHMG again waived their hire charges for this event for which we are most grateful. Attendance was slightly down on last year with one or two regular teams missing hopefully for "one off" reasons. The later date for this event may have been a contributory factor. The first half of a raffle was conducted at this event but the proceeds were held over until the second half which took place at the Greek evening at Cleeve Cottage on the 26th November.
- e. Greek evening at Cleeve on 26th. November. This was a ticket only event (£10). Thanks to Alan Brazier who printed these at no cost to the church. A very successful event at all levels making a surplus of £340.00 (last year £560). Attendance was down on last year. Possibly the fact that the weather was not good on the evening of the event may have been a contributory factor. Also the event was somewhat later in the year and so closer to Christmas, may also have had an effect.
- f. Christmas concert by the CYS on 9th. December 2016. This event required a Temporary Event Notice (TEN) from Stroud District Council. This was acquired at a cost of £21.00. Other arrangements were

largely made by the CYS with support from the Working Group. The proceeds from this event went to "Children in Need".

To summarise; the total raised by events organised by the group came to £723.35 this year (last year £1853.74). The reason for the smaller amount raised is also due to the fact that the previous year we had the Christmas Tree Festival which we are again going to hold in 2017. It is emphasised that the above achievements would not have been possible without the dedicated support of the members of the group aided by members of the congregation.

It is worth noting that although the amount of funds raised by the Group are significantly less than last year, the resources available to the group in terms of manpower are very limited. However, weddings during the year, have made a significant contribution to church funds and heavily involved a member of the Working Group.

3. OTHER EVENTS FOR THE YEAR.

a. CAR BOOT SALES.

Consideration was also given to this but in the event was not exploited largely due to lack of resources.

b. ANNUAL RAFFLE.

This was spread over two events this year but despite having obtained some attractive prizes from local traders, failed to realise as much as it should have. It would seem that selling tickets at two separate functions to only those who attended those functions is just too limiting. Our approach to raffles in the future needs to take into account the lessons learned. More ticket sellers is considered essential if future raffles are to be successful.

4. LIBRARY.

Barbara continues to do a great job keeping the bookshelves tidy with some help from Celia. The Library provides a steady trickle of income. Charges for using it are modest and voluntary. The sale of Postcards also contributes.

5. FRIENDS OF ST MICHAELS

There has been no progress on the Friends due to lack of resources some of which can be attributed to the extra administrative burden caused by the lack of a minister.

6. FUTURE OF THE WORKING GROUP.

Until such time as an independent body can be set up to take the "Friends of St Michaels" forward, the group will continue to monitor progress with this idea if the PCC so wish. It is recommended that the PCC mandate the working group to continue to raise funds for the purposes described in paragraph 1 above.

Robin Harris, Chair of the Fundraising Committee

St Michael's Church Flower Group Report

Members: Pauline Allen & Jacki Storey (joint co-ordinators), Jessica Amys, Muriel Bullock, Anne Farrington, Beryl Frith, Mary Gribble, Jacky Naylor, Ann Pitcher, Angela Reeder, Joy Spencer and Prue Tylour.

Our small but loyal Flower Group has had another year of hard work with consistently lovely flower arrangements in the church – both on a weekly basis as well as for the church festivals. Well done & thank you to everyone!

Wedding flowers: out of the 20 weddings that finally took place during 2016 only 4 wanted us to arrange flowers for the church.

There was a lot of work involved in making contact by email/phone with couples for very little reward. Some people were late in making their decisions & it isn't easy to find busy expert arrangers at the last minute so the Group has agreed that we will no longer offer this service to couples.

Obviously if a local couple wished to discuss help with some church flowers for their wedding then we would be happy to help. However, nowadays most couples make their own arrangements.

A new leaflet to help couples with the practicalities of putting wedding flowers into church is being prepared.

Pauline Allen and Jacki Storey, Flower Coordinators

Eastington Bell Ringers Tower Report

This has been a busy year, with more weddings in a single year than we have over the last five with midweek being the new Saturday. Although the number of wedding reached the mid twenties only two thirds wanted bells with the problem of getting ringers in the week an issue. This year does not look to be as busy the last, so far we have 10 booked but it is early in the year and a lot can happen.

During the year we have rang at most Sundays and all the main services including the first of the new Stroud Water Ministry Team held here at Eastington.

The bells are in a good condition and ring well with little mechanical issues with regular maintenance checks being carried out on both the bells and frame. The wheels, stays and sliders are in good sound order with no signs of wear or deterioration.

The ropes are coming up to 30 years old and are starting to show signs of wear, this year we have had to re-splice a new tail on the second and due to excessive fraying on the fifth replace with a new rope at costs of £20 and £165 respectively.

This year's BBQ was held again at 'The Nestings' by kind permission of Robin and Celia. A pleasant evening was had by all with good weather, food and of course an array of puddings.

The perpetually belated annual Christmas meal (now in its four year and is looking becoming a regular occurrence) was held by popular request at the Old Badger with a record number participating. I can only think that it was because of the good food, beverages and of course the company!

I would like to thank all the ringers for their hard work and commitment throughout the year and to thank our friends from other towers in helping us out at practice nights, services and weddings and for making every practice night and service ringing an enjoyable one.

Gary Dingle, Tower Captain

Eastington Church Choir Report

The core Choir consisted of 9 members who were augmented by 2 more from Haresfield for Benefice services and others from outside the benefice for special services such as the Carol Service, All Souls and Music Sunday. Having Chris willing and able to conduct as well as to sing eased the difficulty of finding a conductor.

The choir sang at 3 weddings and I was very grateful to be able to recruit from seven extra singers from a pool of friends from outside the benefice to sing with the choir at those services.

The choir no longer has a web site because not enough members were using it to justify the cost, most of which was born by Glenn Duff the web master. Glenn had worked hard to devise a suitable programme for the choir and I regret that his work was in vain. I have thanked him very much for all he did for the choir and am sorry that he, a very good tenor, no longer sings with the choir.

Thanks are due to all the singers, but especially to the loyalty and commitment of those who sang a regular Evensong as well as at some morning services and special services when required during the year.

Robin and Celia again offered the warmth of their home and their hospitality for most practices for which I and the choir are very grateful.

Shirley Baker, Choir Director

Deanery Synod Representative's Report

There were three meetings of the Stroud Deanery Synod in 2016.

Wednesday 17th February at Lakefield School, Frampton-on-Severn

There were talks from Revd Helen Bailey and Revd Mike Smith on Spiritual Nurturing and Development. We need to be aware of the needs of our congregations, how we meet these needs and the ways we can help develop faith as well as discipleship.

Further discussion took place of the pastoral reorganisation. Funding will continue to be an issue, but it will be up to the Diocese to make the decision, namely three or four posts.

Wednesday 8th June at St Laurence Church, Stroud

There was a talk from Canon Benjamin Preece-Smith, Diocesan Secretary on Knowing your Deanery. This was an interactive presentation looking objectively in greater detail at the specific make-up of our individual communities based on the 2015 Census and Experian Data.

The Area Dean reported that the pastoral reorganisation for the West of Stroud has now gone out for consultation with the parishes and to the Bishops Council, who gave it their broad support. It is now with the Church Commissioners.

Wednesday 5th October at Cainscross Church Hall

There was a talk from Revd Canon Dr Andrew Braddock on Journeying on Vision 2016 the next steps. Andrew reminded us of Bishop Rachel's Vision for the Diocese and to discern where God is leading us. Following the consultation over the summer, a final statement is due to be published in November.

The Stroudwater Team was the name put forward as the most popular for the new West of Stroud benefice. The Archdeacon is having further meetings with parishes following which the final consultation will begin. Barring any further hitches, it is hoped the scheme will be in place by mid-November.

Jane Williams, Deanery Synod Representative