

## ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, CHESTERTON, PETERBOROUGH

### ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2007

#### MEMBERSHIP

##### THE FOLLOWING SERVED AS MEMBERS OF THE P.C.C.:-

Incumbent	Revd M Ingham	Chairman
Curate	Revd A Seabrook	
Churchwardens	Mrs J Hillier Mr J McKee	
Elected members	Mrs A Wright Mrs H McKee Mr C Marshall Mr B Wright Mrs M Marshall Mrs E Glover Mr T Glover Mr M Holmes Mrs J King Mrs P MacGregor	Correspondence Minute Secretary Treasurer & Co-opted member Elected Deanery Synod member.

#### CHURCH ATTENDANCE

The Sunday average attendance was 19 with excellent attendance on festivals and special services.

34 parishioners were listed on the Electoral Roll as at December 31<sup>st</sup> 2007.

#### REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The P.C.C. has met 6 times over the past year excluding the AGM; attendance at all meetings as has been in previous years was very good.

#### FAIR TRADE

January 2007 saw the start of a Fair Trade venture at St Michael's. The initial outlay was £85. 83 which were donated from the P.C.C. funds. The sales took place on the third Sunday of the month after Evening Prayer. There was a turnover of £455 and a profit of £34. 56. of which £30 was given back to the P.C.C. It is always possible to receive Fair Trade products at other times if they are available. If not available straight away they can be ordered and are usually here within the week. Please support our venture into the Fair Trade market and help the suppliers and our church.

## **P.C.C. ACTIVITIES**

The Women's World Day of prayer took place on March 2<sup>nd</sup> with the first service being held in the Peterborough Cathedral at 2 p.m. and the evening service being held at Christ Church, Orton Goldhay at 7:30 p.m. Ladies of St Michael's were well represented with some participating in both services.

The annual cleaning of the church and churchyard took place on March 31<sup>st</sup> which was well supported by the committee members and other church members.

On April 6<sup>th</sup> the Good Friday witness walk from St Michael's, Chesterton to St Andrew's, Alwalton was the commencement of our main events planned for the year. Short services were held in both churches with prayers being said along the route. This witness ended in a shared lunch and was enjoyed by all.

£124. 60 was raised for church funds in the plant sale which was organised by Mrs Jean Hillier, part of the proceeds was donated to the charity Chaste.

As usual the annual fete was held on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at Hill Farm, Chesterton. This raised a total of £1,083.43. for church funds, although this was slightly decreased on the previous year it was nevertheless an extremely pleasing result. A part of these funds have been used to purchase additional tables & gazebos for use at future fetes and events etc.

One of the highlights of the year was the ordination of the Revd. Al Seabrook held on June 30<sup>th</sup> at the Ely Cathedral with a reception attended by the fellowship of the churches in the Alwalton & Elton Partnership, being held in the Elton School Hall.

On August 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> St Michael's held an open weekend, unfortunately the inclement weather resulted in poor support, however over £100 was raised for church funds along with £37 takings from the Fair Trade product stall.

The Harvest Festival was held on September 16<sup>th</sup> which was well attended.

The Quinquennial inspection was undertaken by the church architect in October which resulted in a very positive report with very minor work being recommended.

The years events were rounded up with a united bring and share Christmas social for all members and partners of the P.C.C's. of the churches within the partnership. This was held in the Elton School hall and was very much enjoyed by all.

A United service of nine lessons and carols was held at St Michaels which took place on December 16<sup>th</sup>, this was an excellent service followed by a small buffet.

This year it was decided to make changes to St Michael's charity giving with £200 being donated to Crosslinks for use to support the work of mission work in Walsall UK.

The Samaritan Purse Shoe Box appeal at Christmas this year was a great success with 24 boxes being distributed.

In what has been a challenging year the P.C.C. has worked very hard having to make various decisions covering many areas of St Michael's activities. This has proved a positive witness to the village and beyond illustrating God's continuing work in the community during 2007.

The committee wishes to express grateful thanks to everyone within the church fellowship and beyond for all their help and support, thus contributing to the continuance of God's work at St Michael's.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The financial state of St Michael's is satisfactory, thanks mainly to the investments and a rate of interest that is currently running higher than in the past. How long this will last remains to be seen.

It is hoped that the North facing roof will not require any major expenditure and that the northerly blow and snow storm was a one off.

The government grant from the use of the Gift Aid Envelopes is providing much needed financial help. Under EU Regulations Tax Refunds are not allowed, this is overcome by returning "tax payments" as a government grant!

### **VICAR'S REPORT**

Last year I signed off as Senior Minister – this year as I approach my 40<sup>th</sup> I think that I might gracefully move away from the term "senior" and look with a more youthful eye at the Alwalton and Elton Partnership. 2007 was a year of growth if not major initiatives and changes. The first half of the year saw us continuing to adjust to being part of a Partnership and working out what it meant to deal with Easter and major festivals as five churches.

In the summer Al was ordained priest which has meant a much greater possibility of sharing the roles of Sunday service leadership. However the lack of retired clergy in our Partnership still means that, with future uncertainty over curacy placements, it would be unwise to reorder the pattern of services with Al and I leading simultaneous services.

In the Autumn we once again ran the Christianity explored course, this time at two venues and times (morning and evening) rather than just one evening a week. Although smaller, these two groups both had successful courses and it has been wonderful to see how they helped people come to grow in their faith.

Christmas was once again a busy time with many different services spread out over the Partnership and it was lovely to see many visitors to our churches. Throughout the year there were quite a few weddings and baptisms which provided opportunities to engage with folk whom we don't normally see.

The Prayer meeting was relaunched as Power Point and this has seen some success, however, if we are to be effective in our ministries throughout the Partnership I believe that we should be expecting to see this meeting becoming increasingly popular. Can I urge you, if you have a role of responsibility in any of the churches, to see this meeting on the first Tuesday of the month as an absolute priority.

If we make prayer central to all we do, then God will bless us and who knows what amazing things we will be able to do this year. Only my report next year will reveal whether or not we have heeded this call and been faithful to God in prayer in 2008.

Once again I would like to thank all the Church Wardens for their selfless ministry as well as all those who work hard with youth, children, those providing coffee and helping set up before services or clear away afterwards, the cleaners, the flower arrangers, those who keep our church yards tidy – in fact the list is endless and you have my sincere appreciation and the knowledge that God sees your service of him done in secret.

Thank you all for 2007

With best wishes.

Malcolm Ingham  
(Vicar)

April 2008