

Support Teams

Sunday Link

Sandra Hanmer

Electoral Roll

Margaret Smith

Stewards/Welcomers

St Christopher's: James Counsell, Victoria Daintree, Sandra & Jim Hanmer, Gwen Hatton, Ron Hatton, Kate Lee, Jean Rawles, Mary Tratt, Tim & Maggie Norton

St Mary's: Collette Winfield, Carla Searle, Geoff Searle, Kathy Quinnell, Jean Tincknell, Nick Bashford, Jill Kidley, Dot Coles, Christine Hussey, Della Brewer

St Michael's: Mike Champion, Sally Wingate, John Harper, Jane Hannah, Tim Hannah, Margaret Smith

Refreshments

St Christopher's: Victoria Hoare, Viv Freeman, Sandra & Jim Hanmer, Gwen Hatton, Sandra Lomas, Kate Lee, Jean Rawles, Audrey Toogood, Mary Tratt

St Mary's: Max Bashford, Nick Bashford, Della Brewer, Carla & Geoff Searle, Claire Lewis, Dot Coles, Christine Hussey, Jill Kidley, Kathy Quinnell, Jean Tincknell

St Michael's: Sally Wingate, Bernice Davies, Jane & Tim Hannah, Florence Hale, Jackie Gilbert, Tony Gilbert

Flower Arrangers

St Christopher's: Pam Collings, Pauline Greenwood, Rebecca Harris, Gwen Hatton, Rita Jolliffe, Debbie Smith, Tracy Stearnes, Cindy Tratt, Mary Tratt

St Mary's: Jean Tincknell, Felicity Ham, Janet Harding, Inky Harding, Christine Hussey, Mary Ellen Harris, Caz Townsend, Jill Kidley, Dot Coles.

St Michael's: Marion Vining, Jean Milton, Margaret Hall, Sue Boss, Jo Fox, Phyllis Loynd, Sue Reading, Sally Wingate, Jane Hannah, Lisa Pringle, Alison Barnes, Yvonne Radford, Andrea Hurcott, Janet Harris, Hazel Elton

Church opening/closing

St Christopher's: Joan Wood, Jean Rawles, Pam Collings, Stanley Price, Gwen Hatton

St Mary's: Geoff Searle, Geoff Adams, Mike Grant, Dot Coles, George Frost, Michael Grant

St Michael's: Frances James, Mike Smith

Cleaners

St Christopher's: Zora Ford, Myrna Guest, Liz Hart, Gwen & Ron Hatton, Kim King, Margaret Luff, Stanley Price, Jean Rawles, Anne Tinknell, Isobel Wall, Sheila Frost, Audrey Toogood

St Mary's: Kitty Harding, Inky Harding, Mrs Ham, Mrs Wall, Zoë Warner-Deardes, Debbie Goodman, Zoë Davies, Janet Nurse, Mary Ellen Harris, Jane Ratcliffe

St Michael's: Wiet Harper, Jane Hannah, Bella Ward, Bernice Davies, Frances James, Liz Bream, Margaret Smith, Jan Watt, Sally Tucker, Ann Butt, Jackie Gilbert, Maggie Gardiner

Brass Cleaners

St Michael's: Jean Tinknell, Margaret Hall, Sally Wingate, Mr and Mrs Steve Russell, Phyllis Loynd, Frances James, Rosemary & Ged Keele, Janet Harris, Jean Rich, Tanya Cavill, Maggie & Andy Gardiner,

Clock winders

St Mary's: George Frost, Geoff Adams, Julian Nurse

Churchyard

St Christopher's: Robin Hoare

St Mary's: Mike Grant, Zoe & Alan Davies, Janet & Julian Nurse, Nigel Lloyd Jones, Dot Coles, Kathy Quinnell, Stuart & Joan Harding and Jason Mayo and company

St Michael's: (grass-cutting) Jason Mayo and his company, plus a welcome number of volunteers

Coffee Morning helpers:

St Mary's: Dot Coles, Bernice Davies, Zoe Warner-Deardes, Kathy Quinnell

Bell Ringers:

Parish: Mike Champion, Melvyn Freeman, Emily Frost, Mo Sweet, Jane Yeats, Mary Keay, Viv Freeman, Ben Searle, Helen Addis, Daniel Anderson, Sue Cowell, Kaitlin Jarvis, Alex Freeman

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

J
A
N
U
A
R
Y

-
D
E
C
E
M
B
E
R

2
0
1
4



Contents:

Part One

Church Life

Worship & Liturgy
Worship on a Sunday
Prayer Group

Mission & Evangelism
Nurturing & Growing our Faith

Reaching Out
School Partnerships
Pastoral Care in our
Community
Parish Bells
Parish Website

Financial
Stewardship
Treasurer's Report
Church Life fundraising

Diocese
Deanery Synod

Churchwardens
St Christopher's
St Mary's
St Michael's

Heritage

Buildings & Grounds

Friends

Part Two

Administration, Structure and
Data

Part Three

Our Parish Who's Who

Part One – Celebrating the year: a summary of what the church has achieved as a whole, throughout the year

CHURCH LIFE

WORSHIP & LITURGY

Worship on a Sunday

I was challenged this year by someone asking me, "Why can't we have the same words each week, at a Sunday morning service? It's much easier to remember what to say and do if it's the same thing every week, I then don't have to think too much." My response is as follows:

A bit of history.

Coming together as a group of people and *worshipping* a deity is an age-old expression of 'service', and act of 'doing religion', being in touch with and linked to God. In the context of Christian worship, *liturgy* is the framework which lets people worship together: it is the activity by which God is worshipped. What started out as spontaneous celebrations, accompanying everyday as well as special experiences, developed in the life of the Church into regularised, ritualised events. Religious leaders organised worship into sets of finely-honed and patterned rituals in order to make it easier for large gatherings of people to participate.

The way in which the Christian Church worships today has evolved over hundreds of years, no one form of worship is the correct one, the right one, the one ordained by God.

Worship is a public or semi-public action celebrating our search for and discovery of meaning in the mystery of life. It is the way in which a group of people give expression to their deeply held beliefs. When women and men gather to engage in the

liturgical activity which we call worship, they are giving it a special time, recognising a special significance in what they are doing. Worship is not done from obligation or through coercion but because there is a compelling need or wish for it. Through worship we acknowledge God's presence and importance in our lives.

That's enough of the history!

Acts of worship or liturgy have some basic elements. The first element is acknowledging God. The second is the desire for understanding of and learning about God. The third aspect is what that means for us and our world, especially the powerless in it. These three elements are combined and expressed through action, word and ritual. In this way we are adding to tradition, evoking meaning, searching for *just ways of acting, inspiring commitment and above all encouraging hope.*

In liturgy everyday events or actions take on a special and particular significance. This



enables the participants to connect and bond. For instance, in the sharing of the bread we connect with each other physically as we eat the same loaf. There is something very basic or elemental about eating together. A shared meal to which everyone has

Part Three – Our Parish: Who's Who

Worship Team

Priest-in-Charge Revd. Simon Lewis

Reader in training: Nikki Burns

Scripture Readers: Nick Bashford, Della Brewer, Nikki Burns, Robbie Burns, James Counsell, Victoria Hoare, Bernice Davies, Ellis Davies, John Harper, John Hughes, Anne Munchin, Kathryn Quinnell, Carla Searle, Jean Tincknell, Sally Wingate, Maurice Jackson, Christine Hussey, Dot Coles

Intercessors: Nikki Burns, Carla Searle, Jean Tincknell

Chalice Assistants: Della Brewer, Nikki Burns, Dot Coles, Victoria Daintree, Gwen Hatton, Mike Smith

Organist: Greta Plank, supported by Pauline Chadwick

PCC Teams

Worship and Liturgy

Simon Lewis, Nikki Burns, Dot Coles, Sandra Hanmer, Mike Smith

Prayer

Gwen Hatton, Pauline Chadwick, Viv Freeman, Eva & Stanley Price, Kathryn Quinnell

Mission and Evangelism

Simon Lewis

Pastoral

Dot Coles, Sandra Hanmer, Nikki Burns, Maggie Gardiner, Gwen Hatton, Carla Searle, Margaret Smith

Buildings and Grounds

Geoff Searle, Gwen Hatton, Kathryn Quinnell, Tony Gilbert, Mike Smith,

Friends

Simon Lewis, Ged Keele

Stewardship

Nick Bashford

Church Life Fundraising

St Christopher's: James Counsell, Nikki Burns, Julia Carr, Rosemary & Andy Carr, Lisa Counsell, Victoria Daintree, Gwen Hatton, Kim King, Lucy & John Teteris

St Mary's: Kathryn Quinnell, Maxine Bashford, Molly Richards, Claire Lewis, Della Brewer, Dot Coles, Beverley Lloyd Jones, Helen Broderick and Zoe Warner-Deards

St Michael's: Ged Keele, Tony Gilbert, Mike Smith, Sally Wingate

Finance

Robin Leveridge, Mary Ford, Nick Bashford, Jim Hanmer, Ged Keele, Simon Lewis

Deanery Synod

Maxine Bashford, Carla Searle, Sally Wingate

Structure, governance and management

- The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.
- Each elected PCC member is encouraged to be a member of one of the PCC Teams. Ex-officio members (excluding Deanery Synod Representatives) may sit on any Team.
- 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.

Objectives and activities

- The Parish of Three Saints PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, The Reverend Simon Lewis, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical (as expressed in the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 No.3 4 and 5 Eliz 2*).
- It also has maintenance responsibilities for the three church buildings, St Christopher, Lympsham, St Mary the Blessed Virgin, East Brent and St Michael, Brent Knoll, and for the Church Office in East Brent.

Changes to the Electoral Roll in 2014:

The Electoral Roll at the end of the 2013	=	146
Deletions (including due to death)	=	3
Additions	=	2
Total at the end of 2014	=	145

Church attendance for the main festivals (NR = Not recorded)

FESTIVAL	2012	2013	2014	
Mothering Sunday	56	50	51	
Palm Sunday	35	54	49	
Easter Sunday	63	76	74	
Harvest Festival	63	67	51	
Remembrance Services	(St Christopher's church)	43	45	30
	(East Brent Memorial)	NR	NR	24
	(St Michael's church)	170	190	220
Lights of Love (All Souls)		41	30	35
Crib Services	(St Mary's church)	84	75	80
	(St Christopher's church)	215	220	225
First Communion of Christmas		187	102	98
Christmas Thanksgiving		41	58	96

Number of Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals for the Parish

	St Christopher	St Mary	St Michael	Parish Total
Baptisms	10	3	9	22
Weddings	5	3	7	15
Funerals	4	6	4	14
Burial of Ashes	7	1	2	10
Crematorium	3	2	2	7

contributed takes us beyond the narrow space of the individual. The ordinary act of eating, sharing food and drink, becomes endowed with symbolic meaning.

Lastly, symbols in worship are another kind of language and have many depths of meaning. They 'speak' beyond the confines of the words. They engage with us at the pace we are at in our relationship with God (our faith). They enable us to grow in understanding. The same object can have different meanings at different times, even within the same group. A symbol should only be used as long as it is helpful. Likewise, metaphors and stories can communicate truth in a gentler way than dogmatic assertions. They 'allow' our understanding to grow organically, and gradually. Jesus used parables extensively to communicate with his listeners. The revelation of God always involves more than that which is immediately obvious; but through symbols and images, metaphors and stories, and by trusting what our one life experience reveals, we can deepen and extend our understanding of and relationship with God and with the rest of creation.

I hope, that what you have read has given you a better understanding of why the foundation of our worship in the parish is based on the seasons of the Church, and why we worship using a variety of liturgical resources ranging from the Book of Common Prayer and Common Worship, to Iona and Celtic Worship.

Thank you to all those involved in helping me lead our worship this year.

Simon Lewis

Prayer Group

The Prayer group meet every

3rd week, and we are all committed to pray for those who need and ask for prayer.

We started our year with prayer and Stanley administered communion to those that came, which he does from time to time during the year.

We have all felt God's presence in our time together praying for others.

If anyone would like prayer for healing, please get in touch with Gwen Hatton or anyone on the prayer team.

Gwen Hatton

MISSION AND EVANGELISM

Nurturing our Growth

Emmaus Course

What is great about being a part of Emmaus are the stories that we hear told to us by those who come to Emmaus. Stories about our experience of being in a relationship with God, through the Church and through our ordinary lives. No one is judged. No one is ridiculed. We laugh a lot. We listen a lot. We share a lot. Why? Because we are in the presence of God when we meet together and that enables us to feel safe and trusting.

Over the year, in one group we explored what it means to KNOW God, as the Father of creation, of Jesus and of the Kingdom; we developed an understanding of who is Jesus, what he taught, why he died and what difference he makes; and about the Holy Spirit in its different. Another group the theme was about growing and we grew in understanding practical ways talking with God; of absorbing scripture into our lives, of being Church - God's mouth, hands and feet on earth.

Emmaus is not about head knowledge, it is about growing in our personal and corporate RELATIONSHIP with God.

Lent Course

Wow, what a course. What an engaging and challenging course. It was called 'LIFE ATTITUDES' and we explored and grappled with the values we live by in the rapidly changing world we live in and how by living with God's beautiful attitudes we can find true happiness which is both costly and life-transforming. But then, who ever said being a Christian is easy!

Mission is about keeping *the rumour of God alive* - in Church language, proclaiming to those who have ears to hear, *the Good News of the Kingdom of God*. This is not something that should ever be left to the priest alone. Every Christian has a responsibility, nay a duty, to tell others about God and their relationship with God. How? Come and learn how. Ask to join an Emmaus group, and if we need to, we'll start a new one. And don't forget to bring a friend for mutual support.

Mission is also about responding to human need by what is called *loving service* - for example, have you thought of doing something for someone else that they are struggling to do or can't do? If you have had that thought and haven't yet done it, then do it. If you haven't thought about it, well here's the opportunity, have that thought, and then go and do it. But do it without expecting anything in return for loving service is *unconditional*. And if you're ever asked why you did it, just say 'So you'll do the same for someone else. Pass it on.'

Simon Lewis

REACHING OUT

School Partnerships

Brent Knoll School C of E Primary School

Brent Knoll Church of England Primary School appointed a new Headmaster in September 2014 and during this year Rev Simon Lewis has held half termly services in the Brent Knoll church with the children. At the Harvest Festival, food was collected for the local food bank. Christmas was celebrated with two performances of the Nativity by the children with a Christingle Service being held in the evening and the church was also full for an Easter celebration. Pre-school children from the local Tadpoles Group attended both the Nativity and Easter celebration. A school leaver service was also held at the end of the summer term.

The school has a new mission statement that embraces the Christian ethos. The school also supports church fund raising activities.

Rev Simon Lewis is a regular visitor to the school and provides excellent pastoral care.

*Rosemary Keele
Foundation Governor*

East Brent C of E First School

In February 2014, East Brent First School appointed a new head teacher – Ms Nicola Hare who had been acting head for two years. Ms Hare works as a teaching head, dividing her time between teaching a class (2 days a week) and the role of head teacher (3 days a week). St Mary's Church hosted a lovely commissioning service for Mrs Hare shortly after the announcement of her appointment.

The number of children on roll at the end of this year were 75, with 4 teaching staff, 5 support staff, 3 admin staff and 3 midday supervisors. Some of these roles are part time.

The children have visited the church for different occasions during the year, including the annual Christingle service where the children make their own Christingles and then come together for worship whilst the Christingles are lit. The children also partook in services for Easter and the Year 4 leaver's service amongst others.

The Year 4s had a great Leavers Day at Wells Cathedral where they experienced what it is to be a pilgrim and what it means to journey onto something new. They were complimented on their very good behaviour and participation.

A new style of Crib Service was held at St Mary's and according to the staff and parents was absolutely delightful.

The Head teacher, Foundation Governors and Reverend Simon Lewis started to explore this year, how to deepen the partnership between the Church and the school. More on this in next year's report.

*Claire Lewis and Carla Searle
Foundation Governors*

Lympsham C of E First School

Wow, what a fantastic year for all children and staff of our church school at Lympsham. Why 'Wow'?, because the year started in January 2014 with an Ofsted inspection that declared that the 'Overall effectiveness of the school is **GOOD**. Brilliant news for Mrs Fiona Roberston (Headteacher) and all her dedicated, talented and gifted staff, and for the children who

experience the teaching that takes place in the school. In Church of England schools, every Ofsted is followed by what is called SIAMS - short for National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report. This is when the Diocese Board of Education inspect a church school, seeking to identify whether a school's distinctive Christian character meets the needs of all learners; what the impact is of the collective worship that takes place in the school; and how effectiveness is the leadership and management of the church school. So nearing the end of 2014, October, Lympsham school had its SIAMS inspection. And yes, the 'Wow' factor remained: 'The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Lympsham Church of England school is **OUTSTANDING**. Again, brilliant news for all at the school, and

CONGRATULATIONS.

Over the past five years the Church and Lympsham School have been growing and nurturing a wonderful partnership. This is reflected not only in the positive response of the children and staff when I visit the school to lead Collective Worship, lead aspects of professional development, and provide pastoral care when necessary but also in the positive responses parents have given to questionnaires about their experience of having their children part of a Church School. Then there is the way in which the children refer to St Christopher's church building as being "our church": there is this very positive, supportive and productive link which they recognise and enjoy.

The church welcomes various displays and prayer books created by children, effectively informing parishioners about the work of the school. Leaders have worked hard to adapt and develop the school building, making exceptional

Independent Examiner D. W. Edworthy, BSc., FCA., Chartered Accountant
The Old Rectory, Rectory Way,
Lympsham, Somerset, BS24

Charity Commission

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity *excepted* from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC Membership

<i>Ex-officio</i>		<u>Position</u>	<u>Term</u>
<i>Incumbent</i>	The Reverend Simon Lewis	Chairperson	
<i>Churchwardens</i>			
	<i>Brent Knoll</i>	Miss Frances James Mr Mike Smith	Annual until 2017 Annual until 2017
	<i>East Brent</i>	Mrs Kathryn Quinnell	Annual until 2017
	<i>Lympsham</i>	Mr Jim Hanmer Mrs Gwen Hatton	Annual until 2019 Annual until 2017
<i>Reader in training</i>		Mrs Nikki Burns	Continuous
<i>Deanery Synod Representative</i>		Mrs Maxine Bashford Mrs Carla Searle Mrs Sally Wingate	2017 2017 2017
<i>Elected</i>		Mrs Della Brewer Mrs Sandra Hanmer Mrs Joan Wood Mr Nick Bashford Mr Anthony Gilbert Mr Geoff Searle Mr Tim Hannah Mrs Dot Coles Mrs Nikki Burns Mrs Sarah Cole Mr Ged Keele Mr James Counsell	Secretary 1 year term / 2015 1 year term / 2015 1 year term / 2015 2 year term / 2016 2 year term / 2016 2 year term / 2016 2 year term / 2016 3 year term / 2017 3 year term / 2017 3 year term / 2017 3 year term / 2017 3 year term / 2017
<i>Co-opted</i>		Mrs Mary Ford Mr Robin Leveridge	Parish Administrator Treasurer 2015 2015

Part Two – Administration, Structure and Data

Administrative information

Geographically the Parish of Three Saints:

- is constituted of the following villages, Brent Knoll, East Brent, Eastertown, Edingworth, Lympsham and Rooksbridge in Somerset;
- has three parish church buildings St Michael's church in Brent Knoll, St Mary the Blessed Virgin church, East Brent and St Christopher's church Lympsham;
- is in the Diocese of Bath & Wells, a member of the Church of England.

Correspondence address

The Church Office,
Church Road,
East Brent,
Somerset
TA9 4HZ

Parish Staff

<i>Incumbent (Priest-in-Charge)</i>	The Reverend Simon Lewis
<i>Churchwardens</i>	
<i>St Michael's church, Brent Knoll</i>	Miss Frances James Mr Mike Smith
<i>St Mary the Blessed Virgin church, East Brent</i>	Mrs Kathryn Quinnell
<i>St Christopher's church, Lympsham</i>	Mr Jim Hanmer Mrs Gwen Hatton
<i>Reader in training</i>	Mrs Nikki Burns
<i>Parish Administrator</i>	Mrs Mary Ford
<i>PCC Treasurer</i>	Mr Robin Leveridge
<i>PCC Secretary</i>	Mrs Sandra Hanmer
<i>Organists</i>	Mrs Greta Plank assisted by Pauline Chadwick
<i>Safe Guarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Officer</i>	Mrs Kathryn Quinnell

External Organisations

Inspecting Architect: Mr George Chedburn
Chedburn Design & Conservation,
Bath Brewery, Toll Bridge Road,
Bath, BA1 7DE

Financial Organisations specific to the Parish:

CHURCH LIFE

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue,
Kings Hill, West Malling,
Kent, ME19 4JQ
CCLA
Senator House,
85 Queen Victoria Street,
London, EC4V 4ET

HERITAGE LIFE

Friends of St Christopher CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Ave,
Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent,
Friends of St Mary CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Ave,
Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent
Friends of St Michael CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Ave,
Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent
Friends of St Michaels Trust Santander, Bootle, Merseyside

use of the resources available to support learning.

There is much more one could write but that would just be adding more icing to an already superbly iced cake. I look forward to the partnership between Church and School developing further as we look for more exciting things to do.

*Simon Lewis,
Acting Foundation Governor*

Pastoral Care in our Community

2014 saw us continue to widen our commitment in the parish with the setting up of support groups in three key areas: the bereaved; carers to those with dementia and anyone with cancer. Each of the groups meet on a monthly basis for tea and cake and provide a chance to chat and share experiences, as they wish, in a friendly, informal environment. The seeds are sown and signs of the real benefit to our parishioners is evident. Details of the sessions are on our website or from any of our coordinators.

We also take very seriously our responsibilities to the nursing and residential care home, Holywell, in our parish and are grateful for the welcome we receive from the staff and residents.

We visit each month and hold a small time of worship and we regularly hold a holy communion. Although some residents are very frail and/or confused, they appreciate the familiar liturgy, prayers, readings and hymns. It is a privilege to be with them.

If you would like to come along and join in with any of these worships, please speak to one of the co-ordinators.

We again assisted Simon with the liturgy for the Lights of Love worship in November, which gives time for reflection and remembrance of those we've loved who are no longer

with us. As always, we're very appreciative for the great support and help we have from many lovely people in making and serving the refreshments. Thank you very much!

If you feel you would like to find out more, or become involved in any way, please do speak to any of the team. Please refer to the Pastoral team members under PCC teams at the end of this report.

Sandra Hanmer

Parish Bells

The past year has been one of progress for the Knoll Group Ringers and this is partly due



to the kindness of experienced visiting ringers, without whose help, we would not be able to provide a strong band for our learners to ring new methods. We sincerely thank John Dunstone, Phil Davies, Caroline and Alex Hunt for regularly joining our practice evenings and making our ringing more accurate and, we hope, more enjoyable for those participating and those listening.

At Easter 2014 we had great celebrations when one of our youngsters, Kaitlin Jarvis, won the Bath & Wells Diocesan Young Ringer of the Year Competition. Well done, Kaitlin.

We now have two more youngsters, Ella Caulfield and Sam Kail-Dyke, who have been taught to handle a bell during the past year and are making excellent progress in learning to ring as part of a team. Annabelle Frost has played a large part in teaching Sam, since graduating from

university last summer and she also is making great strides in her own ringing. Her older sister, Emily, also graduated last summer but now has a very busy job as a large animal vet, so we only see her on the end of a bell rope when there are no veterinary emergencies!

Of our more mature learners, Jane Yates and Mary Keay have very nearly conquered Plain Bob Doubles and Sue Cowell and Helen Addis have got to grips with Plain Hunt. However, it was sad for the group when Mike Champion, the long-standing tower captain of Brent Knoll, retired and moved away to Devon and we held a skittles evening with a mammoth supper to mark his departure. We wish him a happy retirement – there are lots of 6-bell towers in Devon but none as magnificent as Brent Knoll.

During the period from 4th August 2014 to 3rd August 2015 the ringers have been commemorating the 100th anniversary of World War 1. We have been marking the deaths of servicemen killed in the Great War by ringing the tenor of their parish church 100 times with the bell half-muffled on the anniversary of the date they lost their lives. Over the year we will ring for 45 men lost in the three parishes. We usually do this at 7pm in the evening and the tolling takes about 12 minutes to complete.

We continue to ring for the 10.00 Sunday service, plus other special services where ringing is required, especially at Christmas. Practice night in the Knoll Group is on Tuesday evenings, from 7.30pm – 9.00pm and moves around the three towers in rotation and there are notices in each church porch detailing how visitors can join us either on a Sunday or on practice night. For any further information about the bells, ringing, etc,

please contact Melvyn Freeman on 01278 641214.
Mo Sweet

Parish Website

The decision was taken in July 2014 to launch our own website. A small team was formed to investigate the options and concluded that to use Church Edit as the host company was the most cost effective approach given the lack of web design skills within the PCC.

A phased approach to the site development was agreed. Phase I was launched in August with an outline layout. This was developed as we implemented the early stages of Phase II in the autumn. Further refinements were carried and at the end of 2014 we had almost completed Phase II. This will be complete with input from all the PCC teams.

The web address is: <http://www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk/> and we would urge you all to visit the website and send any comments to the author of this report. We do need to understand how this can be improved and the ideas you have for taking full advantage of the facility.

We always need pictures of Church/village life and of our buildings. We would also be very keen to hear from anyone who would like to be involved in the future development of the website.

Jim Hanmer

FINANCIAL

Stewardship

This year our challenge was again to hold an annual review of our stewardship and encourage givers, where not already doing so, to give via regular standing order.

Following consultation with the

finance team, presentations were made to the congregation at the 8 & 10 am services. Following these presentations letters outlining our financial position requesting a review of individual giving and payment method was sent to all those on the electoral roll.

Subsequently the number of regular standing orders increased slightly.

Sadly the year has seen a reduction in the numbers that give and, as a consequence the finance team will be looking at plans for different action in the new year involving the Diocesan Stewardship Advisor.

Nick Bashford

Treasurer's Report

The Parish of Three Saints expenditure for 2014 was £71,042.

The main items of expenditure were:

- ◆ the Parish Share, paid annually to the Diocese, to support 496 parishes in resourcing mission and ministry (enabling God's Church to grow), inc. clergy pay **£31,349**
- ◆ the regular running costs for all our churches, inc. insurance, admin costs, routine maintenance, upkeep of services & in some cases, churchyards **£18,061**
- ◆ utility bills **£8,151**

Income was **£81,981** (not inc. tax or Gift Aid to be recovered for 2013.)

This income came primarily from:

- ◆ Planned Giving **£24,590**
- ◆ Collections **£7,919**
- ◆ Donations **£17,683**
- ◆ Fund Raising **£10,942**
- ◆ Parochial Fees **£12,690**

At first sight this looks positive, but unfortunately if one delves into the breakdown of

accounts, our income in 2014 has been inflated by the grant for St. Christopher's roof alarm, the 'new' Friends initiative, donations for St. Christopher's roof appeal and a legacy for St. Michael's, all of which totals nearly £15,000.

These are all Heritage (Restricted) monies that mask the situation when we separate the Church Life and Heritage funding streams; in reality, in broad terms we finished the year with £58k in the banks, 95% was in the Heritage Fund (55k), but only £3,000 (5%) in Church Life. N.B. The above does not include the market value at £31.12.14 of shares in St Michael's Brent Knoll Trust: £27,646.

As a reminder, the Church Life Fund covers the cost of running our Parish, its ministry and its mission - this includes:

- ◆ the Parish Share of the Common Fund i.e. the central Diocesan fund that allows the Diocese to provide for every parish in Somerset (over 200 clergy); it pays their wages, their pensions and their housing, their training and the training of future clergy; it pays for chaplaincies in schools, prisons and residential homes, and it supports around 180 Church Schools in Somerset
- ◆ parish expenses
- ◆ utility bills
- ◆ worship materials
- ◆ Parish Office and administration

Regular 'Giving' to The Parish of Three Saints through weekly collections, envelopes and standing orders, supports it.

At the time of this report we are making the claim to recover 2013's Gift Aid (probably £7k), but we should not be totally reliant on Gift Aid to cover our increasing debts

In December the opportunity to bid for government funds for the replacement of leaking church roofs was advertised and we started making arrangements for three applications, one for each church building, to be made via the diocesan office. These will be submitted by the end of Jan 2015 with outcomes notified by the end of March 2015.

St Christopher's

- ◆ The organ has been serviced.
- ◆ Fire extinguishers have been serviced and now changed to JNC fire protection Ltd to coincide with the other churches.
- ◆ In May lead was stolen from the vestry roof - a local builder in Lympsham came and put up temporary covering.
- ◆ In August, lead was taken again from the north roof, temporary covering was put up again trying to stop the leaks.
- ◆ A faculty was applied for, quotes got, and fund raising began.
- ◆ The church grounds are still been maintained by Robin Hoare. We thank him for all his hard work.
- ◆ We are still having problems with dogs messing in the churchyard.
- ◆ The churchyard has been inspected and all is ok.

St Michael's

- ◆ External Doors were all treated with Danish oil in May 2014.
- ◆ The blocked drains carrying the water from the roof has been cleared by a contractor to stop water flowing

down path to road. The growth on the bank was cut back to help stop vegetation blocking drain

- ◆ Sceptic tank for toilet was emptied
- ◆ North side gully was cleared.
- ◆ Locks to Bell Tower replaced
- ◆ Estimates received for electrics in Bell Tower and floodlighting repairs received and cleared by PCC. (Repairs on going)
- ◆ Estimates for replacement of the Bell Tower Roof received from Ellis & Mike White. (submitted to PCC)

St Mary's

Again a lot of voluntary work has been carried out in the churchyard keeping the bushes and undergrowth under control. Sedgemoor have also supplied plants for a wild nature garden that has been established and also removed a large dangerous tree near the entrance to the school.

During February the results of the competitive tender exercise for replacing the North roof and associated external improvements, was completed indicating that an overall cost of around £122,000 would be needed. As this was considerably larger than expected a review of strategy was called for and this continues.

Various repairs of the internal lighting system were undertaken successfully.

The heating system was serviced.

Geoff Searle

FRIENDS

During the early part of the year we developed the paper work to support the launch of the three Friends organisations in our Parish; St Michael's, Brent Knoll; St Mary's, East Brent; and St Christopher's Lympsham. Guidance notes for the operation of the Friends schemes were approved at the May PCC meeting.

The launches of the three schemes took place at the three village fetes in June and July. The stalls provided an opportunity to publicise the concept of Friends, but there were few people willing to sign up on the fete days. In Brent Knoll it was decided to follow the launch with a door to door campaign promoting Friends of St Michael's. This has proved to be a successful approach and over 70 Friends have been recruited to date.

Over £1200 has been raised with the majority opting to sign standing orders. In East Brent and Lympsham the priority has been to fundraise for specific projects and village wide promotions have not been undertaken.

The challenges for 2015 will be to increase the number of Friends in East Brent and Lympsham. In Brent Knoll we hope to follow up our success in recruiting Friends by creating a framework for involving people more actively in supporting the maintenance of the building and promoting our church heritage.

Ged Keele

quite a few parents too.

Everyone sang along at the Carols for Christmas Service, which was assisted by a worthy Extended Choir. It was followed by mulled wine and mince pies so there was a lot of chatting !!!

Crib Service – it was amazing, bursting at the seams we were!

Celebrations – it's two years since the Cafe started. Now up to eight regulars. Not many as yet but in faith we continue.



Well done Bell ringers for your reliable "call to worship". Thanks to Greta for playing the organ so well.

A special mention to our Churchyard Team who toil away and keep us looking awesomely smart. Thanks to our Flower Arranging Team with four more arrangers on the rota. We have Church Openers, Closers and Clock Winders among our many dedicated and reliable friends of St Mary's. Thanks to our Cleaning Team too - we've two more keen folk to boost the ranks.

We also have seven folk on the Fundraising Team, who give of their time to provide events to support our building. We're very pleased that we have so many devoted helpers, many thanks to them all. It would be extremely difficult without them..

*Kathryn Quinnell
Churchwarden*

St Michael's Church

Rev. Simon Lewis has continued to lead us as a church through varying forms of worship and the continuation of building us into a single parish working together as he guides us to be more actively involved in our work for God in the community.

This year we were privileged to hold the Easter Services together with the Harvest Service in St. Michael's which was followed by a bring and share lunch. We also had the Lights of Love service in November which we hope was a comfort to those who came.

We continue to have good links with the school though Simon and the Foundation Governors and look forward to working with the new Headmaster Mr Chris Burman. The school held their Easter, School Leavers, Harvest and Nativity and Christingle services in the Church. The Brent Knoll Churches Toddler group continues to be a witness in the community led by members of our church and the Methodists. Members of our church have been strengthened by attending the Emmaus and Lent groups.

Our fund raising group held various events in January, teas in church and an Easter egg trail on Easter Sunday, together with a cake stall at the Village Fete. The plant stall money also goes to the Church. We held our first Christmas Fayre in the Church building.

The church is in a relatively good condition thanks to all those who continue to maintain the church and churchyard.. The lightening conductor continues to be serviced annually; the grass cutting continues to be carried out by Brent Garden services with support from a Parish council grant. A churchyard

clearance day was held in February.

We would like to thank all the ministry team, organist and choir, and all readers; servers and intercessors that have all helped us progress in our church journey. Our sidesmen and refreshment providers have helped us to be a welcoming church, as have the flower arrangers and bell ringers.

In closing we would like to thank all those people who help to maintain the upkeep of our church in so many ways and it has been lovely to see the church looking nice through the year and at the different festivals and special services.

We pray and trust that as we continue to journey together in our parish development you will give your support to the ministry team and Simon and continue to work together to enable us to grow and shine in our villages.

*Frances James & Mike Smith
Church Wardens*

HERITAGE

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

General

During the year we have reviewed the maintenance contracts for the church buildings, the fire extinguishers' check, the heating maintenance contracts and, most importantly, the supply arrangements for gas and electricity. This latter has saved us 10% per kWh used overall and guaranteed this rate for a 2-year contract. This exercise has shown that the use of energy is very expensive and that we should ensure that we only make use of the heating etc when needed.

each year, especially when we know that each month over £2,700 'goes out' to pay the Parish Share and more than £700 each month on utilities and so on

There have been some positives:

- ◆ 2014 is the second year that our Parish has paid the full Parish Share
- ◆ Our streamlining of accounts is well on track to finally reduce the number of accounts we deal with, so by the end of 2015 there will be just four i.e. one main account for The Parish of Three Saints and 3 separate 'Heritage' accounts for each Church
- ◆ Geoff Searle has worked hard to renegotiate gas and electricity contracts that should save money in the long run
- ◆ Both Geoff Searle and Jim Hanmer have been seeking grants to 'support' each Church's roofs.

The Friends of each church initiative has started to increase Heritage funds, especially St. Michael's.

At the end of 2014 there was a reasonable amount of money in the Heritage Funds, although the invoice for the repair of St. Christopher's roof to be paid in 2015 will 'wipe out' its Heritage Fund built up over the last few years.

However, it is the Church Life side of the equation that is a cause for concern: I cannot see many cuts or reductions in budgets making much difference – we are very much reliant on the great generosity of our regular givers and the fund raising activities of stalwart volunteers, notably St. Christopher's Fete £3,949, St. Mary's Fete £1,126, St. Michael's Christmas Fair £606 and St. Christopher's Christmas Fair £829.

I would like to express my appreciation of David Edworthy's time and effort in examining these accounts and his advice in preparing the accounts. Thanks also to Mary Ford for her hard work and limitless patience (and for providing regular, restorative refreshments to the Treasurer!) and, of course, to the Finance Team for its support and guidance.

2015 will be my last year as Treasurer: since 'volunteering' to look after St. Christopher's Church accounts several years ago, the post has grown more complex and time consuming, but hopefully my successor will find the processes we have introduced and refined are a supportive framework for future Parish finances.

Robin Leveridge

Church Life Fundraising

St Christopher's Fundraising

In the summer of last year, almost all of the lead was stolen from the north and the vestry roofs of St Christopher's and our insurance cover only paid to restore a small part of it. As a result, besides the usual round of fund-raising events here in Lympsham, the last few months have been dominated by the urgent need to raise money to repair the roof. The repair work has now been done and an alarm installed but we have had to use up our funds to pay for it and we need to replenish those reserves.

Thanks to the generous hospitality of James and Anna Brown, we are to hold a summer ball, to be called the "**Night on the Tiles Ball**" on Friday 5 June 2015 at Batch Country House Hotel for 300 people. The Lipinski Band is to play and there will be an auction, a raffle and other entertainments, together with a three-course dinner and

bar.

At the start, we needed to raise about **£12,500** for the roof in addition to the insurance recovery but, thanks to some incredibly generous donations, the proceeds of some fundraising already, a contribution from the Nuttall Trust and Jim's amazing ability to get money off almost any grant provider, it looks like we are down to about **£6,000** still needed, which we are hoping to raise on the 5 June.

Besides that, the highlight of the year, once again was the Church fete which Rosemary and Andy Carr organised so successfully in June. £4,181, just under £5 short of our record in 2011 was raised. Attendance was high and everybody enjoyed all the usual stalls, the dancing from the school and the vintage cars on a warm, summer afternoon. Thanks to all who help out every year and to Rosemary and Andy, in particular, for all their hard work and for hosting the evening barbecue for helpers afterwards.

We held the Open Gardens event at the Manor also in June which is principally in aid of the NGS charities – mostly cancer- and nursing-related but 90% of the proceeds of the tea and cake stall and a % of the plant stall, goes to the charity of choice, which meant that we raised £512 for the church, easily exceeding last year's total of £200. Thanks, in particular, to Kim King and her mother, Jean Rawles, for the tea and cake stall and to Marcus Hatton for his donation of so many plants to the plant stall.

Again, the ever-successful Christmas Fair took place in December and was well attended. There were cake and Christmas gift stalls, Santa's Grotto, a BBQ/Mulled wine/Beer stall and carol singing. We also had a large number of stalls inside. The event raised £775, up from last year's £660.

The most amazing piece of fund-raising though, has to be Gwen and Ron's annual coffee morning also in December, which raised over £1,000 in proceeds and donations for the roof! This was remarkable for a coffee morning – possibly a world record?

Congratulations to them both.

Besides the Ball, 2015's events so far arranged:

1. Open Gardens Weekend at the Manor 20-21 June 2015
2. Church Fete 27 June 2015
3. Gwen's coffee morning – December 2015;
4. Christmas Fair on a date TBA on a Saturday afternoon in late November or early December.

James Counsell

St Mary's Fundraising

This was our list of events.....

- Open Gardens on 15/6/14 **£319.50**
- Pub Quizzes from Jan– July **£945.85**
- Fete on 5th July **£1,125.50**

There was no pub quiz in August but we recommenced in September and a further **£756.90** was raised between September and December.

TOTAL £3,147.75

All seven of us have a chatty meeting every so often and communicate in between by email. Well done TEAM.....

Kathy Quinnell

St Michael's Fundraising

The St Michael's Fundraising Committee has met on three occasions in the year and has organised three significant events. We have also held discussions with St Michael's Music and Arts over the management of future events at Ivyclad Hall.

The usual Easter Teas at St Michael's were combined with an Easter Egg trail that

included three Open Gardens. A number of local organisations produced Easter Egg designs on templates kindly constructed and donated by Dennis Macdonald. A trail leaflet was produced by Rosemary Keele and we were well prepared for the day. Unfortunately the



weather forecast was bad and, despite the weather turning out better than expected, attendance was poor. However, the takings for the day matched what we normally get for teas alone so the day was not wasted

At the Village Fete we took over the role of cake bakers for the fete from the WI and had a very successful afternoon. Sue Boss organised her usual plant sale stand.

Brian Freestone gave a magnificent talk entitled the Enigma of Edward Elgar and John Page ably supported him by providing music and slides. We managed to sell 60 tickets and the evening was a great success.

The final event of the year was a Christmas Fair held in St Michael's. We invited a number of independent stall holders to set up their stalls in the nave and set up our stall of locally produced goods in the north aisle. A group of local singers entertained us with carols and Simon Lewis led community singing later in the morning. There were opportunities for decorating gingerbread men, face painting and decorating a banner for use in the church at Christmas. Refreshments in the form of mince pies, soup

and rolls completed a very enjoyable occasion.

Ged Keele

DIOCESE

Deanery Synod

I have only been a member of the Axbridge Deanery Synod for a year so my knowledge of it all is still pretty limited. We meet four times a year in various churches around the Axbridge Deanery. We meet at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start and are always made very welcome and we are met with refreshments.

I thoroughly enjoy the meetings and find them very interesting.

Sometimes along with the usual procedures we have a speaker.

We have been privileged to have had our Archdeacon Nicola Sullivan, who discussed how we might make our churches more fit for the 21st century.

It was very exciting when our new Bishop Peter came to speak, he is such a friendly and sincere man, whom you warm to immediately. He did his best to speak to as many people as possible.

Half-way through the year Rev'd Tim Hawkings stood down as Rural Dean and Rev'd Sue Rose was appointed Rural Dean with Rev'd Sharon Crossman as Assistant Rural Dean. Within a short time Rev'd Sue Rose has now been appointed Director of Vocations at the Diocese of Bath and Wells and Rev'd Sharon Crossman has now been appointed Rural Dean (Axbridge).

We have 3 Deanery Synod representatives (Maxine Bashford, Carla Searle and Sally Wingate). The meetings are open to all members of the

congregation (both lay and clergy).

Sally Wingate

CHURCHWARDENS

St Christopher's Church Our Worship.

As part of the Parish's Sunday Worship rota St Christopher hosts the 8am Eucharist on the third Sunday of each month and the 10am Holy Communion on the fourth Sunday. In addition the 11am All Sorts Worship, held on the first Sunday, is held at St Christopher's once a quarter. It is rewarding to see many worshipers from other villages in the Parish attending these services.

We hosted the Parish advent carol service as usual on the first Sunday evening of Advent, which was enjoyed by all who came.

Our annual crib service on Christmas Eve evening was once again one of the biggest gatherings of villagers in the year and a great occasion, as usual the church was full. Encouraging those who came, particularly the many young families, to come more regularly would be a wonderful addition to our Worship?

The Worship on Wednesday mornings continues to be attended by a small but enthusiastic congregation of about 6. The addition of a coffee morning following the Worship has been very well received by a number of villagers and their dogs!

In addition, Lympsham first school continues to use St Christopher's on a regular basis and Simon attends the school many times each term. Our Emmaus course continues grow our relationship with God, there are still places available if you would be interested in joining. Thank you to those who help

with this.

Thanks also to Greta who turns out in all weathers to play our organ so skilfully. We are very lucky to have such a reliable and cheerful organist to keep Simon on his toes!

Flower Ladies

We have a small group of ladies who are on the flower rota and come into the church on a fortnightly basis to do some beautiful arrangements. Thank you everyone for giving your time and flowers to make our church look beautiful and welcoming.

We have special posies to make up for Mothering Sunday, windows to dress for Easter with Baskets, Christmas we put holly and ivy around the church making it look very festive .

If anyone is interested in flower arranging and would like to join the flower rota, please get in touch with Gwen.

Cleaners

Thank you to all our ladies and gentlemen who come to clean our church on a regular basis, thank you for your time, hard work and dedication. Our toilet may not be the best but it is always kept in working order and clean, a special thanks for that.

If you would like to join us it only takes about an hour or so every six weeks.

Stewards and Welcome Team

As we enter Gods house it is always lovely to be greeted and welcomed with a nice smile, we need to encourage new people that come, to feel welcome and comfortable.

So thank you stewards for your continued support and help in this ministry, keep smiling.

If anyone would like to help in this way please contact the church wardens.

Refreshment Team

A big thank you to everyone who makes teas and coffees after the service and bakes cakes or biscuits to share with everyone. It is always a refreshing time to chat and welcome new people and discuss the sermon.



Terrier

During 2014 we updated the church inventory and completed the Terrier.

Lead Theft

In May all of the lead from the Vestry roof was stolen and in August half of the lead from the north roof over the Lady Chapel aisle was stolen. The Vestry roof has been repaired using stainless steel under our insurance cover. However, the north roof will need to be funded from our Heritage account and the fundraising mentioned elsewhere. We are extremely grateful for all the hard work from our Friends fundraising Team. We now have a 24 hour monitored roof alarm, which, hopefully will avoid further expensive repairs!

*Gwen Hatton & Jim Hanmer
Churchwardens*

St Mary's Church

I am glad to say that it's been another active year .. Many thanks are due to our very enthusiastic Priest in Charge. Epiphany Reflections – an inspiring quiet time for as many as want to come...much appreciated.

Christingle Service – enjoyed by all the school children and