



A Year of Celebration!

- 150 years as the Church in the Community
- Essential repair works to the spire completed on time, within budget, and with the generous help of both the congregation and local community
- The launch of 'Silver Surfers', our Internet Café for older people, and the CAP 'Money Course'
- The 'Star Safari' nativity, roaming about the village
- People coming to faith and growing in discipleship

2011 has been a year bursting with celebrations, as we came together to give hearty thanks to God for the privilege of being able to serve Him for the past 150 years as the Church within the Community of Bramcote.



Throughout the year we have enjoyed many varied activities: concerts, promenades, quiz nights, a major flower festival - giving thanks to God for His gracious dealings with the whole of humankind - the 'Star Safari' roaming nativity, and a marvellous Thanksgiving Service on October 16th, with the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham, the Rt Revd Paul Butler, as our guest speaker.

Aside from the celebrations, we have been hard at work seeking to serve the local community in a number of different ways. Whether through the introduction of our 'Silver Surfers' Internet café for senior members of the community, seeking to provide simple training in the use of personal computers, within the warm and inviting environment of Christian fellowship, the establishment of the CAP Money Course to provide help to those who currently find themselves in financial difficulties, or even debt, or the on-going provision of practical pastoral care to those recently bereaved, made redundant or suffering from long term illnesses, our aim is to show the love of Christ to those who are in need, and, ultimately, to lead them to a saving faith of their own based upon a living relationship with Christ.

Through concerted prayer, faithful obedience to reflecting the love of God for all people, and active proclamation of the gospel of good news and salvation, we seek to both know God and make Him known at every possible opportunity.

Following a great deal of prayer and discussion by the Parochial Church Council (PCC), including three parish weekends at home, we have established the following four core principles upon which we seek to build a strong foundation for the future in obedience to the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40) and Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20):

- **Evangelistic outreach** - telling people about the love of Christ
- **Pastoral Care** - providing real help and support for people in their greatest areas of need
- **Work with children, young people and their families** - thus seeking to establish and build future generations of Christian Disciples within Bramcote
- **Personal spirituality** - enabling every church member to develop and grow in their faith

Through concerted prayer, faithful obedience to reflecting the love of God for all people, and active proclamation of the gospel of good news and salvation, we seek to both know God and make Him known at every possible opportunity.



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Report version 2.02

Previous versions should not be taken to represent the published Annual Report and Accounts of Saint Michael's Parish Church, Bramcote.

Design
Albemarle Communications

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E&OE

Parish Staff Team

Vicar:

Revd Paul Reynolds

Associate Ministers:

Revd Tony Cardwell

Revd Michael Diamond

Revd David Edinborough

Revd David Ward

Revd John Wooldridge

Readers:

Alison Reynolds

Mike Ross

Jean Ward

Ray Wiseman

Principal Church Officers

Churchwardens:

David Curnock

David Jones

PCC Secretary:

Cindy Jones

PCC Minute Secretary:

Richard Portwood

PCC Treasurer:

Frank Mellon

PCC Lay Chair:

Robert Cleave

Electoral Roll Officer:

Ann Mellon

PA to the clergy team:

Claire Morrell

Bookings Co-ordinator:

Terry Miller

Webmaster:

Albemarle Communications

Magazine Editor:

Ken Bird

Assistant Verger:

John McQueenie

Committee Chairpersons

Standing:

Revd Paul Reynolds

Mission:

Karen Hanford

Martin Plackett

Ministry:

David Curnock

Worship:

Revd Paul Reynolds


Resources:

David Jones

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Statutory Information

Parish Name: Bramcote, Saint Michael and All Angels
Deanery: Nottingham South
Archdeaconry: Nottingham
Diocese: Southwell and Nottingham
Address: Saint Michael and All Angels Parish Church
Church Street
Bramcote
NOTTINGHAM
NG9 3HD

 (0115) 943 0137

Email office@bramcoteparishchurch.com

Web www.bramcoteparishchurch.com

Please address all church correspondence to
"The Church Office" at the above address.

Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The PCC is a registered charity #1130798.

Bankers

Barclays Bank (*Beeston Branch*)

Insurers

Ecclesiastical Insurance Group plc

Independent Examiner

Smith Emmerson Accountants

Church Architect

Graham Renton MA (Hons) DipArch RIBA AABC MIDA
Architect Associate BDP

CCLI Licences

CCL - 2063
CLA - 824292
PRS - 824302
SS - 1122498
VL - 824319

All information correct as at March 3rd, 2012

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Views from the Spire

The church spire was repaired by specialist restoration company 'A&J Builders Ltd' during the summer and autumn of 2011 at a total final cost of c£77,000.

The project was financed by grant funding from English Heritage, Nottingham Historic Churches and local appeal subscriptions.



The Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Introduction

The Church Representation Rules (Rule 9 (1)(b)) requires “*an annual report on the proceedings of the parochial church council and the activities of the parish generally*” to be received by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). The contents of the report may be subject to discussion.

Aims of the Organization

The PCC (Powers) Measure 1956 directs that the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Saint Michael’s, Bramcote has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar, Revd Paul Reynolds, in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for all church buildings and grounds. Thus the prime purpose of the church is to maintain and develop the community of Christian believers and to use the strength of that community to promote the beliefs of and in Christ through outreach, care for those in need, and by contributing in practical and Christian ways to the whole of our local community.

Naturally, this will involve our engagement in such issues as Mission, Pastoral Care, Teaching, Nurture and Christian Stewardship - the giving of our time, talents and financial resources. All of this should be seen as part of our common Christian discipleship, and not just for those who are particularly keen, willing, and able.

In addition, our support of missionary activities (both at home and overseas) should form a clear and integral part of our communal life as the family of God in the ecclesiastical parish of Bramcote.

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the APCM.

In accordance with the Church Representation Rules (Rules 10(1) and 54(1)) membership is open to all those who fulfil the following requirements: are (a) over 16, (b) on the electoral roll, (c) who consent to being appointed, (d) who have been confirmed, (e) who have received Communion at least three times in the previous year, and (f) are not otherwise legally prohibited from serving.

During the past year, the following individuals have served as members of the PCC:

Ex-officio members:

Vicar: Revd Paul Reynolds (*Chairman*)

Wardens: David Curnock
David Jones

Reader: Ray Wiseman

Robert Cleave	①	Diocesan and Deanery Synod
Cindy Jones	②	Diocesan and Deanery Synod
Linda Hart		Deanery Synod
Pat Ashworth		Deanery Synod (until APCM)
Ian Park		Deanery Synod (until resignation)

Elected Members of the PCC:

Tim Aikin		(Elected for three years at 2009 APCM)
Ken Bird		(Elected for three years at 2009 APCM)
David Ducker		(Elected for three years at 2009 APCM)
Karen Hanford	⑤	(Elected for three years at 2009 APCM)
Frank Mellon	③	(Elected for three years at 2009 APCM)
Julie Astle		(Elected for three years at 2010 APCM)
Michael Bellamy		(Elected for three years at 2010 APCM)
Stan Heptinstall		(Elected for three years at 2010 APCM)
Richard Portwood	④	(Elected for three years at 2010 APCM)
Ros Colville	⑤	(Elected for three years at 2010 APCM)
Penny Coe		(Elected for three years at 2011 APCM)
Matt Lyons		(Elected for three years at 2011 APCM)
Wendy Willan	⑤	(Elected for three years at 2011 APCM)
Mike Tayler		(Elected for three years at 2011 APCM)
Richard Warner		(Elected at 2011 APCM - Resigned)
Martin Plackett		(Co-opted - Churchwarden Emeritus)
Victor Smithson		(Co-opted - Churchwarden Emeritus)
Anne Bladen	⑤	(Co-opted)
Chris Spencer	⑥	(In attendance)
Sarah Meredith	⑥	(In attendance)

- KEY:**
- ① PCC Lay vice-chair
 - ② PCC Secretary
 - ③ PCC Treasurer
 - ④ PCC Minute Secretary
 - ⑤ Deputy Churchwarden
 - ⑥ Attend meetings without voting rights, but may, on occasion, be invited by the chair to contribute to discussions with PCC approval

PCC Committees

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. It also serves to establish the agenda of the PCC.

During the past year, the following have served as members:

Ex-officio members:

Revd Paul Reynolds	<i>(Chairman)</i>
Robert Cleave	<i>(Lay Vice-Chairman)</i>
David Curnock	David Jones

Elected Members:

Frank Mellon	Cindy Jones
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Mission Committee

Responsible for the mission of the Church within our own local community, together with the support of missions overseas and at home. During the past year, the following individuals have served as chairmen:

Karen Hanford (*Co-Chair*) Martin Plackett (*Co-Chair*)

Ministry Committee

Responsible for the development of faith within its people and their pastoral care. During the past year, the following individual has served as chairman:

David Curnock (*Chair*)

Worship Committee

Responsible for the worshipping life of the church. During the past year, the following individuals has served as chairman:

Revd Paul Reynolds (*Chair*)

Resources Committee

Responsible for resourcing the mission and ministry of the church through the regular maintenance and development of our premises, properties and equipment by means of an on-going programme of Christian Stewardship. During the past year, the following individual has served as chairman:

David Jones (*Chair*)

*In accordance with the Church Representation Rules (Rule 15)
the Incumbent is an ex-officio member of all committees.*

Membership and Attendance Statistics

During the past year overall, membership and attendance levels have remained broadly constant, with a significant increase during the last quarter, for which we give much thanks to God.

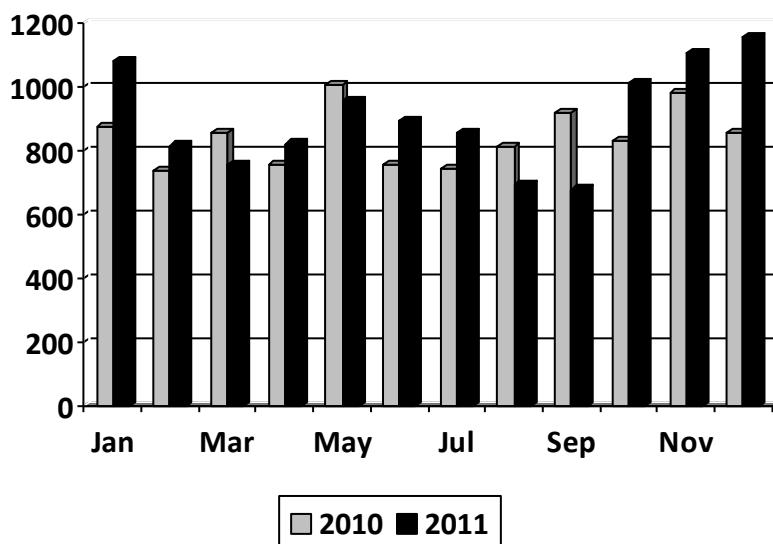
The overall attendance figures reflect an adjustment for those individuals who attend more than once each Sunday.

It should be borne in mind that the 8:00am service only takes place on the first Sunday of each month, and that there is no 9:00am service during the month of August.

Electoral Roll	2011	2010
Nett Total (inclusive of joiners and leavers)	344	343
Average Attendance (Overall)	2011	2010
Wednesday - Holy Communion	18	23
Thursday - Holy Communion	12	12
Sunday - All Services	208	195

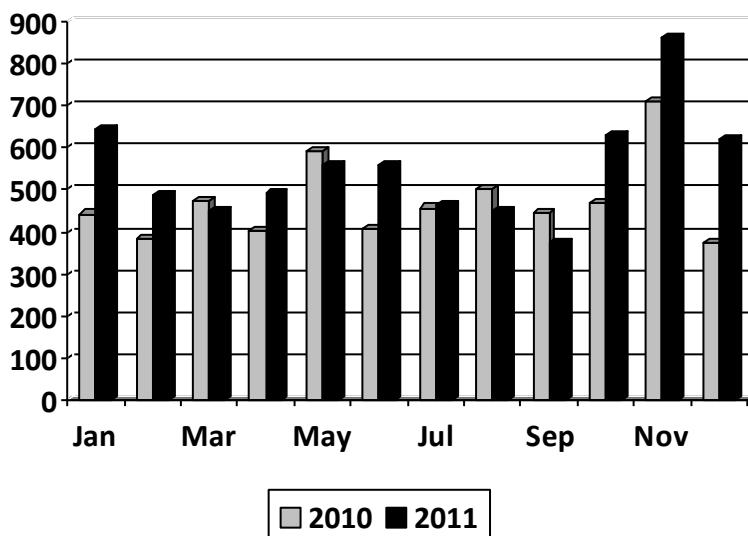
Overall Sunday Attendance (All Services by Month)

Note that the 2011 figure is higher than that for 2010 on 8 separate occasions.



Overall Sunday Attendance (10:45am Service Only by Month)

Note that the 2011 figure is higher than that for 2010 on 7 separate occasions.



Festival Statistics

Festival attendances during the past year have seen a great many fluctuations when compared to previous years.

Festival	2011	2010
Education Sunday	180	160
Mothering Sunday	129	155
Ash Wednesday (7:30)	45	42
Maundy Thursday (7:30)	62	100
Good Friday (All)	152	189
Easter Day (8:00)	32	41
Easter Day (10:45)	175	137
Easter Day (6:30)	48	52
Ascension Day (8:00)	43	39
Bereavement Service	209	253
Remembrance Sunday	433	255
Carol Service (5:30)	236	182
Carol Service (7:30)	145	164
Children's Carols (4:00)	368	261
Midnight Communion	113	96
Christmas Day (8:00)	22	18
Christmas Day (10:45)	162	132
Christmas Day (12:00)	14	11

October Attendance (All Services)

	2011	2010
Week - 1	220	205
Week - 2	202	171
Week - 3 (*)	283	166
Week - 4	130	167
Week - 5	175	122

(*) Please note that the week-3 attendance figure for 2011 is significantly higher than would normally be the case, due to the 150th Anniversary Service.

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Occasional Offices

	2011	2010
Weddings	10	12
Blessings	2	1
Baptisms	15	17
Thanksgivings	2	1
Funerals	46	56
Confirmations	5	1

Review of the Year



2011 has been a very special and exciting year for Saint Michael's church, as it marked 150 years of worship in our present church buildings. Throughout the year we have endeavoured to include and involve not only church members, but the whole of our parish community in worship, celebrations and activities. These have been planned to welcome people into our church and to take the Christian faith and fellowship to the surrounding areas in fresh expressions of church life.



The highlights of our celebrations included a series of concerts, one of which was a Summer Promenade Concert held in our school grounds; a four day Flower Festival, and culminated with a Street Nativity in December. A special service and lunch was held in October, during which Bishop Paul preached a sermon of thanksgiving for the past and encouragement for future growth. We can only give thanks and praise to the Lord for the success of these and many other events held in 2011. We were blessed with good weather for the open air events and much enthusiasm by the many visitors who attended. We have seen a growth in numbers, and a deepening of spirituality and commitment during the past year.



The PCC met bi-monthly throughout the year to conduct the business of the church. In addition to this, a PCC Away Day was held in December specifically to discuss plans for making our buildings fit for purpose as we look forward to the next one hundred and fifty years. The four committees: Worship, Ministry, Mission and Resources, met in between each meeting. Minutes from the committees are circulated to all PCC members and recommendations were discussed at full PCC meetings. At the heart of our forward planning has been the desire to encourage personal and corporate discipleship, evangelistic outreach, the provision of practical pastoral care, and work with children, young people and families.



Prayer and Bible Study have remained paramount in all that we do, and plan to do as a church. Our House Groups meet weekly to study the bible and pray together. The theme of these study and discussion groups is linked to the Sunday sermon series. They are co-ordinated by one of our retired clergy, and supported by the whole Ministry team. It is particularly good to note that two new Groups have been established this year.



The Ministry committee continues to develop prayer and care both in the church and the community. A dedicated and trained team visits bereaved families in the parish, bringing comfort, support and hope for the future. It holds occasional afternoon teas for such families, welcoming them into the church fellowship. 'Christian Basics' and follow-up courses are also organised by this committee. The 'Silver Surfers Internet Café' has been running since May. This reaches out to the older adults in our community with hospitality, friendship and the opportunity to learn basic computer skills, and has been highly successful.

The Worship Committee has continued to organise the special services held during the year, including Christmas, Easter, Remembrance Sunday, Bereavement Sunday and Education Sunday. It has sought to make them inclusive to both regular church attendees and visitors. Our traditional services have continued as before, but we have endeavoured to make them more welcoming to all age groups.



On the third Sunday evening of each month, a special service has taken place. Amongst these have been services of Healing and Wholeness, Taize, Songs of Praise and Youth Services. The committee has discussed and prepared new liturgy for Baptism and Thanksgiving services in order to make them more meaningful and easily understood.



Once again, 'Holiday Church', held at 10:45am throughout August, proved to be very successful; the theme this year being, 'Down on the Farm'. Drama, puppetry and personal testimony greatly enhanced these services. Our monthly 'All Age Worship' now follows a similar pattern.

Plans for 'Intergenerational Worship' have been discussed for implementation during the spring of 2012. These will enable families to worship and learn together in a variety of ways.



The Mission committee has played a large part in organising special events for our year of celebrations. It worked hard to provide fun and fellowship at the Hemlock Happening and to highlight the presence of our parish church in the community.

Messy Church has been held each term and grows in both the activities available and the numbers attending.

This committee has generously supported mission at home and abroad, and has further strengthened links with our mission partners; including regular reports within our services.



The Resources Committee has continued to maintain and improve our church buildings and finances. There was a generous response to our Planned Giving Campaign in February and we give thanks to the Lord for this. The main project this year, however, has been the restoration of our church spire. Prayer was indeed answered when a generous donation from English Heritage and a grant from Nottingham Historic Churches Trust were awarded. An appeal raised the remaining finances. It was encouraging to note that much of the money given to our appeal came from members of the parish, and from people who have been connected with Saint Michael's in the past. The restoration work attracted a good deal of interest, and we pray that this will stimulate people to want to learn more about the Christian faith and worship beneath the spire.



Members of the congregation and Resources Committee have decorated and refurbished the church centre lounge. Plans to give a face lift to the church centre have also been discussed for future development.



Realising that the future of the church and the Christian faith relies on reaching out to children, young people and families, we have given much prayer and thought to this age group. Unfortunately our Youth Minister left in the spring to take up a post with Hope Nottingham. However, after much prayer we were greatly blessed by the appointment of Chris Spencer, a student from Saint John's College, who will be able to continue in this work until June 2012 when he will take up a Curacy on the south coast of England. This has enabled us to continue our plans for growth in this vital area of mission and ministry. We are very grateful for the energy and enthusiasm which Chris puts into not only the work with families and young people, but also in many other areas of church life.



Links with our Church School remain strong and are developing in many different ways. We were pleased to appoint the acting head, Sarah Meredith, as the new Head Teacher in June 2011. Sarah is a Christian leader and is determined to strengthen links between school and church. With the completion of two new classrooms, formally opened in March by Bishop Paul, we are moving towards becoming a 'one form entry' school. This should become a reality at the beginning of the next school year.



It was wonderful to be part of the celebration to mark 200 years of Church Schools. Both the Candle Service in school, led by Bishop Tony, and the final service in the Minster were moving occasions. It was particularly encouraging to see so many children and young people taking part and organising the worship. The governing body, staff and parents work with the church to ensure that our Christian faith and traditions are upheld in the school. Our vicar and youth worker take regular assemblies in the church school as well as other local schools.



The team of retired clergy continues to support the work of our vicar and readers. We thank the Lord for the dedication and experience which they bring in pastoral care, prayer and study.

At the end of this year we can thank God for the legacies of love and devotion left by so many of our past congregations. We pray now for the resources, the wisdom and the enthusiasm which will enable us to build on this firm foundation, a church fit for purpose well into the future.

We continue to assess the many risks associated with people, buildings, finance and the reputation of the church. We have put in place a Child Protection Policy, and members of the church have attended Safeguarding Children courses, in line with the code of practice for the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham.

We carry out annual 'Health and Safety' and 'Risk Assessment' inspections, and a 'Health and Safety Policy' has been drawn up and adopted.

Financial Report for the Year Ending December 31st 2011

Contents

1. Introduction
2. Financial Summary
3. Income
4. Expenditure
5. Balance Sheet
6. Designated Funds
7. Restricted Funds

This report should be read in conjunction with the full set of Financial Statements that are available on request from the Vicar or Churchwardens.

1. Introduction

I would like to thank everyone for their generous giving during 2011. As a result of this we have been able to pay the Parish Share in full of £88,584 and transfer £4,071 into a reserve towards payment of the 2012 Parish Share. It should be noted however that as the response to the “Building for the future” appeal did not achieve its target we have had to use £7,254 of our reserves to supplement donations and the rent from our property in Rufford Avenue in order to fund our ‘Children, Youth and Family Life Co-ordinator’

The main work on the church this year has been the repairs carried out on the Spire. The expenditure in the year was £67,706. The funding for this were grants of £49,294 and the remainder from church members and the wider community. There was a surplus on the fund and a few of the donors agreed that their donations could be used for other work on the church building. A big thanks goes to all those who donated in order that this work could be carried out. I would also like to thank Ken Bird in all his hard work in processing our claim for refund of the VAT.

We have also given our normal 10% (£13,682) of Giving to Mission, both Home and Overseas.

We have been blessed during the year with two large legacies. The first one of £60,000, which was received in July, has been split £54,000 towards church building work and £6,000 for repair work beneath the organ at the back of church. The second of £10,000 is for young people’s work.

We have been allocated a Parish Share of £91,101 for 2012, which is an increase of £2,517. This is a challenge due to a full year’s impact of the reduced income tax rate from 28% to 25% (£2,400 in a full year) and a significant reduction in giving resulting from people leaving the district and bereavements during the year.

As we go forward together we have a responsibility to ensure that we are in a position to meet our appropriate obligations for the ministry of the Diocese.

I would like to thank Peter Nicholls for his work as Planned Giving Officer, which enabled us to reclaim income tax of over £25,000 on Gift Aids. I would also like to thank all those associated with the 'Outlook' magazine, Catering, and the Centre bookings, which generated surpluses of almost £6,200. There are many others to thank for their work in raising funds and also to Keith Holloway and his team for counting and banking the collections each week, especially Martin Plackett and Victor Smithson.

In conclusion we give thanks to God for his gracious provision throughout the past year and look to him in faith to provide all our needs for the coming year.

Frank Mellon

2. Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ending December 31st, 2011

Description	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL	FUNDS
					2011	2010
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Total Income	158753	8641	169767	52	337213	192660
Total Expenditure	153133	4277	99739	26	257175	186730
Net Income/(Expenditure)	5620	4364	70028	26	80038	5930
Transfer Between Funds	-5620	-6556	12176	0	0	-372
Net Movement in Funds	0	-2192	82204	26	80038	5558
Balance as at January 1st, 2011	0	53148	30595	1672	85415	79857
Balance as at December 31st, 2011	0	50956	112799	1698	165453	85415

3. Unrestricted Funds - Income

Year Ending December 31st, 2011

Description	2011	2010	Inc/(Dec)
	£	£	£
Gift Aid Donations - Normal	97586	92338	5248
Gift Aid Donations - Special	40	220	-180
Income Tax Recoverable	25207	25983	-776
Other Planned Giving	4476	4382	94
Collections	9734	9188	546
Fees	1934	4168	-2234
Magazines	3744	3765	-21
Church Centre Donations	3269	2719	550
Outreach Events	96	0	96
Catering	9578	8327	1251
Christmas Market/Concert	0	1752	-1752
Insurance Claims	550	0	550
Donations	1601	1713	-112
Other	938	959	-21
TOTAL	158753	155514	3239

4. Unrestricted Funds - Expenditure

Year Ending December 31st, 2011

Description	2011	2010	Inc/(Dec)
	£	£	£
Parish Share	88584	85824	2760
Ministry Working Expenses	1833	1962	-129
Church Running Expenses	10258	11200	-942
Church Maintenance	3375	6758	-3383
Magazines	906	1138	-232
Printing, Postage & Stationery	4991	3820	1171
General Salaries	6447	6602	-155
Education	2516	2317	199
Catering	9508	8008	1500
Grants	14853	13122	1731
Other	9862	10390	-528
TOTAL	153133	151141	1992

5. Balance Sheet

Year Ending December 31st, 2011

Description	2011	2010	Inc/(Dec)
	£	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	10876	9590	1286
Short Term Deposits	158070	83596	74474
Cash at Bank and In Hand	1704	1450	254
TOTAL ASSETS	170650	94636	76014
LIABILITIES	(5197)	(9221)	4024
NET ASSETS	165453	85415	80038
FUNDS			
Unrestricted	50956	53148	(2192)
Restricted	112799	30595	82204
Endowment	1698	1672	26
TOTAL FUNDS	165453	85415	80038

6. Designated Funds

Year Ending December 31st, 2011

Description	Balance as at January 1st 2011	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance as at December 31st, 2011
	£	£	£	£	£
Project 2011	21686	255	0	-2801	19140
General Maintenance	11427	140	0	0	11567
Mission Fund	902	3	-891	1082	1096
Children and Young People	8364	29	0	-6355	2038
Rufford Avenue	3615	5958	-1267	-4673	3633
Book Fund	1299	837	-826	0	1310
Parish Share 2011	3113	15	0	-3128	0
Parish Share 2012	0	0	0	10000	10000
Legacy - General	1002	5	0	0	1007
Traidcraft	1014	1396	-1293	-681	436
Other	726	3	0	0	729
TOTAL	53148	8641	-4277	-6556	50956

7. Restricted Funds

Year Ending December 31st, 2011

Description	Balance as at January 1st 2011	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance as at December 31st, 2011
	£	£	£	£	£
Inclusive Church	1541	8	0	0	1549
LEGACIES					
Home Mission	7245	35	0	0	7280
Home Work	12456	60	0	-10000	2516
Home Work Youth	0	0	0	10000	10000
Building	0	54000	0	0	54000
Youth Work	0	10000	0	0	10000
Other	519	5774	0	0	6293
Children & Young People	898	1	0	-899	0
Children, Youth and Family Life Co-ordinator	0	5155	-17343	12188	0
General Building Work	0	7526	-3138	6410	10798
Spire	1769	74286	-67706	-6410	1939
Berega	2523	3923	-3793	1148	3801
Music Fund	1278	754	-134	0	1898
Silver Surfers	0	3717	-2134	0	1583
Angels/Star Safari	870	4032	-4897	0	5
Other	1496	496	-594	-261	1137
TOTAL	30595	169767	-99739	12176	112799

Nottingham South Deanery 2011/2012



Perhaps the most important development of the concerns of the Nottingham Deaneries, outside the internal work of the churches and parishes themselves, has been the growing liaison work with the Nottinghamshire Constabulary over the metal thefts that are seemingly endlessly being suffered here. Under the guidance and efforts of Anne Walters, who has acted as our contact with the police, a firm relationship has been established to provide assistance for churches in this area. This calls for vigilance on all our parts, and a willingness to both monitor the situation and make contact with the dedicated police team where necessary.

One very successful outcome from the past year in Nottingham South is the 97% payment of Deanery (and therefore Parish) Share this year, an especially commendable outcome in the present difficult economic circumstances. Our thanks to all who have worked so hard to achieve this result. The Deanery has recently discussed the nature of allocation of share in the longer term, and this is an on-going topic for us.

The Deanery is proving to be an effective source of information for all parishes, as we continue to use the offices of our administrator, Rachel Shock, to publicise activities and events throughout our area.

- Amongst the major events of the year have been the debate within the Joint Deaneries Synod on the proposed appointment of women bishops in the church, which gave us the opportunity to hear the differing views held on this topic (and a Diocesan Synod followed at which the Diocese voted very substantially to support their appointments).
- Bishop Paul came to a Joint Synod and gave us a view of his hopes and aims for the Diocese, and set out our roles in these.
- At one of our Synods Nick Harding gave us a short presentation on the Church History project, which aims to discover and chart the histories of all the churches in the Diocese as part of the national project.
- A successful Deaneries Study Day, led by Dr Paula Gooder, was held during the latter part of the year, well supported by our churches.
- At our last meeting we started to look at Missional Leadership Deployment taking into account both resources available and the needs of our deanery.

As we move forward and seek to support and encourage one another, we aim to further the church's mission to the people of the whole of Nottingham.

Robert Cleave
Laurie Crawforth
Joint Lay Chairs

Jonathan MacGillivray
Area Dean

Resources Committee - Buildings

The Committee, with the help and good will from the congregation, has continued to maintain and care for our Church and Centre, the Curates House and the Church grounds. We continue to use our funds and resources wisely to improve and upgrade the buildings, their furnishings and technology.

Major projects and activities throughout 2011 have included:

- The Church Centre lounge/choir room has been repainted and refurbished with new chairs, tables and blinds. We are very grateful to the members of the congregation who undertook this task and wish to express our thanks.
- The South Porch has been re-painted.
- The Doors to the South Porch and the exit doors to the Centre have been cleaned and re-varnished, and new beam securing pegs made and fitted.
- We applied for a Faculty to carry out urgent repairs on the Spire. A J Restoration Limited was commissioned to carry out the work. Damaged stonework has been removed and replaced with new. The whole of the Spire has been re-pointed both inside and out. The old access ladder to the Bell Frame has been replaced with a stainless steel one. We were fortunate to receive generous grants from English Heritage and from Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust. An appeal to both Church Members and to the whole community raised sufficient finances to cover this restoration project. Much prayer has been answered and we give thanks for so much generosity. We are indebted to the Diocese and our Church Architect, Mr Graeme Renton for their help and support.
- In conjunction with the PCC, the Resources Committee has been in close consultation with our Church Architect to consider ways of reordering our Church. As we celebrated our 150th anniversary of the church in the present building, we realised that we have a duty to make it fit for purpose for the next 150 years. It should meet the requirements of the DDA and facilitate different styles of worship and church activities, to enable growth in both number and spirituality.
- All small portable electrical appliances were again PAT tested.
- The church grounds have been tidied and remodelled.
- A risk assessment has been carried out.

Thank you to all who so generously, give time, money and energy to maintain our beautiful church, church centre and grounds.



Mission Committee - Outreach

Members of the committee:

Karen Hanford (Co-Chair),
Martin Plackett (Co-Chair),
Richard Portwood (Secretary),
Jane Ashworth, Julie Astle,
Tony Cardwell, Stan Heptinstall,
Ann Mellon, Jonathan Portwood,
Louise Rudham, Wendy Willan

Overseas Mission

During the past year we have continued the support of our 4 main Mission Agencies:

CMS - The Paton family in South-east Asia
Crosslinks - John & Phyll Chesworth, the Centre for Muslim-Christian relations in Oxford
CPAS - Paul Hoey in Ireland (now returned to Parish work)
YWAM - Jonathan & Rosie Portwood (now returned to Bramcote from Pune, India).

In addition, we have supported a number of second-tier Partners, most notably the Berega Bible School and Hospital in Tanzania (visited annually by David and Anne Curnock) and the Miles family in the Middle East.



The Oxford Centre for Muslim-Christian Relations

To keep ourselves and the congregation fully informed, some of us from the Committee visited the Oxford Centre for Muslim-Christian Relations. We hope to organise further visits for anyone who is interested in this vitally important work. We have also recently hosted a visit by our new link partners, the Patons, who joined us for a weekend with their 4 children. It was great to meet them.

Now that our YWAM partners, Jonathan and Rosie, have relocated to Bramcote, we are actively seeking a different mission agency to support.

We have also introduced a monthly mission focus as part of our Church services on the first Sunday of the month.

Home Mission

To further our church's priority of reaching out to children and their families, we have organised termly 'Messy Church' events (3 per year). These are well-attended and enjoyed by all participants and we thank those who provide the different 'Messy' activities. The events end with a short service in Church followed by tea in the Centre.

There was a great turn-out by the Church family at the Hemlock Happening, giving Saint Michael's a real 'presence' with balloons for the children, leaflets about our activities and stalls catering for all ages.

Our Secretary, Richard Portwood, produces glossy leaflets for Easter, Harvest and Christmas for distribution throughout the Parish by our hard-working link stewards, to keep the Parish informed of our activities and hopefully enable all to feel they can contact our staff here at any time.

I would like to thank all the Mission Committee for their hard work. It is a privilege to be working for the Lord supporting mission both at home and overseas.

Karen Hanford



A Messy Table

Ministry Committee - Discipleship

The work of the Ministry Committee includes pastoral care, prayer, nurture and prayer ministry, and we have met five times in the year since the last APCM.

Pastoral Care

During the year we reviewed the ways in which pastoral care takes place at Saint Michael's and produced an updated leaflet in November 2011 for everyone to use. We thank Alex Pearson for continuing in the role of coordinating messages about pastoral needs.

The Bereavement Care Team, coordinated by Margie Edinborough, has eight members, and follows up referrals from the clergy following funerals. A new development is the running of Bereavement Teas and during the year these have been held in April and December and have been a great success with 16 people and 13 welcomers coming to the most recent one.

A very successful new venture has been Silver Surfers, our internet café on Thursday afternoons in the Centre, reaching out to the older adults in our community with hospitality, friendship, and the opportunity to learn basic computer skills. We have around 26 guests each week with new people coming all the time, and 31 in the team of welcomers and coaches.

Prayer

We are committed as a church to having 'prayer at the heart of all we do...', and prayer for individual needs continues at *the weekly prayer meeting* on Monday mornings at 10am, and 67 prayer requests have been prayed for during the year. The Board continues to be well used, and commonly has 12-15 requests. Each month there is either '*ParishPrayer*', an hour praying together on the third Tuesday evening of each month or a *Half-Nights of Prayer* which we had in May, August, November and January. *The Prayer Walk* in April covered the Bramcote Village and Valmont Road areas and was a special time for all those taking part.

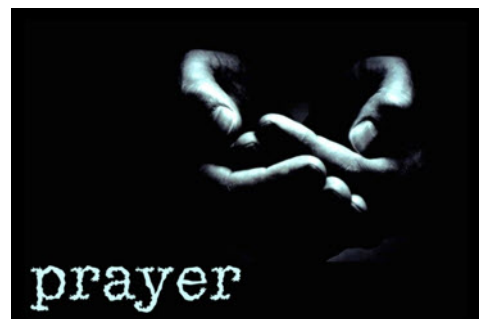
Nurture

We ran a Discipleship Follow-on course, for two of the people who had been on the Christian Basics, during October and November using new material from the Rooted in Jesus course which proved to be excellent. We then introduced each to a House Group, going with them to their first meetings. Our Saint Michael's house groups have continued to study material prepared by Tony Cardwell, which has been very much appreciated, and then in Lent we joined the Methodists at the Chapel for a Lent Course prepared by Liz Marriott

Prayer Ministry, Wholeness and Healing

We now have a new Prayer Banner in the Church Centre and having *Prayer Ministry* available here after the 10:45am Service has made it more accessible and an increased number of people have come for prayer, including some children. After the 6:30pm service prayer continues to be available in the choir stalls at the end of the service each Sunday.

David Curnock





Bramcote CofE (VA) Primary School

Yet another eventful year has passed at Bramcote CofE (VA) Primary School since the last APCM. The vision for the school "Life in all its Fullness" remains at the heart of all we do. We are encouraged everyday by the achievements that our pupils make in whatever form that may take.

Another sunny and warm sports day saw children enjoy taking part in a range of sporting activities all of which were supported by families and friends. To end the term the school council prepared and ran a mini Olympics. This is an event that is always well received and it's great to see the older children supporting and leading the younger children within school.

I was interviewed and appointed as Headteacher in June, and I feel very privileged to be able to lead in such a wonderful Church School.

The summer concert and KS2 production of Robin Hood were well received and really showed the talent for performing arts that we have within our school.

We waved goodbye to the Y6 of 2011, an event that was not without tears as the children fondly remembered their time at Bramcote.

The school is ever growing and we ended the last school year with 160 children on roll, enabling us to move another step closer to having one class per year group. The new school year saw us welcoming 30 new reception children, not to mention the other families who joined us from far and wide; this took our total number on role to 173. We worked hard to plan a year that was exciting and stimulating to the children, giving them many opportunities to learn new things. The curriculum theme weeks "Horrible Histories" and "Stories around the world" have been a particular highlight and the work produced as a result of these has been of a very high standard.

The new kitchen which was fitted just before Christmas has been used extensively by the pupils and has enabled them to cook, bake and taste many things. This would not have been possible without the kind donations made by Saint Michael's, Willbonds and some very kind parents who donated their time to fit and plumb the kitchen.

We end the spring term with the success of our recent OfSTED inspection which recognised all the hard work that we have achieved since the last inspection and deemed us to be a good school with outstanding behaviour and safety of pupils. It is now our aim not to sit back, but to strive for "outstanding" across the board and with the help of God I have no doubt that this is something we will achieve!

Sarah Meredith
Headteacher



Church Flowers

Arranging church flowers is a most creative, absorbing hobby that gives pleasure to all who visit our places of worship. Flowers give beauty, hope and solace and enhance the fabric of the church. Arranging flowers in a place of worship is the giving back of beauty to the One who created us and the medium with which to work.

Last year we were very busy with weddings and flower festivals, and myself and some of my CEFAA members from the diocese travelled to Saint Ann, Rainhill, Liverpool to arrange flowers for the association's 30th anniversary - this was quite an anxious time for me as I'd designed the festival (not easy when you live here) but after several trips there during the planning - everything seemed to go according to plan - and during our time there many friendships were renewed and many new friendships started - a wonderful time of fellowship with members from around the country.

Then came September and our own festival (10 years since the last one) again designed by myself - but much easier as I could come into church at anytime to work out designs - again many of my CEFAA members and other flower friends came to help with staging - my thanks to anyone within the church who helped in any way with the festival) - many visitors came quite a distance to the festival after a certain person's TV appearance and local radio interview - I hope that many of you enjoyed viewing our depictions.

Last year saw me travelling to York to arrange flowers in the Minster with my CEFAA members from the York Diocese and a few later to Portsmouth to visit our members there, and on a journey back from Bournemouth calling at Winchester Cathedral, after speaking with arrangers there - CEFAA gained two new members - A special arrangement was done for the 400th Anniversary of the King James Bible for Saint Mary's, Attenborough - the QMC requested my help with the Chapel Flowers (usually when there is something special or a church festival).

Here at Saint Michael's we were very fortunate to have flowers provided for every week (apart from Lent) by kind donations from members of the congregation - for which I am always grateful - and my thanks to Carole Croft for organising the Mothering Sunday Flowers once again.

Think of a world without any flowers

Hillary Brian
Church Flower Co-ordinator

CEFAA is the Church of England Flower Arrangers Association of which I am the National Chairman - hence all the travelling around the country.



Men's Fellowship Report.



The Men's Group has seen a modest attendance throughout the year, with speakers talking on a variety of subjects such as; Charles I and Oliver Cromwell, Clipper Ships and Victorian England. We enjoyed the Annual Boules evening in June, and the speaker this year at the Christmas dinner was Tim Friend the Diocesan 'Sports Ambassador'.

In addition there has been a Classic Cars evening and a Skittles luncheon. There has been plenty of activity. As always, our normal date for meeting is the second Monday of the month starting at 7:00pm for the speaker to begin at 8.00pm .

Jonathan Marston

Catering



Catering at Saint Michael's continues to go from strength to strength. For the second year in succession we have achieved a Level 5 in our Health and Hygiene assessment from Broxtowe Borough Council's 'Scores on the Doors' scheme. To be able to continue to achieve this standard, additional in-house Health and Safety training will be provided, in accordance with the local Health Inspector, later in the summer. Anyone who helps in the kitchen should attend; as currently some of the required systems are not being fully adhered to by all groups.

We continue to get good numbers at our Wednesday Luncheon Club and our Family Sunday Lunch has moderate numbers.

Catering has been provided for a number of church family functions: David and Jean Ward's Golden Wedding lunch, the Holy Festivals, and the Berega Charity dinner (which raises much needed funds for the Berega Hospital).

Jonathan Marston

Come Alive

We meet every Friday during term time to take part in Keep Fit to music. We open with a prayer, and after an hour of exercises, we have coffee and chat, followed by a reading, sometimes serious, sometimes light hearted, but always with a moral message.

We contribute to various charities from our funds, and hold a Macmillan Coffee morning every year, last year raising over £100.

We all share the coffee duties, and the atmosphere is one of friendship and fun.

Mo Brown (Exercise Instructor)
Sheila Pearson (Treasurer)
Val Harrison (Secretary)

Sidespeople.

Along with the Welcome team, the Sidespeople help everyone entering Saint Michael's for a service to feel at ease, to have the correct notices and information about the service, and they act as the first line of contact.

This year the Sidespersons team grew smaller due to retirements, and replacements for those are always needed. Many thanks to those who retired for their many years of faithful service, and thanks to those who have joined for taking that responsibility.

Thanks to all of the team for their flexibility in covering holidays and sickness, and particularly at the busy times of Easter and Christmas.

Ken Bird

Outlook

The parish magazine, Outlook, continues to be published 10 times per year, and remains at 32 pages, so thanks to all those who contributed their articles which have added to the knowledge of the readership and general interest level in the publication.

This year we have been able to print the outer pages in colour, so better photographs and artwork which enhance the text are now possible. Circulation continues to fall steadily.

Thanks to the production and distribution teams who manage over 400 copies each edition.

Ken Bird

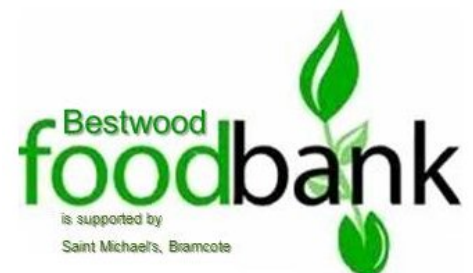
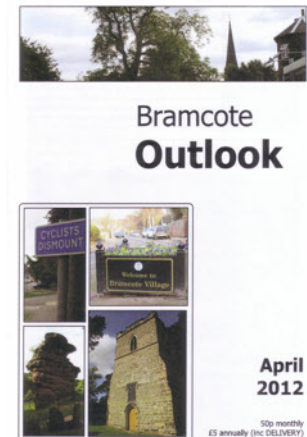
Foodbanks

Faith into Action (James 2:17)

Today there are people in Nottingham who struggle to feed themselves and their families. Redundancy, illness, benefit delay, domestic violence, debt and family breakdown are just some of the reasons why people can suddenly find themselves in this situation.

Care professionals such as clergy, doctors, health visitors, social workers, CAB and police identify people in crisis and issue them with a foodbank voucher. Foodbank clients bring their voucher to a foodbank centre where it can be redeemed for three days emergency food. Volunteers meet clients over a cup of tea or free hot meal and are able to signpost people to agencies able to solve the longer-term problem.

Why not buy an extra item or two when you do your weekly shop to donate to the Foodbank? Especially, keep a look out for those '3 for 2' or '2 for 1' offers, and donate the extra item that you don't need.



There is a Foodbank box at the back of church for members of Saint Michael's to donate items of food which will be delivered regularly to Bestwood Foodbank.

This will be available for food to be dropped off both on Sundays and during the week for those taking part in mid-week activities.

Bell Tower

*“In every church there shall be provided at least one bell
to ring the people to divine service”
(Canon F8 of the Church of England)*

Having taken over the Tower Captaincy in September 2011, I am still ‘feeling’ my way into this role. Though I was the Tower Captain for several years in the mid – 1980’s, the tower then only had 3 bells and a very enthusiastic, but small, band of young ringers, so it is now taking me some time to get acquainted with the current band of ringers and with ringing more than 3 bells! In starting this report I do want to express my grateful appreciation and admiration for the previous Tower Captain, John Wells. He has been more than helpful, since stepping down as Tower Captain, despite his own circumstances and is a great support to me as I grow into the role of Tower Captain.

John Wells has done an excellent job of maintaining the fabric of the tower over the previous years, so I am pleased to be able to report that the bells are in excellent order at this time.

Since starting in the role of Tower Captain I have been privileged to see several new ringers join us and start to learn. These include both adults and children and most came through first having a go at chiming during a Messy Church event. They are all progressing well, and will, I hope, soon be able to assist with regular ringing at services. I am very grateful for the help of Christine and Tom Langton, who have been able to come regularly to our Friday evening practices and provide excellent coaching to our band.

Due to the small number of competent ringers at present, we have not always been able to ring regularly on Sunday mornings. Several of those who could help are also involved with other activities on Sundays, which doesn’t allow them to ring. I am hopeful, that as the new ringers progress we will be able to start ringing on a more regular basis.

Most of our experienced ringers are members of the Guild and have occasionally participated in Guild Events. We are very grateful for the support given to us by other towers, thinking especially of Tom and Christine Langton who, as mentioned before, have helped extensively with the teaching of the new ringers over the last 3 months or so. This coming year we have been asked to host one of the Guild competitions, ‘The Teapot Trophy’, on June 2nd. This is a competition for new ringers to give them something to aim for and is usually a very popular event.

In conclusion I would again like to thank all those who have contributed to the Tower over this last year. Our ringers have been faithful in trying circumstances and I am grateful for their enthusiasm and efforts. I hope that in the coming year we will be able to grow the band of ringers and so contribute in new ways to the life of the church.

Jonathan R. Portwood
Tower Captain

Welcome Team

The Welcome Team has been able to support all the services this year at Saint Michael's. We have a membership of 30 dedicated people, which has remained static throughout the year, but it would be great to have more especially at the 9:00am and 6:30pm services. Thank you to everyone involved with Welcome. We are the first faces that new people see when they come to Saint Michael's, so hopefully we make a good impression although everyone should play their part in making newcomers feel welcome.

Paul has recently run a 3 week course entitled, 'The Ministry of Welcome', aimed at Welcomers, Sidespeople and anyone else who is interested in reaching out to our visitors. The course was a practical guide to help us welcome newcomers/visitors and to guide us in integrating them into the Church Family. Paul is planning to run another course later in the year for those who were unable to attend the first one.

The Welcome pack is in the process of being updated. If you would like to be part of the Welcome team, then I would love to hear from you.

Ann Mellon

Communications Group

The aim of the Communications Group continues to be the effective communication of the role of the church and its activities within the membership of the church and the wider community. Three Leaflets were distributed to all households for Easter, Autumn and Christmas activities. We are most grateful to the Link Stewards for making these deliveries and to Mike Read for keeping up to date the list of Link Stewards.

Many thanks to Ken Bird who has continued to edit our monthly magazine 'Outlook' and to Carole Croft and her small band of helpers, who have continued to print and bundle it up each month.

The Office Angels look after the notice boards, except for the Mission Notice Board, now looked after by Louise Rudham.

The Church Office is manned every weekday morning by a band of 'Office Angels' under the wing of Beryl Bailey, providing a focal point for visitors, and also doing a variety of office tasks. Our thanks go to them all for this very necessary work.

Richard Portwood

We now have a superb new web-site containing news of events and services, important information about arranging Baptisms, Wedding, Funerals and Confirmations, and details of how to make contact with the relevant individuals for each of our activities. It can be found at www.bramcoteparishchurch.com



Music Group



As always, the music group has provided our music for the 10.45 service each week. Those involved on a regular basis this year have been Catharine Warner and Christine Cleave (singers), Jane Ashworth and Alison Reynolds (piano), David Ducker (clarinet and saxophone) and Ray Wiseman (mandolin). Chris Spencer has played the guitar for us on the occasions when he has not needed to be involved in the children's work (mainly at our monthly All-Age services) and we have also been very glad that Kate Lyons (voice and flute) has been able to join us on occasion. Most recently we have been delighted to welcome Mike Elbourne (guitar) to the group. For personal reasons, both Jane and Catharine have been having a break from involvement recently, but we are very much hoping they will be able to join us again soon.

Earlier this year we were able to purchase a new digital piano which, with its far better sound and touch, has enhanced our music making greatly. We are all grateful to Paul and to Jonathan Portwood for their hard work as our sound engineers!

Alison Reynolds

Banner Group

Our main function is to display banners in church at the appropriate time. We don't have the ability to make many new banners, but can do the occasional small one by request like the prayer banner in the centre.

Chris Lane

Bookstall



It was with much regret that the Christian Bookshop in Beeston had to close in January. The Council are demolishing many of the buildings, including the bookshop, on the High Road in Chilwell to accommodate the new tram. The cost of leases in Beeston are so high, that Alan did not consider it right to take this option. However, he was able to transfer all his stock to a company in Grantham, 'Acts of Random Kindness'. They will continue, at Alan's request, to supply our pre-ordered Bible Reading Notes for this year. They are also prepared to supply books on order with the usual Churches' discount and free delivery charge for the time being.

Under review is the possibility of opening a shop in Nottingham (where there is now no Christian Bookshop) for 2 days a week. This would be very helpful to us for special books and for Christian Cards. Please pray that this arrangement may come to fruition not only for Saint Michael's, but for the many others who miss their local Christian Bookshop.

Marwin Smithson

Silver Surfers

Silver Surfers is a weekly drop in style café, staffed by volunteers, offering refreshments and guidance on using computers in a cosy non-threatening environment. Supported by Saint Michael's Parish Church, Silver Surfers was set up with the principal funding coming from Broxtowe Action Fund and the Co-operative Bank. It is funded by guest subscriptions and generous donations from other organisations and individuals.

Started in May 2011, to date 106 guests have attended, of whom over 50% have been non-Saint Michael's members, with an average of 27 guests at each session. We are greatly blessed with our computer and hospitality volunteers with 35 on the books, of whom 20% are non-Saint Michael's members, with an average of 18 at each session. The numbers of non-Saint Michael's members confirms we are meeting one of our main aims, that of reaching out into our community.

In 1:1 sessions guests are shown the benefits of computers by sending emails, searching for information, shopping on-line, gathering price comparisons, as well as in the effective use of mobile phones and Kindles etc. Our guests tell us what they want to do, and our coaches help them do it. Of equal importance are the relationships and friendships built up over tea coffee and cakes with the hospitality team.



Sandra Read

Women's Meeting Point

During 2011 Women's Meeting Point met 16 times, enjoying speakers, meals and joint events. Some talks were given by Saint Michael's people, such as an update on Berega and the Bangalore Children's Fund, plus an insight into the vicar's early rock and roll years and Hillary's amusing anecdotes. We also had talks on garden birds and the work of a school inspector. There was also an opportunity to see and buy wildlife pictures and jams and preserves. We had a quiz evening and a communion service.

We joined the Methodist ladies for a carol service, a ladies' choir concert and the Women's World Day Of Prayer. Cafe Bramcote and Womens' Meeting Point together enjoyed the usual Salvation Army Band evening.

During the year there were 3 meals out arranged. We currently have about 22 members, with 15 or so at each meeting. Each member receives a birthday card and pays a subscription and a tea and coffee fee to cover any costs. In what has been a difficult year I would like to thank the members for their support and prayers.

Chris Lane

Wednesday Coffee Morning

We continue to meet on Wednesdays from 10:00am to 12:00 noon in the Church Centre. On the first Wednesday of each month we have a Communion Service, followed by lunch ably prepared by Jonathan Marston.

Attendance averages about 40, and there is a very friendly and caring atmosphere which is much appreciated by our members, many of whom live alone. We celebrate members' birthdays, send caring greetings to those who are ill, and operate a lending library. This year we contributed £400 to church funds, £200 to Emmanuel House and £100 to Framework.

At Easter Marwin Smithson ceased to take an active part in the running of the coffee morning – something she has done for many years. Her energy and dedication have been exceptional and we all thank her most warmly. The tasks that she did have been devolved to a number of the ladies who have been helping, and to Rita Portwood who co-ordinates everything.

We are most grateful to those who give of their time and skills in a friendly and welcoming manner. These include Maureen Cousin, Georgina Stockdale, Karen Hanford, Linda Hart, Brenda Baldock, Elizabeth Mitchell, Lesley Law and Vicky White, and our thanks also go to those who provide lifts and to the clergy who preside at the Communion Services.

Rita Portwood

Cafe Bramcote and Hemlock Happening



We were delighted to welcome Cathy Burton to Cafe Bramcote in October, and our Christmas Cafe Bramcote with the Salvation Army Band was again very well supported.

We have a very dedicated team of friends who turn up month after month to set up the room, man the kitchen, run the front of house and welcome visitors. In addition, they provide a superb range of delicious cakes and puddings that our customers very much enjoy. It is the dedication of these people that make Cafe Bramcote such a success and we thank them all.



At the Hemlock Happening we served over 300 portions of strawberries and cream and gave away 500 balloons. The face painting, collage and children's games were very well supported. This is our largest outreach opportunity with over 10,000 people attending the event.

We had a surplus of £782.87 at the year end which was shared equally between Tear Fund and the Berega fund

Daphne and Michael Bellamy

Toddler Group

*“And whoever welcomes a little child like this
in my name welcomes me.” Matthew 18:5*

Saint Michael's Toddler Group continues to be very popular with an attendance of around 30 adults each week. We meet every Thursday morning during school term time between 9:45am and 11:45am in the Church Centre. The children range in age from new born babies to 4 year olds.

Our dedicated volunteers: Lesley, Diane and Betty are still providing refreshments each week which include biscuits, tea, coffee and squash and our heartfelt thanks go to them for their continued faithfulness to the group. We also provide toast and various spreads for those who may not have had time for breakfast!

We regularly invite people in to hold a stall at the group. These have included books, jewellery, clothing, greeting cards and skin-care products. Usually a 10% donation is given to the group from these activities. We also have a photographer come in twice a year in May and November. We have raised money this year for Children in Need and Comic Relief. A big thank you to all the Mums, Dads and carers for their generosity.

We enjoyed a lovely Christmas party with a special visit from Santa - special thanks once again to Jonathan Marston for arranging this for us!

Our thanks must also go to John McQueenie for helping our mornings to run smoothly and to Gill Wilmot for being a regular special friend to the Mums each week.

I am very happy to report that Abby, our treasurer, decided to stay on with us which was an answer to prayer and a huge relief to me as she is such an asset to the group and would be greatly missed. So a big thank you must go her way for the invaluable contribution she makes each week. We also appointed Claire McMillan to be our new Vice Chair in September and another big thank you goes to her for the time and effort she puts in each week and also for getting us up and running on Facebook!!

Our donation to the PCC for the period March 2011 to February 2012 was £627.07

Sue Ellis (Chair)
Abby Baird (Treasurer)
Claire McMillan (Vice-Chair)



Children, Youth and Family Life



Since starting work at Saint Michael's in May 2010, the overall number of children in most of our groups, including Sunday mornings has increased. The main challenges of this growth has been not being able to find enough people to help cover groups and not having enough storage space available to meet the needs of all the different groups. It has been great to see the knowledge, understanding and faith grow amongst the young people and to see the children and youth leaders and helpers deliver top quality sessions consistently.

In the New Year we had to change because of the lack of leaders and helpers. We would like to develop a new way of teaching to all ages. We still need new leaders and helpers to volunteer for this new way of teaching and to continue and develop younger leaders to be involved in this ministry.

Opportunities to get involved in the local schools are also coming up more regularly and I am regularly in the secondary school co-leading a small group of young adults to learn about the Christian basics. I am also regularly in the local primary schools leading assemblies, lending a hand or supporting school functions.



Our work outside of church has grown with the development of the Star Safari which saw combined groups sharing time, experiences and resources to produce an intergenerational experience of the nativity play within the local community.

Sunday morning Groups May 2011 to January 2012

Day:	Sunday
Time:	10:45am
Age:	0-3 years

Crèche ... Open to all little ones! There was a very small crèche team to lend a helping hand in the set up of this new group. The group had around 1 to 8 regular young children in attendance. Finished in January 2012 because of the lack of leaders and helpers to provide a safe ratio for adults to children.

Day:	Sunday
Time:	10:45am
Age:	3-6 years

Mini-Disciples ... Scramblers ... (3-6) For those currently in Key Stage One and preschool – with lots of fun, games and activities centred around a biblical theme or passage. This group had around 5 to 14 in regular attendance. Finished in January 2012 because of the lack of leaders and helpers to provide a safe ratio for adults to children.

Day:	Sunday
Time:	10:45am
Age:	6-10 years

Explorers and Climbers ... the middle group, for those in Key Stage Two. This group combined a mixture of games and activities with a slightly deeper look at the Bible, and normally took a look at one passage or theme. This group had around 6 to 15 in regular attendance. Finished in January 2012 because of the lack of leaders and helpers to provide a safe ratio for adults to children.

Pathfinders ... where young people can explore the Bible, a theme or their own ideas in a safe and friendly environment. Some of the members of this group are helping the other children. This group had around 5 to 16 in regular attendance. Finished in January 2012 because of the lack of leaders and helpers to provide a safe ratio for adults to children.

Day:	Sunday
Time:	10:45am
Age:	10-14 years

Sunday Morning Groups from February 2012

After the retirement of several leaders and helpers a review took place for children and young people's work. The PCC decided to introduce inter-generational worship for the 10:45am service. This meant that it was a new way of teaching in different options with everyone learning from each other. This is still under review.



Other Groups

Saint Michael's Toddler Group ... this meets in the centre on Thursday mornings when local and not so local families can drop-in for a play and a chat. It provides a vital opportunity for the carers of small children to meet and talk with each other whilst their children play contentedly in a bright, warm environment. The weekly attendance is growing, with well over 30 families coming each week.

Day:	Thursday
Time:	9:45am
Age:	0-5 years

Dads and Kids ... this meets once a month in the centre on Saturday mornings when local and not so local dads can drop-in to chat and relax with a refreshing breakfast. This group includes games, craft and sports. Dads and Kids has steadily grown in number over the last year and attendance varies between 8 to 16, although there are many more on the books. The group has had problems with advertising the group and being moved several times because of other events.

Day:	Saturday
Time:	9:45am
Age:	0-8+ years

YPF... is our weekly youth event. Different events take place with a relaxed feel, with a short quiet time included. The events have ranged from the Wii, to outdoor games, from Liquid Church to guest speakers talking about different subjects. Numbers peaked last autumn with over 15 young people coming regularly. In recent months, numbers had dropped lower than 10 each week. We have a number of new people moving up from the existing Pathfinders group, and we hope that more young people will join with the group.

Day:	Sunday
Time:	6:30pm
Age:	14+ years

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all who have helped out and volunteered their own time in helping the ministry of children's, youth and family work here at St. Michael's. It is greatly appreciated. Overall it has been a wonderful, exploratory and rewarding time. I hope and pray that the role of Children's, Youth and Family Worker continues to grow in the future, and I am grateful for the contributions and involvement of all concerned, particularly the young people who make it what it is.



Chris Spencer

Messy Church



Messy Church is an afternoon for families - children and parents sharing together in food, fun and worship. We have held three Messy Church afternoons this year and each time have seen over 50 children and 40-50 adults participating.

The activities have included making wooden toys and games, cake decorating, face painting, card making, egg decorating, flower arranging, bell ringing and many more. Members of the local community, as well as church members, have very kindly given up their time and expertise to help us provide such a wide range of things for families to do together.



On arrival, all the visitors are welcomed with refreshments, and then there is around an hour for everyone to try their hand at the various activities on offer.

There is a short time of worship in the church, which includes songs, prayers and a short talk, and then Jonathan Marston provides everyone with a marvellous tea. Messy Church is a great way for us to reach some of those in our community who might not otherwise come along to Saint Michael's and we are grateful to all those who are involved in so many ways.

Alison Reynolds

CAP Money Course



Run in partnership with the charity Christians Against Poverty CAP Money is designed to help people manage their finances better whether they are in severe debt or no debt or planning for changes such as retirement, funding family studies, divorce or ill health.

Saint Michael's has run two courses so far with twenty one participants. Not all of these were known to us with some coming from other churches or through the CAP Money Website.

The CAP trained leaders are Michelle Carlisle and Mike Read. They are assisted by a team of three who look after the hospitality for the sessions and assist with the discussions. We plan for two more to be trained as Money Coaches before the next course.

Whilst the course is about debt prevention we have referred some participants found with unmanageable debt to CAP Headquarters or a local CAP Money Centre for further personal assistance. We have found those in our own community going without food or proper health care and experiencing real emotional breakdown due to money worries and debt. We intend to widen the promotion of the course within the community progressively for future courses.

Mike Read and Michelle Carlisle

Bramcote Hills Care Group

Bramcote Care Group

The groups continue to serve the community in a variety of ways, including help with transport, shopping, collection of prescriptions and visiting the housebound. We have 16 volunteers, some of whom have limited availability. All the work is done on a voluntary basis; no payment is involved.

Since we work on a 'good neighbour' basis, volunteers have not been forced to have CRB checks. I think it is for this reason that we have not had recent referrals from Social Services or the Volunteer Bureau.

It may be time to restructure the group, and since I shall be retiring next year, I would welcome the advent of someone to take over. It must be borne in mind that this is not a church group, and that our volunteers come from within the wider community.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to record my appreciation of the work done by our splendid band of volunteers.

Pat Witcombe

House Groups

We have continued to run a total of ten House Groups during the year, seven evening and three daytime groups. Some of the groups have been affected by illness and adversity, but through it all they continue to be an invaluable resource and support to their members and an important part of the spiritual growth of our church.

The themes studied in the House Groups this year have been linked with Sunday sermons; though it's not always easy to match up the timing:

Summer 2011: From the Book of Exodus – the story of how God led Moses and the People of Israel to freedom.

Autumn 2011: From the Pastoral Epistles: Paul's guidance to Timothy and Titus and the early Christian church.

Spring 2012: Issues of Christian Discipleship

Group leaders include:

David & Julie Ducker, Sue Ellis, Gillian Hallam, Karen Hanford, Stan Heptinstall, Lesley Hill, Richard Portwood, Vicky White, Gillian Wilmot

A big thank you to all those who share in the leading and hosting of these groups, and for the commitment of the members who attend.

Tony Cardwell



Choir

In the past year at Saint Michael's, the choir has continued the regular pattern of leading the singing at two services on most Sundays and at other occasional services.

In a wider context, we maintain our affiliation to the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM), which, amongst other benefits, provides us with access to useful training material, discounts on music purchases and opportunities to attend courses and events throughout the year.

Numerically, we have remained fairly stable throughout the year with 18 regular members in the group, rising to an average of around 24 for special musical presentations. The choir leads the singing at the 9:00am services on Sunday mornings, as well as the 6:30pm Evening Prayer and Holy Communion services. Also, we have sung at a number of other services, including weddings and funerals.

The 2011 Good Friday evening presentation 'Reflections on the Cross' and Christmas 'Carols by Candlelight' services continued the choir's long standing tradition of presenting more challenging choral music as part of our worship on those occasions. Much hard work goes into the preparation for these services, so it was pleasing to receive many words of encouragement from those who attended.

In September, we hosted the practice for the RSCM Choir Festival and attended the service itself at Southwell Minster with choirs from throughout the Diocese. This year, the Festival service, 'The Word Revealed', was a celebration and commemoration of the 400th Anniversary of the King James Bible.

We practice in the Church Centre each Wednesday evening, and additional voices, both junior and adult, would be very welcome. No one considering joining us should feel that they have to attend every service, but it would be good to share and develop our work with new members.

Please continue to pray for our spiritual and musical growth as a group, as we seek to maintain and develop our role in the life and worship of Saint Michael's.

David Hanford
Organist and Choirmaster

Star Safari

Beginning in Bethlehem during the census year, we commenced an event filled journey of danger and discovery, following the path of the guiding star towards the place where the holy child was born.

Along the way, we and our fellow travellers were led by a merrie band of minstrels and pipers, witnessing the harsh realities of Roman rule, gasping with amazement at the birth of a lamb, and standing in awe with the holy family as the mystery of God's redeeming love revealed itself before us.

The Star Safari was a processional nativity which captured the imagination and captivated the soul.

