



**The Parish of St Michael and All Angel's Church, Great Torrington**

Address for correspondence:  
The Vicarage, Calf Street, Torrington EX38 8EA

**Annual Report  
and  
Financial Statements**

**of the Parochial Church Council**  
for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Rector:  
The Reverend Peter Bevan

Bankers:  
HSBC Bank, The Quay, Bideford.

Independent Examiner:  
Mr Graham Dudley White  
Bulworthy Cottage  
Stony Cross  
Bideford  
Devon EX39 4PY

Our web site:  
**[stmichaelstorrington.org.uk](http://stmichaelstorrington.org.uk)**

The Parochial Church Council is an Excepted Charity

## **Aims and Purpose**

St. Michael's Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent, the Reverend Peter Bevan, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. As well as the church itself, which is Grade II\* Listed the PCC is also responsible for a portion of land known as the Vicarage Nursery.

## **Objectives and Activities**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish family and to increase the use of the building by local community groups. To facilitate this work, it is vital that we maintain the fabric of the church and make the building as welcoming as possible.

## **Worship and Prayer**

As well as Sung Eucharist on Sunday, Eucharist is said on Thursday. During the pandemic lockdowns when churches were closed for public worship St. Michael's embraced the use of online technology to stream services via Facebook and the website from the Vicarage as well as the church. St. Michael's featured on the Diocesan website as a service to watch. Following the second lockdown, the church was re-opened for public worship from the start of December 2020. The average attendance at the 10am service on Sundays was reduced to around 20, as many people are still nervous about returning to church.

## **Electoral Roll**

At the time of the October 2020 revision there were 51 parishioners on the Electoral Roll

## **Deanery, Diocese and General Synod**

Two members of the PCC sit on the Torrington Deanery Synod. Fr. Peter sits on the Diocesan Synod. This provides the PCC with links to churches around us, and with the Diocese as a whole. It also receives reports from the General Synod.

## **Church Fabric**

Since the completion of the Tower and Spire Project, much less has needed to be spent on the church fabric, apart from regular maintenance and necessary surveys.

## **Other Activities**

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic it has not been possible to open the church on a daily basis for visitors to the town and as a place for quiet contemplation and prayer. However, with stewards present, the church has opened in a limited capacity for private prayer and reflection for a short time after the Sunday and Thursday Eucharist services.

The usual Christmas Fair, concerts and recitals could not take place this year. No visits were possible from pupils at Bluecoat School and no coffee mornings were held.

Remembrance was observed with a commemorative display in the church and roadside notice boards. School assemblies, Diocesan and deanery business meetings all took place by Zoom.

Christ the King Sunday was celebrated with beautiful new red vestments made by our Churchwarden, Chris Foster.

During Advent it was possible to have a limited number of singers in Church and the Winkleigh Singers gave us a memorable Carols by Candlelight service, socially distanced.

We welcomed an ordinand in training, Ildiko Varadi who had tutorials on line with Fr. Peter, and valuable discussions with church members of the benefice.

No baptisms or weddings have taken place during the year, but several weddings have been rearranged to take place in the coming months.

We have tried to keep in touch with all church members, regularly phoning and ensuring they receive the weekly pew sheet which is emailed far and wide to include friends who have moved away.

### **Other Activities (continued)**

An on-line giving page has also been set up to encourage parishioners and friends to support the work and fabric of St. Michael's.

We are very grateful to all members of the congregation for strictly observing the Covid regulations required by law inside church; wearing masks, using hand sanitiser, noting contact details, social distancing, not singing and avoiding social interaction after the services. We are very relieved that as far as we know, no Covid related incidents arose from attending worship. Indeed, across the whole country, statistics have shown that churches are the safest places of all to attend because of the observance of regulations.

### **Safeguarding**

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Council comprises the Incumbent, Churchwardens, Deanery Synod members and those elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, by those on the Electoral Roll. PCC members make decisions on all matters of general concern in the Parish of Great Torrington and on all church financial matters. The PCC Standing Committee have consulted by phone and email on essential matters because "in person" PCC meetings have not been possible.

### **Administrative Information**

The church address is Church Walk, Great Torrington, EX38 8BN, in the Diocese of Exeter.

Correspondence address is The Vicarage, Calf Street, Torrington, EX38 8EA.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006, revised 2020) It is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission. PCC members who have served with relation to this report are:

The Incumbent	The Revd. Peter Bevan, Chairman
Churchwarden	Mrs Christine Foster
Deanery Synod Reps	Mrs Christine Foster Miss Barbara Down
Elected Members	Mrs Terry Insull Mr John Bryant Mrs Joyce Martin Dr Douglas Knight Mr Stephen Ford Mrs Gwen Davey Mrs Anita Rich Mr Peter Hooper Mr Colin Porter (Vice Chair)

**Stephen Ford**  
**Treasurer**  
**May 2021**