

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS BEACONSFIELD TEAM MINISTRY

www.stmichaelsbeaconsfield.org.uk



PARISH PROFILE 2019

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OUR PRAYER



Contemplation, compassion and courage – a Christ-like church at St Michael and All Angels

Heavenly Father, we pray that you will guide our church community with wisdom, hope and love as we seek your will for the future of St Michael's. May we discern your vision and call to serve the people of this town through our mission and ministry. Bless the Church Council as they work together through the vacancy. Encourage and give the St Michael's family the strength to think about how they can contribute towards this opportunity and work together to become more Christ-like and share in what we do. Amen.

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1. WHO WE ARE

We are a friendly, welcoming church, in the Beaconsfield Team with St Mary and All Saints and St Thomas' Churches. The Beaconsfield team of 3 Churches operates as a single Charity / Legal Entity.

We wish to continue and develop our work with families with less formal worship, while continuing our services focused on sacramental spirituality and prayer following the liturgical year. We believe in living our faith through care for others in the local and wider community as well as within the church membership. We desire to share our belief that Jesus loves us whoever we are and in his summary of the commandments to love God and our neighbours as ourselves.



2. WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR

Could you be our new vicar? These are the qualities we are looking for:

- † A priest who is equally at home with both catholic and evangelical, formal and informal worship
- † Who will inspire the congregation to grow the church in numbers
- † With the ability to nurture spiritual growth and encourage enthusiasm in this area with the laity
- † With the ability to lead change with flexibility and sensitivity to the profile of the church congregation, recognizing and developing the talents of lay people
- † With good pastoral and communication skills
- † With a heart to welcome and work with young people and their families
- † Who will enjoy and continue contact with local schools
- † Warm-hearted, positive, enthusiastic and with a sense of humour
- † A priest who is a team player, willing to share their skills in our church and within the wider team, leading services and supporting the other two churches

3. PARISH ACTIVITIES

a) Church Services

Time	Day	Regular Services	Numbers (usual)
8:00 am	Sunday	Holy Communion BCP or Traditional language	(8-10)
9:15 am	Sunday	Early Birds, monthly, in the Hall, an informal service focused on young families and their parents, Family Praise, monthly, or Family Communion, monthly, a service in church for young families	(30-50)
10:30 am	Sunday	Sung Holy Communion with our Choir	(40-50)
4pm	Sunday	Messy Church – most months, 2 nd Sunday	(20 – 35)
9:00 am	Wednesday	Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel.	(8-10)

Continues on next page

- † There were 137 people on our Electoral roll in April 2018
- † The clergy, lay minister and Pastoral Team take Communion to the sick and housebound.

Time	Day	Special Services	Numbers	
			Adults	Children
10am or 10.30	Sunday	Team Service held annually in each church	(140+ in total)	
4pm	Advent Sunday	Christingle	(65)	(55)
4pm	3 rd Sunday in December	Carol Service	(148)	(23)
4 pm	Christmas Eve	Crib Service	(252)	(145)
11.30 pm	Christmas Eve	Midnight Mass	(66)	(4)
10 am	Christmas Day	Holy Communion	(69)	(49)
7.30 pm	Ash Wednesday	Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion	(24)	
9.15 am	Palm Sunday	Palm Crosses	(32)	(30)
10.30 am	Palm Sunday	Palm Crosses Holy Communion	(47)	
7.30 pm	Holy Week Mon, Tue, Wed	Holy Communion		
7.30 pm	Maundy Thurs	Washing of Feet	(31)	
9.15 am	Good Friday	Veneration of the Cross	(27)	
9.15 am	Good Friday	Team Messy Church in our hall	(16)	(26)
7.30 pm	Good Friday	Stations of the Cross	(12)	

b) Voluntary Involvement

Most members of our congregation are involved in the life of the church and many also with outside charitable activities.

Volunteers act as sidespersons/welcomers, operate the AV system, serve in the sanctuary, read the Old Testament and Epistle and offer the intercessions, arrange church flowers, sing in our small choir and serve refreshments after services (and organize rotas). We have professional cleaners in the hall and a rota of volunteers to clean the church. Building committee attends to repairs if possible and the fabric of the building is monitored regularly. The church is opened and closed by volunteers.



Team work

Tuesday Home Study Groups one in the evening and one in daytime.

Prayer group – each Thursday.

c) Charitable Activities and Outreach

The church and its facilities have been increasingly used by the local community. E.g. The Church has been used on occasions for charity concerts and in particular, we have had some very popular Family Fun Concerts organized by a member of our congregation, but there is scope for more development.

Community fun and fund raising – May Spring Fair is a happy occasion involving members of the church and their friends.



Spring Fair and Garden plants Sale

The following four activities contribute to our outreach and also our own community:

Film Evening – monthly

Men's and Ladies lunches - monthly

T Club – (Chat, tea and cakes) twice a month in term time everyone is welcome

Bulrushes on a Friday morning Bulrushes is for preschool babies and children with their carers held weekly in Term time – it includes free play, refreshments and singing.



Pastoral Care Team – Home Communion, Visiting, Meals (and lifts as friends ad hoc)

Team Outside Giving Committee – The Team Churches give 12.5% of regular giving; the Team Committee has three members from each church choosing where 8% is donated.

Supports 5 charities:

1. Newham Renewal Programme (a link with a deprived London area of church work),
2. Mission Aviation Fellowship,
3. Embrace (working in the Middle East),
4. Great Lakes Outreach (working in Burundi) and
5. Sharon International Ministry (supports a school for very poor children in India)

St Michael's also supports, with the remaining 4.5%, Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust (HART), Wycombe Homeless Connection and One Can Trust our local Food Bank.

d) Churches Together in Beaconsfield

A committee comprising members of all the churches in Beaconsfield meets about 4 times a year. One of their activities includes the production of a Christmas card with details of all Christmas Services in Beaconsfield, delivered by post to all households in the town, a Lent activity (this year lunches with a short talk held in a different church each week), Lighthouse (a week long Christian Holiday Club attended by 500 children with 150 teenagers assisting the adults) together with other activities.

4. ST MICHAEL'S STORIES

““ My first visit to the Church of St Michael and All Angels happened in 1987. On entering the building the atmosphere of peacefulness, of strength and sanctity was overwhelming. Still is today. Throughout the many years of varied activities – to say nothing of the Clergy’s messages of faith and hope that have been paramount - St Michael’s is certainly a splendid place of worship. As an older member of the congregation my trust in the future is for unity and constancy in all our endeavours. Praise the Lord. ””

““ My first morning at St Michael’s was spent crawling around on the floor after my 1 ½ year old son in Sunday School. I ended up telling the story of the Good Samaritan and followed the children into church. My heart was captured in the Holy Week evening communion services and I started helping in the Sanctuary. 23 years later I am Sacristan and have done training in leading family praise services and giving talks. My son is now 24 and still comes to St Michael’s when he is in the area. St Michael’s saved my life when I was going through a very bad patch with loss of a close relative and clinical depression. The friendship and comfort from the church kept me going. ””

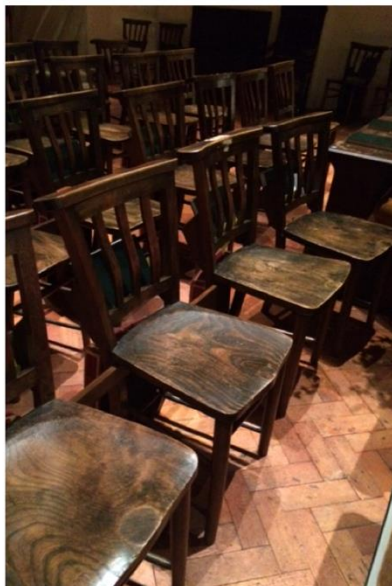
““ As we first moved to Beaconsfield from another country, we didn’t only need a church but also a family, friends, sense of belonging. We didn’t expect to find them all at one place but the people of St Michael generously offered them all. Although it has only been two years, we feel like we have been here for twenty years. ””

5. MEMBERS OF THE TEAM AT ST MICHAEL'S

- † LLM – Mrs Hazel Chow based at St Michael's. Hazel has been an LLM for many years. She has acted as Town Centre chaplain for much of that time and leads worship and preaching across the three churches and other local churches when asked. Hazel also takes funerals.
- † Sacristan – Mr Peter Simmonds
- † Organist – Mr Alan Lewis
- † Churchwardens – Dr Daphne Scott & Mr John Gibbs
- † Assistant Churchwarden – Mr Chris Cook
- † Church Administrator (part time) – Ms Kristel Van Wauwe
- † Hall Administrator (part time) – Mrs Gemma Allwood
- † Treasurer – Mr Chris Lockett
- † Assistant Treasurer – Mr Geoff Naylor
- † AV Operator – Dr. Serkan Kirbas
- † We are also blessed with the support of other members of the team clergy and Revd Cathy Smith, who gives invaluable support, and Revd Alan Davies who have Permission to Officiate.
- † Our pastoral team has cared for the sick and distressed
- † Our Family Worship Team lead many of the non-Eucharistic Services

6. CHANGES IN THE LAST FEW YEARS

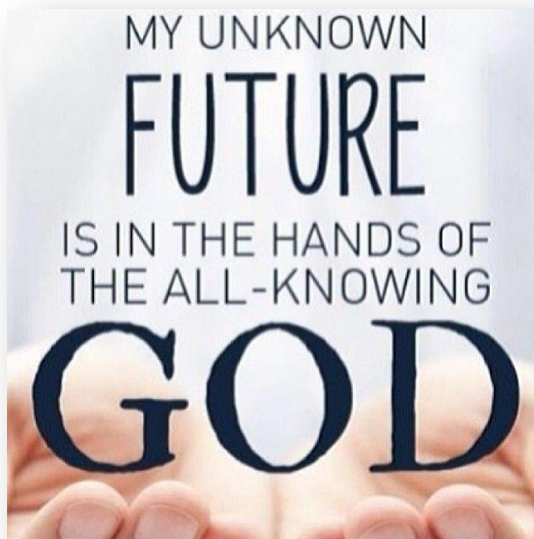
- † Our previous vicar introduced more informal worship at the 9.15 am service which has appeal to parents and their children
- † Our Prayer Healing Team are available during our 10.30 service.
- † Two major fundraising schemes resulting in improvements to our church facilities
 - † In 2010 over £200K raised to build our Community & Church Resource Centre (CCRC) completed in 2011, greatly used as part of our outreach.
 - † In 2016 over £100K raised in support of our centenary was used for new chairs in the church and a new AV system. The system is particularly helpful for our more informal worship.



The new chairs are more comfortable
and provide greater capacity

7. FOCUS POINTS FOR THE FUTURE

We need to build on the past 10 years and focus on our new Mission Action Plan. (See Appendix a.)



In the short-term we believe God has called us to:

† Welcome a new priest with the gifts and experience to lead us into the discernment and implementation of our new MAP and to enable him or her to settle in and flourish in their ministry

† Work with our new Vicar to renew the way we work as part of the Beaconsfield Team Ministry

In three years we believe God has called us to:

- † Identify and start new approaches to grow in faith (discipleship)
- † Have an effective and fruitful ministry to families encouraging a worshipping community that helps them to grow in faith and service
- † Implement a strategy for developing a wider leadership base from across our church community
- † Grow the St Michael's congregation and continue work with local schools.

8. OUR CONSIDERED STRENGTHS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

a) Strengths

- † Welcoming, inclusive atmosphere
- † Thoughtfully planned and prayerfully delivered sacramental worship
- † An active informal 9:15am service
- † Open to fresh ideas
- † An active & involved congregation
- † Well established Pastoral Care and Healing teams
- † A very wide range of activities for all ages within the church and the community
- † Parish office staffed by 2 part-time administrators
- † Well maintained church
- † Well-equipped hall and Church, Community & Resource Centre
- † Financially self sufficient
- † Position in the New Town close to amenities.



b) Opportunities for development

- † An ageing and declining congregation many of whom hold positions of responsibility in the church who would like to pass the baton to our younger members
- † Few teenagers, at present not well catered for
- † Few children's group leaders
- † Change from being mostly inward to outward looking, raising awareness of our ministry in the wider local community.

9. LOCAL SCHOOLS AND ST MICHAELS¹

Our church is involved and welcomed at two nearby local schools. A member of our DCC is a governor at St Mary and All Saints C of E Primary School and a member of our congregation is a governor at High March School. Both Schools visit our church as part of their RE syllabus and hold services in our church.



We love schools using the church

a) St Mary and All Saints School Church of England Primary School

St Mary and All Saints Church of England Primary School is a large and popular voluntary aided primary school in Beaconsfield, located in Maxwell Road, approximately half a mile from St Michael's Church.

b) High March School

High March is a thriving Independent Preparatory day school for girls aged from rising three to eleven years old, situated close to the church.

¹ Please see the Appendix c) for more information

10. CHURCH FINANCES

The Beaconsfield team of 3 Churches operates as a single Charity / Legal Entity. The numbers shown below reflect only our Church, prior to being consolidated with the other 2 Churches.



Our principal financial objective, over many years, is to ensure that expenditure & income are fairly even. A Summary of Income & Expenditure over the last 2 financial years:

	2017	2016
Income		
Donations	88,993	98,538
Other income, primarily rent	49,845	69,277
	-	-
Expenditure	134,482	148,494
Net Income	<u>4,356</u>	<u>19,321</u>

2016 was our centenary year, and this resulted in higher than normal income & expenditure.

The financial position is solid, with enough income to cover expenditure. Our Parish Share for 2018 is £68,200, whilst it was £65,700 for 2017.

We always keep 6 months of projected expenditure in cash reserves.



Additional Financial Objectives; which are focused on financial sustainability & stability, as we wish to increase our outreach activities:

- † Increase regular income, as opposed to ad hoc donations. Parish Giving has been launched to the DCC and will be further rolled out.
- † Reduce ongoing expenditure, by ensuring we obtain the best prices for necessary supplies.
- † Continue to ensure that hall & premises fees, for commercial users, are priced to generate maximum income. We will continue to support other charities by offering them lower fees.

11. THE PARISH AND LOCAL MAP AND THE OTHER TWO CHURCHES IN THE BEACONSFIELD TEAM

Beaconsfield is an attractive, prosperous market town in Buckinghamshire, 30 miles to the west of London, just off the M40. It is divided into 3 distinct areas – Old Town, New Town and Holtspur. The Parish of Beaconsfield has one church in each of these areas: St Mary and All Saints in the Old Town, St Michael and All Angels in the New Town and St Thomas in Holtspur.



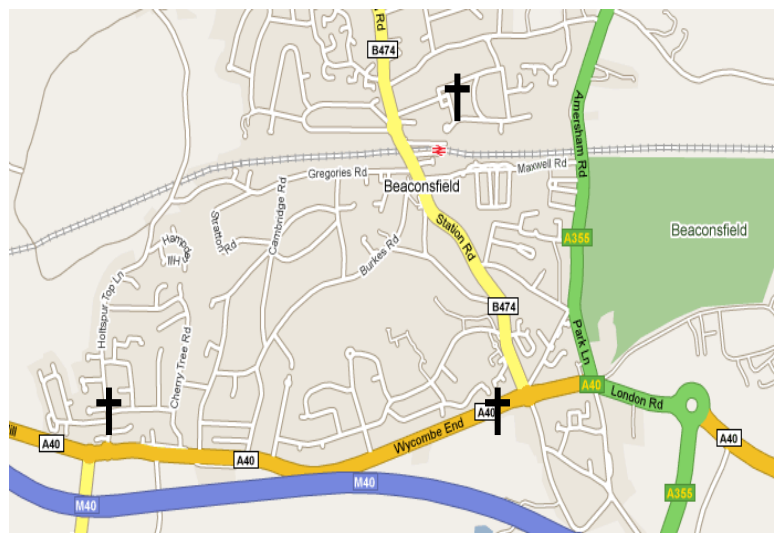
Within the local area there are many excellent schools that are suitable for all ages and abilities.

St Michael and All Angels Church follows a modified Anglo-Catholic style of worship and also has less formal family services. *(Dom Gregory Dix wrote his book, The Shape of the Liturgy while priest here).*

The churches in Beaconsfield, both Anglican and other denominations have a history of working well together; especially in such significant annual events as Lighthouse. Relations with other non-Anglican churches remain strong and vibrant with plenty still to build on.

The working relationships within the Beaconsfield Team Ministry have come under strain from time to time especially in recent years. Each of the three churches has a distinctive context and style which offers rich and necessary diversity within the team. There is currently a working group meeting to recommend how the terms of reference for the Beaconsfield Team might be updated. The focus for such a redraft will be to strike a good balance between each individual church, building strong ministry according to its specific style on the one hand, and a strong partnership and co-operation in ministry and shared resources on the other. The Vicar at St Michael's will be playing a significant role in drafting the new agreement and helping to make it work well for the sake of the Kingdom.

St Michael & All Angels Church
St Michael's Green New Town



St Thomas' Church
Mayflower Way Holtspur

St Mary & All Saints Church
Windsor End Old Town

The other two churches in the Beaconsfield Team

St Mary & All Saints: St Mary's has an electoral roll of 377. Its central act of worship is a 10am Parish Communion with a robed choir, although once a month it has a non-eucharistic Family Service. It also has a weekly 8am Communion using the BCP liturgy and a 6.30pm Service which is generally BCP Evening Prayer except on the 1st Sunday of the month when it has Common Worship Communion with the laying on of hands for healing. It also has Matins once a month.

<https://www.stmarysbeaconsfield.org.uk/home.htm>

St Mary's usual Sunday attendance across its services is about 200 adults and children of all ages. In 2017, its clergy carried out 40 baptisms, 47 funerals and 15 weddings and life events are a central part of its mission and outreach.

St Thomas': St Thomas' in Holtspur has an electoral roll of 57. Each week about 40 adults and children gather for its main act of worship - either Eucharist on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month or Morning Prayer on the other weeks. St Thomas' has a heart to serve its community and under its new incumbent is exploring ways in which it can do this more effectively, using the church and adjacent church hall as a hub for Holtspur.

<http://www.stthomasbeaconsfield.org.uk/>

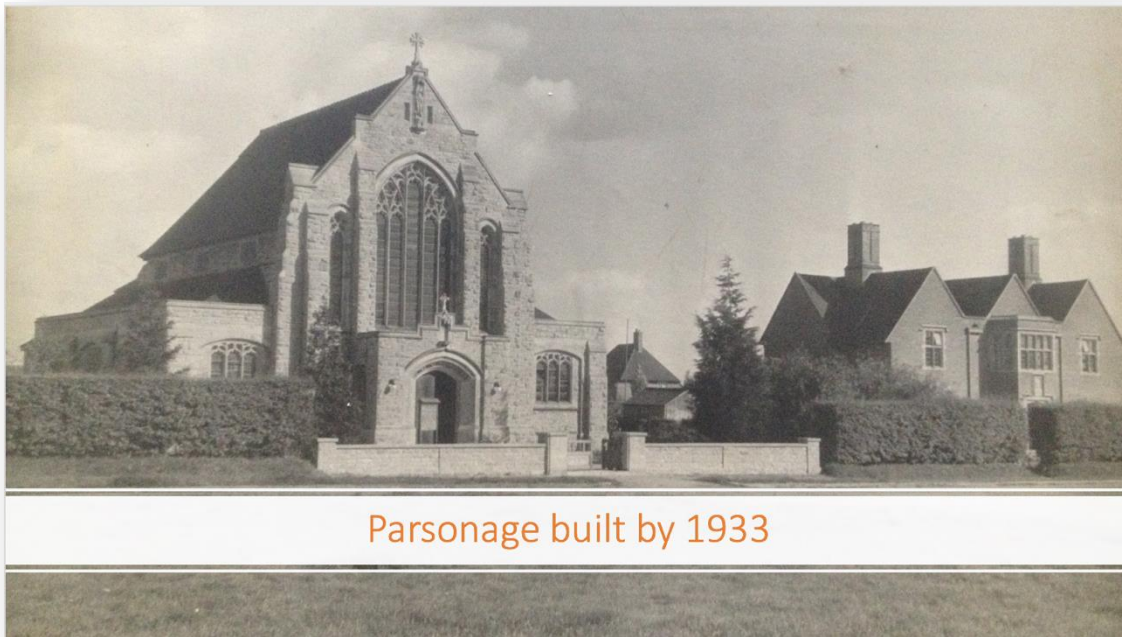
Over the last year, the leadership of St Thomas' & St Mary's have been discussing ways in which they can move closer together sharing outreach projects, whilst also consolidating some of the administration and governance functions so that they are done across both churches. It is likely that in the course of the next 12 months or so, the direction of travel will become clear.

Team clergy

- † The Revd Dr Jeremy Brooks: Team Rector and Rector of St Mary & All Saints.
- † The Revd Michael Johnson: Team Vicar, St Thomas' Church
- † The Revd Sharon Roberts: Associate Minister.
- † Revd Carolynn Croisdale-Appleby: Permission to Officiate
- † Mrs Michelle Fotherby: Families Worker.
- † Gareth Morley: the Ordinand

12. THE CHURCH, HALL AND PARSONAGE

St Michael's foundation stone was laid in 1914 during the darkest days of the 1st World War – a true act of faith in troubled times. The church was founded with a gift of land and by subscription for those who wished to worship according to the Anglo- Catholic tradition, particularly in the developing New Town. In 1976 St Michael's became part of the three parish churches in a newly created Parish of Beaconsfield with the responsibility for the cure of souls shared by a Team Ministry.



The original plans for the church were for a much larger building but these ambitions were not realized because of post war economic problems. However, after the 1939-45 war, further funds were raised to build the present chancel and the enlarged church was consecrated in 1955 with the Lady Chapel added in 1963.

St Michael's is an attractive stone-built church which serves as both a place of worship and occasionally as a venue for concerts. It can seat about 140

people and additional seating can double this. It is well maintained and greatly loved.

Behind the church is St Michael's Hall, a modern single storey building in a sound state which can seat up to 100 people. During the last incumbency an additional Community and Church Resource Centre (CCRC) was built with 2 meeting rooms, office, kitchen and toilets completed in 2011.

To celebrate the Centenary of the church's foundation the congregation, encouraged by our vicar, raised £100,000 in 12 months. After consulting with the congregation, a state of the art audio visual system was installed, and new, comfortable seating acquired for the nave.

The Parsonage, also a Grade 2 listed building, is adjacent to the church and was built of stone. 1922 is engraved in stone above the door. It has modern facilities including central heating, four bedrooms (one with ensuite facilities), bathroom, two reception rooms, dining room, kitchen and study. The kitchen is being updated by the diocese shortly. The house is set in an attractive garden of about 1/3rd of an acre, mainly laid to lawn. It overlooks St Michael's Green and is situated in a very pleasant tree-lined residential area within a short walk of schools, shops, station, buses and library. There is a drive with parking for 2 to 3 cars.



13. APPENDICES

a) Mission Action Plan (MAP)

i) A summary of our present situation

With our focus on families, we have changed our services to be more accessible and to include families' contributions. We are a 'Sacramental Church'. Our priest has regularly taken school assemblies and hosted class visits and school services. The congregation has been open to change and we recognize more is required at St Michael's.

Our outreach to the community has been enhanced by extending the hall and building two new meeting rooms and a church office with additional kitchen and washrooms. This has led to these facilities being used by a wider section of the community. In the church we have installed comfortable seating and an audio-visual system which have been used to good effect in services and concerts.

We need to foster deeper discipleship and encourage more lay leaders to increase our congregation.

We also need to find and use new ways of communicating with one another and the community. We particularly value our relationship with local schools.

We have embraced change in the last ten years and expect more to come realizing that there is a lot of work to be done.

Our values and concerns

- † We value our open, inclusive and welcoming nature of church and that relationship, including forgiveness and acceptance of difference, is of core importance to us
- † We believe living our faith through care for others in the local and wider community as well as within the church membership
- † We desire to encourage growth in depth of faith for all ages and starting points leading to personal commitment

- † We aim to be an attractive congregation within and without church to bring others to faith
- † We note a gap between the older and younger generations in preference of social events and worship style
- † We are proud in being a financially sound and self-sustaining church but realize that by raising more money we will be able to grow our community outreach
- † We wish to act as part of the Beaconsfield team, joining together when appropriate but with our own unique identity
- † We consider that prayer is central to all that we are and do

ii) In three years' time...

We believe God has called us to

- † Welcome a new priest with the gifts and experience to lead us and to enable them to settle in and flourish in their ministry
- † Identify and start new approaches to grow in faith (discipleship)
- † Have an effective and fruitful ministry to families that helps them grow in faith and service
- † Continue work with local schools
- † Implement a strategy for developing a wider leadership base from across our church community
- † Grow the St Michael's congregation
- † Improve our communications.
- † Have a clear and effective stewardship plan that results in increased giving by the whole church community of finance, time and talents.
- † Work with our new vicar to renew the way we work as part of the Beaconsfield Team Ministry.

iii) How we are going to do it

- † Work with the Diocese, Deanery and the Beaconsfield Team to select the right candidate for our new vicar.
- † Encourage our congregation and particularly our families to bring new people to our church
- † Strengthen our links and activities with St Mary's Church of England School and High March School
- † Continue with a strategy for stewardship including further roll out of the Parish Giving Scheme
- † The DCC will build relationships and promote the Gospel within church and wider community
- † Use our church facilities for more concerts, school and community use
- † Keep our study groups going
- † Encourage church members in their own leadership and ministry
- † Work with the other Team churches to forge good relationships

iv) During the vacancy we will...

- † Pray regularly for our work and each other
- † Work with Team, Deanery and Diocese towards appointing a new priest
- † Continue our outreach with Bulrushes and Early Birds and encourage



lay leaders and helpers

- † Continue our links and activities with St Mary's Church of England School and High March School
- † Issue wide and regular updates on our process and activities
- † Continue to develop the website
- † Participate in Team discussions

b) The Oxford Diocese and Amersham Deanery

i) The Diocese

The Diocese of Oxford serves the mission of the Church in Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire. The Diocese comprises more than 600 parishes, with over 800 churches, serving a diverse population of more than two million people located in all types of settings. Due to the size and complexity of the Diocese, we have three Area Bishops who exercise considerable strategic and pastoral oversight for their Archdeaconries. The Bishop of Buckingham is the Rt Revd Alan Wilson who has been the Area Bishop since 2003. With the appointment of the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft as Bishop of Oxford a new common vision is emerging for the Diocese of Oxford. The vision addresses what kind of church we are called to be – A Christ-like Church. What are the marks of A Christ-like Church? To be the Church of the Beatitudes:

- † Contemplative
- † Compassionate
- † Courageous

It also asks what we are therefore called to do together. This is currently a work in progress, but is likely to cover the following strategic priorities:

- † To make a bigger difference in the world and serve the poor
 - † To share our faith with adults, children and young people and grow the church in every place; rural, urban and suburban
 - † To plant new churches and congregations everywhere we can
 - † To serve every school in our community
 - † To put the discipleship of all at the heart of our common life and set God's people free
 - † To celebrate and bless our largest, fastest growing city Milton Keynes.
- These priorities will be supported centrally by resources, training, conferences, workshops, and much more. The diocese is inviting benefices and their priests

- † To share a vision rather than demanding a response. It wants all its priests to flourish in ministry and to deepen their enjoyment of God.

Alongside the emerging diocesan vision, the priorities and principles for the Buckingham Archdeaconry are set out in our Buckingham Mission Action Plan (please see the link below)

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Bucks-Archdeaconry-Plan0515.pdf>

It is expected that all clergy appointed into the Archdeaconry of Buckingham will want to commit themselves to the Diocesan vision and Archdeaconry MAP and their strategic directions.

ii) The Deanery

With 12 parishes or benefices made up of 35 churches and one Bishop's Mission Order, the Deanery is one of the largest and almost certainly the wealthiest in the Diocese. However, while many households could be described as 'comfortable' there are patches of significantly less prosperous housing.

There is an excellent spirit of co-operation between all the parishes in the deanery, and the clergy chapter is strong. The two Area co-Deans and the Assistant Area Dean aim to provide pastoral care and supervision for incumbents, and can be relied on to provide a listening ear, help and advice, whenever needed. The Deanery website can be found at the link below:

<http://www.amershamdeanery.org.uk/index.html>

c) Local School Contributions

i) St Mary and All Saints School

There has recently been a significant expansion, converting the school to two form entry, and there are now 419 pupils on roll. Following this period of expansion, the headteacher has skillfully maintained the existing strong Christian character of the school whilst establishing a fresh direction. The percentage of pupils in receipt of pupil premium or requiring support for special educational needs and/or disability is below the national average. The school retained its outstanding status at the previous Ofsted inspection.

In May 2018 the school was inspected by (SIAMS), Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools, Oxford Diocese, retaining its **Outstanding** rating. Inspector's comment: 'The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Mary and All Saints as a Church of England school are **outstanding**. The Christian distinctiveness is woven throughout the life of the school so that it impacts on the lives and achievements of all pupils and adults.'

Explicit Christian values of wisdom, creation and love enrich the lives of pupils, their families and adults within school. Relationships are extremely strong, which deepen levels of respect. Pupils thrive within this climate. They attend school regularly, achieve high levels of attainment and make good progress across the curriculum. The consistent Christian message articulated and modelled by all adults supports pupils academically and emotionally. There is a commitment to developing the wellbeing of the whole child, through a highly engaging curriculum, supported by opportunities to reflect on the awe and wonder of God's creation.

The school's motto: '**With our heads we learn, with our hands we create and with our hearts we love and care for each other**' is woven into the fabric of school life. Pupils proudly explain that the motto and values affect their behaviour and their daily actions, both at home and at school.

Inspirational collective worship led by staff, clergy and pupils, focuses on the teachings of Jesus and the Bible whilst providing rich opportunities for prayer.

Worship Ambassadors proudly share the planning of worship for younger pupils with the local vicar. Their fortnightly meeting to select a story is woven with the values of the school. As a result, worship is inspiring and engaging for all gathered whilst emphasising the Christian vision.

Pupils share that worship enriches their thinking through music, drama or story in addition to reflective prayer.

The school enjoys strong links with both parish churches within Beaconsfield which support the school as a worshipping and prayerful community, and is able to provide intensive support for families when required.

In view of the good work that has gone before in establishing this working partnership, St Michael's is most keen to continue to build and strengthen this outreach in the community. Families are the life blood of the church and we need to do all we can to nurture and welcome them into the St Michael's family of worship.

With all the above in mind our new Priest needs to be passionate about working closely with St Mary and All Saints pupils and staff, being able to explain difficult concepts at a child friendly level and be keen to work more closely with the broader community.

[Link to School website](#)

ii) High March School in the life of St Michael's and St. Mary's Churches

The School is flourishing. It is renowned for both its high academic achievement and its strong identity as a family school, which nurtures and promotes values of kindness and friendship. Celebrated for its excellence in pastoral care, the guiding tenet of High March is the belief that every child should be truly valued for their contribution and encouraged to grow in confidence.

The academic success of our non-selective school lies in the commitment to traditional values underpinned by high expectations, allowing all pupils to flourish as individuals through the broad curriculum and rich extra-curricular programme. As a result, the girls perform exceptionally well in Senior school entrance examinations.

In 1926, High March was founded by Miss Edith Warr and Miss Florence Perkins. starting with 20 pupils and has gradually expanded over the years to over 300 pupils. In 1927, the School moved to the current Junior House site at 23 Ledborough Lane. The Upper School site at 3 Ledborough Lane was acquired in 1932.

Misses Warr and Perkins sold the School to Mr Robert and Mrs Del Anderson, the grandparents of Mrs Belinda Avery and Mr Michael Chapples, the current Co-Proprietors and Co- Directors. The Anderson grandchildren continue to work closely together with the Head, Governors and Senior Management Team, with commitment and care.

High March has a Christian foundation and teaches children about the importance of Christianity in an ever-changing world, while celebrating and recognizing the value of other world faiths and cultural differences. Children from all faiths are welcomed. The School's principles are rooted in a simple motto: "kindness and friendship is the rule" which remains central to School life. While academic achievements are important, the happiness of each child is paramount.

The spiritual life of the School is central to the strong sense of community, with its basis in the School's Christian foundation. There are close links with the local churches of St Mary's and St Michael's in Beaconsfield and one of the team vicars takes the Harvest Festival service each year at the School.

The School celebrated its 90th birthday at St Michael's Church and the traditions and history of High March were a focal part of the commemorations. Our School music CD was recorded at St. Michael's and our girls have performed musically at the St. Michael's Pudding Concert.

The Remembrance Day and Carol Services have been held at St Mary's Church. Each year, Reverend Camilla Walton has come in to School to talk to the children about Christingle and to collect the candle money boxes for the children to fill for the Children's Society. Camilla has come in once a term to take Prayers. Year 1 have visited St. Michael's and members of the congregation have talked to them about church services and sacraments.

The School sees its long-standing and highly valued relationship with St. Michael's and St Mary's churches as integral to its place in the community and in its spiritual life.

[Link to School Website](#)