

VESTRY REPORTS

2018

RECTOR'S STATEMENT OF NEEDS

We recently said farewell to Revd Canon Godfrey Henwood and his wife, Wendy. Their significant contribution to this community was acknowledged. As with any change, there is an air of uncertainty as to what the future will bring us. It can be especially anxiety-provoking when the timeframe of waiting is vague. Bishop Steve has encouraged us to continue with what we are already doing here so that our new Rector will come to, as our Parish Vision States: a vibrant, growing, inclusive community of God's people.

After four years in this community I have observed much change, but what has been most obvious to me are the ways in which God's people in this place give so much of themselves by way of serving the community and the giving of their resources, and how this has not changed. Yes, we struggle with being under budget; yes, we would prefer the Dedicated Giving to increase; but we do give so much.

Without this giving, this parish would not survive the challenges that life brings into the lives of us all, the spiritual growth Christians seek, and the economic requirements necessary for providing such a large property in good repair and beauty. It is also through the generosity of this parish that we have been able to be a 'training parish' where the newly ordained can be better equipped for ministry in other places. It is through this generous giving that St Michael's can support parishes who struggle with far less income and expertise that we have. It is through this giving that many outside of our community are given food, education, social support and helped to become people who themselves can contribute to society. In short, we are a well-resourced parish in finance and in what might be called 'human capital'. And for this we give thanks to God and for what God is doing within us and amongst us.

However, (and there is always an 'however'), it would not be in our best interests, nor in the interests of those who seek our assistance in whatever way, if we were to fold our arms and close our hands and feel well-satisfied with ourselves. We do need to be cautious of any self-righteousness that might suggest we have done or are doing, enough.

To this end, looking at the reports from various portfolios and groups we will note that there are many ways in which people can give of their time, expertise, and money. I address a few in detail below.

We are in need of people to join our choir. We enjoy the worship on Sundays and other festivals, but how much more would we gain if we had more people who would lead us in singing and bless us with their singing. Along with a dedicated group of marimba players, there is a Junior Choir which is being built up – how lovely to hear that! We are in the process of employing an organist. We also, I think, need to appreciate that this parish is not a homogenous group and our church services need to reflect the diversity of language. Ideally, we would love to see a higher number of people attend the 07h00 and the 08h15 services – the 10h15 is bursting at the seams. Ways of making the earlier services attractive to parishioners need to be explored. Bishop Steve has called upon us to meet the spiritual needs of people and to for us to cross barriers and chasms of the past that threaten our oneness as South Africans.

Bishop Steve has also requested tangible growth in ministry to, from and with young people. We welcomed Michael Klinck as a fulltime parish minister with special responsibility for our younger people. With him, we hope to find ways of making being a member of the church attractive and for them find here an environment in which they can find friendships, spiritual development and a sense of belonging. In a clergy workshop by Prof Milan Nel from the University of Pretoria, we learnt the vital importance of family ministry. He emphasised that 'youth ministry' is not something separate from family ministry. We need parents to be committed to the spiritual development of their children and to be involved and interested in ministry to their children and not 'outsource' this. One way of doing this is to see that children are included in worship services more regularly and perhaps less on a 'performance' or guest appearance. We would like to revive our Servers' Guild and have new members join. We are in the process of finding ways for the confirmation candidates to participate in some of the ministries of church services such as sides people and readers. It is incumbent on families to see that their young people are brought on time to Junior Church, Teen Church and Confirmation Class. After all, we manage to get our children to school in time for their maths lesson!

The generational diversity of our community means that we are very blessed to have people of every age represented at worship services, events and in portfolios. Another 'however', is that we would be enriched by the participation of 'younger' people (not only those of school or university age) who bring their experience, skills and knowledge to enhance ministry.

It may be a bit of a cliché, but it is nevertheless true: we long for every member ministry, or what we know as 'the priesthood of all believers'. Please consider ways in which you might share more fully in the ministry and mission of the local church, St Michael's.

I would therefore suggest that the principle needs of our community for this coming year are:

- An increase in Dedicated Giving
- A commitment to finding ways of transformation in many areas
- Intentional and Inclusive Youth Ministry, not only by way of our Youth Co-Ordinator, but from everyone.
- Encouraging and empowering the choir through acknowledgement of their ministry and by swelling the numbers with more voices

This list of needs is by no means exhaustive, but merely highlights some I have been pondering. Please do not think that any or all other ministries in the parish are of less value for that would not be true.

May our God equip, enable and encourage us to discover new ways of encountering God and others in exciting ways.

Revd Linda Schwartz
Interim Priest-in-Charge

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT

St Michael's is indebted to many parishioners who use their God given talents and gifts well for building and contributing to God's kingdom as instructed in the Bible - 1 Peter 4:10 *"Each one of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So, use your gift well"*

On behalf of the Parish Council, we would like to present this report which highlights the milestones achieved in implementing the plans which were outlined in the Churchwardens' Report and the Rector's Statement of Needs presented at the vestry meeting of 2017.

Parish Profile

We wish to remind you that Revd. Canon Godfrey Henwood wrote in the Rectors Statement of Needs tabled at vestry last year that *"2017 needs to be a year of consolidation"*. In particular he drew our attention to the fact that he would be retiring from St Michael's at the end of the year and *"the Bishop expects the Parish Council to furnish him with a Parish profile which also outlines the characteristics and profile of a rector the Bishop should nominate to the parish"*.

We are pleased to report that the parish profile was developed with your participation and subsequently submitted to the Bishop within the specified timeframe. The Bishop and the Chapter have deliberated on the profile and the Bishop is still searching for a successor. We appeal to you for your prayers during this period as they prayerfully discern who God is calling to lead our parish. We also wish to remind you that Revd. Godfrey indicated that *"this can be quite a lengthy process, but if we are earnest in praying for God's wisdom and direction in this matter, and we remain open to the guiding of the Holy Spirit and not be blinded by our own prejudices, then I believe it will not be an overly long wait for a new Rector to be appointed"*.

We wish to thank Revd. Canon Henwood for his excellent ministry in our parish and wish him and Wendy God's blessings in their retirement as they ponder their future.

Implement new technology for worship

The other important matter Revd. Canon Godfrey outlined in the Rectors Statement of Needs was the sensitive change which we had to implement in 2017 to embrace technology within our expression of worship thereby saving the prohibitive costs of hymn books which we had to import from the UK. As you are now aware, technical equipment comprising new screens and projectors have been installed in our church and are now being used for worship services. We do concede that transitioning from using service and hymn books to this visual technology will take time for all of us to be used to. We are however encouraged by your willingness to embrace this change in a good spirit and will make further improvements on how to use this technology to enhance the worship in our parish.

Financial Report

We draw your attention to the new format of the Annual Financial statements as per the instruction of the Diocese to all the parishes. Parishes have been instructed to report the financial results in line with the vision of the Diocese of Johannesburg which outlines the following aspects:

- ◆ Spiritual formation,
- ◆ Vibrant Christian Community,
- ◆ Social Outreach,
- ◆ Visionary Servant Leadership,
- ◆ Prophetic Relevance, and
- ◆ Sustainable Structures.

We are pleased to report that the finances of our parish are satisfactory. Income derived from Parish affairs which primarily includes Dedicated Giving and Plate Collections amounted to R4,8 m and represents 98% of total income. Furthermore, we report that that our expenditure of R4.8m is aligned to the Diocesan Vision and is a fair reflection of the activities of the respective portfolios of the parish which continue to contribute to the vision of the parish. Kindly refer to the portfolio reports which are included in the vestry pack.

On behalf of the Parish Council, we would like to express our gratitude to you for the financial contribution and commitment you continue to make towards the parish and the implementation of many programs which enhance the vibrancy and inclusiveness of our parish.

We have inspected the registers of baptism, marriage, parish roll including staff files and the financial records of the Parish. We confirm that all these records including the register of moveable assets have been properly maintained.

Bishops Charge delivered at 65th Synod of the Diocese of Johannesburg

Finally, 2017 was also a year of consolidation from the perspective of the Diocese. As you are aware, the Synod of the Diocese which is held once every three years was held in September 2017. It was also an important milestone in the life of our Diocese and of significance is that the 65th Synod debated several motions and passed very important resolutions which include Diocesan Rules and other important matters of the Diocese.

The Synod is an important platform which offers the Bishop an opportunity to outline the Diocesan Strategic Plan which is referred to as the *Bishops Charge* to all parishes, schools and organizations. The Bishop urged all the parishes to initiate or continue with an intentional ministry in at least three of the following areas:

- ◆ Children and Youth Ministry;
- ◆ Family-oriented Ministry;
- ◆ Programs that address the scourge of racism, xenophobia and poverty alleviation.

The Bishop also instructed Synod that parishes must report progress in implementing the *charge* annually at the time of Vestry, and the next Diocesan Synod. Although some portfolio committees at St Michael's are already implementing programs which respond to the Bishop's *Charge*, we must increase and allocate more resources for Children and Youth ministry programs. Our previous Youth Co-ordinator resigned and it gives us pleasure to announce that Michael Klinck has been appointed in this position. We believe that he will enable growth in the youth ministry.

As we are called upon in 1 Peter 4:10, we are encouraging many parishioners to use their gifts and talents well for the benefit of others. If you have time and skills to share, St Michael's would appreciate your services.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our Ministry Support Team and all the leaders of our respective Portfolios for utilizing the talents and gifts which God has blessed them with to be used in the service of others.

We thank you for the opportunity to serve you during the year under review.

Joel Dikgole, Cuz Grindley, Tebogo Mogashoa

TREASURER'S REPORT

On behalf of the Parish Council, I am pleased to report that, following a very challenging year characterised by low economic growth, ratings downgrades and relatively high inflation, our parish delivered a good set of financial results for the period ending 31 December 2017, and remains financially sound.

Although we faced a number of difficulties during the year and did not achieve our target for parishioners contributions, we still managed to grow overall contributions by 5%, and achieved a surplus of R120 510 before the transfer to special funds. It is important to note that the surplus reduced by 69% relative to the R388 718 recorded in 2016. An amount of R120 000 has been allocated in two equal portions - R60 000 from the surplus to support the mission of the Diocese and R 60 000 for the work of our parish, with the bulk of the parish allocation made towards major maintenance. This surplus was made possible by a number of large pledges received in December following appeals by the Churchwardens during the year under review.

Income from special funds amounted to R 531 177 largely driven by the returns from the Fford Investment and contributions to the bequest as well as the discretionary funds.

The Balance Sheet is supported by cash reserves of R3.0 million which show a marginal increase of 1% relative to 2016.

Income

Total Income (excluding special funds) reduced by R 221 886 (4%) to R4.9 million relative to R5.15 million reported in 2016. This shortfall is largely attributable to the lower income from new Dedicated Giving and a significant drop in donations from parishioners. The historical base of Dedicated Giving and Plate Collections which comprise 92% of total income increased by R213 881 (5% and 2% respectively). Although there was a budget shortfall of R232 987 in total parishioners contributions, I am pleased to report a 5% growth in contributions compared to 2016.

Expenditure

It is very pleasing to report that the parish met all its expenditure obligations, including general parish expenditure and commitments to the Diocese. As promised during the warden's talks we contained our expenditure to R4.9 million, ending the year at R181 009 below budget and 6% below the 2016 expenses.

Total parish expenditure (excluding special funds expenditure) decreased by R221 666 (4%) from 5.1 million in 2016 to R4.9 million during the year under review.

The decrease in parish expenditure is mainly attributable to the following items:

- † Clergy stipends were R151 651 under budget (19%) largely due to a recovery from the Diocese;
- † Office staff salaries were R42 781 under budget (5%) due to a Youth co-ordinator vacancy during the year; and ;
- † Music staff salaries were R62 658 under budget (37%) as a result of the decision not to appoint a permanent music director.

It is however important to note that Property Maintenance expenses were R44 616 above budget (25%) due to a number of unexpected items that were required to maintain the property in a good state. However, on a positive note the Property Maintenance expenses showed a significant improvement and were 56% lower than in 2016.

I am also pleased to report that we have paid our contribution of R935 940 to support the ministry of the Diocese. A further donation of R60 000 has also been set aside from the surplus achieved in 2017 to fund other priorities of the Diocese in order to further grow the ministry of the Church. This brings our contribution to R 995 940 and represents 21 % of our parishioners contributions.

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet remains sound and includes cash resources of R3.0 million at year end (2016: R3.0. million). R439 738 was transferred from the various special funds to fund the various initiatives of the parish. The cash resources are sufficient to cover the costs for the current liabilities and other special purpose fund requirements that may arise.

2018 Budget

The parish council has approved a break even budget for 2018 comprising of:

- † Total Income from Parishioners contributions and other income of R5.2 million – this reflects a projected increase of 2%. The increase is mainly on harvest and thanksgiving contributions (24%) as well as donations and sundry revenue (14%) as we continue to depend largely on the generosity of parishioners. We have budgeted for a modest 5% increase in Dedicated Giving.
- † Total Expenditure of R5.2 million includes parish expenditure of R4.2 million and a contribution of R1.0 million to the Diocese of Johannesburg to fund the work of our Lord in the greater community.

Given the current economic climate in our country, the Parish Council has agreed to contain expenditure which is expected to increase by only 2%, and will continue to pay particular attention to managing major maintenance costs on the property in the year ahead. As indicated in the previous report, we have begun the work to upgrade the rectory which has aged over its sixty-year life and is in need of renovation. The renovations will be funded from a combination of existing funds in the Major Maintenance fund and the interest earned from the Fford Fund.

We have budgeted to contribute R1 000 463 (20% of parishioners' contributions) to the Diocese as part of our ongoing commitment to the greater community and the furtherance of God's work in the Diocese.

In Conclusion

In spite of the headwinds, we have had a successful year. Our church portfolios continue to be sufficiently funded to enable the achievement of our parish vision. It is remarkable that in such a difficult period we still managed to end the year with a surplus. We thank God for his guidance and help in this regard.

I would also like to thank all the clergy for their leadership and the office staff under the dedicated leadership of our Administrator, Darryl Prangley for working tirelessly to keep our books in good order and producing the financial statements on a monthly basis. On behalf of the Parish Council, we would like express our appreciation each member of St Michael's for continuously opening your hearts and heeding our calls with the generosity of your offerings. We give thanks to God for his provision and pray that we may continue to be good stewards of his kingdom.

May we continue to serve the Lord and ask for his blessings and guidance in 2018.

Mokaedi Dilotsotlhe

PORTFOLIO REPORTS

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Bible Studies, Courses, Quiet Days, Books, Training

EVANGELISM - Cilla Vos

Small Groups - Clive Wenman

Most of the small groups at St Michaels are still meeting regularly and have an active membership, but in some cases, the interest of members seems to be waning and meetings are being held less and less frequently. This is a worrying trend and one that needs to be investigated and addressed. The young adults group has fallen away completely, having not met since early

2016. Two other groups also appear to have met very infrequently in the last year.

The active membership within groups seems to be decreasing as more people find day to day distractions are preventing them from attending meetings. At the last group leaders' meeting this trend was discussed and innovative ideas suggested to try to address this problem.

The recruitment of new members, as a result of Small Group Sunday this year, was limited. Although this event is useful, it is felt by some of the leaders that more frequent attention needs to be drawn to the different groups, their meeting times and the studies or other material being followed. Active members of groups should also make more effort to recruit their friends by word of mouth to join groups.

Renew season 4 was followed by most of the groups with mixed, but mostly favourable, feedback. There seems to be a trend to move away from formal study material to video and discussion based programs in order to retain interest and involvement. This is a trend that might be picked up by more groups in the new year.

We have not been successful in achieving our goal for 2017, of increasing group membership, and it must still remain our primary focus for the year ahead.

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER – Nkhensani Makhobela

Quiet Days: Quiet Days

The **Pre-Lent Quiet Day** was led by Reverend Linda Schwartz who was assisted by Margie Visser. The topic was “**Lent as Preparation for Resurrection**”. “**When I wake up on Resurrection Sunday, how will I be different**”? It was stimulating and insightful, was on **Resurrection, Transfiguration, Transformation and Change** which all hinged on the topic. 54 people attended.

The **Corpus Christi Quiet Day** was led by Reverend Nigel Mollinik and the theme was “**Eucharist**”. The focus among others was on **incarnation and the body of Christ, centrality of Eucharist to Christian faith and physical character of the Eucharist**. The Quiet Day was well attended.

The **Pre-Advent Quiet Day** was led Reverend Brent Frieslaar. The theme was “**Finding God in All Things**” – **Discerning Advent through Ignition Spirituality** using four meditations titled: **Darkness, Annunciation Preparation Nativity**. The presentation gave deep insights into the different components of Advent and was extremely meaningful and thought provoking for participants. 26 people attended.

The portfolio is encouraged by the increase in attendance at all Quiet Days.

Stations Labyrinth:

The Stations Labyrinth was held in August. It was attended by 3 teen confirmation candidates, 2 adult confirmation candidates and about 11 parishioners. Comments given by attendees among others varied from valuable, spiritually fulfilling, amazing, eye opener, good, wonderful, moving, peaceful, meaningful, mind blowing, uplifting, awesome, well organised, moving close to God, feeling of release of all worries and that stations and written guides were well put together.

Parish Retreat:

The Parish Retreat was led by Reverend Godfrey Henwood and the theme was “**Food for Thought through the Words of Some Well Known Hymns**”. Among other things, he spoke about

“**Growing in Praise of God**”,

“**Growing in Forgiveness**”,

“**Growing through Lament and Night Prayer**” and

“**Growing in Generosity**”.

Comments from people who attended the retreat among others ranged from, spiritually refreshing, to view hymns differently due to the way they were used at the retreat, spiritually enhancing, spiritually fulfilling, spiritually uplifting, enabled spiritual growth and a closer relationship with God, enabled the awareness of and responsiveness to God's presence active in our lives.

The portfolio was encouraged by the increase in attendance especially from the first time attendants, one of which was a teenager. This year was the first time that the Retreat was held at Padre Pio and comments from those who attended are that the facility was good, the surroundings and the gardens were able to give the most needed tranquillity for a retreat and that the food was good but it cannot beat St Benedict's food.

Library: - Mike Barnard

The Committee is happy with work that was done on the library and would like to thank the Library Team for their commitment and dedication.

Librarians: Have welcomed Evan Tyawa and Jan Hawkridge to the library team. They were trained in the processes and procedures and they are confidently operating on their own. The Library now happily boasts of a total of 7 Librarians serving the Parish in this ministry.

Pew Leaflet: A “Library News” insert was included in the Pew Leaflet for the 19th November 2017.

Library Opening Times: These are in the pew leaflet every week.

Donations: The library is consistently receiving donations of books and CDs from parishioners which are sorted for suitability before being processed.

Godfrey donated a large number of books to the Library and they have all been catalogued and integrated.

In addition, Godfrey kindly donated a sound system to be installed in the Library. Hopefully this will encourage those making use of the Library to enjoy listening to music from the collection of CDs.

Donations of a number of new CDs have also been catalogued and integrated.

Library Maintenance: Nothing further to report as the Library Team is still awaiting feedback on upgrading the external appearance of the library.

Book racks: At present books displayed to be borrowed under eight (8) different categories are available during the Thursday and Sunday services.

Membership: An exercise is currently underway to update the library membership contact details, after which librarians will be contacting members i.e. for updating their details and overdue books among others.

Encouraging more feet through the library: A number of ideas were proffered and discussed in order to have more people using the library. It was suggested that:

- ⇒ *The Gift Committee be approached to inquire whether the library could be included as a station on their next Labyrinth day – Council has approved.*
- ⇒ *The organisers of the next Newcomers evening to be approached regarding introducing the library in some way to the new members.*
- ⇒ *It has come to the attention of the Library Team that some parishioners do not know the location of the library and it was decided to include a map in the “Library News” insert.*
- ⇒ *Establishing a Book club*
- ⇒ *Organising a Library Open Day*

2017 Library Statistics

- ◆ A total of 151 books and 91 CDs were issued.
- ◆ The majority of the books issued were Non-fiction covering a variety of subjects, but primarily books on Prayer, Spirituality and Christian living with Biographies and Testimonial type books also being popular.
- ◆ The music section (Classic, Christian and Choral music) has proved immensely popular. Despite the fact that it started with a just a few CDs, thanks to donations, the collection is growing quickly, to the point that Librarians intend to start categorising them on the shelves.
- ◆ In 2017, 28 new members were signed up and membership list now totals 190 with an ongoing exercise to delete members who are no longer at St Michaels.
- ◆ Although donations of books and CDs are constantly received (some are suitable and some not!), Parishioners often ask for newly published books. The Library needs a budget for 2018 to meet this request.

VIBRANT CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY Prayer, Fellowship, Welcoming, Pastoral Care, Worship, Counselling

EVANGELISM - Cilla Vos

Pancake Evening: Once again Clive organised a very successful and enjoyable event and thanks go to him and his team of 30-something pancake makers, as well as to all the Small Group members who provided the fillings.

Fellowship: A number of fellowship mornings were organised and were well attended, such as the Caribbean Cooking morning, a demonstration of herbal infusions and the events mentioned earlier.

Newcomers: Thanks go to the Portfolio members who represented Evangelism at the Newcomers’ Orientation Evenings, which were very successful.

Visitors’ Book: Thank you to Ros and Kerry who have taken over the sending of emails and smses to those who sign our Visitors’ Book. It is heartening to see some of the appreciative responses to these communications.

Baptism: The “Happy First Church Birthday” emails continue to be appreciated by the parents of the children baptised the previous year.

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER – Nkhensani Makhobela

Pentecost Sunday:

Pentecost/GIFT Sunday was an awesome day enhanced by Junior Church being part of it at the beginning of the 10:15 service. The Liturgy was extremely appropriate and spiritually moving and uplifting more so during the anointing time. The prayers and readings were shared by members of the GIFT portfolio at all services. The GIFT portfolio thanks the MST for their support, advice and assistance in making Pentecost successful and for making a bookmark with two Holy Spirit prayers and some key points as to what GIFT is about.

Centering Prayer:

Centering Prayers were led by Mary Stevens and the same people were attending. Mary has retired; however, there is also a Centering Prayer that takes place at St Charles's Catholic Church in Victory Park on every third week of the month. St Michael's parishioners are encouraged to attend.

PASTORAL CARE - Peggy Manganyi & Dudu Mpanza

The Pastoral Care portfolio is represented on the Parish Council and offers services to St Michael's parishioners and surrounding community. This is a ministry to people who are facing challenges in their lives, be they emotional, physical or spiritual who are unable by themselves, to solve or cope with difficulties in their lives, and who seek help from those who may be able to help them find answers for the problems they are experiencing. Confidentiality and reliance on God are the hallmarks of this ministry. Pastoral Care is aligned with the Diocesan Strategic Objective of "building a vibrant Christian community" through the following ministries:

ANGLICARE

St Michaels has counsellors trained in basic and advanced counseling who offer counselling free of charge to all regardless of race, age, creed, or sexual orientation. The counsellors are under the supervision of Reverend Linda who is also the Diocesan Chairwoman of Anglicare. Their licenses are renewed every second year by the bishop.

BEREAVEMENT

A counselor contacts people whose loved one's funeral was conducted at St Michaels at six weeks and twelve months after the funeral to enquire how they are coping. If not coping they are referred to Anglicare for counselling. Families always appreciate the calls. In addition, when requested, prior to the funeral the St Michaels community also visits the bereaved family for prayers at their home.

CHRIST HEALING FELLOWSHIP(CHF)

The small group of dedicated prayer intercessors meets every Wednesday afternoon to pray for healing for people with acute life threatening illness or serious challenges (financial, emotional, unemployment) who have requested prayer. They also pray daily for people on their list who requested prayers. The names are updated weekly as requests are received. Prayers for healing are offered after the Wednesday evening Eucharist.

COMMUNION TO RETIREMENT VILLAGES AND THE HOUSEBOUND.

Communion Services are regularly conducted by Parish Ministers and clergy at Pembury, Riverside Manor, Westview Lodge, The Village, The Lodge, Douglasdale, 5 Gavin Road and San Sereno. Communion is taken to parishioners who are housebound.

SOCIAL VISITS TO HOUSEBOUND

There are a fair number of housebound people in our community who are frail and/or lonely. Visits by parishioners just for a chat and a cup of tea are always appreciated.

INTERCESSORS

This ministry is provided by a team of dedicated prayer intercessors who receive requests. They pray daily for those on their list which is updated monthly.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION/ENRICHMENT

This programme is supported nationally and is designed for couples planning to marry, or for married couples wanting to enrich their marriages. Specially trained counselors at St Michaels offer the programme. The counselors have received glowing reports from couples that recently underwent the preparation.

GRIEF SHARE

Grief Share is a facilitated support programme intended to provide a safe environment for anyone who has experienced grief to share their loss with others similar experiences. St Michael's ran a Grief Share group over thirteen weeks in the second half of 2017.

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN DURING 2017

- * June: presentation by Isabela Ferreira from Compassionate Friends
- * August: Pastoral Care Sunday
- * The Portfolio participated in Shrove Tuesday activity, and in the following ministries: Mothers Union fund raising; GIFT (growing in faith together) activities; activities organised by the Evangelism Portfolio
- * Attending Orientation evenings for new parishioners
- * Ongoing ministry activities as given above.

WORSHIP Seshni Cooper (Councillor) Frank Delaney (Portfolio Leader)

Sidespersons - Jane Lewis

The number of Parishioners involved in Sidespersons duty has remained constant for most of 2017 but now numbers are dropping especially for the 8.15 services. Each Team has 4 people involved including a Leader. Ideally, 5 people per team is needed, but it is very difficult to get people to make a commitment. The best way of interesting a parishioner is face to face, but once again it

is the commitment. Last year a Leaders meeting was held and was well attended to iron any complaints and to remind them of certain duties. Instead of a Christmas lunch in 2017 we had a High Tea in July. It was well attended and had a Christmas theme.

Sacristans - Sandy O'Brien

There is a lot of work involved in Sacristan duty and my thanks go to all the Sacristans who have made it possible to set up for all the services during the year, weekday/end, Ash Wednesday, Ascension etc., but also for services like Requiems, Nuptials, Easter, Christmas and best of all, Fr Godfrey's Farewell.

ALL SERVICES ARE SPECIAL!!

There are currently 18 Sacristans who cover 6 weeks. Unfortunately, there are a few who don't do duty regularly. Then there are a few who "double up" to accommodate the Saturday Team. Ideally we need 4 Sacristans per team as most of the Sacristans and their spouses are retired and are often away, sometimes for long periods at a time. Some "young blood" would be nice. With Easter fast approaching, it is going to be another busy time. We are appealing for new Sacristans

Readers - Frank Delaney

Early in 2017 the Readers group comprised a total of 40 parishioners. One year later there is a reduced total of 27, the loss of 13 being attributable to relocation and death. The 27 remaining readers are to be commended on their having achieved, and maintained, a generally high standard of reading. Of the total number of current members of the Readers Group, 17 are regular readers at 10.15 services, and 10 are regular readers at 8.15 services.

Advantages in being a member of the Readers' group include: an increased knowledge of the scriptures; a fuller appreciation of their teachings; and a greater level of self-confidence in the way in which we live our lives. It is intended that there will be a series of workshops soon after Easter 2018, on Saturday mornings at St Michael's, and we shall be very pleased to hear from parishioners interested in attending at least one of those workshops.

In 2017, as in previous years, members of the Readers' group joined with Parish Ministers and other parishioners in the reading of a Passion Narrative on Palm Sunday at the 8.15 service and the 10.15 service, a different group participating in each of those two services. A different group of Parish Ministers, Readers and other parishioners undertook the reading of a Passion Narrative at the 12.00 mid-day service on Good Friday. Also In 2017, as in previous years, members of the Readers' Group joined with Parish Ministers in reading the seven lessons at Advent Carol Service and at Nine Lessons and Carols Service.

Servers - Seshni Cooper

We are currently a team of 17 servers' at St Michael's church. We have had a fruitful year in which a consistent team of servers' made themselves available to serve throughout the year, including special services. A servers' meeting continues to be held once a month and will now be facilitated by Rev. Linda until the process of appointing a new rector has been finalised. Frank Biesman-Simons has recently been appointed to teach the servers liturgy. We are grateful to Revd Godfrey Henwood for his service and valuable contribution to our team.

We are in the process of arranging new robes to be made for the servers' as we move forward into 2018. Our vision for 2018 is to continue to build our team of servers significantly, to encourage adult and youth membership, and to grow in faith knowing that God will give us favour.

I would like to extend my gratitude to each and every server for their commitment and diligence in serving at our parish.

Choir - Vuyo Bangazi

Father Godfrey and Andreas had worked at fusing both 08h15 and 10h15 choirs by encouraging co-worshipping. Occasionally there had been services when both choirs would worship together however that did not hold. Nonetheless hymn selection became common for all services (whereas before there were different hymns at different services). Furthermore, there is introduction of what is known as the "South African Hymn Book", which has a mixture of languages, and the content and context of the hymns has moved from being Eurocentric.

08:15 Choir: For many years Frank Delany had been the spokesperson and coordinator of this choir and Lucy being the librarian of the music. Membership has gone down to about 10 and average attendance consists of 6 choristers.

10h15 Choir: Systems and structure in this choir are different from the 08:15 – below is partly some of its operations and structure

Chairperson	:	Vuyo Bangazi
Deputy Chairperson	:	Patrick Masithela
Secretary	:	Nomani Magadla
Deputy Secretary	:	Thobani Ngidi
Treasury	:	Kedi Madi

Choir Membership: The 10h15 choir has 24 members on average attendance consists of about 16 members

Responsibilities: Lead the Congregation in singing using Anglican Prayer Book, African choruses at peace and recessional times – and a variety of hymns and anthems during communion

Enlivens the Congregation's singing and sings music that the congregation cannot sing

Serve as a small-group within the church for faith formation (taking care / holding someone up in time of need)

Praise God in music and edify the congregation

Choir Participation (February 2017 to date):

Choir performed at all Sunday Services except when on a break after Christmas.

Performed at Special Services i.e. Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Ascension, Corpus Christi, Advent Carols, Christmas Carols, and Christmas Service etc)

Choir also performs at Weddings and Funerals as part of community outreach

Visit and support sickly members and bereaved congregants when need arise

Challenges:

Battling to attract new and younger members,

Poor consistency in rehearsal attendance

Resignation of Music Director / Choir Master

Loss of fellow choir members (3 in a short space of 4 months)

Conclusion: Some of the sentiments of the choir members are that choir should also be regarded as “small group”, as it perceives itself as doing ministry and support in particular of its membership and other congregants whenever there is need. It has been to old age homes and to Forest Farm to enliven them with music when requested.

YOUTH – Itumeleng Phalane

Marimbas

Marimba practice commenced in January 2017 but, as in 2016, the attendance rate was low. The marimba teacher, Ignatius, requires a core group of five marimba players to keep the momentum going.

The marimba group played in church during family services and other significant church days, including Father Godfrey’s farewell on 21 January 2018. Loyiso Majija has volunteered to conduct the marimbas when they play in church, and this gives effective guidance to both the choir and marimba players.

On a few occasions after the 8:15 am service ended, the marimbas combined their rehearsal by providing background music during the after-service tea. The response from the parishioners was spontaneous, and we observed that some parishioners tapped their feet, clapped their hands while some watched curiously.

Gerdien de Kruyf did an excellent job in managing and coordinating the marimba practice and rehearsals. We miss her dearly.

Junior choir

A notice was put in the pew leaflet in early 2017 inviting all aspiring young musicians from the age of four to 18 to join the junior choir. A few young parishioners joined and the first participation in church was on 11 June 2017. They have since sung during family services and other significant church days. During Fr Godfrey’s farewell on 21 January 2018, they sang with the Junior Church. We requested mothers of children below the age of eight to stay with their children throughout Friday evening practice, so as to make rehearsals with young children more manageable.

Khotso Molatoli, who is a parishioner and attends the 10:15 am service, accompanies the junior choir.

Family events

We held one family event on 7 October 2017. It was led by Janet Simmonds, assisted by Jane Lewis. There were about 12 participants and we worked on a Spring mural, which was displayed in the church hall for a few weeks.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Education, Feeding Schemes, School, hospital, prison ministry

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY - Barney Curtis

Introduction

The Social Responsibility portfolio comprises 11 separate projects, viz: Alexandra Education Committee, Leeukop Pre-Primary, Leeuwkop Tertiary, E-pap, Alexandra Feeding Scheme, Dolphin Acres, Cosmo, Witkoppen Clinic, Max’s Creche, Good Shepherd Street Children, the Health Committee and Newlife Centre. All the above projects, other than Newlife Centre, have been in place for at least two years. The representatives of the above projects met as a committee, in the Bolton Block, on the first Monday of every second month.

In addition, persons from outside the committee, who were interested in being part of Social Responsibility, were invited to make presentations or gain information from the meetings.

The committee’s Vision; “The needs of the communities in the pre-determined area are understood and, where possible, through working with the communities, those needs are addressed in accordance with Anglican beliefs and in the most efficient and cost-effective manner”, remained in place.

Activities

The process of project representatives doing a presentation during church services on a particular Sunday, was continued on from previous years. A pew leaflet insert of the project’s activities was part of the information dissemination to congregations. However, it was apparent that these presentations did not attract the requested support from parishioners. Therefore, in future presentations will be more specific and targeted.

Updates on the Social Responsibility Projects, as at 4 December 2017

ALEX EDUCATION COMMITTEE – Paul Channon

At this stage of the year, there is not much to report as all our pupils are busy writing their end-of-year exams. The matrices seem to be finding their papers reasonable, and we continue to hope for a 100% pass rate.

Meanwhile, our workshops for primary school teachers from Alex continue; we offer these in Maths, English, Foundation Phase and Science.

LEEUKOP PRE PRIMARY – Gerry Gallow

School closed on the 6th December. Quite a few of the children would be moving on to Grade R – some are ready for the move – others will have a battle.

Despite many efforts it is difficult to get commitment from people to get the new buildings going .

LEEUKOP TERTIARY – Revd. Ranthiti Namo

Funds used for registering for modules and stationery.

E-PAP - Barney Curtis

E –Pap income is behind, though it balances with expenditure.

ST MICHAEL'S ALEX – Zelda Nhlapo

There is not much that has been done, as the numbers of contributions has dropped drastically, but we manage to continue to feed those who are in real need.

DOLPHINS ACRE – Henry Joughin /Louise Gillespie

It's the end of the year and as we look back on 2017 we realize how very blessed we are to have the love and support of so many wonderful people who care about and for those less fortunate than ourselves.

We are able to order food from Sizani each month to the value of R1615.00. This is of great value to the Home. St. Stephen's donates R3000.00 a month which we use to buy medicine that is off code. We are very grateful for this support.

Finess and team came on Saturday and gave the residents a lovely party. There were delicious eats and drinks and much fun was had. The happiness of this event spilled into Sunday when they all could not stop talking about how much they enjoyed themselves.

St Georges donated R10000.00 which was a tremendous boost to the finances. Residents will be receiving a clothing item and other items to the value of R277.00 each at Christmas time. Thank you for this generous donation.

Lynn Gibson brings fruit and vegetables once a month which is a joy and deeply appreciated. The men's' breakfast group very kindly helped by donating R3000.00 towards the purchase of a new stove.

COSMO – Di Levinsohn and Claire Roëbert

Mantime Magongoe, our social worker, has been very busy what with going to court, assisting with matters regarding Home Affairs, home visits, addressing issues of violence, rape, bereavement and addiction. We propose that St Michael's consider supporting our Social Workers salary with their R2000 pm.

The Cosmo sewing sales continue to be successful. The Sizani protein food parcels are, as always, well received and appreciated.

WITKOPPEN CLINIC and HEALTH CARE – Mpolokeng Kambule

At the end of the year the children were assisted with preparations for the exams at all our three centres. The attendance at the centres varies during exam time.

We took 80 children out on a psycho-social trip to The Origin Centre Museum at Wits University on 25 November 2017. The children had a wonderful time and learned quiet a lot. For those who had finished their exams this helped them to relax a bit.

We continue to provide nutrition to the sick patients mainly through the soup and other food products we receive from St Michael's for which are very thankful.

It really has a positive impact in the lives of the needy people in our areas of service.

WITKOPPEN SOUP KITCHEN – Janet Sutherland

We have, to date, donated in the region of 1500 litres of soup to Witkoppen Clinic with a further 150 litres expected to be delivered before the Centre closes for Christmas. The number of volunteers for 2018 has reduced by almost a third for various reasons. We are hoping that through the dedicated giving we may get some new volunteers and we will encourage parishioners to assist us with ad hoc requests from time to time to supplement. Soup deliveries will commence again from the 8 January 2018.

MAX'S CRECHE – (Obama Crèche)- Wendy Henwood

After a shaky start to the year, the situation at the crèche has improved, and the day to day operation is running smoothly again. Both Max and Maureen are involved and Maureen supplies a teacher each week. The children are well fed and activities are planned for each day.

We supplied party boxes and a Christmas present for each child and on our last visit were treated to a rendition of the Christmas concert. There was lots of loud music and very enthusiastic singing and dancing. They thoroughly enjoyed "showing off" to us! Once again, we all say a very big thank you to everyone who has contributed in cash or kind to the running of the crèche therefore the welfare of all the children.

GOOD SHEPHERD STREET CHILDREN – Lynn Gibson and Barney Curtis

From all accounts, the JAM (Johannesburg Awakening Minds) drama group is still rehearsing and performing. Dorothy-Ann, whilst no longer being officially responsible for the group, still assists.

The appeal to supplement Clement's monthly stipend, has produced good results. There have been two one-off payments, and a pledge to produce a regular monthly payment in 2018. Sincere thanks to those sponsoring.

The numbers attending the Cell Groups run by Clement, have increased steadily, and it is becoming difficult for Clement to manage things. There is consideration to split the numbers into three groups, and for Clement to identify two persons to head up groups.

The soup kitchen has been running smoothly. Scott the cook has found himself a place to stay at R600 per month and is so grateful for the stretcher bed, foam mattress and the linen which Ian and Lynn sorted out for him.

We have been truly blessed by God's abundant provision, equipping caring and fulfillment this year, as we serve Him through our service at the Soup Kitchen. St Michael's kindly provided us with some of the crackers they made recently, that added to the festive spirit at our Christmas party. Unfortunately Martha was unable to be with us this year, and was sorely missed.

John and Lynn will be moving to Waterfall Retirement Village in the middle of January, and there will be quite a bit of adjusting to make in terms of the soup kitchen, and hopefully the transition will go smoothly.

NEW LIFE CENTRE – Mukami Mutiga

We are getting somewhere with the registration and the home is slowly meeting all the regulatory requirements.

2017 Outcomes

The projects' income and expenditure achieved budget for the year. The account schedule is attached to this report.

Whilst project representatives shared information with each other at meetings and at their projects, it was felt that clearer objectives need to be tabled and addressed at the meetings. Follow-ups were also required.

PROPHETIC RELEVANCE

Youth, Sunday School, Sharing facilities with community

YOUTH - Itumeleng Phalane

Overview

The year 2017 was exciting as we saw an increase in the number of children and of parishioners who volunteered to be leaders in this ministry. The portfolios worked effectively and there were only a few issues that required concerted effort to be resolved.

Junior church

In January 2017, there were 106 children who registered. The average attendance was 69, a marked increase from 45 in 2016. In an effort to improve ministry to the children and, more importantly, to ensure that they develop their spirituality, our leaders attended a talk by Jean Pienaar on Children's Spirituality in the first term of 2017.

At the beginning of the year, a plea was made for more leaders, and several parishioners have taken up the challenge and have offered to join our team. By the end of the year, there were 17 leaders, four of whom are assistants. Two leaders have left due to personal reasons. As a result of the generosity of our families, the total collection for the year amounted to over R3 590 with R1 135 being used to purchase stationery for COACH.

There have been four family services during the year. At the first one, our leaders were licensed. 21 children were admitted to Communion during the Youth Sunday Family Service. This was the highest number of candidates compared to the last few years. The Junior Church also participated in the Patronal Festival family service. The year culminated with the Advent family service which was well supported by our families.

Jeanette La Fleur has had meetings with Reverend Linda Schwartz to discuss how our ministry to the children could be enhanced.

Teen church

The course outline for teen church in 2017 comprised two main themes: Christian spirituality; and what it means to be truly happy as a human being. The Teen Confirmation programme incorporated most of the Teen Church lessons. Of the 26 to 30 teens that were in Teen Church, 13 were in the Teen Confirmation group.

After Thato Lebaka left, the MST team took turns in running the Teen Church programme while they redefined the role of the Youth Co-ordinator. Michael Klinck was recruited as a part-time Youth Co-ordinator in September 2017 and he is now full time in that role from January 2018.

On 23 September 2017, candidates who attended the Teen Confirmation programme were confirmed.

When Michael started a programme that includes a bible study to help teens get an overview of the whole bible and understand how the different areas and books/stories fit into the bigger picture.

We need volunteers who would like to be youth leaders. They will start off by assisting Michael, and they will be trained and mentored to induct them into this ministry. At the moment, there is only one person who is assisting Michael.

Youth Friday

This programme is held every Friday during private school terms. It starts with marimba playing and junior choir from 6 pm to 7 pm, followed by a meal from 7 pm to 7:30 pm, and thereafter, Youth Friday continues until 8:30 pm. Parents of children who attend Youth Friday take turns to provide meals for the children.

At the beginning of 2017, 22 young teens signed up to attend Youth Friday. Even though attendance was good at the beginning of the year (on average 15), it dropped to about 8 by the end of the year. There is a concerted effort to increase the attendance rate and Michael is leading this drive.

Assistants are also needed for Youth Friday, as there are none at present.

EVANGELISM - Cilla Vos

During the year there were a number of events where young and old joined together.

- † Teens assisted at the Shrove Tuesday evening
- † A Parish Hike attracted parishioners of all ages and levels of fitness.
- † At our 'help with electronic devices' morning, a talented group of St Michael's teens skilfully and patiently shared their expertise with our less-computer-literate parishioners. Their assistance was greatly appreciated by all who attended.
- † Similarly the 'Christmas Cracker Making' morning involved young and old, male and female. Our eager workers made 287 Christmas Crackers that were then donated to make Christmas a little more festive for children and adults who enjoy far less than we do. Thank you to Edna and all who participated.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY - Barney Curtis

SANDTON COMMUNITY POLICE FORUM – DOMESTIC WATCH – Janet Sutherland

The Domestic Watch programme for 2017 culminated in a very successful Year End function at the Rosebank Union Church on Thursday 23 November 2017. Annually we host a special event to give Domestic Workers the recognition they deserve, together with Station SAPS, VIP guest speakers and entertainers. 12 of the Domestic Workers from St Michael's branch received certificates for attending 5 or more lessons during the course of the year.

Due to the lack of support by employers for the programme, the coordinators are meeting to discuss an alternative method of getting the message out to Domestic Workers. The proposal is to utilize the services of the Security Companies and rather than having a fixed venue for lessons, to move from area to area in the hope that we can reach more people. I will be able to report back on this at the next meeting. My sincerest thanks to St Michael's Church for their support and allowing us the use of the hall free of charge for the past few years.

SUSTAINABLE STRUCTURES

Property maintenance, Security

MAINTENANCE – Kuda Mujaji

Maintenance is an ongoing project. In 2017 there were a number of projects:

- The installation of the screens and projectors.
- The Hall and the South House were painted
- The Parapet wall of the Holy Spirit Chapel was waterproofed.
- Electrical, plumbing and security were all maintained.
- Regular servicing of equipment
- Quarterly tuning of organ

The refurbishment of the Rectory is our major project for 2018.

The project has started and is progressing well. Please see below for a minor status report:

- Kitchen floor is already done
- Kitchen ceiling is done
- Cupboards have arrived, and installation will commence soon
- The new gas stove was delivered
- Baths are being installed
- Taps have been installed
- Electrician and plumber are still busy on site working on their first and second fix.

The project is running on schedule according to the programme and expenditure is tying up with the programme. We are targeting completion and project closure at end of April 2018 within budget.

Mike Chilton, who has represented this portfolio for the last few years, was fortunate enough to have Kuda Mujaji to join him and handed over to Kuda in October 2017 as he prepares to emigrate. Adrian Elwen joined the team in September 2017. Darryl Prangley is to be thanked for all her hard work in this project.

We are grateful to all who have worked hard on keeping the property in a good state of repair as well as the hours spent on preparations for the rectory refurbishment.