**ANNUAL REPORTS and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for

**The Parochial Church Council**

**Hoole Parish Church St Michael’s and All Angels**

**Liverpool Old Road Hoole PR4 5JQ**

**As at 31st December 2017**

**The Rector**

Rev Derek A Baines

16 Middlefield

Leyland

PR26 7AE

**Bank:**

The Royal Bank of Scotland

78 Liverpool Road

Penwortham

Preston

**Independent Examiner**

M.W. Harrison F.C.A.

27 Bentley Park Road

LONGTON

Preston

PR4 5ZT

**Websites:** [**www.hoolevillage.com**](http://www.hoolevillage.com)

[**www.hooleparishchurch.com**](http://www.hooleparishchurch.com)

**CONTENTS**

**Page OVERVIEW OF THE CHURCH**

2 The Rector’s Report

4 The Churchwardens’ Report

7 Legal and Administrative Information

8 Aims and Organisation of the PCC

**APPENDICES**

9 A Parish Mission Statement

9 B PCC Treasurer’s Report

12 C Friends of St Michael’s and Development Committee Report

12 D Hoole St Michael’s Messy Church Report

13 E Michael’s Club Report

14 F Ladies’ Group Report

15 G Men’s Fellowship Report

16 H Social Committee Report

17 I Hoole St Michael’s Flower Fund Report

18 J Pastoral Care Team Report

18 K Ministry Team Report

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

19 PCC General Fund

21 The Friends of St Michael’s and Development Committee

22 Messy Church

22 Michael’s Club

23 Ladies’ Group

24 Men’s Fellowship

25 Social Committee

25 Church Flower Fund

26 Debtors & Creditors

27 Statement of Assets and Liabilities

28 **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER’S REPORT**

**RECTOR’S REPORT**

2017 has been a year of some change at St Michael’s. The faculty for the drainage project took a little longer to set up than anticipated but work moves on. Our two Church Wardens, Jock Davidson and Robert Hawthornthwaite, assisted by Bill Carr, CW Emeritus, have worked hard in maintaining the church and working with contractors during the year. Jock has carried on with maintaining the impetus of the drainage project with many hours spent working with Robert, the architect and contractors in setting up the work programme. Robert has maintained oversight of the churchyard with maintenance work ongoing. Thanks go to them for the heavy workload which carries on quietly behind the scenes.

Barbara Wood, our treasurer has continued to deal with HMRC and Charities Commission changes and has dealt with the Diocesan Board of Finance. Our thanks go to her for her dedication; it is good to see her getting assistance with Mike, Elaine and Jean helping with different aspects of her work. Our thanks go to Mr Harrison for his continued oversight of our finances.

The standing committee (SC) continues to support the PCC with detailed information of the church and its operations. Thanks go to Andrea Susnik who not only acts as PCC secretary but also looks after the standing committee notes as well. Thanks to members of the PCC for continuing support and a good attendance record at meetings.

Within our worship we continue to say thank you to our music group as they enjoy leading our worship and occasionally singing anthems. Our thanks continue to Carole Wilson and Phil Norton for their musical support and guidance in worship. The music for liturgy is now chosen by an active group of people both from the choir and from the pews, an exercise that has opened eyes as to its occasional complexity but is always carried out with great jollity.

Margaret Kirkman continues with her ministry with children and families; congratulations were offered as she was licensed as our Parish Occasional Preacher and delivered a couple of very good sermons at the end of the year.

The PCC also support Alan Johnson as he began, and continues with, his training as Parish Licensed Reader. He stepped in with no notice when a service was not covered and all have praised him for his calm. He has also delivered his first sermon as well as learning the craft of leading worship in different forms.

So much hard work goes on behind the scenes, with church decoration with flowers, Baptism preparation and so on, that it is impossible to name all who help so a thank you to all who give their time so freely and willingly.

We continue to have 2 study groups using the “Pilgrim” course format. We have set one in an evening with good attendance and interesting discussions in March and November looking at the Commandments and then the Beatitudes. During January we held a lunchtime session at Old Mill Court studying the Lord’s Prayer with congregation members joining the community in an enjoyable 6 weeks of study. A similar activity will take place in 2018.

The church opened for prayer twice a month, once in an evening and once at lunchtime for 8 months but this was stopped due to lack of support. The National Programme entitled “Thy Kingdom Come was run between The Ascension and Pentecost. Thanks to Jean Dewhurst and her team for setting this up. The PCC took the decision to leave the church open during daylight hours in this period and we received many appreciative visitors in this time. A team has already begun to look at the 2018 material.

**RECTOR’S REPORT (cont)**

Unfortunately this event coincided with the MEN Bomb attack and I am pleased to say that the fact that the church was left open and unmanned proved to be of great comfort to the community. The whole school and some visitors from Manchester attended a short vigil service for the MEN victims in church, one of whom had attended St Michael’s School in years gone by.

Our electoral roll stands at 110 members.

During the year we carried out 14 weddings, 31 Baptisms of children and 1 adult, 18 funerals of which 14 were followed by burials and 7 interments of Cremated remains.

Our average weekly attendance measured during October remained almost static at 64 with 6 children, but the whole year averages are 69 with 7 children, an increase on 2016. This may reflect larger numbers at family services and an increase at Remembrance Sunday. All together an encouraging set of figures. Messy church attendance averages at 10 children and 16 adults which includes team, parents and families. This is an increase on 2016 although numbers dropped in the autumn term.

Unfortunately we have said goodbye to some of our regular members who have died during the year but we have seen a couple of new families who have joined us after moving into the area.

Michael’s club continues to encourage children and numbers have varied but we now have more adult help. See the separate reports.

Beryl Blakely took on the task of coordinating Messy Church and a puppet ministry is being encouraged. We enjoyed a presentation at Christmas and I was able to use the puppets very effectively at the annual Crib Service.

The Community worship event was, once again, a huge success and our thanks go to all who helped both from St Michael’s and the Methodist Chapel with support from St Michael’s School.

We look forward to an equally exciting 2018. Preparations are now well under way to support the parish during the vacancy after Easter thanks to the hard work of Jock, Robert, Jayne Taylor and others. Our thanks go to Nolan Redshaw for their sponsorship with printing. St Michael’s has a good base from which to grow with a Mission Action Plan that will be reviewed in early 2018 and we all join in praying that members will rise to the challenges of our parish church’s mission and ministry.

**Derek Baines**

**Epiphany 2018.**

**THE CHURCHWARDENS’ REPORT**

During the month of January we had the pleasure of being led in worship by the Reverends Marc Wolverson and Patricia Belshaw while Revd D Baines was away on a study week.

On Sunday 26th of February our 1030 service was, Family Praise with a Parade of the Uniformed Groups. Also in attendance was the choir of St Michaels Church of England Primary School. We thank Mrs Duckworth for her continued support with the Choir.

After our usual 1030am service on Sunday the 19th March we joined with other churches in ringing a peal for one minute recognising the devastating effects of Racism and Xenophobia.

Sunday 26th March saw us celebrate Mothering Sunday. Michaels Club took over the service with a very entertaining Puppet show. We must congratulate the children on their enthusiasm and imagination. The congregation thoroughly enjoyed it.

The Archdeacons Visitation (Archdeacon Mark Ireland) took place on the 10th of May at St James church in Leyland. Robert and I, along with the Church Wardens from other churches were sworn in alongside the PCC members and Side persons from around the Deanery.

On 16th of May Little Hoole School came to visit our church. The Reverend D Baines welcomed them on behalf of St Michaels and hoped they would enjoy their morning .They learned all about the church, and there was a question and answer session, followed by a quiz. They also enjoyed the biscuits and orange afterwards.

The Confirmation service was held at St Aiden’s Bamber Bridge on the 21st of May. We had six candidates from St Michaels this year, they were, Charlie, Lauren, Isabella, Eloise. Harriet, and Izacc. We welcome them into the Church and look forward to seeing them take their first Communion.

**Thy Kingdom Come:**

25th May (Ascension) to June 4th (Pentecost)

The Church was open daily from 1000am to 1200am with two members of the congregation in attendance. From 1200am until 1400hrs, the Church was left open with no one in attendance. From 1400pm to 1600hrs there was again two members of the congregation in attendance. We have had an excellent response to this event and we hope it continues until the 4th June. Our sincere thanks have to go to Jean Dewhurst for organising the setting up of the church for this event.

During the month of June we welcomed Revd Marc Wolverson, Rev’d Patricia Belshaw and Rev,d Nick Mansfield who led us in prayer when Revd D Baines was away on holiday. We thank them for their leadership and look forward to seeing them again.

On Sunday 9th July M Kirkman preached her first sermon as our newly appointed occasional preacher. Which the congregation enjoyed. Our congratulations go to Margaret and we look forward to hearing more from her in the future.

On the 20th July we held the school leavers service in church. This was followed by a special farewell service for Mrs Duckworth who retired as head teacher. We wish her well in her new job.

We welcomed Revd S Baines on the 6th August when she led us in Worship during the 0900am and the 1030am services. The congregation enjoyed the sermon and thank Revd Baines for her leadership, and look forward to seeing her again in the future.

**CHURCHWARDENS’ REPORT (cont)**

On Sunday September 10th we welcomed The Venerable Mark Ireland, Archdeacon of Blackburn, who led us in our worship when Revd D Baines was away on vacation. At the 1030am service Mr Alan Johnson, Reader in training, took this service. The congregation enjoyed both services, and wish to congratulate Alan on his first service and we look forward to many more to come.

Revd Nick Mansfield took our Thursday morning services on the 14th and 21st of September during Revd D Baines absence. To whom we are very grateful.

Due to unforeseen circumstances our visiting Minister was unable to attend on Sunday September 17th. So after a very quick conference with Alan our Reader in Training we decided we would go ahead with both services. Our hearty thanks have to go to Alan for stepping in at a moment’s notice, and what a tremendous job he did. The congregation could not wait to congratulate him. Well done Alan, we look forward to many more of your sermons to come.

The School held their Harvest Service on Thursday 28th September in the church. There were 125 children and 54 adults in attendance.

We held our joint service with Hoole Methodist Church on Sunday the 8th of October at 1515hrs in Much Hoole village hall. The theme this year was Fishers of Men. The displays were produced by the Flower Ladies and the children from Messy Church. We had a similar attendance as last year, and the service was enjoyed by everyone. After the service we enjoyed tea coffee and cake.

On Sunday 12th November (Remembrance Sunday) we were led in worship by Rev’d Pat Belshaw, while Rev’d Baines was on holiday. We had 135 adults and 15 children in attendance. Where are they the rest of the year? Our flower ladies have done us proud once again, thank you ladies and congratulations on a magnificent display.

On Thursday 14th December we met at Hoole Village Hall, then we made our way to the Smithy Inn where we met up with Radio Lancashire and joined in with “Lancashire Sings Christmas”. Afterwards we enjoyed drinks and mince pies.

The Christmas Carol Service was held on Sunday 17th December. This was another well attended service where we sung our hearts out. We must thank the members of the Social Committee for providing us with mince pies and mulled wine, which was enjoyed by everyone.

On Christmas Eve we held our Crib Service, again, another extremely enjoyable service which the children and adults enjoyed.

We celebrated Christmas Holy Communion at 2300hrs on Sunday 24th December when we had another full church

On Christmas Day we celebrated the Birth of Our Lord with Family Communion. Another well attended service.

**LOG BOOK 2017**

**Tuesday January 10th 20017**

Rev’d D Baines Mr R Hawthornthwaite ( CW) Mr J Davidson ( CW) and Mr S Pickles, measured the churchyard to determine the number of vacant burial plots were available and how long before the churchyard would be full. Following a detailed measurement of the churchyard it was found there were 131 potential burial spaces, enough for the next 15 to 20 years.

**Saturday January 14th 20017**

Mr D Susnik ( who works for Allied Environment land Geotechnics Ltd) undertook a scan of the proposed route for the drainage pipe using a Ground Penetrating Radar. No graves or other major obstacles were found, apart from the electrical cable and a few large tree roots. A full report will be provided.

**Wednesday January 25th 20017**

Mr H Jackson ( builder) investigated the leak in the roof above the choir stall. After investigation it was found the cast iron down spout had corroded and this was the cause of the leak. A temporary repair has been made. A replacement down spout is on order.

**Monday February 20th 2017**

Fire Extinguishers Serviced by A B Fire Protection. One extinguisher was replaced.

**Wednesday March 1st 2017**

Central Heating Boiler serviced by Leighton and Watkinson. One valve replaced.

**Saturday March 4th 2017**

Internal Drain Pipe in the Clock Tower replaced by H Jackson ( builder)

**Thursday 30th March 2017**

4 new bulbs and bulb holders replaced in the Vestry

**Saturday May 6th 2017**

A Pre- Quinquennial Inspection took place of the Church and Church yard by members of the Pcc and the Friends.

**Tuesday 9th May 2017**

Gill and Nick Slinger sprayed the weeds around the Church with weed killer.

**Thursday 1st June 2017**

R Hawthornthwaite (CW) and S Pickles carried out a Tip and TILT test in the church yard.

One head stone required attention.

**Saturday 18th June** **2017**

All electrical appliances in church and the school were tested and passed to P.A.T. standards.

**Thursday 13th July 2017**

A painting of the church was hung in the Chancel

**Monday 17th July 2017**

The flag stones leading up to the West door were treated with Al Gon

**LOG BOOK (cont.)**

**Friday 1st September 2017**

Clock was serviced and tested by Smiths of Derby everything in good working order.

“ **Advisory Note**” Crouzet Micro Switches and Selenoids no longer available to replace on strike unit. However an up to date alternative unit is available when and if required.

**Monday 24th October 2017**

The electricity Smart Meter was inspected by the electrician from ENO (electricity providers)

and was found to be in good working order.

**Friday 4th November 2017**

The bench adjacent to the War Memorial was replaced and paid for by the Hoole Ladies Group. The inscription on the plaque reads, “ In Perpetual Memory of Past Members” November 2017.

**Saturday 5th November 2017**

Members of the congregation cleaned the churchyard, and the inside of the church. We are extremely grateful for their hard work and thank them for an excellent job.

**Monday 6th November 2017**

Walkers Electrical Engineers, carried out a pre quinquennial inspection on all the electrics within the church. No major faults were found. However there were a few minor faults. A full report will be provided.

**Jock Davidson JP and Robert Hawthornthwaite**

**Church Wardens**

**LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

The Parish Church of Hoole St Michael is located on Liverpool Old Road, Much Hoole, near Preston.

The address for correspondence during 2017 was 16 Middlefield Avenue, Leyland, PR26 7AE.

**THE MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

Chairman: Rev Derek Baines

Vice Chairman: Jock Davidson

Churchwardens: Jock Davidson, Bob Hawthornthwaite

Secretary: Andrea Susnik

Treasurer: Barbara Wood

Pastoral Assistant: Vacant

Synod Reps: Jane Elphick, Jean Dewhurst, Alan Johnson

EX Officio: David Turner, Phil Norton

Members: Bill Carr, Kathleen Leigh, Ted Hopkins, Pearl Read, Jean Smallwood,

Margaret Kirkman, Eunice Hoghton, Alan Johnson.

None of whom received any payment for their PCC services and were elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting or co-opted at a PCC meeting at a later date.

The PCC is a charity with Excepted Status given by the Charity Commission.

The names of the main bankers are Royal Bank of Scotland, Penwortham Branch, and Barclays Bank (until October 2017 when account was closed)

**AIMS AND ORGANISATION OF THE PCC**

The aim of the PCC is to co-operate with the Rector in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the Church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. For the Mission Statement refer to Appendix A.

The PCC is structured with officers of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer; policy decisions being taken by the whole of the members after discussion. There are two subsidiary organisations with designated status:

* The Friends of St Michael’s and Development Committee – see Appendix B
* Hoole St Michael’s Messy Church – see Appendix I

**ELECTORAL ROLE AND AVERAGE ATTENDANCE**

The number on the Electoral Roll is 110 – no change from 2016.

Our average weekly attendance over the full year was 69 with 7 children – a slight increase on 2016.

**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. The PCC maintains an overview of worship and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our Parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning the activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Commission’s guidance on public benefit, and in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. The PCC tries to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of the Parish community through:

* Worship, prayer; learning about the Gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus
* Provision of pastoral care for people living in the Parish
* Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St. Michael’s which falls within the working remit of The Friends of St Michael’s and Development Committee, which operates under the guidance of the PCC.

**REVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHURCH**

Issues discussed fully by the PCC include:

* Arrangements for our main festivals throughout the Church’s year;
* The welfare of parishioners, including those with any special needs;
* The progress of Michael’s Club is reported, the Minister also giving an overview of his involvement with the local Church and county schools;
* Financial issues affecting not only our own Parish and Diocese but the broader mission of the Church in general, incorporating wherever and whenever possible overseas assistance;
* The maintenance and improvement of the Church and Churchyard;
* Any issues arising from the Deanery Synod reports;
* Arrangements for regular ecumenical services throughout the year

**MAIN EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH**

Voluntary help is willingly given by many members of the Church and community, in the preparation and implementation of the main events in the church year. This includes the compilation and distribution of a monthly magazine for the benefit of Church members, the wider community and others interested in the life of our Church. Details of the events of this year are covered in the various reports presented elsewhere in this report.

Appendix A St Michael’s Church Mission Statement

**Your God, Your Church, Here for You!**

Founded in the grace of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ, celebrating the love and service of the Lord and life; we the people of St Michael’s will share Christ’s love and values with people of all ages so that through prayer, teaching and sharing we will grow together in the love of God our creator.

We invite you to join us in

Our Worship

Our Faith

Our Fellowship

Our Mission

**May The Lord Bless You And Keep You**

Appendix B PCC Treasurer’s Report

At the beginning of 2017 Barclays decided to withdraw all interest on their savings accounts so we closed our account with them in October with a balance of £44,328.51. Research was carried out for new savings accounts. The PCC decided to invest £50k with the United Trust Bank. That process was started at the end of 2017 and will be up and running in early 2018. We opened two accounts for £25k each:

* 1 year bond at 1.50% compound interest (projected interest £375)
* 100 day notice deposit account at 1.25%.

At the end of 2016 we were behind on claiming the PCC and Friends Gift Aid. This was addressed in 2017 as you will see from the financial summaries later in this report. These actions have greatly improved the cashflow for the PCC current account which had been a problem in 2016.

**The Parish Share**

I can confirm that the Parish Share for 2017 of £28,107 has been fully paid up.

Our target for 2018 is £27,963.

This will be affected by various elements in 2018, such as how long we are in Interregnum, if we get a new Rector within this financial year or not and what his or her employment status may be.

We meet the Parish Share target by a variety of means:

* Regular Giving by Envelope and Standing Order
* Donations at all types of Services
* Fees from Weddings and Funerals
* HMRC Gift Aid Claims

**TREASURER’S REPORT (cont)**

Full details on how our Parish Share is calculated and what it is used for, can be obtained via the Diocesan website of [www.blackburn.angican.org](http://www.blackburn.angican.org); type in “parish finance” in the search box. There is also a booklet available from the Diocese – 01254 503075.

**Charitable Giving**

For some considerable time we have regularly supported four charities that have some form of connection to our church or parish. These charities are FOMO, Okorum Village, 1st Hoole Scouts and SHARE. The SHARE connection was via the Rev Steven Hughes and as that link is now in the past, it was decided to give to charities with a more local connection – see below. The total given from PCC funds in 2017 was £5,623.79 as follows:

* FOMO A regular charity we support £900.00
* Okorum Village A regular charity we support £900.00
* 1st Hoole Scouts A regular charity we support £900.00
* 1st Hoole Scouts One-off donation for their new location in the village £300.00
* Michael’s Club Staff training £72.00
* Help for Heroes Organised by Stuart Tighe £100.00
* The British Red Cross Asia Appeal donated from the Harvest Collection £387.48
* Royal British Legion Wreath and donation £100.00
* Barchester Fund Via the Diocese for School Projects £1,193.50
* St Michael’s School Yr 6 school bibles £170.81
* Salvation Army Replaced SHARE from previous years £300.00
* Churches Together in Penwortham Replaced SHARE from previous years £300.00

We also held three special appeals where funds were raised by our parishioners and congregation – this money is not counted as church income or expenditure, hence they are not part of the church accounts and are listed separately below:

* Water Aid Annual Appeal since 2007 £665
* Disasters Emergency Committee(DEC) East Africa Crisis Appeal £125
* The British Red Cross Asia Appeal added to above, not part of harvest collection £44.21

**Donations Received Outside of Services**

Thanks go to all the family and friends who have donated to our church throughout the year. When I have been provided with the information, letters of thanks and appreciation have been sent, either to individuals or their representatives. The majority of these donations have been given in loving memory of someone.

**Gift Aided Not Gift Aided**

£1,386.00 (worth an extra £346.50) £1,356.00

**Legacies**

We received £2,000 from the estate of Eunice Webster for the general fund.

**Restricted Donations**

Any donation that is given with a specific instruction on its use has to be classed as a Restricted Donation and can only be used for the purpose for which it is given and needs to be recorded accordingly. To help identify these amounts you will find them in brown ink on the accounts. We regularly receive this type of donation for the maintenance of the churchyard as follows:

* Men’s Fellowship
* Little Hoole Parish Council
* War Graves Commission

**TREASURER’S REPORT (cont)**

For at least the 2nd year running we have also received three private donations, all gift aided but restricted in their use:

* £500 for churchyard maintenance banked with the PCC
* £600 for maintenance of church to be to be passed to The Friends in 2018 to claim GA.
* £200 for Messy Church banked with PCC in order to claim GA and passed to Messy Church

**The Magazine**

There is quite a team behind the production of this every month.............

* The Editor Erica Penrose
* The Distribution Secretary Elsie Kirkham and her team of door to door deliverers
* The Advert Co-ordinator Margaret Clark
* The Printers Sharon Press

The efforts of the above, plus those who provide the content of the magazine all contribute their time, effort and skills to ensure the magazine is produced in good time with a varied and interesting content. This voluntary effort (except the Printers of course) ensures we produce the magazine at a profit. Can you spread the word, encourage new subscribers or even submit some editorial? Whatever you can do, would be good. Profit from 2017 was approx. £400.00.

**The Role of Treasurer**

You will recall I had planned to resign after 10 years in this role but finding a volunteer is proving difficult. This search will continue throughout 2018 – so if you think you could do it, or know someone who might do it, please give it serious thought and make yourself known to the PCC. In the meantime, due to the interregnum looming from 1st April 2018 for an unknown period of time, I am still hanging onto my spreadsheets – but the search continues………...

You will recall I also put out various appeals throughout 2017 for assistance with the role of treasurer. This has proved very successful and I would therefore like to express my personal thanks for the invaluable help of the following:

* Mike and Elaine Lawrence who have taken over the weekly banking process and all that involves
* Jean Dewhurst who stepped in to take over the annual envelope system, tax status checks and gift aid claims
* Michael Harrison our examiner, who although in not the most robust of health, took on the job of checking all the accounts whilst I was away for the 6 weeks that fell over the year end preparations.

**In Summary:**

These notes have been put together to provide you with the key points relating to financial decisions made throughout last year. I am pleased to announce we have ended the year in a much healthier conditions than 2016. However, please bear in mind, that although the profit and loss account shows a “surplus” of £16k or thereabouts, the real figure is nearer £5k because of the backlog of Gift Aid claims that were cleared this year.

**Distribution:**

A detailed breakdown of any differences or possible anomalies between the 2016 and 2017 figures has been produced under separate cover, together with a Profit & Loss Summary; initially for the members of the PCC. Copies of these notes will be distributed alongside the examined year reports and accounts approximately 14 days in advance of the APCM. Hard copies or electronic copies can be requested at any time.

**Barbara Wood**

**Honorary Treasurer**

Appendix C The Friends of St Michael’s and Development Committee

The Friends have held regular meetings throughout the year to ensure that matters relating to the maintenance of the church have received our full attention. As last year, the most dominant issue has been the drainage work discussed in the Church Wardens report. By July, quotes and plans were available for various proposals of work from the contractor Mr Hodge, and these were the focus of a detailed discussion by the committee. Three options were fully considered, and it was unanimously agreed that the Friends would finance work for “Phase 1” of the drainage work with an estimated cost of £6,751. We also proposed that monitoring of the water levels around church should continue, and that a review of the success of the completed work should occur in 2019. These recommendations were subsequently approved by the PCC. Since that time, a faculty has been granted, and discussions about further possible stages of work are ongoing.

The Friends were also approached about possible repair of the flagpole, which was researched and funding was agreed in principle. However, it was in fact possible to service the flagpole using in-house resources so costs were minimal. A pre-Quinquenial observational survey was carried out by church members, including a drone flight over our roof. Fortunately, no major problems have come to light and we are feeling quite well prepared for the Quinquenial inspection next year, but of course cannot be sure until the experts complete their survey. As part of that preparation, the Friends have been able to arrange an electrical survey via committee contacts, which has again identified no major problems, and minor issues are being addressed.

We have held two fund raising events this year. We hosted an organ concert in March by the Dutch electric organist Dirkjan Ranzij and in November a brass band concert with Eccleston Brass Band. Both ventures were run on the basis of shared profits with the performers, and this proved a successful idea raising £707.50 for the Friends in total. Both events were held in church, and we had good support from the local community as well as members of the congregation. The refreshments and raffle again proved popular, and I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work in organizing these and ticket sales.

Finally, we have completed work on our databases, and now have an up to date record of our members. We hope that 2018 will bring opportunities to extend membership to people who would like to support us, even if they are not regular churchgoers, as St Michael’s remains a central part of village life in Hoole.

**Jane Elphick.**

**Chair, Friends of St Michael’s.**

**Appendix D Messy Church**

The Messy church has been held on 7 Saturdays through the year.

Our average attendance is 10 children and 16 adults which includes team, parents and families. This is an increase on 2016 although numbers have dropped in the autumn term.

We continue to have a dedicated team of 12 adults who attend when they can, providing the children and families with a variety of activities set around a liturgical theme.

Jean Dewhurst retired from the role of co-ordinator and our sincere thanks go to her. Beryl Blakely has taken over the role, receiving information from the CofE Messy Church website and magazine. Beryl’s skill as a seamstress has meant that the children have more puppets to use plus different clothing for the existing puppets which means that the future of our puppet ministry is certain. She and Lillie Eaves attended a “One Way UK” puppet course in November which has given a new insight into how we can encourage this valuable, and fun, ministry.

The decision was taken to alter our “advertising” strategy and we now distribute flyers to both schools and the nursery in Walmer Bridge which has had an effect upon visitor numbers and we hope that we will see an increase in numbers in the New Year.

**Derek Baines**

**Epiphany 2018**

**Appendix E Michael’s Club**

Michael’s Club continues to meet on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month during school term time. Michael’s Club starts at 10.15am and the children join the church congregation approximately half way through the 10.30 am service.

The format of Michael’s Club continues with the use of a DVD set called ‘Friends and Heroes’. The children watch the videos which relate to Bible Stories. These are followed by lessons which are used in conjunction with the videos. The children read a prayer at the end of the 10.30am service, taken from the ‘Friends and Heroes lessons.

There are 12 children attending Michael’s Club, with most of the children attending on a regular basis. However, the attendances do fluctuate greatly from week to week.

Kathleen Leigh and Andrea Susnik attended a Children’s Ministry Conference organised by the Diocesan Board of Education in February 2017.

The children presented their annual production in church on Sunday 10th December 2017

Michael’s Club gave a total of £250 to charity as follows:

* Water Aid Appeal £50.00
* The Salvation Army £75.00
* Churches Together in Penwortham (Food Bank) £50 and £75

We believe it is essential for children to be aware of their Christian social responsibilities.

We acknowledge with grateful thanks the following donations received from:

* The PCC for staff training £72
* The Ladies Group £100
* Social Committee £100

Above all, we aim to develop and encourage each other in the faith of God so that each one of us can honestly say **‘Thy Will Be Done’**

**Kathleen Leigh**

**Michael’s Club Leader**

**Appendix F The Ladies’ Group**

**Aims and Objectives**

* To promote friendship
* To introduce others into the fellowship of the Church
* To give practical service to both Church and Community

We were delighted that the group membership remained at 45 in 2017. The programme of events was interesting and varied and included talks about an Assistance Dog; chocolate-making, with delicious samples; and Air Ships. The singing group “Senior Moments” gave us a most entertaining Christmas Coffee Evening for charity in December.

Following the success of our newly named Summer Fete – our main fund raising event – in June at a new venue, Hoole Village Hall, during the year we were able make the following donations:

* Leprosy Mission 160.00
* Hoole Scout Group 100.00
* Messy Church 100.00
* KTB Music 50.00
* Hoole Village Memorial Hall 70.00
* St Catherine’s Hospice 25.00
* Memorial Bench to Church 418.11
* Tracey Taylor Dancers 50.00
* Hoole St Michael’s Sunday School 100.00
* Hoole St Michael’s Day School 50.00
* Derian House Children’s Hospice \_\_368.00

**£1,491.11**

Following our Christmas Coffee Evening at the beginning of December we sent a donation to Derian House Children’s Hospice, Chorley (see above).

The group again ran a tombola stall at the Much Hoole Spring and Christmas Fairs and were pleased to donate the proceeds to the Much Hoole New Village Hall Fund (see above).

In November the group was delighted to donate a replacement bench to St Michael’s Church which our rector, the Revd. Derek Baines, re-dedicated and blessed.

I hope for another successful year in 2018 and thank all the committee and group members for their continuing excellent support.

**Erika Penrose**

**Group Leader**

**Appendix G The Men’s Fellowship**

**Aims and Objectives:**

* To promote fellowship between the men of the Parish
* To give practical and financial help to both Church and community
* To provide financial assistance to both local and national and international charities
* To raise funds to carry out the above by, and through, annual subscriptions, raffles and the organisation of an annual race night, and to finance our monthly meetings.

The year began in much the same way as previous years with our monthly meetings and a mix of interesting guest speakers; one such meeting being our traditional joint meeting with the Church Ladies Group. Whilst we occasionally manage to persuade guests to come along to our meetings, membership remains fairly constant with 15 members in total. With the exception of the joint meeting with the ladies – which is held in school, our meetings are held in the small lounge at the Village Hall.

The annual general meeting held in May supported the continuance of directing funds to various charities and for churchyard maintenance.

The following donations and payments were authorised:-

* St Michael’s Church re Churchyard Maintenance £300.00
* Church Flower Fund £ 40.00
* Scope – Charity regularly supported by Men’s Fellowship £ 50.00
* Salvation Army – Charity regularly supported by Men’s Fellowship £50.00

**Total Donated £440.00**

The following Committee members were re-elected at the AGM.

* Chairman:- Bob Hawthornthwaite.
* Secretary:- Stuart Tighe.
* Treasurer :- Stan Pickles.
* Speaker’s Booking Secretary:- Ted Hopkins.

One huge item missing from our annual calendar this year has been the Race Night, which is a major source of income and a means to extend our outreach and giving. Recently it has been held as a joint event with the Wignall family who support Meningitis now with their share of the funds. Family commitments within their family meant that it was not convenient to holds the event in autumn as in previous years, however the event is still to take place but will be held in late January and details from it will appear in next year’s accounts.

During the year we were saddened by the death of David Burney who was a member for many years till illness prevented him from participating in our activities.

Our final gathering of the year was for our Christmas meal held for the fourth year at Bryn Cottage, this choice being widely acceptable to the membership, and all who attended enjoyed a pleasant evening.

**Stan Pickles.**

**Treasurer.**

**January 2018.**

**Appendix H The Social Committee**

**Aims and Objectives**

* To promote friendship
* To introduce others into the fellowship of the Church
* To give practical service to both Church and community
* To give financial assistance to local charities by organising fund raising events during the year.

We started the year with a visit to the Pantomime “Cinderella” at St Andrew’s Church Hall, Longton in January. It was a great production by the Longton Players and it was lovely to see all the children, mums, dads and grandparents having a very enjoyable evening.

In June, a Parish Amble was organised and everyone enjoyed short amble around Eccleston, followed by welcome refreshments afterwards.

Following our successful visit to Blackbpool Ice Show in 2015 and by popular demand, another visit was arranged in July. Once again, the performance by the professional skaters was outstanding and everyone enjoyed the evening.

The Harvest Supper on 27th September was very well attended where hot pot and an assortment of cakes were provided for the supper. Entertainment was by the Harlequin Players.

The committee also provided refreshments in church following the Christmas Carol Service.

The money raised from these events has enabled the committee to make donations this year to:

* Michael’s Club £100
* St Michael’s Primary School £100
* St Michael’s Flower Fund £100
* 1st Hoole Scout Group £100
* Hoole Village Hall Fund £100
* Salvation Army – Preston Branch £100

**Helen Ross**

**Treasurer**

Appendix I The Church Flower Fund

Firstly, we would like to thank all sponsors for their kind contributions and the flower group for arranging them so fantastically, because 3ithout them both we could not have had such a wonderful year of flowers in the church.

I took over as Flower Group Leader from Julie Bayldon with the continued help of Julie as Secretary. Gillian Davidson took on the running of the wedding flowers with Pearl Read continuing to do a fantastic job looking after the finances.

Volunteers continue to decorate the church with flowers on a weekly rota (except for Lent) and work together as the flower group for Easter, Harvest and Christmas.

Once again at Harvest, the church was filled with wonderful flora, fruit and veg which had been so kindly donated from local growers together with the food parcels which the children of St Michaels school had kindly given during their Harvest service.

We distributed food baskets, made up of everything donated, around the village to the sick and elderly and the fresh produce went to St Catherine’s Hospice (which was greatly appreciated) and dried produce to the food bank.

“Fishers of Men” was the theme for the arrangements at the Village Hall for the community service with the Methodist Church.

At the Saints Service, for a donation of £2 you were able to purchase a rose which were labelled and displayed during the service; this proved very popular and gave great comfort to those remembering loved ones.

On Remembrance Sunday, the poppies decorated the church inside and out; the children from St Michaels School reaqlly enjoyed helping lay the hand knitted poppies outside on the grass, everything looked fantastic.

Christmas was a picture of red and green, with the potted Christmas tree making its third appearance in church. The church was adorned with lights and the windows, as always, were beautifully decorated in red and green baubles.

Gillian and Angela worked closely with brides and their desires!!!, to decorate the church beautifully for their weddings and also worked with the sponsors who shared the same dates.

We look forward to another wonderful year of a flower filled church.

**Lisa Redshaw**

**Flower Group Leader**

**Appendix J The Pastoral Team**

No Report as we do not have a pastoral team at this time.

See Rector’s Report.

Appendix K The Ministry Team

St Michael’s has continued with its friendly approach to visitors and newcomers but as is said every year, we will need to continue develop a few things as the Church of England changes and also the role of Christianity in the world is altering. This combined with the impending vacancy makes the Ministry Team very important for the parish.

The team set up a Mission Action Plan which we hope will help the parish to look to the future in terms of mission and ministry because the Diocesan 10 year plan “Vision 2026” is running well throughout the Diocese and Deanery & we look forward to being able to make our own difference as a parish church within the community in 2018. The prayer for “Reform and Renewal” continues to be read regularly at the end of worship and we continue to look at the ideals set by this project. We still have no Vision Champion in the parish and the Ministry Team hold the parish vision. One individual would be great to lead the parish and we pray that someone will come forward.

The international period of prayer “Thy Kingdom Come” was embraced by the Ministry Team and the church held open for the 10 days between the Ascension and Pentecost. Team members led by Jean Dewhurst provided some wonderful resources and many people enjoyed the peace and quiet with stations reflecting the words of the Lord’s Prayer.

The prayer circle is well established and we continue to look for new members as our parishioners are prayed for by name. The plan to open the church, once in an evening and once at a lunchtime was unfortunately a failure with few people taking the time to sit quietly in the presence of God. This was stopped in October.

The Ministry team agreed to set up a Community Worship event with our Methodist brethren following the continued success of the event. This was another great success with numbers once again being (slightly) up on 2016. The floral displays were wonderful and the efforts of the Messy church team were well rewarded with the completed collage and display of “Fishers of men” being displayed in church.

Membership continues to comprise a core of worshippers which is a little disappointing knowing how many ideas the congregations have about the future of our church and its place in the Deanery.

We continue to look at Discipleship and Ministry and intend to take a more detailed look at this in the New Year as we make every effort for all parishioners to learn more about our personal journeys of faith.

**Derek Baines**

**Epiphany 2018.**





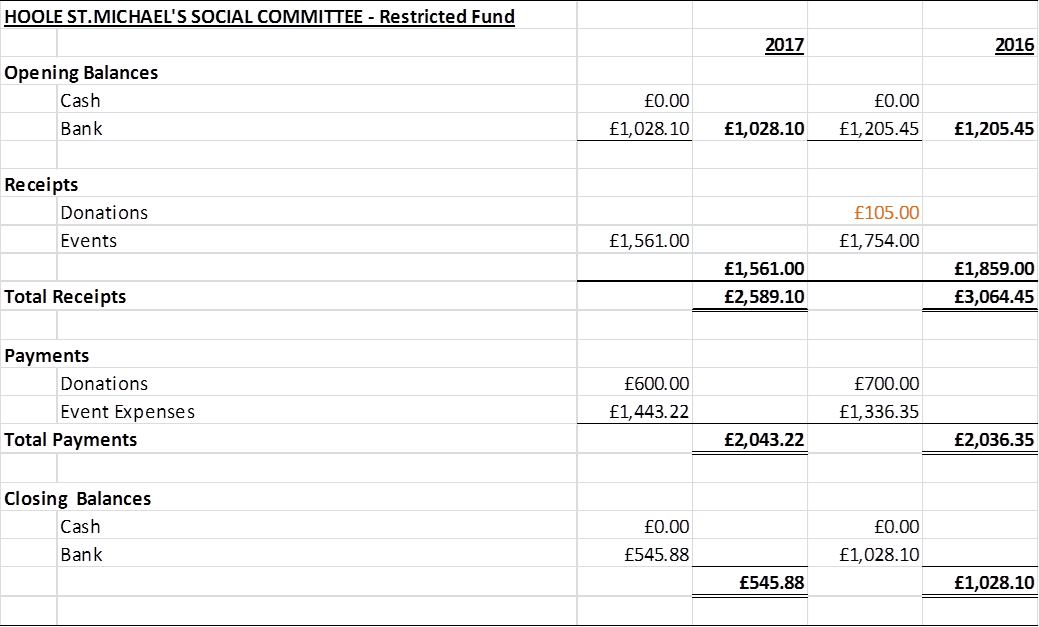


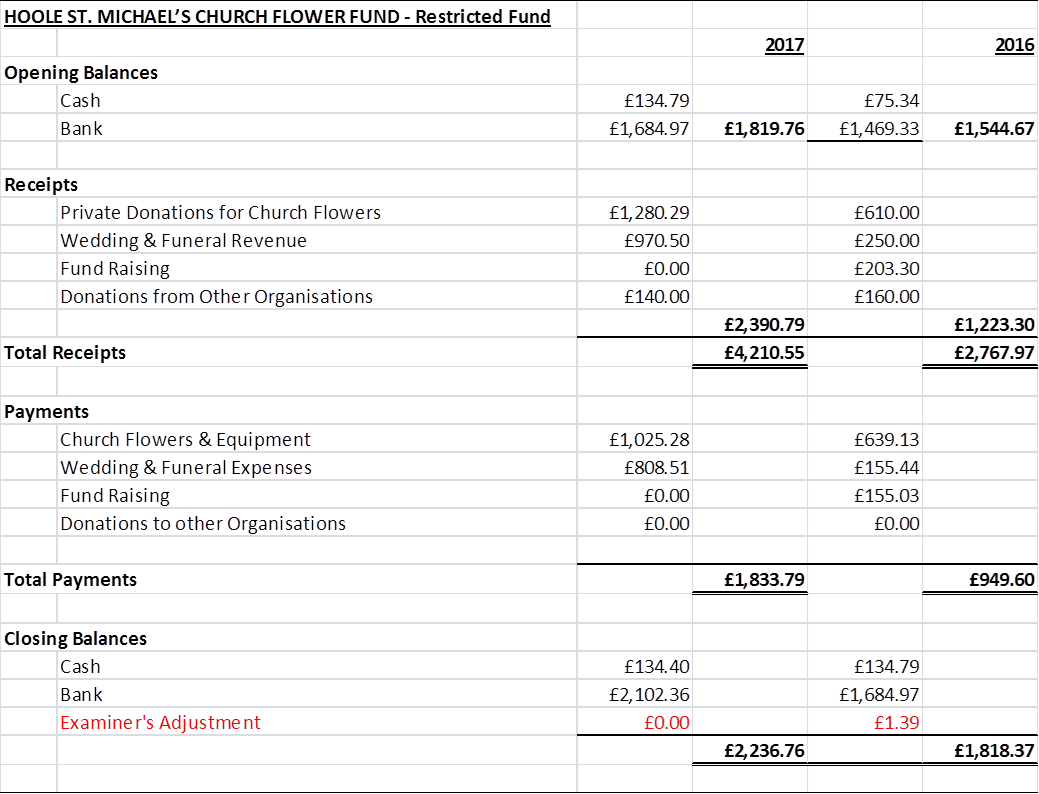








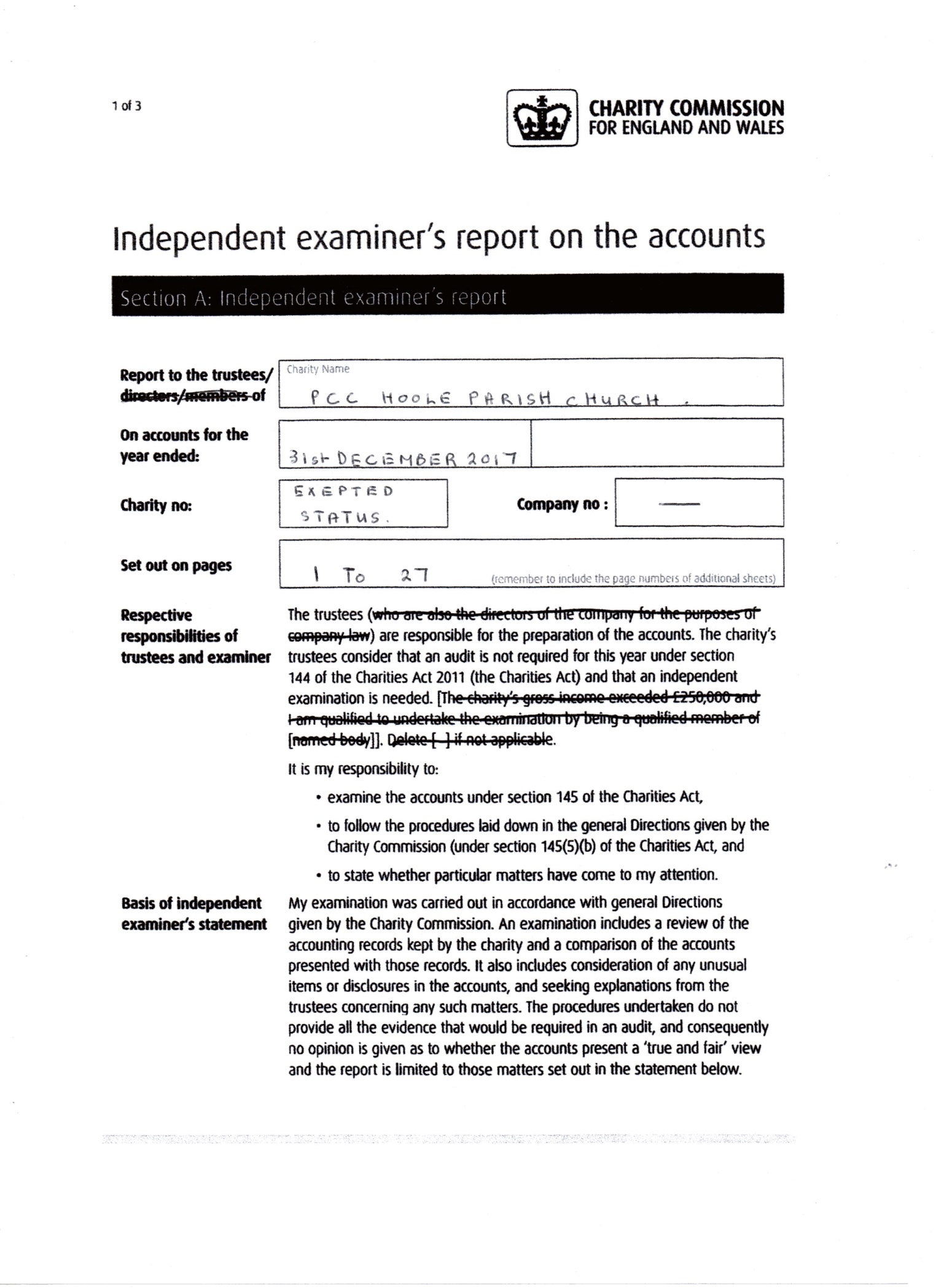
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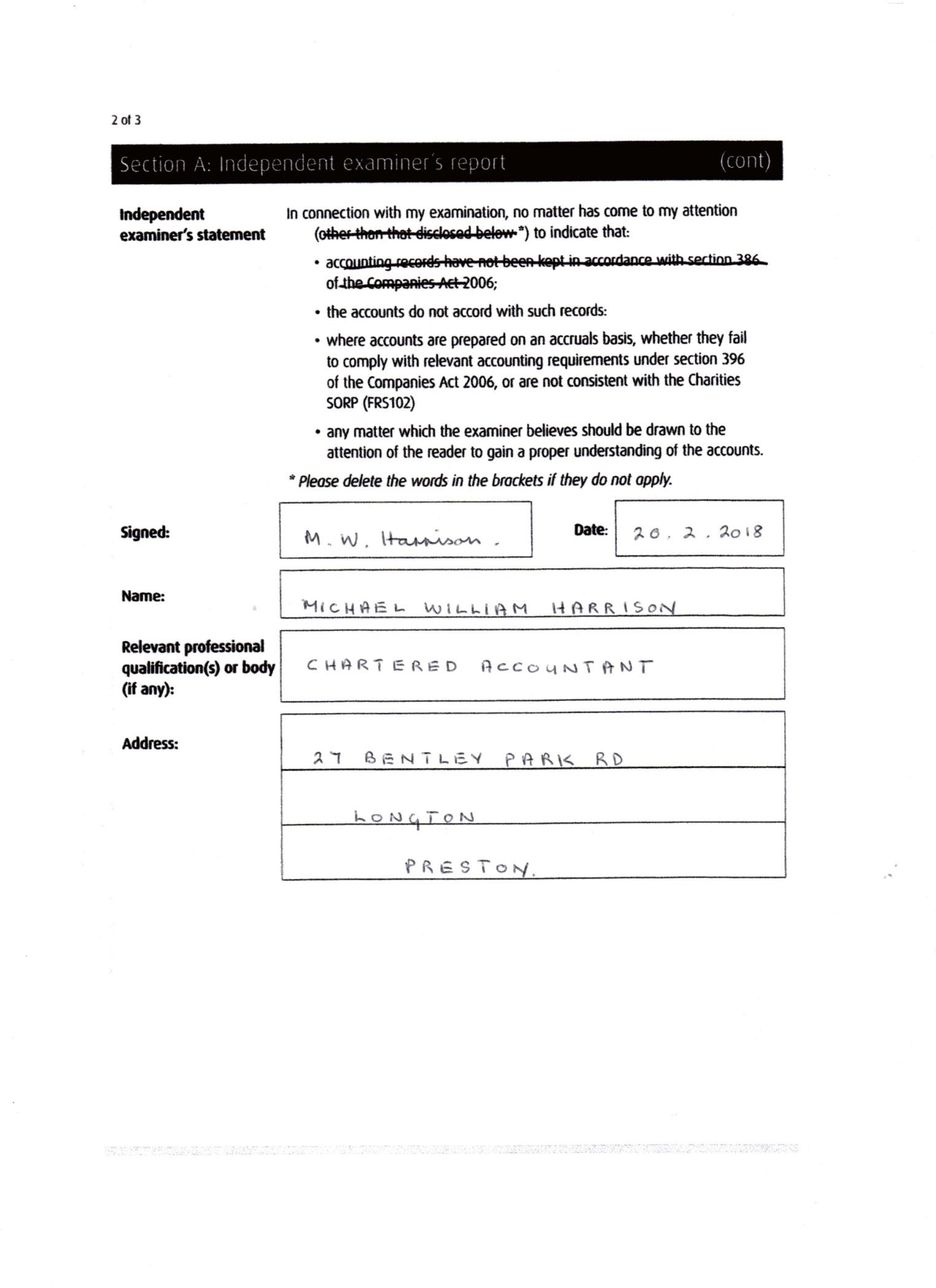
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