

# St Michael's Parish, Huntingdon.

## Financial Statement, 2021

We have presented our accounts to the Diocese for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 and anyone who wishes to view the full accounts is welcome to request a copy from Fr Philip. The following reflects the accounts accurately but is given in more accessible form to enable you all to see the financial picture of St Michael's Parish. Many thanks to Julie who prepared the parish accounts for us.

At the beginning of 2021 our parish local bank account showed a credit of **£5,030** and our account with the Diocese stood at **£171,084**, giving us a total credit of **£176,114**. Our closing balance in our parish account was **£6,766** and at the Diocese was **£192,079**, giving us a total credit of **£198,845** at the end of the year.

### Income

Collections	36995
Gift Aid payment	5113
Donations	4180
Rents	1825
Interest	495
Christmas & Easter Offering	2807
Fundraising	492
Repository & Votive candles	1340
Mass Stipends	3990
Stole Fees	5270
Other	1590

**Total** **64,097**

(Last year £54,983)

We missed some Second Collections, instead I sent donations similar to the amount of the previous year; including CAFOD and all other retiring collections it came to a total of £6077; all of these have been paid through our account to the relevant charity.

### Our expenses

Church maintenance	548
Household maintenance	233
New Buildings & Fees	740
Council Tax	1531
Utilities	2779
Insurance	523
Other	432

**Total** **6,786**

(Last year this total was £17,692)

Priest's salary	5481
Christmas & Easter Offering	3030
Housekeeping	1825
Car expenses	2112
Other	373

**Total** **12821**

(Last year this total was £10,585)

Diocesan Levies 13467

Office, paper, postage & Phone	793
Repository & books	398
Votive candles & flowers	410
Catechists	559
Donations	1932
Liturgical expenses	1064
Equipment	180
Other	1327

**Total** **6,663**

(Last year this total was £6,872)

This makes a grand total for our expenses of **£39,737**

(Total expenditure last year was £50,985)

This shows a surplus of **£24,360** over the year. This is a very positive set of figures and shows that we can pay off a possible debt when we start to focus more on fundraising.

Overall, our situation is very healthy, thanks to your very generous support. Please think about Gift Aid, it is a great help to our parish, or maybe it is time to begin or increase your standing order? Some of you have gift aid but do not record your donations which means we cannot claim the tax on your gifts, please help us by having your donations recorded in some way, envelopes or standing order are the best way. Thank you.

# Parish Report 2021

It is difficult to remember back to the beginning of 2021, so much was different and so much has changed. We went back into lockdown at the beginning of 2021 with many things closed down, although places of worship remained open, so the Church was open but with very reduced numbers because of the pandemic. We were booking for Sunday Mass; the new Saturday evening Mass had started in November 2020 to ease the congestion in the mornings and was certainly helping to encourage people to return to Mass. At that time, we began praying for a new bishop for our diocese, Bishop Alan is well passed the age of retirement and his appointment was due any time, as you know we are still waiting, and Bishop Alan is now very weary but carrying on as best he can.

In our parish, we began our First Communion programme via Zoom, which worked out better than expected. Ten children joined us on time for each meeting and we had a 100% attendance, through the technology we were able to run a very good programme and the children benefitted from attendance. The programme is usually 12 sessions, we managed to do the last 4 sessions face to face in the Good Shepherd Room. We also started a Confirmation programme and had a group of 9 young people meeting on Zoom, this proved to be more challenging as the young people attended but with cameras off, so it was difficult to know how much they were taking in of the programme, again we were able to do the last 4 sessions face to face and that was a great improvement. We began the season of Lent in the middle of February and conducted most of our events online. We had a Lent programme of talks on our YouTube channel based on a recent book by Pope Francis called "Let us Dream" about the Church of the future. Stations of the Cross were available every Sunday evening via Zoom, this enabled people to see each other and meet together remotely; numbers for both were very good. As we moved towards Holy Week and Easter more people were feeling able to return to church, but we had to take many precautions because of the virus. I recorded a video giving some instructions about what to expect, we booked for every service in Holy Week, and we were able to celebrate the different liturgies in a limited fashion. We did not have a procession on Palm Sunday, no Washing of the Feet on Maundy Thursday and a reduced service on Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Many people felt they wanted to attend Mass in person for Easter Sunday and we had an extra Mass to enable that to happen, the Church was very well attended to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord with a rather subdued joy. Shortly after Easter we marked the death of the Duke of Edinburgh in our prayers.

Life at the Church remained very slow because of the pandemic, no pilgrimage to Walsingham, no summer events, still booking to attend Mass. Gradually we moved forward, familiar practices were reinstated during the Mass and life outside in the community picked up during the summer months. The Bishop came for Confirmation at the end of June, but we were not permitted to have a party afterwards, it was a lovely evening, but a little flat without the chance to share food & chat together. We had an afternoon tea party in the garden in August, it was lovely to meet in the garden and chat together with a few friends, but we were all rather nervous about the future and what might happen in the autumn. In September we finally got news that Planning Permission had been granted for our building programme and the Diocese gave permission for us to go ahead. This was a great step forward although there is a long way to go before we have builders on site. Regulations gradually relaxed and more people felt confident to return in person to Mass, we were able to resume singing, but with a mask on; this proved to be more difficult than we thought.

The year continued with us gradually being released from covid regulations and then hesitantly looking forward to Christmas, wondering could we travel and/or meet with family members this year. We were able to have the Posada journey during Advent, passing the Holy Family statue around our parish and praying within our own families. The Sacrament of Confession returned with great care and necessary restrictions and distances, but we were learning to live with the pandemic. We took part in a rather limited way in the Synodal Pathway that Pope Francis urged the whole church to share, and some people sent in submissions to the Diocese as part of this initiative.

On the whole it was quite a difficult year, but we managed, we learnt new skills with zoom and got on with rather restricted lives, looking forward with hope to 2022 and a return to something approaching normal. This quick review of 2021 reminds us of life in our parish and the way that so many people serve our community in different ways. I wish to express my sincere thanks to you all for your support through difficult changes in the way we live as the Church and to thank you for your ongoing commitment to our parish community, for your encouragement to me and for the joy and hope you bring to each other.

God bless you all,