

Chaplain's Annual Report 2018

This report covers the period 1st January to 31st December 2018.

Church

St Michael's is classed as a Belle Époque church of some architectural and historical renown. Built in 1893 and dedicated in 1894, the original church was later extended with aisles and tower in 1903. Today, the church provides religious services and a haven of spiritual peace for residents and visitors to Beaulieu. Our Anglican liturgies are suitable for a congregation that is very much multi-national and comprises several different Christian denominations. We were delighted that the Danish Lutheran Church continued to hold regular services in the church and we also agreed a contract with the French Assemblée de Dieu to also hold their Pentecostal services in the church.

During the year a total of 117 services were held at St Michael's, including 66 Holy Communion, 1 Baptism, 3 Funerals or Memorials, 3 Wedding Blessings and 44 other services of worship (including a series of Lenten reflections on prayer). A total of 107 sermons were delivered. As part of an Open Day for the Feast of St Michael, Morning and Evening Prayer and Holy Communion were celebrated according to the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. We were able to participate in the two annual ecumenical events in Beaulieu, the Christian Unity service hosted by the Roman Catholic parish and the Advent Service which St Michael's hosted.

The total attendance at St Michael's was 3,492 (an increase of 724 on last year) of whom 1,944 were communicants (an increase of 166 on last year). The average Sunday attendance at Holy Communion was 42 with an average of 35 communicants (83%). Once again we were pleased that so many returned to St Michael's during the year and together we welcomed new members who we hope will also continue to attend when they next visit Beaulieu.

Our Liturgy followed the Church calendar of seasons and feast days and the cycle of Lectionary readings. Each service was very well supported with an annual total of 487 pieces of musical accompaniment carefully selected and then rehearsed before being played at our services. Many thanks to those who were involved not only in the music but in providing ministers of the chalice, Scripture readers, greeters, cleaners and servers of refreshments – each one has been a vital part in the whole ministry of worship and fellowship at St Michael's and it is very much appreciated because it has all been done voluntarily.

St Michael's was entirely built and furnished through donations from founding members of the church community. The people of St Michael's have thankfully continued that tradition and last year we saw a great improvement to the appearance and atmosphere of the church with the donation of a new glass entrance porch. We also received 20 more hymn books, rose and gold lectern falls and additional green and red falls for the devotional table. Displays for the Blessed Virgin Mary, All Saints and the Holy Innocents were produced and we now have a total of 16 devotional presentations to cover the major festivals and seasons of the year. New altar linen was made, the icons doors were restored and we received three floral arrangements for use on Feast Days, in Ordinary Time and to decorate the Baptismal font. Thank you again to those who so generously made these adornments possible.

The grounds of the church have been excellently maintained and developed thanks to the work and inspiration of our volunteer gardeners. Many people comment on how well the garden looks and how much it adds to the experience of visiting St Michael's.

Chaplaincy

The work of chaplaincy extends beyond the church itself and the chaplain has made visits to members of St Michael's who have been in Princess Grace Hospital, Monaco, and in the Hôpital Cimiez and Clinique Saint Antoine in Nice. Several home visits were made and Holy Communion provided for those who were temporarily housebound. The chaplain attended the annual Archdeacon's Synod at St Jacut and continued to attend Ethics Committee meetings for the Little Sisters of the Poor in Nice. The chaplain was also invited to conduct 2 weddings and a wedding blessing in other churches, a funeral in Menton, and participated in special services at the Anglican churches in Monaco, Nice and Cannes.

Chaplaincy at St Michael's has involved a lot of dedicated and practical work by the chaplain's wife who conducted voluntary work, pastoral visiting, and many times stepped in to cover various responsibilities and duties in the church and community over the year. This has been much appreciated by many and has certainly enhanced the chaplaincy provision.

Community

Sadly we held a memorial service to remember Jo Norman who was a great supporter of St Michael's. Far from being sombre, the service celebrated the life and personality of Jo and the wonderful memories we will always have of her. The funeral for Madam Marguerite Drew, whose family have had long-time connections with St Michael's, was also held at the church. We also remembered in our prayers Sue Batt who had recently been attending St Michael's with her husband but who sadly passed away after a brief illness in the UK.

On a happier note we welcomed into the Church by baptism the daughter of a couple who were married here and we also celebrated a number of significant wedding anniversaries. During the year we were able to continue our parish lunches; the pancake lunch was moved to the Sunday before Lent so that more people could attend. The Passover was well attended and so again were the fellowship meals at Pentecost and for St Michael's Day. Thank you to each one who contributed food or drink, and who helped in cooking, serving and clearing up afterwards.

Representatives of St Michael's were able to attend several civic functions during the year and especially to lay wreaths at the *Monument aux Morts* for Liberation Day and for the centenary of the ending of the First World War. The church again hosted several guided tours from the Office de Tourism and was privileged to host tutorials and rehearsals for the young international singers of *Les Azuriales Opera*. Much of what occurs at St Michael's is advertised on our website diary of events and in the monthly Messenger, which is also published on the website as well as being mailed directly to members and supporters of the church. Many thanks to the expertise of editors and publishers over the past year.

I am very pleased that church members have been vigilant over the welfare of some of our permanent residents and were involved in making sure they were safe and well. Many people also played their part in our hospitality, especially towards newcomers. Donations of refreshments have continued and there was always someone to serve in the kitchen after services.

Chaplaincy Church Council

At the Annual Church Meeting some members of the Chaplaincy Church Council stood down and were replaced with new volunteers which brought the total to nine. Our Secretary who stood down was thanked for her many years of excellent work in dealing with the various administrative requirements of the Council and the Diocese. Thank you also to those who volunteered to undertake various offices and responsibilities

of the Council. Only a few CCC members are actually resident here so it was decided to reduce the number of meetings to four to make it easier for those who have to travel from the UK. Simplified and standard forms for agendas and minutes were introduced and preparations were made for the complete renewal of the Electoral Roll in 2019. The Council also implemented the new General Data Protection Regulation and introduced the mandatory Privacy Notice for all who are on St Michael's mailing lists.

At the ACM the CCC, in accordance with Diocese in Europe Safeguarding Policy and Guidance, signed the Safeguarding Statement for the next 12 months and so complied with their duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure regarding the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

The Churchwarden successfully finalised the dispute with the water company, arranged for replacement gas and electricity meters in the church, cleared out the tower so that it was compliant with fire regulations, arranged minor repairs and supervised the major work of urgent repairs to the church roof; the prompt response prevented the damage extending into the ceiling of the church and therefore saved the church from considerable expense. The churchwarden was also diligent in his regular duties at services and provided great support to the chaplain in many church and chaplaincy matters.

During the summer, our archivist was able to do more work in logging and filing documents, letters and photographs relating to St Michael's and these are now safely and securely stored in metal filing cabinets.

Charity

During Lent we raised money for the local Red Cross to buy essentials that were missing from their food parcels. In Advent our congregation donated boxes of chocolates and cakes to supplement food parcels with something special for Christmas. Sleeping bags, warm blankets and heavy jackets were donated to the Legion of Mary for distribution to homeless in the port district of Nice and various monetary and material donations and voluntary service were provided by members of St Michael's for the work of the Little Sisters of the Poor in Nice. The chaplain's discretionary fund was used throughout the year to temporarily assist several homeless people or migrants passing through Beaulieu. Donations will also be made to a number of other local, national and international charities during January of 2019.

Comments

St Michael's is entirely self-funded from collections and donations from those who appreciate St Michael's and what the church and chaplaincy are able to provide all the year round for residents and all our visitors. This is very generous when some of our supporters can only attend St Michael's once or twice a year.

We play our part in the universal Church and even help finance the Diocese through our annual contribution to their Common Fund. For St Michael's to continue its mission and perhaps even grow, we must rely upon everyone to contribute what they can; we are grateful for coins but the bills can only be paid with larger amounts! Last year our total income was down despite the greater numbers attending but fortunately we have been careful and our total income still exceeded our expenditure for the year and our Basic Income was also more than Essential Costs. We will try to maintain this performance in 2019 but it will only be achieved through the generosity of those who count St Michael's not only as their spiritual home now but as a church worth investing in for the future.

With many thanks to all who, by being members of St Michael's, witnessed to Christ by worshipping together and who shared their faith and fellowship in the Holy Spirit.

Fr AW Ingham
St Michael's, Beaulieu sur mer