

WORSHIP & MUSIC GROUP 2015/2016

Members as at March 2016

PCC members: Graham Savage (Chairman), Angela Barton, Lynn Graseman

Ex officio PCC members: Rev'd Derwyn Williams, Rev'd Emily Davis, Phil Smith, Rosemary Thomson, Terry Pigrum, Peter Rixson

Other members: Richard Carr, Elspeth Lewin, Angela Smith

The function of the Worship and Music Group is to focus the church's attention on its vision to be people who know, love, and serve God. Its mission is to broaden our knowledge of God through preaching and to deepen our love of God through worship and prayer, in particular by ensuring that the acts of corporate worship offered to God are carried out to the highest standard possible. It is important that the atmosphere, decoration and ordering of the church building is conducive to such worship, that people have the resources required to enable them to worship, to pray and to hear the preaching, and that all music is made as part of the offering of worship to God and in a way which inspires people and brings them closer to God. The Group has direct or supervisory responsibilities for a number of activities embracing the overall running of our Church services, from worship through music to such items as cleaning of robes and other ancillary tasks. All of these matters are an integral part of our worship at St Michaels and it is important that there is proper coordination.

We continue to be indebted to both Richard Carr, our Director of Music, and Robert Stokely, our Organist, for the quality of the music which we enjoy, also our choir who sing to such a high standard and who were this year again invited back to sing evensong at Bury St Edmunds. "Music at St Michael's" has organised a successful series of concerts over the last year, culminating once more in a programme of lunchtime recitals by pupils from Bishop's Stortford College, all of which have been very well received. Many of our concerts this year raised funds for the Organ Appeal and, at the time of writing, we are in eager anticipation of hearing the restored organ. We shall be concentrating this year on organ concerts to make the most of our re-installed organ. In addition to the Organ Appeal concerts last year, funds from "Music at St Michael's" events supported future choral and organ scholarships. We are able to fund more so, if anyone knows of possible suitable candidates, please have a word with Richard Carr.

On the worship front it is with reluctance that the monthly 9.30 am BCP Friday services have been discontinued, owing to very low numbers attending. On the plus side, at the time of writing this report, we are about to start Messy Church, which will normally take place on the second Sunday of each month. This will be a more informal time of worship, crafts and activities, plus fellowship over food, and is aimed at families and people (of all ages!) who perhaps struggle with "traditional church" and worship. Please give this new venture, which is the initiative of and which is being organised by Emily, your full support.

Our rota of pianists for the Tiny Tots service on Wednesdays is now down to three. We could still do with more on the rota, so please let me know if you are able to assist.

If you have any matters that you feel should be considered by our Group, either in relation to music or worship, please do not hesitate to contact any of the clergy team or myself. We are always interested in new views and, if you feel that you could contribute by joining our Group (you do not have to be a PCC member), please let me know.

Graham Savage