

Churchwardens Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

This is my fourth year as part of the wardens team and despite stepping down last year, Gill has been a constant source of support to us throughout the year. Not least with all the work, dedication, and attention to detail regarding the acquisition of the faculty for Tower Room Reordering.

Many are involved in offering support and spend a huge amount of time in the running of our church and contributing to our church life: Graziana and the finance committee who have kept a close eye on the church finances; the PCC and Katharine who works as our Parish Administrator; the Bell Tower Committee; Nathan our Director of Music and all the various committees such as CSG and the Music and Worship committee. We are extremely grateful to all those that participate and support these groups.

Over the last year we have welcomed many schools to the church: St Michael's, Windhill 21, Northgate, Birchwood who came at Christmas and TBSHS who came for Christmas and Easter. Primary Schools Year 6 Carols was also well attended by parents and children alike. We thank all that took on stewarding duties at this time, providing an opportunity for important outreach to our local community. We continued to host local choral groups and The Bishop's Stortford College gave us lunchtime recitals this year, displaying their amazing talents in different medium. Thanks to Nathan we were also treated to six musical recitals of our own, filling the church with beautiful sounds of piano, cello, organ, recorder and the wonderful Upper Voices Choir. These are becoming increasingly popular and makes for an uplifting Sunday afternoon with tea and cake to follow.

This leads us to all the amazing people that add to our flourishing fellowship; tea & coffee brewers, cake bakers, soup makers, BBQ cooks and bring and share suppliers. Thank you all for giving your time in keeping us fed and watered throughout the year, it is much appreciated by all who attend and is an important contribution to our fundraising efforts, such as Coffee Mornings, Quiz Nights, Lent Lunches to name but a few.

Tiny Tots continues to thrive with Michelle's leadership and warm welcome. It provides a safe space for parents/grandparents to spend a few hours playing, craft making, and singing. Bible story time led by Derwyn is always fun, sowing a seed for small minds to explore what it means to be part of a Christian Community. Godly Play on a Sunday is going from strength to strength, attended by a regular group of young people and their carers. Choir children also attend their own sessions during part of the service, which are more age-appropriate for our young people. We extend our deep gratitude to the Godly Play Team for their dedication and hard work every Sunday.

Our long-standing tenants remain in Cowell House; this provides a useful source of income, and we thank Terry, who helps keep on top of any maintenance issues.

Peter, along with Terry, continues to run regular work parties keeping drains and gutters clear and the church yard clear of weeds and litter. We put a plea out about three times a year for help with interior and exterior maintenance. Once a month a dedicated team of people clean the church led by Gill. We are always looking to expand both teams to help keep our church sparkling and beautiful. Our sincere thanks go to all who ensure that St Michael's is a pleasant environment to meet and worship.

The church never looks more beautiful than when it is full of flowers. The Flower Team works hard throughout the year to provide fragrant displays for the sanctuary, Church Festivals, weddings, and funerals.

We are looking forward to exciting work in our ground floor Tower Room. The installation of a much-needed accessible toilet, the revamping of the current toilet and baby changing facilities, and the re-ordering of the space to be used for a multipurpose space, improving lighting, heating and ventilation to the whole area.

It has been a real pleasure and privilege to serve with such committed and dedicated team of people who regularly volunteer their time and talents to be able to share worship and explore our faith together. To Derwyn, our clergy team and all the congregation we thank you for your love, support and prayers and look forward to working alongside you in the year ahead.

Claire

Peter, Terry and Jonathan

Churchwardens

May 2026