



REPORTS FOR

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

ON

THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026

At 7.30 P.M.

at

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH

<p><b>St GEORGE + St MICHAEL</b></p>  <p>Forest Hill Lower Sydenham</p>	<p>Annual Parochial Church Meeting reports for <u>ST. MICHAEL &amp; ALL ANGELS CHURCH</u> Part of the Forest Hill Team Ministry</p> <p>12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026</p>	
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## LOWER SYDENHAM ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS REPORTS - 2025/26

### VICAR'S REPORT - REVD. IFEANYI CHUKUKA

As we celebrate the victory of Christ in this Easter season, we rejoice in the truth that Jesus is risen, He is Lord, and He is building His Church. I give thanks to God for His faithfulness to us at St Michael & All Angels, Sydenham. This past year has been marked by both challenge and growth, but through it all, the Lord has sustained us and continued His work among us.

In a time when the Church of England and the wider Anglican Communion face significant challenges, we remain committed to the authority of Scripture, the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and the transforming power of the Gospel. We continue to pray for the Archbishop of Canterbury, that she would lead with courage, faithfulness to God's Word, and a heart for unity grounded in truth, particularly with our brothers and sisters in the Global South.

Now more than ever, we must stand firm, proclaim Christ boldly, and live as faithful witnesses in a world that desperately needs Him.

### **Worship & Spiritual Life**

Worship remains at the very heart of who we are. Each Sunday, we gather to lift up the name of Jesus, to hear His Word, and to be renewed by His Spirit. Our weekly Bible studies, including our Zoom gatherings, continue to strengthen us in the Word and deepen our walk with Jesus.

This year's Easter journey has been especially powerful and very good increase in our numbers. Our Good Friday reflections led us to the Cross, and our Easter celebration proclaimed the triumph of the risen Christ. We

thank God for all who faithfully preach, lead, and serve, including the Venerable Dr Chukwudi, Fr Ray, Morwenna, and Yemi.

### **Church and School Partnership**

We thank God for our strong and growing partnership with St Michael's School. Through collective worship, pastoral care, and regular presence, we are sowing seeds of the Gospel into young lives.

This ministry is not just an obligation-it is a mission field. We pray that many children and families will come to know Jesus Christ personally through this ongoing work.

### **Growth & Sacramental Life**

We rejoice in what God is doing through the sacraments. Baptisms and confirmations continue to be powerful testimonies of lives being surrendered to Christ. Last year, three of our children were confirmed, and we give God all the glory.

We look forward with expectation to more lives being transformed, as people respond to the call of Christ in the year ahead.

### **Mission, Outreach & Prayer**

Our calling is clear: to go and make disciples. Under the leadership of the Venerable Dr Chukwudi, the Outreach and Prayer Group continues to grow, meeting every first Tuesday monthly by 10.30am in the church to seek God's face and reach out to our community. Through prayer, visitation, and acts of compassion, we are taking the love of Christ beyond our walls. This is not optional-it is the very heartbeat of the Gospel.

### **Women Fellowship & Ministries**

Our Women's Ministry continues to meet monthly, every last Friday of the month by 7pm via WhatsApp call, providing encouragement and spiritual support. We have also seen continued engagement through fellowship activities, including other gatherings and informal community events plans. Mothering Sunday was a joyful celebration, full of life and gratitude. We are thankful for the leadership of Ada, Yemi, and Denisha, and for all who contribute to building a strong and loving church family.

## **Youth & Children's Ministry**

We are investing intentionally in the next generation. With new leadership from Pippa, alongside the faithful service of Chizoba, Muna, and Tilie, we are committed to raising children who know, love, and follow Jesus. This is vital Kingdom work, and we trust God for continued growth and fruit.

## **Stewardship, Buildings & Projects**

We give thanks for God's provision through St Michael's Day (Fete Day), which has enabled us to support key projects, including ongoing organ maintenance. We are also pressing forward with enhancing our Hybrid Sensory Chapel, trusting God to provide as we step out in faith. This is about creating spaces where people can encounter God in meaningful ways.

## **Leadership & Service**

I give thanks for our Churchwardens, Denisha and Melvin, our Assistant Churchwardens, Mo and others, as well as Sybil, Brenda, and all who serve faithfully. Your commitment is not unseen-it is part of God's work in building His Church.

## **Looking Ahead**

We move forward with confidence, because Jesus is alive and He is at work among us. God is calling us deeper-deeper into prayer, deeper into holiness, and deeper into mission. Let us not grow weary, but press on, knowing that the harvest is plentiful. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus and remain faithful to His calling, trusting that He will build His Church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.

## **Conclusion**

Thank you for your faithfulness, generosity, and commitment. It is a joy and privilege to serve this church.

May we continue to walk in the power of the risen Christ, proclaim His Gospel without compromise, and live for His glory.

To Him be all the glory.

God bless you all - Revd. Ifeanyi Chukuka

## **CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT - DENISHA KNOLE**

St Michael and All Angels Church, Lower Sydenham continues to thrive as a caring and compassionate parish where families, children, young people and all are encouraged to feel at home to worship, serve and fellowship together, as one family of God. We continue to hold our weekly services every Sunday at 10am, led by our resident Vicar Reverend Ifeanyi and Venerable Dr Chukwudi. Reverend does amazing work in the ministry and life of the church. His deep love for God and people with his calm nature and steady leadership reflects as a beacon of light and hope in the church, school and wider community.

Reverend Ifeanyi continues to lead the weekly St Michael's school church service, which is an integral part of the community, services are attended by pupils, teachers and some parents.

St Michael's school remains a pivotal part of the parish ministry and the church school relationship continues to flourish and foster a deeper spiritual connection through service, communication, commitment and building a strong Christ centred school community.

Reverend Ifeanyi continues to lead Bible study on zoom every Wednesday, 5pm in the summer months and 6pm during the winter, which starts with worship, followed by the main bible study topics with discussions and sharing from individuals, ending with prayer. Members of the congregation are reminded in the notices each week and all are welcome to join the sessions via zoom.

We continue to see an increase in the participation and contribution of members. In our most recent sessions, individuals shared how refreshing Bible study is and expressed growth in their understanding of the scripture and how much they look forward to the sessions. We are thankful for such meetings to be taught God's word.

Father Ray continues to support our parish, once per month, he leads and preaches. It is always a great blessing to have Father Ray's support in building the faith of the congregation through his very unique style and delivery of God's word. The children also look forward to Father Ray coming as he always calls them to the front of the church and usually has a story with questions and rewards them with a sweet or chocolate which they absolutely love and enjoy. Father Ray's longevity in ministry is a great encouragement to those who are currently exploring ministry.

Our parish is also blessed to have the support of Morwenna who preaches at St Michael's once per month. She continues to be a great source of strength and encouragement to both the younger and older congregation. Her wisdom and knowledge of God's word through her sermons continues to impact our parish in meaningful and tangible ways. We pray that the Lord will continue to use her to share the gospel and to bring many to the knowledge of the saving grace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Venerable Dr Chukwudi and family have been a great addition to the parish over the last church year. Dr Chukwudi's presence, caring nature, love for mission and compassion for people has been evident in the life of the church. His passion for God's word and his sermons resonates deeply with the congregation. His service to the parish has been phenomenal and of great support to Reverend Ifeanyi and the wider community.

Melvin and Denisha continue to serve as churchwardens and carry out their duties faithfully and diligently with patience and care, supporting Reverend Ifeanyi, in the church and wider community.

As a parish we have experienced growth spiritually and physically and we celebrate what God is doing in and through us. We have had five baptisms in total in 2025 of which four children and one adult. We were also blessed to have three candidates confirmed in November at the confirmation service held at St Saviours, Brockley. We have celebrated and welcomed the candidates to God's family.

Our children and young people's service, continues on the first Sunday of each month where they are designated to lead the service. Sunday school continues on the 3rd Sunday of each month with a break

over the summer holidays and resumed again in September. Pippa has been officially appointed the lead for the Sunday school and young people's service. With her wealth of knowledge and experience as a teacher, it is a great blessing that she has commenced this role. She works with Muna and Chizoba (Sunday school teachers) with an advance rota to facilitate structure and the smooth running of the Sunday school and young people service. We appreciate the efforts and commitment of the teachers, they do an amazing job with both the children and young people. May the Lord continue to bless them for all they do for the children of St Michael's.

The Prayer Project meets on the first Tuesday of each month. It is led by Dr Chukwudi. It is a Fresh Expression project and we have seen members engage monthly building their prayer lives. The Women's ministry is also a Fresh expression ministry, led by sister Ada. It is held on the last Friday of each month. We have seen great engagement from the women in and outside of church.

We held our parish open day/Fete in June 2025 and it was a great success. Our aim is to continue to be visible and a reachable church within our communities. We have reintroduced the church and welcome the community in with our yearly Fete. We had several stalls ranging from food, vintage, books, plants, games, music and afternoon tea. It was truly beautiful to witness so many of the wider community coming out and being a part of it. The atmosphere was charged with the spirit of unity. The event planning team worked tirelessly to ensure the Fete was a success and we look forward to the next one in June 2026.

I am pleased to report that our organ has been fixed, serviced and fully functional. We are thankful for the financial help we received through fund raising and a grant received from the Diocese. The sensory Chapel has been set up and functioning currently as a shared space during service for children with additional needs and the toddlers. Word has been circulated within the Deanery for the wider community to use the space.

Our heart-felt appreciation goes to our Diocese, our Bishops, Archdeacon, Area Deans and Clergy, thank you for leading us in the ways of Christ and for your tireless service to our parishes and communities. We appreciate and continue to pray the wisdom, strength and grace of the Lord for our Vicar Reverend Ifeanyi and his family for all they do for Christ's church.

Finally, appreciation and thanks are extended to our SPA, churchwardens, PCC/ DCC secretary, Treasurer, Deanery Synod members, Sunday School teachers, Events planning team, Organist, our congregation, young people, school community, children and friends of St Michael's. We are the church, one family and together we make St Michael's the inclusive, warm and welcoming parish that it is. May God bless us all as we continue this great mission.

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH  
COUNCIL OF ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, LOWER SYDENHAM  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2025**

The level of gross income (being less than (£500,000), and the size of the balance sheet, confirm that the PCC require an independent examination rather than a full audit of the accounts. The accounts are now being produced using Accruals method given the turnover of the Team Ministry. This gives a better picture of the income receivable and the costs incurred in the year.

An understanding of the PCC's organisation, accounting records, activities and nature of its assets, liabilities, income and expenditure was gained from a survey of the accounting records and discussions

with the treasurer of St Michael's in previous years. No failures were identified in the accounting records. An analytical review of the financial statements was carried out to look for inconsistencies and unusual events in the year and compared to previous years. No unexpected fluctuations were discovered in the financial statements beyond those due to the pandemic. Enquiries did not reveal any post balance sheet events which would have significant impact on the financial statements for the year.

Figures in the financial statements were cross-referenced to and checked off against the accounting records to confirm the links between the two. Tests were made of the arithmetical accuracy of the financial statements and the cash book.

It is pleasing to see an improving financial position in 2025. Ongoing income from rental income saw a healthy increase, with a smaller increase in costs. Reserves in the General Fund are above the recommended level for emergencies.



Peter Stubbs, Treasurer - St Bartholomew's Church, Sydenham

## **Treasurer's Report - Sybil Carey**

### **Introduction and Notes to the Annual Accounts - Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

#### **Forest Hill Team Ministry**

#### **The District Church Council of St Michael and All Angels Church, Lower Sydenham**

The DCC of St Michael and All Angels Church (DCC) consist of those PCC members of the Forest Hill Team Ministry who normally attend St Michael's Church. The DCC is a sub-committee of the PCC of the Forest Hill Team Ministry. It has delegated powers from the PCC in relation to financial activities associated with St Michael's Church and Hall.

#### **Objectives and activities**

The DCC of St Michael and All Angels Church has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of the Team Ministry the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

#### **Funds**

The DCC has identified funds as follows:

##### *Unrestricted Funds*

- DCC General Purposes Fund: managed by the DCC.
- It is managed by the DCC and will be used to pay all expenditures for the church.

- The account includes monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the DCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of Church groups that owe affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members. St Michaels had an improved 2025 and is cautiously trading carefully with compulsory expenditure. The bank account at end 2025 was £55,429 (2024 £45,810).

The church's three sources of annual income are:

- Rental from St Michael's Primary School £30,360 (2024 Q4 arrived in this year).
- Congregational Giving £14,112
- Tenants £22,668 (one new tenant came in July 2025).

Rental from the church and hall from all tenants (including School) is £53,028 this year compared to £41,841 last year. The increase is due to 2024 fees coming in this year.

The church's top three sources of annual expenditure are:

- Parish Support Fund (Diocesan Quota) £18,000.  
We asked and was granted a decrease in Parish Fund.
- Utilities £13,302 (reduced from £13,835, in 2024)

The utility bills are still higher than we would like. With our Church being a large 1950's building with all glass windows on all sides, it is hard to heat up, and turning off the Boiler in the Summer months does not help much as the daily rates are higher and still payable. Significant efforts were made in 2025 to reduce the use of energy as far as possible.

- Salaries £10,104

We held another Fete and a Raffle to raise more money to restore our Organ which suffered an electrical breakdown. We received the Grant of £5000 from All Churches Trust Mission, which helped immensely with this project. Our Organ is alive and now needs servicing and minor bits and pieces to be whole. But it is still playing each Sunday, since October 2025

We also applied for help to develop the Chapel into St. Michael's Church Hybrid Sensory Chapel for children and adults with disabilities and was awarded £5000 from All Churches Trust and this project is still ongoing.

I thank our wonderful small congregation who regularly donate. A monumental thanks to members of the Diocese for being so understanding and tremendously helpful. My thanks to Simon Taylor, Treasurer of St George's Church, who is my mentor and advises me as per usual, checks and sends off my Gift Aid applications and checks the account for completeness. Also, to Peter Stubbs, Treasurer of St Bartholomew's Church for checking the final account. Also, I met up with Tim Walder this year, who assured me all was well when I "was" doubting myself.

## **Notes on the Accounts**

Note 1

The Licence Fee from St Michael's Primary School. The school uses church owned land (most of the playground including the dining hall and the garden to the rear of the church) and pays "rent".

### **ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL - BERYL FIELDER (Chair of Governors)**

The School continues to benefit from the support given by the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education MAT (Multi-Academy Trust). The School and staff appreciate using the Church for their weekly Collective Worship and for performing their Concerts and Leavers' Service at the end of July. Thanks must be given to the dedicated work of the Head Teacher and all of the Staff.

(Mrs. Fielder celebrated 40 years of Service to the School as a Governor of which 17 years as Chair of Governors. She visits the School regularly and attends the Collective Worship on Wednesdays - quite an achievement).

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT - PIPPA MOSS**

During the past year, our Sunday School has continued to provide a welcoming, faith-focused space for our younger members once a month, typically on the third Sunday. We usually welcome around six to eight primary-age children, supported by one secondary-age helper who participates as part of their own discipleship. Attendance has been steady and consistent with last year's numbers.

I am forever impressed by the enthusiasm and Christian knowledge of our young people, as well as their confidence to stand up at the front of the church to contribute to our services.

#### **Structure of Sessions**

Sessions take place in the church hall adjoining the church. Each month we explore the Gospel reading used in the main service that day. This includes discussion, reflection, and an activity such as colouring, craft, a small game, or simple drama to help the children deepen their understanding of the message. Each session concludes with a short prayer relevant to the Gospel theme, written with the children and shared back in the church at the end of the service.

#### **Curriculum and Activities**

Teaching materials are drawn from freely available online resources, including Ministry to Children and Sunday School Works. Our content follows the Gospel reading rather than a set theme, allowing the children to engage with the same Scripture as the wider congregation.

Seasonal involvement remains a joyful highlight of our ministry. The children contributed to the Nativity service by bringing to the altar figures and items to build the crib scene. They also helped retell the story of St Michael and the dragon on St Michael's Day. On the first Sunday of each month, children and young people support the service by leading the Collect, Readings, and Creed.

On Mothering Sunday, the children created cards during the service, which were presented at the end as a gesture of celebration and thanks.

## Highlights and Developments

We are grateful for the donation of an iPad, which will enable us to use animations and songs to support the Gospel story in more dynamic ways. We have also received a thoughtful donation of stationery items from the same member of the congregation, which we look forward to using in future sessions.

## Challenges

Our main challenge continues to be volunteer availability. We have three regular Sunday School leaders, and ensuring two are present each month can be difficult. We are thankful for DBS-checked DCC members who can step in if needed, helping us maintain our commitment not to cancel sessions where possible. Attendance itself is reliable, and we currently have no significant resource shortages.

## Volunteers and Support

The team consists of three leaders, one of whom also serves on the DCC. There are no safeguarding updates to report this year. We continue to be grateful for the support of clergy and the wider congregation.

## Looking Ahead

Looking to the coming year, our main hope is to recruit additional helpers. Expanding the team would strengthen the sustainability of the ministry and allow us to continue offering high-quality sessions that nurture the children's faith.

## ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS P.C.C./D.C.C. MEMBERS 2024/5

Vicar:	Revd. Ifeanyi Chukuka
Asst. Vicar	Revd. Chukwudi Osondu
Church Wardens:	Ms. Denisha Knole, Mr. Melvin Onuwata
Treasurer:	Mrs. Sybil Carey
Deanery Synod:	Mrs. Maureen Laurence, Mrs. Yemi Akinsamni
DCC Secretary:	Mrs. Brenda Ayling
D.C.C.	Revd. Ifeanyi Chukuka, Revd. Chukwudi Osondu, Ms. Denisha Knole, Mr. Melvin Onuwata, Mrs. Sybil Carey, Mrs. Maureen Lawrence, Dr. Victor Ayeni, Mrs. Tilie Bentil- Mensah, Mrs. Yemi Akinsamni, Mrs. Victoria Familoni, Mrs. Pippa Moss, Mrs. Donna Wilson, Mrs. Brenda Ayling.

## MUMS & TODDLERS GROUP (LITTLE ANGELS) - SHELBY BEATON

I just wanted to express my sincere thanks for allowing us to continue running the Toddler Group in the Church hall. The group remains very popular with attendance sometimes reaching up to 25 children per session. It offers a safe and welcoming space for little ones to play while giving parents and carers the chance to meet, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and provide a healthy snack for their children.

I have kept the entry fee as low as possible so that it stays affordable for everyone and all proceeds are reinvested back into the group. This helps us provide toys, arts and crafts, seasonal treats like Easter eggs and Christmas presents as well as a small celebration. We also make a donation to the Church each term.

With many toddler groups and play spaces sadly closing due to rising costs, we feel especially fortunate to be able to use the Hall and continue bringing enjoyment to families.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Brenda and Sybil for their invaluable support - without them running the group simply wouldn't be possible. I am also very grateful to my fellow childminders who regularly lend a hand and help everything run smoothly. Thank you once again for your continued support - it truly means a great deal.

### **ELECTORAL ROLL - BRENDA AYLING**

Membership of the Church Electoral Roll stands at 64 with about 16 children attending. We have, however, many members on our Worship/Social Register. Anyone wishing to be included on the Electoral Roll should contact the Church Wardens or Brenda Ayling for a form.

### **ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH & HALL USERS**

	ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH GROUPS	Time	Contact	Tel. No.
MONDAY Hall:	Mums & Toddlers Rainbows Brownies	9.30 am- 11.30 am 5.30pm - 6.30 pm 6.30pm - 8.00 pm	Shelby Beaton Colleen Creasey} Colleen Creasey}	07956 266 399 "girlguiding.org.uk /interested"
Church daily	Homework Club Breakfast Club (Daily)	3.30 pm - 6.00 pm 7.30 am - 9.00 am	Sarah Hukporti Kaba	shukportikaba@g mail.com
TUESDAY Hall:	Pilates class	6.30 pm - 8.00 pm	Brenda Nassali- Liston	07983 502 887
WEDS. Hall:	Mums & Toddlers	9.30am -11.30 am	Shelby Beaton	07956 266 399
THURS. Hall:	Guides/Rangers	6.30pm - 8.30 pm	Colleen Creasey	"girlguiding.org. uk/interested"
FRIDAY Hall:	Pilates  Good Times	9.30am - 11.00am  18.30 pm-20.30pm	Brenda Nassali- Liston Victoria FAMILONI	07983 502 887  07988 320 035

SAT. Hall:	7 <sup>th</sup> Day Adventists	9.00am - 6.00 pm	Pastor Esson	07985 408 669
SUNDAY Church: Hall:	St.Michael's Service Apostolic Church	10.00 a.m. 11.30 am - 3.00 pm	Revd. Ifeanyi Pastor Ezekiel Adeosun	07930 614 660 07931 711 931