

St Michael and All Angels Windmill Hill Bedminster



A Parish History
125 Years
by John Tooze

St Michael's - a Parish History

The ancient parish of Bedminster, with its church of St John the Baptist, situated at the rear of Malago Road, was in the manor of Bedminster which belonged to the Berkeley family, and extended from Bristol Bridge to Abbots Leigh and Bishopsworth. As the houses and factories of Bristol spread further south, so separate parishes were carved out of the original Bedminster Parish: St Mary Redcliffe, St Thomas and Temple being the first, to minister to the expanding population.

In the 1870s, houses began to cover the fields of Windmill Hill and, by the early 1880s, there was a large enough population for thought to be given to the provision of special facilities for worship. The use of a room was obtained for this purpose at the far end of Somerset Terrace, which many people will remember as Miss Limerick's newsagents shop, and a succession of priests attached to St John's Church took responsibility for worship on the Hill. The first of these priests, the Rev C E Gaussen, was renowned for ringing a hand-bell as he walked up the hill from St John's, summoning people to worship in the Somerset Terrace room.

This room soon became inadequate and, under a Building Committee comprising clergy and parishioners of St Paul's Clifton and St John's Bedminster, a large room seating two hundred was erected in Vivian Street, on a site given by Mr Alfred Capper Pass. This parish room, which cost £470 to build and was opened on 2 August 1884, is now the small hall of the Windmill Hill Community Association building.

The next step was the commencement of a proper church, to be a daughter-church to St John's. To this end Mr A Capper Pass, who owned the smelting works beyond the railway line, gave a further plot of land opposite the parish room. It was proposed that the church would be dedicated the Church of the Annunciation, but this was subsequently changed to St Michael and All Angels.

The chancel, Lady Chapel and organ chamber formed the first phase of the permanent structure. A temporary nave, seating 350 worshippers and built of corrugated iron, was attached. This work was expeditiously undertaken, for the foundation stone, located at the South East corner of the building, was laid on 10 April 1886, and the church was consecrated on 16 November in the same year. The cost of this building was £2,770. In 1893, due to the rapidly increasing population, the nave was replaced by a larger, although still temporary structure. This in turn was replaced by a permanent nave seating 640, and the finally completed church was opened on 12 July 1901.

Up to this time, the church had cost approximately £8,500 to build. Of this total, £3,000 was contributed by the Bishop of Bristol's Commission, with the bulk of the balance coming from St Paul's, Clifton, and a number of generous contributors who responded to appeals made by the Building Committee. Amongst the largest donors were: Mrs Anthony Gibbs of Tyntesfield, £200; 'In Memoriam', £200; Anonymous, per the Rev A C C Anstey, £150; Bishop Twells, £130; 'A friend', £130; the Rev A C C Anstey, £125; Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, £100; Mr S G James, £100; Canon Mather, £100; Sir Greville Smyth,

£100; Miss Surrage, £80; Miss Nash, £60; Miss Franklin, £55; Mr R B Ruddock, £52. In addition there were innumerable small gifts, of both money and articles needed for use or embellishments. An article appearing in the 'Bristol Times and Mirror' dated 19 May 1913 observed, 'These smaller gifts are not to be measured by their actual value so much as for the kindliness, and in a large number of instances self-sacrifice, which characterised them'.

On 25 March 1902, St. Michael's was created as a separate parish and some two months later the Rev G H Ford, who since July 1898 had been Curate-in-Charge, was instituted as the first Vicar. The boundaries of the parish were the railway line, St Luke's Road and St John's Lane.

Meanwhile, in view of the rapidly expanding Sunday School, together with the other activities located there, the Parish Room required enlarging. Mr Capper Pass again came to the church's aid, and sold the site adjacent to the existing building for the erection of a larger hall, for the low sum of £100. This hall was formally handed over to the parish by Canon Mather of St Paul's, Clifton, whose congregation had provided the total cost of £650, on 15 October 1890. It was further extended in 1904 at a cost of £627.

At the other end of the parish, a site in Marmaduke Street had been given by Mr William Vowles for the erection of a Mission Church, towards which Mr Alfred Capper Pass made a grant of £600. The first part of the building was opened on 29 May 1886, and final completion occurred, after a rather lengthy interval in 1910. This completed

church was dedicated on 5 November that year, and known as St Michael the Less; more often than not it was referred to as the Mission Church or more simply The Less.

In 1908, although the building was never consecrated, a licence was obtained from the Bishop for Holy Communion to be celebrated at the Less, and originally this sacrament was celebrated there on the second and fourth Sundays in the month. In January 1913 a good two-manual organ by Messrs Norman and Beard was provided at a cost of £165, nearly half of which was the gift of a Mr Andrew Carnegie and the remainder coming from Canon Haigh and the congregation of St Paul's, Clifton, together with donations from the congregation of the Mission Church.



*Vicarage with servants annex (now demolished)
and ornate pre 1926 West Facade of Church*

In 1906, on a site adjacent to the Parish Church given by Earl Temple, a vicarage was built at a cost of £2,487. This amount was provided by the Horfield Trust, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, St Paul's, Clifton, Lady Smyth, and house-to-house collections around the parish which raised £58. In 1903, Mr Capper Pass made a further donation to St Michael's, which was used for the provision of new choir stalls in memory of his parents, and in 1905 Canon Haigh of St Paul's, Clifton, offered a three manual organ to replace the original inferior one, which was subsequently sold to Mount Zion Independent Methodist Church for £100. At the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 16 April 1906, Mr Huxtable proposed 'That the best thanks of the Vestry be accorded (to) the Vicar and Vestry of St Paul's, Clifton, for the gift to our church of the grand organ which we all liked to listen to and so ably manipulated by our esteemed organist, Mr W Charmbury'.

The First World War had less of a material effect upon the parish than the 1939-45 conflict, although the list of names on the Panel of Remembrance of the main porch (now moved to the centre of the West End of the nave) bears stark witness to the 132 parishioners who gave their lives fighting the Kaiser's armies. At the annual Vestry Meeting held on 12 April, 1917 the Vicar, Rev H R Morgan, referred 'to those fighting for us, especially the Rev W Herbert (Curate-in-Charge of the Mission Church) who he was sorry to say would no longer be with us again on this earth, whilst other Officers of the church he had hoped would be spared, namely Mr A Fear and Mr R Boone, to return and

help carry on the church work in this parish, and hope the war would soon be over'.

As originally built, the parish church had no stained glass windows, but as early as 1910 thought was being given to replacing the east window with stained glass. These plans had to be postponed for the duration of the Great War, but on 25 February 1921 a Special Vestry Meeting was held to pass a resolution for the application for a faculty for the erection of a stained glass window in the East End of the Parish Church, as a memorial to the men of the parish who were killed during the War. The faculty application also covered the erection of an oak tablet, to be affixed to the north pillar of the Chancel Arch, containing the inscription:

'To the glory of God, and in memory of the men of this parish who gave their lives in the Great War, 1914-1918.'
The East Window of this church and this tablet were given by a number of parishioners and friends, followed by the list of the dead, with the words 'May they rest in peace' at the foot. The window, designed by F Bacon and costing £620, was duly installed and dedicated at a special service held on Saturday 28 May 1921. It portrayed Christ in glory attended by the victorious saints - St. Michael himself, the Patron Saints of all the Allied Countries and also the heroes of the Old Testament.



1921 World War One Memorial Window



Church Interior c1922

Shortly before five o'clock on the morning of Saturday 9 January 1926, the Rev H B Salmon was woken from his bed in the vicarage, either by the crash of falling tiles or by an unusual glare, to discover that the church was alight. After quickly dressing, he ran up the hill to the Post Office on Somerset Terrace (closed in the rationalisation of 2003) to summon the Fire Brigade on the telephone, such apparatus not having yet been installed in the vicarage, shouting out as he ran to summon parishioners to fight the flames. The first-aid tender from the Central Station and the motor turbine engine from Bedminster, under Supt Cade, rushed to the scene and were quickly at work, but the Brigade were greatly handicapped by an insufficient pressure of water due to the elevated position of the church. Although four hydrants were put on to feed the turbine engine, they could not provide an adequate supply of water for full volume working. In addition, the high wind that was blowing that night ensured that the fire took a firm hold and by the time the inferno was extinguished at 9.00 a.m., approximately four hours after the Fire Brigade arrived, there was little remaining apart from the shell of the building.

The entire roof had collapsed early in the blaze, but the firemen had managed to save one small corner of the church, where the font originally stood - an area of about ten square feet. The organ was completely wrecked; the only part of it that could be seen among the debris being one organ stop. The War Memorial tablet was entirely disfigured, and the memorial East Window was completely

shattered, a fate it shared with all the others. The clergy vestry was, however, largely unscathed and its contents the vestments, church plate and parish records were undamaged. Evidence of arson was discovered and several national daily newspapers maintained that it was somebody's protest against recent moves to make St Michael's more 'Anglo-Catholic', principally the introduction of vestments, an idea strongly refuted by Rev Salmon. Even before the debris had been fully cleared away and the shell of the building made safe, the decision had been taken to rebuild the church. It had been insured for £10,000, which would be well short of the cost of rebuilding. An appeal was consequently launched, with door-to-door collections throughout the parish; within two months over £2,000 towards the targeted £5,000 required had been raised. In the meantime services were held in the larger Parish Room. Coincidentally, St Paul's, Clifton, which had played such an important part in establishing St Michael's, was itself almost totally destroyed by fire in 1867, with only the vestry, tower and porch remaining; it was rebuilt by September 1868.



Snow settles on the fire-damaged church 1926. Note the sloping south aisle roof and very small windows. The original church was very dark inside.



Damping down 10 Jan 1926 the effect of the fire

As plans for the new church crystallized, and to boost morale, the monthly parish magazine contained details of the proposed building. The July 1926 issue contained this article:

'Let us try to imagine that the church has been built and that we are approaching it from Fraser Street. The West End looks lower (it is lower), and the West Porch has disappeared. In the middle is a large graceful window of five lights coming down to just over the West Door.

Thus as we reach Vivian Street we see that instead of the low lean-to side aisle there are four tall gables reaching up to the clerestory, each having a tall pointed three-light window. The Lady Chapel is the same, but the bell cot is over the chancel arch. As we enter by the South West Porch, which now has a flat roof, we find ourselves in a screened lobby, through which we walk into the nave of the church. The floor is wood all over and the chairs the actual colour of the wood. We find the font just inside the West Door. The aisles look much lighter and so does the nave roof, which is nearly all white with hardly any beams showing. The chancel arch is much the same as before, and on the left hand side is an oak pulpit, and on the right a lectern, both back against the piers of the arch. The clergy stalls are in line with the choir boys, instead of with the men, and there is the same wide sweep up the chancel to the sanctuary where the altar looks a little different, curtained on three sides and a little larger. The East Window above it is different. It is narrower which makes it look lighter and more graceful. It is again filled with beautiful glass of the same subject as before. The organ cannot be described yet because its plans are not yet settled. The Lady Chapel is much as before except that a

very effective though simple window is above the altar. Radiators set under the aisle windows heat the body of the church, the remainder being well concealed. There is (or might be) electric light. We have a curious feeling that it is the same church yet not the same. For one thing, it feels so uncannily clean: but that new look will tone down in spite of the devoted efforts of the ladies of the parish to preserve it.'



Replacement World War 1 Memorial Window

The September 1926 edition noted that building work was being held up due to a shortage of bricks. It was announced, as a point of interest, that the red bricks with

which the building is faced were fired with Coalpit Heath coal, and had to be kept hot for nearly six weeks. The new church was designed by the Diocesan Architect, Mr Hartland Thomas, who also designed St Cuthbert's, Brislington, St. Oswald's, Bedminster Down and Shirehampton Parish Church, all of which were built at about this time, and was constructed by Messrs William Cowlin and Sons. The East Window was by the same maker as before and, although narrower than the original, was in the same colours and design. Broken fragments of the old one were worked into the design of the first window in the South Aisle, near the present war memorial (where the font now stands). Mr Arnold Robinson, a greatly admired Bristol artist, was employed to do the Lady Chapel window and repair the three lights in the old Baptistry. The total cost of the rebuilding was approximately £15,000, with the East Window costing £1,000; the new church was consecrated by the Lord Bishop of Bristol on 16 April 1927, just sixteen months after the fire. The new organ was built by Messrs Rushworth and Dreaper of Liverpool, and the October 1926 parish magazine, announcing this contract, noted. 'This will mean "small but good", and our decision is warmly endorsed by expert opinion'. The organ was dedicated during a service held on Thursday 24 November 1927, which was followed by a recital given by Mr W Maynard Rushworth of the organ builders. In the late 1920s, electricity was supplied throughout the city and in 1933 it was decided to provide electric light to the Mission Church. This work, undertaken by Messers Gough Bros, cost £36.15s. A Parish Sale of Work was held which, on top of this amount, raised a further £6.12s.2d.



The 1930s were a period of high church attendance. The Sunday School filled the two halls and the kitchen of the Parish Rooms, as well as the choir vestry, whilst the Catechism for older children, taken by Mr G Jones and Mr Turner, filled the church nave.

I am grateful to Mrs M Milsom and Miss D Ilanks for the following recollection of this period:

'We started Sunday School at five years of age and went through the different classes until we reached the age of eleven, when we were ready for Catechism. We then moved over to the Church.

At five minutes to 3 O'clock, the church bell rang and Mr George Jones, the Superintendent, walked down the path

and opened the gates. The boys and girls were waiting in the road, there being very little traffic at this time, under the Willow tree, and then we walked into church very quietly.

The girls sat in the left middle aisle and the boys in the right. We started in the front row and every year moved back a row or two. Each row had a leader and on the first chair was a satchel containing pads and pencils which the leader passed along the row.

The Vicar came out from the vestry and the service began with a hymn played on the organ by Mr Arthur Webb who deputised in the afternoons for Mr Charmbury, followed by prayers during which every boy and girl knelt down. The Vicar then gave an address, asking questions as he went along. He would set two or three questions and we would write down a few notes and during the week try to answer what had been set during the afternoon - the next Sunday we would have a short run through what we had remembered. The register was taken by the leader, another hymn was sung during which the collection was taken, then we finished with prayers at about five minutes to 4 O'clock.

Baptism was always at 4.00 p.m. and we were invited, together with the Sunday School children who met at the same time in the Church Hall opposite, to remain for the baptism if we were very quiet. At this time the Church was full of young people who looked forward to coming to Catechism regularly every Sunday afternoon.

Those of us who attended will never forget our Catechism days and thank God for the Christian teaching we received. Sadly this service ended during the Second World War after many years.'

Each year a Sunday School Outing was held, invariably the chartering of a train to Weston-Super-Mare. To raise funds for this outing a special event, known as the Forest of Trees, was held and for several years was a highlight of the Church's year. Another highlight was the Nativity Play, featuring members of the church, which was very professionally and enthusiastically produced for many years. At the Church Council meeting held on 7 November 1933, a letter from the Bishop of Bristol was read out, which advised that, as several male parts in the play that year were to be performed by ladies, he could not give consent to it being performed in church.

By the late 1930s it became obvious that the world was to be plunged into a further war, which would involve those left at home as well as those who went to fight. Consequently, when war came in 1939, the Sunday School no longer met at the Church Hall, but split into smaller groups, meeting at the homes of the Sunday School teachers, to minimise the risks during air raids. In June 1940 the PCC agreed to take additional fire precaution measures, namely that at least six buckets for water or sand be placed in suitable places around the church, with ladders being sited in accessible positions. Black-out screens were also placed against the windows of the church, and the stained glass East and Lady Chapel Windows were boarded up. In addition, camp beds were placed in the church vestry for the clergy and Youth Club members who maintained a fire-watching rota every night. Through their vigilance an incendiary bomb which landed on the church roof one night was quickly extinguished, before

any serious damage could be done. (A hole in the panelled ceiling of the North Aisle can still be seen, attributed to this event.)

Subsequently an air-raid shelter was erected on land at the rear of the church hall, to accommodate 80 persons and in 1941, the PCC agreed to the Fire Service building a water dam on the church lawn, for use during air raids. The church hall was designated as an Air Raid Reception Hostel to accommodate persons made homeless by air-raid damage, and the requisite blankets and medical equipment were loaned by the Red Cross. Whilst several houses in the parish were either damaged or destroyed in the bombing raids which occurred from late 1940 onwards, the parish church and church halls were not damaged. An incendiary bomb fell on the roof of the vicarage during the first air raid, but the resultant fire was quickly put out by the Vicar and several members of the Youth Club, who had taken refuge in the church boilerhouse.

St. Michael the Less was not so fortunate, suffering damage during the raid on 24 November 1940, in which the adjacent house was destroyed. The rear portion of the Less had to be closed off as unsafe, but worship continued in the remainder. It was not until May 1942 that Rev Rigby (Curate-in-Charge of the Less) was able to report that the Blitz debris had nearly been cleared away. He also had to report that an attempt had been made to burn down the Mission Church, but the attempt had failed due to the prompt action of neighbours and passers by. During the war, church activities carried on as best they could, with Holy Communion (8.00 a.m.), Sung Eucharist (11.00 a.m.),

Sunday School (2.30 p.m.), Evensong (3.30 p.m.) and Evening Service (6.30 p.m.) being held every Sunday at Parish Church, and at St Michael the Less, Eucharist 9.00 a.m. and Evensong at 6.30 p.m.

At about this time, a tradition of holding revues in the Church Hall had commenced, which were very enthusiastically and amusingly performed by members of the congregation, no doubt doing much to boost the morale of the local community. After Evensong each Sunday, those serving away from home were remembered in prayers, and during the week the Vicar and Curates held services around the parish, if the weather permitted in the streets or if wet in certain people's houses. Days of Prayer at various intervals brought large numbers to worship at church. One day in late 1943, the parish was surprised to welcome several hundred American soldiers, who were billeted in pairs in various houses, with their Mess Halls, etc. being located in Victoria Park and near Mill Lane. A U.S. Army Chaplain preached in the church, and over the Christmas period children from the area were taken to the American Central Headquarters where they were entertained. St Michael's Choirboys sang carols, and the event was broadcast across the United States.

With the victory in Europe over Hitler's armies in 1945, a special service of Thanksgiving was held at St Michael's, at which all the seats were occupied and many more people forced to stand at the back of Church. A similar service was later held to celebrate VJ Day, the final surrender of Japan, although fewer people attended. With the relief resultant from the end of hostilities, life slowly began to return to normal. Among the first jobs undertaken being

the removal of the protective boarding to the stained glass windows and the black-out screens.

By the early 1950s, the Church of England was beginning to look at church buildings and the deployment of its clergy, in the light of manpower shortages and lack of funds. The Diocesan Pastoral Reorganisation Committee duly considered the Bedminster area in 1954, and submitted the following Proposals:

'that St John's Church, which had been destroyed in the Blitz, be rebuilt on a new site in the Marksbury Road area, with the bulk of its parish being transferred to St Aldhelm's, Bedminster; that St Dunstan's Parish, in addition to the church at the top of Winterstoke Road, should have a base in the Ashton Drive area, and that St Michael's take over that part of the parish of Holy Nativity, Knowle, bounded by St Luke's Road, St John's Lane and Wells Road, with the closure of one of the respective daughter churches, St Katherines, Totterdown (now the Mosque) being preferred for retention as it was in better condition than St Michael the Less.'

These Proposals, or certainly those that affected the parish, were not wholeheartedly accepted by St Michael's PCC, who submitted amended Proposals to the Pastoral Reorganisation Committee. These followed the line that the area suggested to be transferred to St Michael's parish had a long association with the Wells Road area, both social and religious, and consequently should be retained by Holy Nativity. However, to equate the parishes numerically, only that part known as Lower Knowle, bounded by Redcatch Road and Ravenhill Road, should be transferred from Holy

Nativity. It was also argued that St Michael's ought to have a Curate, and that with four men between the two parishes, both St Katherine's and the Less should be retained, especially as they catered for two different 'levels' of churchmanship.

In the event, no change to the parish boundaries occurred, although the decision was taken to close the Less, the last services being held there on Sunday 12 February 1956. At the end of the evening service, the congregation led by their choir, processed up the hill through Victoria Park and formally joined with the congregation of the parish church. As a memorial to the worship and witness from there, an aumbry and lamp were provided in the Lady Chapel sanctuary of the parish church, at a cost of £42.8s, using the balance of the funds held by the Less at its closure. In 1959, the altar cross and candlesticks from the Less were presented to the parish of Bishop Sutton and in 1961 the processional cross was given to South Marston church whose incumbent, the Rev C Cockell, had been Vicar of St Michael's from 1945 until 1953. The organ was given for use in the new church being built at Brentry. The Less building was eventually sold in 1958, and St Michael's received the sum of £1,608.8s.4d from the proceeds of the sale. This money was warmly welcomed, as the first Quinquennial Inspection had recently been undertaken; the PCC were faced with some very costly items of repair. Some of the money was used to undertake the 'essential' items listed by the Architect, which included: the replacement of the existing wooden-shafted bell with a 16" bell (same size) with metal self-lubricating shaft; repainting of the bell tower; reducing the height of the

boundary wall in Fraser Street, which was leaning badly, together with the removal of the soil it had retained, and the blocking up of the West Door which was rendered inaccessible by these measures. This work was undertaken in 1959.

The parish magazine for April 1955 recorded the death of two long-serving members of St Michael's. Miss Nora Cockbaine had served as District Nurse in the parish for over twenty years, from 1927 to 1947. She was employed by the Bristol District Nursing Association and her small salary was raised by weekly contributions paid by the people she tended. Mr George Jones, who passed away on March 19 1955 at the age of 81, had been connected with St Michael's since the 1880s, having joined the choir as a boy when the first services were held. He sang in the choir for upwards of 30 years until he became Vicar's Warden, a post he held for 21 years, from 1922 to 1943, many of them with Mr J H Ray as People's Warden, serving under four Vicars and through the desperate times of the fire in 1926 and the early years of the Second World War. During all that time his untiring devotion to the many duties of his office and his work with the Catechism on Sunday afternoons won him the respect and affection of all. Even after he relinquished his office as Warden, he continued to serve on the PCC and as Magazine Secretary.

In September 1957, Mr Charmbury, who had been organist at St Michael's for almost sixty years, had to resign due to failing health. He passed away on 13 November 1957. Although blind, he had served the church devotedly, and was mourned by all who knew him. The grand piano in the

North Aisle was his, which he left to the church. (This was found to be beyond economic repair and replaced in 2003, the PCC voting to place a plaque on the replacement instrument recording the circumstances.)

Rev Gwynn, who had been vicar of St Michael's since October 1955, resigned in February 1961 upon accepting the living of All Saints' Church, Lyddington. As Bedminster was again to come under the scrutiny of the Diocesan Pastoral Reorganisation Committee, the benefice of St Michael's was suspended, to keep open all options available to the Committee. They subsequently proposed that the parishes of St John's, whose church had been blitzed during the war, and St Michael's should be united with St Mary Redcliffe, with the exception of that part of St John's parish to the West of Cannon Street/Sheene Road which would pass to St. Aldhelm's. The ruins of St Johns would be demolished, with the site preserved as an open space but with some form of memorial to the worship that had existed. A place of worship would be established on a site in Littleton Road, off St Johns Lane, following which St Michael's church would be demolished and the site sold. An incensed PCC duly made representations against these Proposals, and came up with the following counter-recommendations: that St Michael and St John be joined together, with St Michael's fulfilling the role of parish church, with a mission church to be built on the site at Littleton Road, to serve that area. The existing mission church of St John's, known as St Hugh's and situated in Lynton Road, being demolished when the new building was opened. In July 1961, the Pastoral Reorganisation Committee amended its' Proposals, ruling out any union

between St Michael's and St Mary Redcliffe, instead opting to divide the parish of St John's between St Michael's and St Aldhelm's, Bedminster. By May 1962, the recommendations were further revised, with the parish of St John's being divided between St Michael's (that area south of the railway line bounded by Parson Street, Glyn Vale and Redcatch Road), St Mary Redcliffe (north of the railway line up to the line of East Street and West Street) and St Aldhelm's (that area between West Street and North Street), with the benefice of St John's being divided between St Michael's and St Mary Redcliffe.

When Rev Bryan Jones was appointed to the parish in October 1962, it was to the position of Priest-in-Charge, the benefice of St Michael's still being suspended. However, despite strong objections from the parishioners of St John's, who wished their church to be rebuilt, the final Proposals outlined above were those which were eventually adopted. On 18 September 1965, the Queen issued an Order in Council ratifying the scheme, and changing the name of the parish from Windmill Hill to St Michael and All Angels, Bedminster, to reflect the larger geographical area now covered. The notice of the making of this Order in Council was duly published in the London Gazette on 21 September 1965.

On 14 October 1965, a Special Vestry Meeting was held to formally close the business of the old parish of St Michael and All Angels, Windmill Hill, and to elect the officers and PCC for the new parish of St. Michael and All Angels, Bedminster, who, with the exception of Mr Holland, who had passed away during the intervening period, were

exactly those persons who had been elected to office at the Annual General Meeting held on 29 March 1965. The formal induction on 8 November 1965 of the Rev Bryan Jones as Vicar of the new parish finally concluded a long period of uncertainty for St Michael's.

In December 1962, it was announced that the Windmill Hill Methodist Church, with buildings at the top end of Vivian Street, would close on the last day of that year. The PCC of St Michael's agreed to take over the sponsorship of the Boys' Brigade Company affiliated to the Methodist church, under its' leader, Jack House. Jack subsequently became an Anglican priest, and is now part of the Bedminster Team Ministry, attached to the church of St Francis, Ashton Gate. (Jack has since moved to Holy Nativity, Knowle, St Anne's, Brislington, and subsequently retired.)

After approximately two years of regular worship at St Michael's, Charles Keeble was elected Churchwarden on 1 April 1963. Later that year, the PCC decided to cash in its holding of Savings Certificates to finance some necessary repairs; Mr. Keeble reported in July that he had placed the £191.11s.6d this had yielded in the church safe, of which he was a keyholder. At the next PCC Meeting, held on 17 September, Rev Bryan Jones announced that Mr Keeble had disappeared, and the sum of £191.11s.6d was missing from the church safe. As these two events might have been connected, the police and the Bishop were informed. Mr. Keeble was later found in Preston, Lancashire, and told the police 'It is all spent now. I did it on the spur of the moment'. At the subsequent trial at Bristol Quarter Sessions, where he was placed on probation for three

years, the court was told that he had ten previous convictions, and had only been released from prison in March 1961, after having served a 30 month sentence. Mr. Keeble was replaced as Churchwarden by Mr WEJ Jones, the Rev Bryan Jones' father, who proved himself a much more trustworthy holder of this high office.

In February 1966, Rev Philip Hughes took up his duties as Curate of St Michael's, but with special responsibility for the Marksbury Road area, living in a council house, 57 Weymouth Road, just off Littleton Road. Services were held in a private room at the Engineers' Arms public house, using vestments borrowed from Holy Nativity, Knowle, until new ones were provided by the parish church, together with a set of candlesticks, late in 1967. This arrangement proved not too satisfactory, and in October 1967 the Anglicans shared the use of the Wedmore Vale Methodist Church. After having built up a small but regular following, Rev Hughes left the parish in May 1969 to take up an appointment as Vicar of St Peter's Church, Chippenham. After several years there, he returned to Bristol as Team Rector to the Bedminster Team.

The early 1970s was a further period of strain for St Michael's, for the church hall was in a bad state of repair, and a difficult decision had to be taken as to what to do with the building. In 1971 it was estimated that to renovate the small hall, kitchen and toilet alone would cost £4,000. Demolition would cost £1,000.

The newly formed Windmill Hill Community Association expressed an interest in the building, possibly taking over

the large hall for their activities, and being responsible for the renovation of that room. Following a public meeting held at Victoria Park School on 10 January 1972, and the Archdeacon having reached agreement with the City Council over the provision of a grant to the Community Association to assist with the cost of renovation, the PCC agreed to the lease of the whole building, when it passed a resolution at its meeting on 8 February 1972 that, 'We agree to the Proposal to lease the Church Hall to the Windmill Hill Community Association on terms to be negotiated by the Archdeacon of Bristol'. The building was formally leased to the WHCA for a period of twenty five years from December 1973.

At about this time, Rev Bryan Jones, who had served the parish for ten years, announced that he would be leaving to take up an appointment at St Matthew, Moorfields, and would be inducted there on 11 April 1972. This gave the Pastoral Reorganisation Committee the opportunity to look again at the future of the parish, and consideration was given, in the light of clergy shortages, to the inclusion of St Michael's in the Bedminster Team Ministry, or linking it in some way with either St Mary Redcliffe or parishes of St Barnabas and Holy Nativity at Knowle.

In the meantime a retired clergyman, Canon E M Hall, took up residence in the Vicarage whilst waiting for a flat to become available at Redcliffe, and kindly looked after the parish until October 1972, when ill health forced him to take life more slowly. In November 1972, the PCC welcomed the Rural Dean, the Rev John Wilson, who explained the Archdeacon's proposals for the immediate

future of St Michael's. This was that the parish would be 'associated' with St Mary Redcliffe with the Vicar designate, Canon Kenneth Clark, also becoming Priest-in-Charge, of St Michael's. A Priest would reside in St Michael's vicarage holding the position of Curate-in-Charge, and a further Curate would be appointed as soon as possible to look after the Marksbury Road area, which had received little pastoral care since the departure of Rev Philip Hughes. The Revs Clifford Fane and Graham Mitchell were appointed, respectively, in due course.

In October 1973, Miss Gertrude Rudman joined the staff of St Michael's as a Parish Worker, working closely with Graham Mitchell in the Marksbury Road area, but also being actively involved at the parish church, not least of which being the chairman of the very busy Social Committee. Although of retirement age, her warmth and extensive visiting brought many new faces into the Church.

The site in Littleton Road, quoted in so many Pastoral Reorganisation proposals, was duly acquired by the Diocese of Bristol and plans made for the re-erection on it of a multi-purpose Terrapin church centre, with living accommodation for a single clergyman. While this was being built, Rev Mitchell lived in a caravan on the site, which soon became known as the 'Nettlebed' for obvious reasons. At first, services were held at the Quakers' Meeting Room in Wedmore Vale but, at a Communion service held at the centre on 27 November 1974, the Bishop of Bristol dedicated the building as the Nicholas Ferrar Church Centre. Nicholas Ferrar (1592-1637) had a varied and distinguished career, being involved in the colonial exploits

of the Virginia Company in America, and was, for a short time, an MP. In 1625 he withdrew from public life and lived the rest of his days at Little Gidding, a village near Huntingdon. He gathered about him a small community: his mother, brother and brother-in-law and their families, which lived essentially a simple life of worship, prayer and service to the local neighbourhood. Nicholas Ferrar was chosen as patron saint of the centre because this way of life so mirrored the role it was intended to play.

At about this time, the PCC agreed to incorporate within the parish boundaries that part of St Dunstan's parish not included when St Dunstan's joined the Bedminster Team Ministry, i.e. the area bounded by the railway line, Bedminster Road and Parson Street. August 1975 witnessed the first issue of the 'Windmill', a community magazine administered by St Michael's PCC, but with contribution from the Community Association, City Farm and the local Baptist and Methodist churches. This magazine, which was the brainchild of the Rev Clifford Fane, was still being produced at the Church's centenary in 1986 with 600 copies being printed each month. However, publication ceased around that year and its' niche was filled by a new independent community paper (Hill Views) delivered to all local residents. Local churches usually contribute articles to this, but have no other connection with it.

In September 1976, Rev Mitchell left the parish to become Vicar at Bishop Auckland, to be followed by Rev Fane in September 1977 when he took up a post at Kings Lynn. Canon Clark ceased to have responsibility for St Michael's

in May 1978, and in October of that year Gertrude Rudman finally retired. In June 1978, Rev Peter Chambers was inducted as Vicar of St Michael's, after the retirement of Gertrude Rudman serving the Parish single-handed until a year later being joined by a curate, Roger Salter. Peter Chambers had previously been Youth Chaplain to the Bishop of Bristol, and worked well with young people. During his incumbency, annual Youth Weekends were held, at first at Legge House, the Diocesan centre at Wroughton, near Swindon, and later at Coleford in the Forest of Dean. From these weekends, a regular Youth Fellowship developed, meeting fortnightly in the Boys' Brigade Hall. With the appointment of Peter Chambers, the Vicarage adjacent to the parish church was sold by the Diocese, and No 153 St John's Lane, formerly Dr. Hadyn-Evans' surgery, was acquired as replacement.

In August 1969 the heating at the parish church had been converted from coal to oil but, due to the rapidly escalating cost of oil, the Vicar and Churchwardens appealed to parishioners in July 1979 for interest-free loans, repayable over four years, to cover the cost of converting the heating system from oil to gas. The appeal raised £2,086 and the conversion, which was undertaken during October 1979, cost £2,489. With no clergy being specifically responsible for the Marksbury Road area, following the departure of Graham Mitchell, the Nicholas Ferrar Church Centre was closed, and in September 1980 it was announced that the terrapin building had been sold by the Diocese to the Barrow Gurney Cricket Club for £1,000, for use as a changing room. Various activities, including a Dinner Club, continued to be run using the Methodist

Church in Wedmore Vale, but these ceased after a few years.

In June 1982, Roger Salter left the parish to take up an appointment at Christ Church, Swindon, only to return to Bristol in 1984 as Vicar of St Oswald's, Bedminster Down. In August 1982 the parish welcomed Rev Dr John Polkinghorne as its' new curate. In view of this, on 15 January 1984 the BBC televised two services from St Michael's as part of their series entitled 'Jesus - His Life and Teaching!' After nearly six years as Vicar, Peter Chambers left the parish in February 1984. He was replaced in June 1984 by Rev Terry Baillie, who had previously been vicar of Bickenhill with Elmdon in the Diocese of Birmingham.

John Polkinghorne resigned in August 1984 to become Vicar at St Cosmus and St Damian in the village of Blean, near Canterbury, and the parish was once again under the care of only one clergyman until September 1985, when Harry Wardale was appointed as Curate to St Michael's.

Following a nine months trial, the PCC at their meeting on 8 October 1984, decided that the 10.00 a.m. Family Eucharist should take the form of Rite A of the Alternative Service Book 1980, to replace the Rite B from which it had been celebrated at St Michael's for several years. However, in an attempt to satisfy all preferences, the Rite B form was retained for the Sunday 8.00 a.m. and Wednesday 9.30 a.m. Communion services. (These services were replaced by Common Worship in 2001.) In 1984 the PCC applied for a faculty to make the nave altar platform permanent, and to cover it with a blue carpet to match that

between the choir stalls; for the use of the nave altar and to cover it with a cloth, edged with English Lace, kindly made and donated to St Michael's by Mr Graeme Dunlop and the installation of new lighting to the nave, following several years of experiments, using eight Halogen Quartz spotlights. The faculty was duly granted, with the lighting being installed by Messrs Tapp - Electric, and the altar cloth being dedicated for use during 1985.

In preparation for the centenary, during the latter half of 1985 the interior of the Church was redecorated by George Brown's Building Committee, enlisting the valiant efforts of many church members and very good friends of St Michael & All Angels.

1986: The Centenary Year

To mark this milestone in the life of St Michael's many special events were organised, in addition to those usually held during the church year.

The first event was a service held on 9 January to mark the 60th anniversary of the fire that nearly destroyed the church building. Hymns sung during this service included 'Light up the Fire' and 'Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning!'

On Sunday 2 March a Centenary Easter Concert was held in church, performed by Stephen Abbott (Tenor), accompanied by John Green (Choirmaster) on the piano. Pieces performed included the Lenten Sequence from

Stainer's Crucifixion, the Good Friday Sequence from Handel's Messiah and Five Mystical Songs by Vaughan Williams.

A service was held on Thursday 10 April to celebrate the centenary of the laying of the foundation stone. During the course of this service everyone moved into the church garden to witness the ceremonial planting of a tree adjacent to the Lady Chapel, performed by Miss Doris Hanks and Mrs Irene Woolcock, the two church members with the longest association with St Michael's.

After having taken expert advice, it was decided to plant a 'Lanei Aurea' Cypress, with golden feathery leaves, which we were assured would only grow to six feet after ten years. The tree and peat cost £17.50, towards which Doris Hanks donated £15. Unfortunately the tree continued to grow and after some years had to be felled to prevent damage to the church building.

Barely a week later, on Saturday 19 April, Harold Britton, who was a member of St Michael's Youth Club in the 1930s, performed an Organ Recital at the church, before to playing at the Colton Hall the following evening. Amongst the large audience at the church Recital were many who knew Harold from his Youth Club days.

On 4 May another Organ Recital, this time played by Matthew Beetsley, organ scholar from Bristol University, was held in church.

On a lighter note, church members and their friends were able to enjoy a charabanc trip to the Black Country Museum, in Birmingham on Saturday 17 May, exploring the houses, shops, trams, barges, chapel and public house that had been collected together to recreate Victorian industrial life.

Saturday 14 June saw the church lawn transformed into a grand Victorian Fete, with many people turning up in Victorian costume.



*John Tooze (Churchwarden) and Harry Wardale (Curate)
step back in time : Victorian Fair 14/6/1986*

Couples who had been married at St Michael's over the years were invited back on Sunday 22 June, to a service of Thanksgiving and Re-dedication, where they could renew their marriage vows. This was followed with a grand traditional tea.

Over the weekend of 4 to 6 July, a Flower Festival and Exhibition of St Michael's over 100 years was held at church. This formally opened on the Friday evening with a cheese and wine party. St Michael's own flower arrangers were augmented by Mrs Marjorie Harris and Mrs Beryl Harding from Westbury Parish Church - very welcome help given the number of large flower displays that had to be created.

The Autumn saw many former clergy return to St Michael's to join the festivities and to meet friends old and new: Canon Douglas Jones (31 Aug), Rev Roger Salter (7 Sept), Rev Graham Mitchell (14 Sept), Rev W H O Mayo (21 Sept), Venerable Kenneth Clarke (28 Sept), Rev Peter Chambers (5 Oct), Rev Phillip Hughes (12 Oct), Rev James West (19 Oct), Rev Brian Jones (23 Nov) and Rev Ronald Murray (7 Dec).

The climax of the celebrations took place on Sunday 16 November, exactly 100 years to the day of the opening and consecration of the first church on the site. The day started with Eucharist at 10.00 a.m., the Celebrant being Bishop Freddie Temple, former Bishop of Malmesbury. We were very honoured to have the Lord Mayor of Bristol, Cllr Mrs Joan Jones, and the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Judith Corbett, amongst the many special guests attending for the whole day.

A celebratory lunch followed in the large hall of the Community Centre (the Windmill Hill Community Association having leased the old Parish Rooms), with an Organ Recital starting at 2.00 p.m. back in church. The day

rounded off with a service of Thanksgiving Evensong at 3.30 p.m.

We had done all we could to celebrate the many milestones of one hundred years of St Michael's on Windmill Hill throughout the year. A lot of people had put a lot of effort into making everything happen, but for everyone who attended it had been a moving, inspiring, exciting and fun period in the parish's life.

It fell to John Tooze, as Churchwarden and Chairman of the Centenary Steering Committee, to make a speech at the end of the Celebratory Lunch on 16 November 1986. After recalling the main events of the year, and remembering their significance in the establishment of a church on Windmill Hill, he Proposed a toast - 'St Michael and All Angels - the next 100 years!', which was repeated by all present, who rose to their feet and raised their glasses of wine.



Maggie Milsom (deputy Church Warden); John Tooze (Church Warden); Terrie Ballie (Vicar); George Brown (Church Warden) and Anita Brown (Deputy Church Warden) with the Centennial Cake 16/11/1986



*Harry Wardale (Curate) Andrew Moore (Holding Cross)
Bishop Freddie Temple, Les Moore (Sacristan) and Terrie*



*Ballie Vicar . Centenary Service 16/11/1986
Church Wardens John Tooze and George Brown escort the
Lord Mayor Cllr Joan Jones at the end of the Centenary
Service 16/11/1986*

The Beginning of the Second Hundred Years

In addition to all the special centenary celebrations events, the life of the parish continued as usual.

The Diocese of Bristol produced a study of the population make-up of the parish, based on information from the 1981 Census. This revealed that the total population of the parish was 9,613, consisting of 4,695 men and 4,918 women. 5.9% were pre-school age, 15.5% were of school age (defined as over 5 and under 16). 48.1% of men were married, as were 46.2% of women. 21.6% were over 60, with 6.0% of the male population being over 65 and 12.8% of the female population were over 60 (the ages when State Retirement Pension could be claimed). There were 19 male lone parents, with children aged up to 15; of these parents, 15 were economically active and 7 in full time employment. There were 129 female lone parents, with children aged up to 15; of these parents, 53 were economically active, 14 in full time employment and 37 in part-time work.

By country of birth, 9,257 were born in the UK, 73 in the Irish Republic, 16 from the 'old' Commonwealth, 148 from the 'new' Commonwealth (East Africa - 9, rest of Africa - 7, Caribbean - 45, India - 28, Bangladesh - 1, Far East - 48, Mediterranean - 8, Remainder - 2), Pakistan - 19, Rest of the World - 92.

99.9% (or 9,628 of 9,635) lived in private households, with 54.3% being owner-occupied, 39.2% Council rented, 1.9%

housing association rented and 4.6% private rented. Of the 3,618 households, 1,726 had no car, 1,561 had one car, 285 had two cars and 46 had three or more cars.

At the PCC Meeting on 10 March 1986 it was reported that the number of subscriptions to the Windmill Magazine had fallen by 100; the Methodist church had however agreed to take 25 copies to sell to their members as an experiment.

Mr John Green, the Organist and Choirmaster, tendered his resignation, which was accepted by the PCC. Advice was sought from the Royal School of Church Music, with regards to the appointment of a Director of Music, to play the organ as well as training the Choir and Music Group.

It was announced that former clerics Revs Mayo and Gwynn had both recently died, so would not be attending the Centenary celebrations.

Rev Harry Wardel repeated that there were about 6,000 households in the parish and the clergy, if they visited ten in a good week, would take twelve years to visit everyone! It was agreed to seek volunteers to run a Lay Visiting Scheme, as well as providing training to enable them to be effective.

The Bishop asked Church Councils to consider what Lay members should help with, in the administration of Holy Communion. It was agreed that the names of four members of the congregation be sent to the Bishop for licensing.

At its' Meeting on 8 September 1986, the PCC was advised that, since 1 January, the cost of producing the Windmill had exceeded income by £235; this left £141 in the account, with another bill expected. It was also reported that the Choir robes needed to be replaced, and that the Choir had so far raised £80 towards this cost. The PCC agreed to donate £25 for every £100 the Choir raised.

Following experiments with westward celebration of Holy Communion (the Priest facing the people), the PCC had agreed to the construction of a permanent nave platform for a small altar table to stand on, to replace the temporary structure installed for the trial. It was reported to the PCC at their Meeting on 10 November 1986 that the platform had been constructed by Mr Bill Elliott, and would be delivered the following day. It would be completed on 14 November, and would be used for the first time at the celebration event on 16 November.

It was reported that the ongoing roof leak over the rear door was still a problem. A builder had been asked to price a repair, as well as repointing the bell tower and refixing the ridge tiles.

At its' Meeting on 9 February 1987, the PCC considered three styles of Choir robe. Following a tied vote, the Chairman used his casting vote to select a half-lined Choir cassock in blue polyester with surplus and collar plus ladies' gowns, as this was the nearest style to the present robes, but was still the cheapest material. In all, ten children's sets, three adult sets and four ladies' gowns would be needed, at a cost of £805.20.

It was announced that Vera Kelly and Doris Brooks would be retiring after 26 years of being responsible for the flower arrangements in St Michael's. The PCC agreed to give each of them a £26 garden centre voucher.

The organ badly needed refurbishment, not having had any maintenance apart from tuning for many years. An estimate of £1,012 inclusive of VAT had been obtained for Stage 1 of the work. The PCC agreed to proceed in late summer 1987.

At the PCC Meeting on 1 May 1987 it was announced that Miss Rebecca Coleman had been appointed Organist. The PCC recorded their thanks to Sheila Thackery, who had played the organ and run the Choir since John Green's resignation. The PCC was advised on 13 July 1987 that Mrs Phyllis Moore had retired after serving for many years as Verger for weddings and funerals. She had been given flowers and a letter of appreciation for her service. She had been replaced by Mary Simms.

At its' Meeting on 14 September 1987, the PCC considered a request from the Archdeacon for its' approval for the Mormons to microfilm parish records. A lively discussion took place as to the reasons why the Mormons had offered to do this. When put to the vote, two members were in favour, three against and all seven others present abstained. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Archdeacon informing him that St Michael's PCC did not give its' approval.

Mr Joe Roden had agreed to be the Inspecting Architect and had been officially appointed. By the time of the PCC Meeting on 9 November 1987, it was noted that Mr Roden had undertaken his first Quinquennial Inspection, even going up into the roof space! He reported that the main roof was in quite a good condition, but that the roof over the Vestry was not. He recommended that the PCC consider replacing the Vestry roof completely, in view of its' condition, as well as its' very complicated design (seven different sections), which would always be prone to problems.

In view of continued losses, the PCC reluctantly agreed to close the Windmill magazine after the December issue, and replace it with Contact, an in-house produced newsletter. It would consist of one sheet of A4, folded vertically, which would be sold for 10p per copy, from the back of church. The first issue appeared in January 1988.

The Meeting on 11 January 1988 was advised that a PCC Weekend Away at the Almondsbury Diocesan Conference Centre had been arranged for 8 - 10 April. It was agreed that this would not be restricted to PCC members, but would be open to any member of the congregation who wished to attend. It was to be led by Captain John Richards, of the Church Army.

In June, the PCC agreed that, following the success of the Flower Festival held in 1986, another would be held over the weekend of 8 - 10 July 1988. Programmes would be £1 for adults and 50p for OAPs and children, with the proceeds going to the organ rebuilding appeal. The Bishop's

wife had been invited, and replied that she would also bring her husband, if he was free; in the event he was, and she did.

It was reported at the PCC Meeting on 11 July 1988 that the Flower Festival had been a great success; it was good that so many people had pulled together to make it so. Publicity had been obtained, including a mention on Radio 2! On 5 September 1988 the PCC was informed that a letter had been received from the Diocesan Registrar asking it to reconsider its' decision not to allow the Mormons to microfilm parish records. Whilst recognising that some of the records were old and that some had already been lost, the PCC remained concerned that the Mormon church would use the records for purposes contrary to the Christian faith. If the Diocese was so keen on microfilming the records, then it was felt that they should pay for this to be done itself. Upon putting this to the vote, the PCC's previous decision was endorsed by twelve votes to one. It was subsequently established that three other parishes within the Bedminster Deanery had turned down the Mormons' offer, including St Mary Redcliffe.

The PCC discussed a Vision for Parish Worship. It was felt that St Michael's was tending to provide a little bit of everything, to please as many people as possible, but this caused services to be fragmented and really satisfied no-one. After considerable discussion, it was agreed:

- 1 - to provide a Creche
- 2 - to provide a leaflet showing visiting parents how and where we cater for their children, in order to welcome them better

- 3 - to provide a better speaker system
- 4 - to provide a traditional 10.00 a.m. service, with a recognised basic structure
- 5 - 'action' choruses and children's talks to be restricted to services where some children were present
- 6 - to provide sermons of a length within the concentration span of the majority
- 7 - to encourage joyful but orderly worship.

It was announced in the Winter 1988 issue of Contact that Rev Harry Wardale would be leaving St Michael's on 8 January 1989, to be Priest-in-Charge of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Bishopston.

On 13 February 1989, the PCC considered proposals for the Vestry Roof. The church Architect had suggested simplifying the design to match the profile of the existing gables. This would involve increasing the height of the wall facing Victoria Park to form the gable end. The cost of this and the new roof would be in the region of £5,000.

To maximise the benefit of this work, plans were presented to the PCC illustrating a scheme which would allow a first floor meeting room to be created and enable the creation of a completely re-ordered ground floor. A wall could be built to create a smaller vestry and separate kitchen. The plan also included two toilets and ample storage, which was desperately needed. The cost of this scheme was estimated at between £6,000 and £14,000.

It was agreed to post the plans on the church noticeboard so that all church members could express their views, with

the PCC making a decision at its' next Meeting. It was also announced that a new Curate would be coming to replace Harry Wardale. The parish was responsible for housing the Curate, but the parish had never owned a house. Harry Wardale had purchased the house at 16 Elvaston Road for him and his family to live in whilst he was our Curate, but the new Curate could not afford to buy it from him. Its' value was estimated at £67,000. It was agreed unanimously that the PCC would purchase 16 Elvaston Road, with a mortgage from the Church Commissioners; grants from the Diocese would cover the £2,000 a year repayments.

The PCC was informed on 13 March 1989 that the congregation liked the proposed Vestry development, but wondered how it could be financed. The Archdeacon had been consulted and thought that there was mileage in the Proposal. It was agreed that the plans be drawn up so that an application could be lodged with the Diocesan Advisory Council (DAC) for outline permission.

A group from St Michael's headed to Cowes on the Isle of Wight, to attend the Licensing of Rev Roger Salter to the parish of Holy Trinity, Cowes and Northwood. The local parish had arranged for a vintage Southern Vectis Bristol/ECW double deck bus to collect the group from Cowes ferry terminal, to take them to Northwood Vicarage, where Roger and his family would live, and then to Holy Trinity, Cowes, where the Licensing took place. A reception at the Royal Yacht Squadron followed, before the group had to catch the ferry back to Southampton.

Rev David Harrex and his family moved into the parish during July 1989, and he was Licensed as a Deacon at Bristol Cathedral on Sunday 2 July 1989.

1990 saw the deaths of Kath Roach and Andrew Moore, two long-standing and faithful servants of St Michael's.

At its' Meeting on 17 April 1991, the City Council's Planning and Traffic Committee granted permission for the Vestry enlargement, subject to the following conditions:

1 - the development hereby permitted shall be used solely in conjunction with the church, for church related meetings, and for no other use whatsoever;

2 - the use hereby authorised is to be restricted to the hours of 10.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. daily. Restriction were removed in 2004)

3 - details of the Proposed means of enclosure and boundary treatment for the boundary between the church and 23 Vivian Street to be submitted to the Council for approval.

The Minutes of the 11 March 1991 PCC Meeting recorded a general discussion about the retirement of Les Moore, after 27 years as Captain and 50 years membership of the 21st Company, Boys' Brigade. At the PCC's Meeting on 13 May 1991, Rev Terry Baillie announced that Mr Peter Price had been appointed Captain of the 21st Company, to succeed Les Moore upon his retirement.

Les Moore was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours list 1991. A retirement

dinner in Les' honour was held at the Hilton Hotel, Redcliffe, on 27 September 1991.

The Minutes of the PCC Meeting on 9 September 1991 noted that the PCC had accepted 'nem com' the Proposed wording for a Faculty drawn up by the Churchwardens and applying for permission that:

- 1 - the Choir Vestry be re-roofed according to the design outlined in the plan and estimate submitted by our Architect, Mr Joe Roden, and described in drawing 1410/6. Such design to enable an extension to the Vestry to provide further kitchen and toilet facilities, as well as a meeting room upstairs;
- 2 - to cover the stained glass windows in the east wall of the Lady Chapel and east wall of the Chancel with polycarbonate sheeting, as described in the plan and estimate submitted by Mr Joseph Bell and Son, dated 1 August 1991.

By early 1992, the cost of the Vestry Roof Project had increased to £38,000 and only £18,000 had been accounted for. Rev Baillie wrote to all church members inviting donations or loans to enable this exciting project to proceed.

The PCC was informed on 11 September 1992, that a new quote had been received from Messrs Knowlson & Bradford at £30,000 plus VAT. Due to the receipt of a 'substantial sum' of money, in the form of a tax refund from the Inland Revenue on Covenanted Giving, the Quota deficit to the Diocese could be paid off and the surplus allocated to the

Vestry Project, such that over £20,000 was now available for this.

The PCC therefore agreed that the work should be split into two stages, so that work could commence on the shell of the new building, and the installation of the ground floor facilities, the kitchen and two toilets. It was hoped that being able to see this work going on would enable the additional funds need to complete the work to be raised.

After having so recently taken over as Boys' Brigade Captain, the whole parish was shocked and saddened by the announcement of the sudden death of Peter Price. A packed funeral service was held at St Michael's on Monday 9 November 1992. Ian Brailey was subsequently appointed to take over as Captain.

At a PCC Meeting later that same day, the departure of Rev David Harrex was discussed. His last Sunday at St Michael's would be 17 January 1993 and his Induction as Vicar of Piling, Severn Beach and Easter Compton would be on Thursday 11 February.

During 1992 the parish's overseas links were greatly strengthened. St Michael's hosted visits by Isobel Booth-Clibborn, our Church Missionary Society (CMS) Link from Uganda and Canon Theo Kikosa from the Mbale Diocese of Uganda. Simon and Jean Byworth had spent three months visiting Nagpur in India, supporting the work being done there by Karim David and Vimal, to ease the plight of the poor, unemployed and destitute women.

The PCC was informed on 11 January 1993 that agreement had been reached with Messrs Knowleson & Bradford, that the Vestry rebuilding would be done in three stages as follows:

Stage 1 - demolish existing building, put on new roof (which would make the building watertight) and beams for the first floor room, put in drainage, sink and two toilets. This would cost £18,000 plus VAT;

Stage 2 - install staircase and floor to first floor, central heating and fitted kitchen, £6,000 plus VAT;

Stage 3 - finish walls and upstairs room, £6,000 plus VAT.

It was hoped that Stage 1 could be commenced by the end of January 1993, with work taking three months to complete. The PCC was now in a position to apply to the Diocese for a grant and loan. Stages 2 and 3 would be done as and when funds were available, for which the parish would not be bound to employ the same contractor.

At the PCC Meeting on 8 March 1993, it was reported that a lorry, which had delivered building materials for St Michael's Vestry Project, had backed into the front of the Boys' Brigade Headquarters at the end of Vivian Street, causing significant damage to the porch and adjacent area. It was hoped that this would be covered by insurance.

The builders had moved onto the site on 22 February, and it was hoped that Stage 1 would be completed by the end of May 1993.

A sound system, pillar mounted speakers and an Induction Loop were installed by Bristol Sound Systems Ltd, at a cost of £2,617.94, inclusive of VAT.

Rev Richard Dent joined as part-time Curate at St Michael's, whilst also serving as Chaplain to Frenchay Hospital, in October 1993.

Bessie Luke passed away in 1993, a long-standing and dear friend to St Michael's.

In October 1995, Andrew Josham and Sally Hudson were licensed at St Mark's, Swindon, as Lay Ministers to St Michael's. Both have played a very important role in the ministry of St Michael's ever since. Rev Terry Baillie left the parish in June 1996, after twelve years as Vicar, to become Incumbent of the United Benefice of Clevedon,



comprising the parishes of St Andrew's, Christ Church and St Peter's. During the following Interregnum, the two newly licensed Lay Ministers proved invaluable in helping to keep the church functioning.

Newly- licensed Lay Ministers
Sally Hudson and Andrew
Josham with Revd Terry Ballie
7/10/1995

A break-in occurred in July 1996, when someone smashed their way in through the rear Vestry Door and entered the church. The only item stolen was the wooden Captain's style chair from the Vicar's Vestry. The thieves also tried to remove the vestment chest from the same room, but this became wedged in the door frame, and was abandoned. The external oak door was repaired by Countryside Cabinetmaker, of Corston, near Bath, at a cost of £727.32, which was recovered from the insurance company.



Rev David Moss was Inducted as Vicar on Monday 3 March 1997. The Upper Room was finally completed, just in time for it to be used by Clergy robing for David's Induction. Once David had settled in, Rev Richard Dent announced his retirement and left the parish.



(Pictures above of the new Upper Room)

In June 1997 sufficient copies of Hymns Old & New were purchased to replace the existing Hymns Ancient & Modern, which had been used for many years. Much of the cost was met by very generous donations by church members.

During 1998 major repairs were carried out to the church building. The roof was overhauled, with the missing and broken tiles replaced, ridge tiles rebbed and valley gutters cleared and repaired. Tony Welling s took on the task of repairing or replacing freestone copings.

Investigation by a Structural Engineer revealed that the fracture of the buttress at the West End was caused by soil erosion, resulting from the failure of the storm water drainage system. New drainage was installed and rain water gutters and downpipes replaced.

By 1997 the organ was becoming virtually un-playable. A complete rebuild was undertaken by Roger Taylor who retained the original pipework and action systems. The work was funded by gifts from the congregation and grants of £500 from the Manifold Trust, and £500 from the Council for the Care of Churches. The total cost was just over £10,000 including new blower bearings. Many organs of this age had been altered over the years. St Michael's had never had the money to do this, so our organ was virtually the same as when it was first installed in 1927. In recognition of this, a certificate was issued by the British

Institute of Organ Studies, which is displayed on the screen adjacent to the organ console.

The re-dedication service , in thanks to God for the restored organ took place in the context of Choral Evensong on Sunday 25th April 1999, with music by Parry, Aylward, Brewer, Wesley and Rutter. The service used the identical form of words as had been used by Revd. Morgan for the original dedication at a recital given by the organ builder W, Maynard Rushworth, on Thursday 24th November 1927. The Organ is now one of the finest instrument of its size in Bristol.

At the same time as the organ was re-built new Seat pads for the Choir Stalls were purchased as a gift in memory of Phyllis Moore.

Maggie Milsom was one of those presented with Maundy Money by the Queen, during the annual Maundy Service held at Bristol Cathedral on Maundy Thursday 1999, in recognition of 60 years of voluntary service to the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB).



“And the winning ticket is...” John Tooze announcing the lucky winner, watched by Maggie Milsom (far left) Shaun Maule (2nd Left) Aaron Moss (2nd Right) and Isaac Moss (far left) Summer Fair c 2000

The wooden chairs that had been used by the congregation since the post-fire rebuilding were getting increasingly rickety, and many had been removed due to suffering from attacks of woodworm. It was announced at the PCC Meeting on 11 October 1999 that the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) had approved the purchase of padded cathedral-style chairs. The PCC asked the Churchwardens to co-ordinate an appeal to fund the new chairs as its' Millennium Project. 100 new chairs were eventually purchased, at a cost of £4,836.30, replacing the 215 existing ones, which were subsequently sold. Plaques were affixed to the rear of the back-rests, recording the donor or to whom the chair had been dedicated.

At the same Meeting, Rev Moss outlined some Proposals he had discussed with the Church Architect, to divide the Nave so as to create a separate room at the back, with toilet and kitchen facilities, compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. The wooden panels that currently formed the entrance porch/Roll of Honour would be used to form a dividing screen between the new room and main church. PCC members were encouraged to discuss these Proposals with members of the congregation. A special Meeting of the PCC was held on 22 November 1999, to discuss an offer received from the Windmill Hill Community Association to purchase the former church halls and the land on which they stood, which they had leased from St Michael's for many years. The purchase price offered was £35,000. The necessary permission having been obtained, the PCC voted unanimously to accept the WHCA's offer. Following the vote, Maggie Milsom said

that 'although the sale was inevitable, and I have voted for it, I would like to say that it is a very sad day for the church as it has had use of those halls for a very long time. I have spent many happy hours there.' The sale was completed on 30 May 2000.

A service was held on New Year's Day 2000 to mark the new Millennium, with all present having the opportunity to ring St Michael's bell (!), as part of the national celebration. In honour of the occasion, Mr David Nash, who had been Organist and Director of Music at St Michael's for many years, composed a short hymn, which was sung at the celebration service.

Due to pastoral re-organisation and new housing over the year the Parish had grown tremendously. It was of concern to the PCC that those living on the Marksbury Road Estate received little or no pastoral care or spiritual support. April 2000 also saw the appointment of Kim McCall Estate Outreach Worker. Having no community buildings in the area the church hired a Double Decker Bus to run its Bible Clubs, detached youth work and teenage parenting projects.

The church newsletter for Summer 2000 sadly recorded news of Margaret Taylor's passing in April. Margaret, aided and abetted by husband Alf, had been a dear friend and loyal servant of St Michael's, and for many years, had served as Churchwarden, Verger and Mothers' Union Leader.

In June 2000, with much excitement, a coachload of family and friends from St Michael's descended on London, for a once in a lifetime opportunity to visit Lambeth Palace, home to generations of Archbishops of Canterbury. As part of the celebrations to welcome in the new millennium, the Archbishop had decided to open the Palace, for a very limited period, and for the first time in living memory. All who came remember the day very well, especially the incredibly modern stained glass window, which many felt was totally out of place considering the history surrounding it. All found the gardens equally stunning, and very peaceful.

In 2001 a new Advent Ring was purchased in memory of Reg Milsom, a new Pascal Lamb was purchased in memory of Florrie Bond and new flower stands were also acquired. In the same year, the sloping garden adjacent to Gwilliam Street was stabilized, and permission obtained for the planting of a Memorial Garden and for burial of ashes to be made there.

The church banners were refurbished by Betty Wade during 2002, and were rededicated by Bishop Barry, when he visited St Michael's on Palm Sunday. A disabled ramp and handrail was installed, leading to the Lady Chapel door. Tony Welling relocated the Font from near the old West Door, to a position adjacent to the rear window on the South Wall in preparation for the construction of the new community room.

Alan Powell was appointed as main contractor for the creation of the new room, including the community meeting

room with kitchen and three toilets, including one fitted out for use by a disabled person, as well as including baby change facilities.

This project, which was completed in January 2003, cost £48,000. This was funded by the money raised from the sale of the Parish Rooms to form the Windmill Hill Community Centre, a grant of £10,000 from Temple Trustees, and a large donation in memory of Margaret Taylor.

The fitting out of the new room was completed in early 2003, including installation of an industrial-sized cooker. During May that year, this same cooker was stolen from church!





The cupboard doors on the right are the interior swing doors of the original entrance porch (above) New Kitchen (Below)





In March 2002 Simon Poole was appointed as Community Outreach Worker. With a building project about to start he looked at ways in which the church could open up its facilities to the community. One proposal was to set up an Ofsted Registered After School Playscheme serving the four Parish Primary Schools. In January 2003 using the newly created community room as a base; the Playscheme under the title of MOOSE (Malago Out Of School Experience) opened. This was managed by a newly formed charitable company, MPA Ltd which had trustees drawn from the church and local community. They also developed a teenage parenting project and oversaw the youth work on the Marksbury Road Estate.



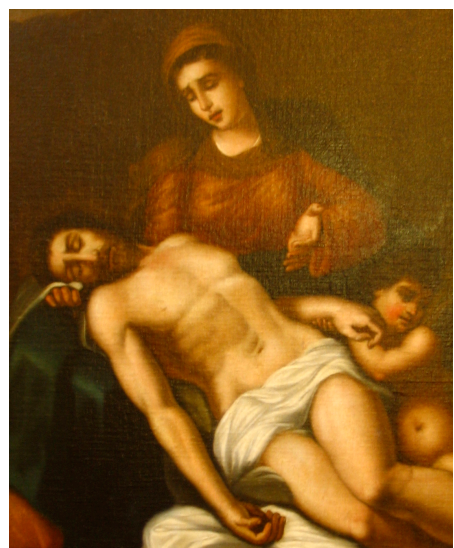
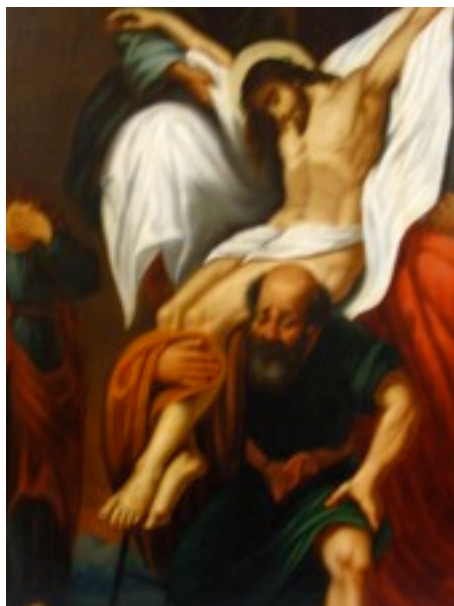
With the community work on the Marksbury Road Estate growing there was a need for a minibus. Grants of £15,000 were provide from the Church Urban Fund and £7,000 from the Round Table. This has been very well used over the years and has been a real asset.



The church ceiling was repainted by the Probation Service Team and new railings were erected around the front garden, funded by a grant. The piano donated to St Michael's by Mr Charmbury was now in a very poor state of repair. Refurbishment was not economically viable, so the decision was taken to trade this in against the purchase of a good second-hand 'The Bluther' instrument.

For many years two oil on canvas paintings had hung on the wall of the Vicar's Vestry. Little was known about them, and they had become very dirty over the years. In early 2002, one of them fell off the wall, causing an 'L' shaped tear in the fabric. Some thought had been given to selling these paintings, as most members of St Michael's were not even aware of their existence. The damage seemed to end any hope of a sale. Rev David Moss contacted the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) for advice, who, in turn, contacted the National Gallery. The paintings were identified as good 19th Century copies of two separate works of art with a religious theme:

'Deposition' by Jean-Baptiste Jouvenet (French, 1644 - 1717), and 'Pieta' by Annibale Canocci, the original painted in 1599 for the Palazzo Farnese in Rome and, since 1734 displayed in the Museo di Capodimonte. The Pieta had been copied in 1878 by Achille Jovane, trained in Naples early in the 19th Century. The DAC considered that these paintings had most probably somehow come into the possession of the Saxon church of St John's (the original Bedminster Parish Church) and that when that was bombed and destroyed by fire, during World War II, they had been inherited by St Michael's. (Pictures follow)



Rev Moss managed to obtain grants of £2,000 from the St Andrew Conservation Trust, for the conserving of the 'Deposition', and £1,500 from the Council for the Care of Churches, to cover the cost of conserving the 'Pieta'. The work of conservation was carried out by Elizabeth Holford Associates, based at the Tobacco Factory. Upon completion of the restoration, the two paintings were hung on the South Wall of the nave, near the re-sited Font, in 2003.

In 2004 the strip lighting in the side aisles was replaced by hanging globes. In mid-2004, Michael Butterfield resigned as Musical Director, and was replaced by Mark Randall. Michael had succeeded to the post following the resignation of David Nash. David had been appointed Musical Director after Rebecca Coleman moved away, and had remained in post full time for several years. During that time he was delighted that two junior members of the choir proudly achieved Bishop's Chorister's Awards, the highest grade awarded by the Royal School of Music. David also served on PCC and was heavily involved in the project to restore of the organ.

Michael had taken over when David stepped down, although David continued to play for services on an occasional basis for several more years, and still continues to be involved with musical projects at St Michael's. Michael also continues to play an active role in the musical life of St Michael's.

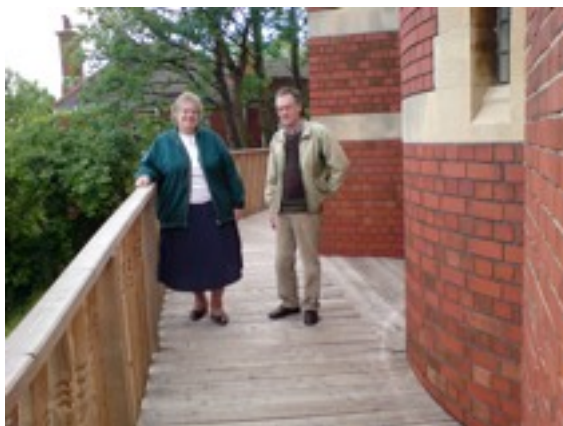
During 2005 the stonework around the window in the south wall of the Lady Chapel was repaired by Tony Welling, and a new carpet was laid in the Chancel. After much debate, it

was decided to opt for red, to match the man colour of the newly redecorated ceiling above it.

For a number of years the Church had been partnered with Isobel Booth-Clibborn a CMS worker in Uganda. With funding available for youth work in the parish, Rev. Moss explored the possibility of employing and training a youth worker from Uganda. In 2005 Isobel sent Immaculate Byaruhanga to support St. Michael's and to train with the South West Youth Ministry Scheme.



In 2006 a modern wooden walkway was constructed from the main path to the West Door, which had been opened up to provide an additional means of exit from the community room. New door frames and double doors were installed, containing stained glass windows. (Pictures follow)



Valerie Wilson (Church Warden) and Anthony Davidson (Treasurer) inspect the new disabled walkway, designed and carved by Martyn Lintern managed Willis Newson.

The stained glass windows were the idea of Jane Willis, of Willis Newson & Co, who had a wedding blessing a few years previously, and who managed this project as a gift to the church. School and Playscheme children throughout the parish contributed greatly to the design.



New West Window, Artist Stuart Low, Bedminster, project managed by Willis Newson & Co. Contributions towards the window and walkway project were received from Willis Newson, Naracott Oxford Mills Architects, Quartet Foundation, The Local Network Fund, Awards for All, Lloyds TSB Foundation, Central Churches Fund, All Churches Trust, Ecclesiastical Insurance, The Temple Trust, John James Charity, The Probation Service and local people.

During 2006 the front lawn was prepared by Church Helpers (below) and Probation Service workers for rubber matting to be laid. This would enable the area to be used for car parking if needed, and would prevent damage to the grass.



2006 also saw the deaths of Glad Titley and Anita Brown, both great Windmill Hill characters. Glad had lived in Somerset Terrace all her life. Her mother served as church Verger, and Glad was full of interesting snippets of history from the Hill and St Michael's. She had also been greatly involved with the early development of the WHCA and was a regular attendee of Workers' Education Association (WEA) classes, held in those premises for many years. During WWII she had also been based at the Windmill Hill ARP post, and was involved in many of the less happy moments for local residents during that period. One of her most colourful memories was of being called to a house shortly after the end of a raid by a worried

daughter. On arrival, she discovered that the woman's elderly father had refused to go to the Shelter, opting to remain in the house. In an attempt to provide some protection, the daughter had given her father a saucepan to use as a tin hat, which had become firmly stuck! Many can also remember Glad delivering papers for Miss Limerick's shop (which itself had a strong link to the history of St Michael's), with her bag over her shoulder, walking stick in hand, being faithfully followed by her dog, with a cheery word for everyone she met.

Anita worked tirelessly for St Michael's for many years, succeeding her husband George as Churchwarden. She had also been Anchor Boy Leader, Fete and Fair organiser, and was well known as the Lollipop Lady at St Mary Redcliffe Primary, escorting generations of children, (and their parents), safely across Whitehouse Street.

During 2007 the Roll of Honour was moved forward to enable a staircase to be installed, providing access to the gallery above the community room, thus creating an artist's studio. Surplus kneeler rails were secured to the edge of the area, to create a barrier.

Jane Lee was appointed as Artist in Residence, and has greatly enhanced St Michael's artistic and spiritual life through her work and, in Art on the Hill, has enabled St Michael's to extend its' Outreach into the local community. In 2008, local artists organised an Arts' Trail, using St Michael's as a venue. Jane has also worked on projects with church members and with the three local schools in our parish.

Under Jane Lee's guidance and enthusiasm, the Chancel was transformed for Easter 2009 into the Garden of Gethsemane, complete with tomb, garden shed and numerous items of art and craft to illustrate various aspects of the Easter Story. The church was opened to allow members of the local community, schools, groups and other churches to view the display; many found this a very moving, inspiring and thought-provoking experience. Visitors also had the opportunity to be part of the experience, by attaching hopes and wishes to the 'ladder' attached to the Pulpit.



(Jane Lee Artist in Residence)



Rolling the stone away - Garden Tomb Installation



October 2009 saw St Michael's packed to capacity for a performance of Handel's Messiah, performed by a vastly enhanced Choir, drawn from the local community and further afield, and ably led by Mark Randall. For those who were fortunate to witness this truly inspiring concert, it will be long remembered.

Following the success of this, Mozart's Requiem was performed in 2010, and Haydn's Creation is planned for 2011.



The biggest change in the exterior appearance of the church for many years occurred in January and February 2009, when a number of solar photo-voltaic cells were installed on the roof as part of an on-going project to reduce our CO2 profile, as well as to raise public concern



(Cuttings from the Evening Post April 2009)

for the way we treat God's creation. The panels, for which St Michael's had to obtain Planning Permission from Bristol City Council and Faculty Approval from the Diocesan Advisory Committee, cost, inclusive of fees, £22,995.34. This was met by grants of £10,347 from the Low Carbon Building Programme and £6,248.34 from EDF Energy, topped up by donations of £6,400. St Michael's was the first church in Bristol to be fitted with Solar PV cells.



Photovoltaic Cells installed to South Facing Roof

Rev Moss joined the Blue Wave Cycle Ride, to raise public awareness of the importance of the December 2009 Climate Summit in Copenhagen. He received extensive media coverage for both this and the solar panel installation, putting St Michael's firmly on the map for its' green credentials.



(21st Boys Brigade win the Colour Party Competition again!)
As a follow-up to the solar cell project and bike ride an Eco-conference was held at St Michael's early in 2010, where we were joined by representatives from many groups, as well as playing host to a group of chickens, who found the back garden of the church excellent food! The children who met them were fascinated, not least when our guests obliged by laying eggs.



Bishop Lee introduced to Chickens at the Eco Conference

Spring 2010 also brought another celebrated visitor to the church, when Canon Neville Boundy brought his troupe to St Michael's, to perform Father, Son; Son, Father.

In late May 2010, a Retreat Day was held at Ivy House. This was a joint venture between St Michael's and Kingswood Congregational Church, where our Lay Minister, Andrew Josham, is a regular visitor helping out with services. It was an uplifting, inspiring and creative experience, in beautiful surroundings on a wonderful sunny day. It was a wonderful way to experience Pentecost, and helped us make new friends.

Harold Britton returned to St Michael's in June 2010 to give another concert of varied musical styles on our wonderful organ, showing that he had lost none of his skill or enthusiasm over the intervening years. This event was very well supported, and a number of fellow members of the pre-War Youth Club, including Maggie Milsom, were able to get to church to enjoy tea and the concert by their old friend, and to exchange anecdotes of their younger days.

Art on the Hill 2010 took place over the first weekend in October, and we again welcomed many visitors to view the varied pieces on display. After four weeks' of rehearsals, the Windmill Hill Chorus again wowed everyone at the Sunday evening performance of Mozart's Requiem, with the church once again being filled to the rafters. Many came to this event having already attended Michael Butterfield's highly informative and enjoyable talk about the piece on

the previous evening. This was followed in December by an equally popular *Christmas Extravaganza* (pictures follow)





Money raised at Harold Britton's Recital completed the fundraising to pay for the installation of a new 1939 - 1945 stained glass Memorial Window. This was located within the third window of the North Wall, opposite the one containing glass fragments salvaged after the 1926 fire. The new window was designed and made by Geoff Flowers, who donated it to St Michael's. The Window was dedicated during the 2010 Remembrance Sunday Service, with Mr Flowers and his wife coming along to talk about the significance of the various elements depicted in the Window.

(Pictures follow 1. Geoff Flowers standing by his handiwork
2. Detail of the new window)



During 2010 repairs to the lead flashings and coping stones were completed, gutters and down-pipes cleared of debris and all vegetation removed. The North Annex was refurbished and the old Kitchen and Choir Vestry (created as part of the 1996-7 project) was made into one room. The room thus created is used on a Sunday morning for a Creche, with Teen Church, for the teenagers, meeting in the room above.



New Creche area and Meeting Room - The Green Room

Christmas 2010 began early for St Michael's with an extravaganza weekend of activities and celebration. On the Saturday we had stalls, lunches and craft activities, followed by a wonderful concert of seasonal traditional and classical music, ably supported once again, by many of the Windmill Hill Chorus and a local South Bristol Orchestra. Luckily this took place before the snow fell and the journey to St Michael's became similar to an Arctic trek.

Big improvements were made to the church gardens, with Diana Sefton-Jenkins and Mary Pritchard organising new planting in the front border. The old fence to the Lady Chapel garden was removed, and two fruit trees were planted there early in 2011.

2011 is an important year in the life of St Michael's, as it marks its' 125 Anniversary on Windmill Hill. The following special events are planned and eagerly anticipated:

3 April - Easter Concert by the Unity Singers, conducted by Matthew Nash; programme to include Faure's Requiem and *Messa di Gloria* by Puccini;

15 April - a return visit by Neville Boundy's troupe, this time with a drama entitled 'Five Sides of a Circle', in which he imagines the conversation the Gospel Writers might have had, had they ever met together;

20-22 May - Parish Weekend Away to Cloverley Hall in Shropshire, our first visit there in nine years;

11-12 June - Flower Festival and Art Exhibition;

12 June - Last Night of the Proms concert, featuring Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Haydn's *Trumpet Concerto in E Flat*, Schubert's 'Unfinished' Symphony (No 8 in B Minor) and all the Last Night favourites, *Rule Britannia*, *Pomp & Circumstance March No 1*, *Jerusalem*, etc.;

1-2 October - Art on the Hill Community Art Trail, an exhibition of sculpture, painting, photography, video and more;

1 October - The Butterfield Lecture - Michael Butterfield discusses Haydn's *Creation*;

2 October - A performance of Haydn's *Creation* by the Bristol Chamber Orchestra and the Windmill Hill Chorus, conducted by Mark Randall;

4 December - Christmas Extravaganza, a concert of seasonal traditional folk and classical music.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Rev David Moss and Mrs Valerie Wilson for their help in providing information, Suzanne Josham for typing and Charlotte Josham for providing photographs to accompany this parish history and say ...

HERE'S TO THE NEXT 25 YEARS OF ST MICHAEL'S

Curates-in-Charge

Aug 1884 –Jan 1891	Rev C E Gaussen
Apr 1891 - Mar 1892	Rev N K Torr
Apr 1892 - Jul 1894	Rev R E Coles
Jul 1894 - Aug 1895	Rev I Williams
Sep 1895 - Nov 1896	Rev H J B Walters
Jan 1897 - Jul 1898	Rev A E Ross
Jul 1898 - Jun 1902	Rev G H Ford

Vicars

Rev George H Ford	Jun 1902 - Jan 1910
Rev H R Morgan	Feb 1910 - 1925
Rev Harold Bryant Salmon	1925 - 1930
Rev Samuel B Bennett	Jul 1930 - May 1940
Rev Ronald T Murray	Jul 1940 - Dec 1943
Rev Clement Cockell	Mar 1944 - Apr 1955
Rev W J G Gwynn	Oct 1955 - Feb 1961

Priest-in-Charge

Oct 1962 - Nov 1965	Rev Bryan W Jones
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Vicar

Nov 1965 - Apr 1972	Rev Bryan W Jones
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Priests-in-Charge

May 1972 - Dec 1972	Canon E M Hall(Temporary)
Mar 1973 - May 1978	Canon Kenneth J Clark
	Vicar of St Mary Redcliffe

Vicars

Jun 1978 - Feb 1984	Rev Peter L Chambers
Jun 1984 - Jun 1996	Rev Terence Baillie
Mar 1997 –	Rev David Sefton Moss

Curates and other Church Workers

1903 – 1905	Rev W Guthrie Bower
1903 – 1905	Rev Kenneth Pollock
1905 – 1909	Rev W J Rogers
1905 – 1908	Rev J R Powley
1908 – 1912	Rev P H Godwin *
1910 - 1913	Rev H J Say
1912 – 1917	Rev I F James *
1913 – 1917	Rev G F C Raban
1914 – 1915	Rev W A Herbert *
1916 – 1917	Rev H R Barlow
1916 – 1923	Rev R W Taylor
1918 –	Rev F P Downman
1919 – 1926	Rev Walter F Hatherley-Jones *
1923 – 1925	Rev C E Boulton
1926 – 1929	Rev L S C Pearce
1928 – 1929	Rev H A Daws
1930 – 1935	Rev H C Watkins *
1932 – 1936	Rev John H Kilday
1935 – 1939	Rev W N Booker
1936 – 1939	Rev W H O Moss
1939 – Aug 1940	Rev Walter M Davies
1939 – 1940	Rev J H R Mayo *
Sep 1940 – Nov 1944	Rev R R P Rigby *
Dec 1940 – Dec 1942	Rev J West
Dec 1942 – Sep 1945	Rev Douglas R Jones *
Dec 1945 – Dec 1953	Rev H N Atchley
Feb 1966 – May 1969	Rev Philip S Hughes
Jun 1973 – Sep 1977	Rev Clifford C Fane
Jul 1973 – Sep 1976	Rev Graham B Mitchell
Oct 1973 – Oct 1978	Ms Gertrude Rudman (Parish Worker)
Jul 1979 – Jun 1982	Rev Roger Salter
Aug 1982 – Aug 1984	Rev Dr John Polkinghorne
Sep 1985 – Jan 1989	Rev Harry Wardale
Jul 1989 – Jan 1993	Rev David Harrex
Oct 1993 – Nov 1997	Rev Richard Dent
Apr 2000- Dec 2001	Kim McCall (Outreach Worker)
Mar 2002 - Jun 2003	Simon Poole (Outreach Worker)
Sep 2005 - Sep 2006	Immaculate Byaruhanga (Youth Worker)
Sep 2008 -	Jane Lee (Artist in Residence)
*- Curate-in-Charge of the Mission Church (St Michael the Less)	

Churchwardens

1901 – 1907	Mr E H Long Mr John Knowles
1907 – 1908	Mr E H Long Mr H T Gilpin
1908 – 1913	Mr C A Pryor Mr H T Gilpin
1913 – 1919	Mr Walter Hill Mr C A Pryor
1919 – 1922	Mr J H Adey Mr C A Pryor
1922 – 1923	Mr George S Jones Mr Harvey
1923 – 1943	Mr George S Jones Mr Joseph H Ray
1943 – 1944	Mr E Wookey Mr A J Cheesemore
1944 – 1950	Mr E Wookey Mr George E Flower
1950 – 1953	Mr George E Flower Mr E B White
1953 – 1956	Mr A J J Perry Mr E B White
1956 – 1957	Mr Edward A Chippett Mr E B White
1957 – 1960	Mr Edward A Chippett Mr S Biggs
1960 – 1963	Mr K E Parker Mr Edward A Chippett
1963 – 1964	Miss Dorothy G G Mills Mr Charles A Keeble
1964 – 1969	Miss Dorothy G G Mills Mr W E J Jones
1969 – 1970	Miss Dorothy G G Mills Mr B W Rose

1970 – 1971	Miss Dorothy G G Mills Mr Stephen Watts
1971 – 1973	Miss Dorothy G G Mills Mr Frederic G Cooper
1974 – 1977	Mrs Margaret M Taylor Mr Leslie A Moore
1977 – 1979	Mr Stephen Watts Mr Leslie A Moore
1979 – 1980	Mrs Margaret M Taylor Mr Leslie A Moore
1980 – 1985	Mrs Margaret M Taylor Mr John A Tooze
1985 – 1987	Mr C George Brown Mr John A Tooze
1987 – 1993	Mrs Anita Brown Mr John A Tooze
1993 – 1998	Mr Paul Hudson Mr John A Tooze
1998 – 1999	Ms Margaret Russell Mr John A Tooze
1999 – 2000	Ms Joyce Gregory-Morris Mr John A Tooze
2000 – 2001	Mr Paul Phillips Mr John A Tooze
2001 – 2004	Mr Paul Phillips Mr Kenneth Petrie
2004 – 2006	Mr Paul Phillips Mr John A Tooze
2006 – 2009	Mrs Valerie Wilson Ms Stella Emwood
2009 – 2010	Mrs Valerie Wilson
2010 – 2011	Mr Paul Marshall
2011 -	Mr Paul Marshall Mrs Lucy Samson

