

From The Revd. Chris Musser,
Parish Priest of Pirbright

‘Send us out in
the power of your
Spirit, to live and
work to your
praise and glory’.



These are the words we pray at the end of the Communion service every Sunday, and they express every Christian’s willingness to be part of God’s mission in the world.

For the people of St. Michael & All Angels, our primary commitment is to serve this community. Our prayer to deepen and increase the place of the church at the heart of this parish has led to the development of this 5 year vision.

Even in the relatively short time since we began this programme, the credit crunch and the instability of the financial world around us have had a big effect on many of our lives. It may now seem to be the wrong time to ask for financial support from people for anything, including your parish church.

But how could we not continue when it is clear that there is so much more to this vision than finance alone?

- It expresses our belief that God created us to live in community; continuing Jesus’ work of love, compassion, teaching, justice and service to one another.
- It recognises that everything we have comes from God; nothing is ours to keep for ourselves, but to use in service to God and all of His people.
- It reminds us that God is with us, supporting and loving us in bad times as well as good.

‘Do not be afraid, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom’ (Luke 12:32)

By God’s grace, supporting one another and working together, we already have within our parish an abundance of all the gifts necessary to realise our vision of:

St Michael’s at the Heart of the Community

*With love and prayers,
Revd Chris Musser*



St Michael and All Angels, Pirbright

Our Vision

‘St Michael’s at the Heart of the Community’

- **Expanding our ministry to children, young people and families**

They are the building blocks for the future

- **Encouraging and growing lay ministry**

Our part-time priest cannot do everything!

- **Broadening and varying our opportunities for worship and study**

We need to explore our faith and increase our understanding

- **Increasing our pastoral care to the village**

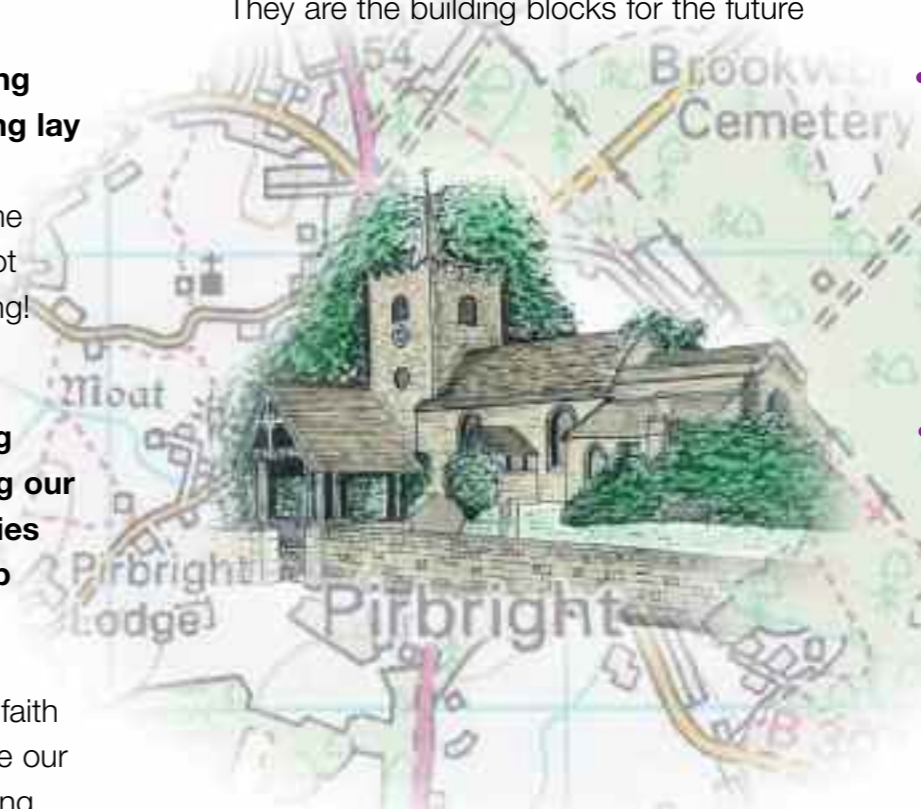
God’s message of love must reach out

- **Growing our involvement with the local and wider community**

We can be a catalyst for activity and fun

- **Growing regular income to meet our costs and fulfil our vision**

We must be able to plan ahead with confidence



St. Michael's - Into the Future

What is 'St Michael's – into the Future' all about?

For the last few months, we have discussed and prayed about the future of St Michael's. We were encouraged to have many of the congregation participating in the formulation of our priorities. The outcome is a Vision and 5 Year Plan which aim to strengthen and expand our mission for God in Pirbright and the wider community.

What can you do?

We can all help in various ways: by supporting the church financially; by committing our time and talents; and by participating enthusiastically in the life of St Michael's and the community activities of our parish.

To plan ahead with confidence and budget effectively, our first priority is to review and increase our regular income.

- If you already give financial support monthly or annually, we ask you to consider increasing this amount.
- If you give money through collections in church, we would like to encourage you to convert this into a regular donation.
- If you haven't supported St Michael's before, would you now consider contributing on a regular basis?

If you pay income tax, St Michael's can benefit by reclaiming the tax through Gift Aid which raises an additional 28%.



'Angel Tots'

– Parent and Toddler Group

Cycle of Prayer

– with a blessing for every part of the village



Church – 'Village Open Day'

'Glimpses of Heaven'

– study programme

Taizé Service

– new opportunities for worship and prayer



Family Service for Harvest



Bishop Christopher with our Recent Confirmands



Operation Christmas Child

Children for Children concerts

– fun, entertainment and experience

Children's Christmas Party

– joint venture with Pirbright Parish Council

Lay Ministry

– developing all the skills in the parish team

Holiday Clubs

– faith with fun

Note: Basic income is supplemented by donations, fund raising, interest fees all of which is not reliable, being dependent on weather and market conditions.

St. Michael's - Into the Future

What is our financial position?

For the last few years, rising costs and increased liabilities have meant that we have not been able to balance the books (see histogram). We also need to pay some arrears in our Parish Share, a payment to the Diocese which is collected mainly in order to cover the cost of clergy including salary, housing, pensions and training.

It now costs nearly £200 per day to keep the doors of your church open.

We have been very successful in raising money through fundraising events but this income is variable and cannot be relied on for planning purposes. The current level of regular giving has also not changed significantly for 14 years. Ideally, we should be covering our running expenses, including Parish Share, through regular income and using fundraising for special projects.

