

## **Report of the Parochial Church Council of**

### **St. Michael and All Angels Farthinghoe**

The PCC is keen to offer a range of weekly and annual festival services that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. For example, evening prayers provide a quiet traditional form of worship while the family service is much livelier. There are other opportunities within the Benefice for example Taize worship provides a more intimate and reflective environment for worship whilst opportunities are provided for people to engage in more outgoing worship such as that provided by the Sunday afternoon Pizza Praise within our benefice.

The church is open daily for private prayer with a more formal time of prayer on a Friday morning.

We have an open baptism policy in which children and adults are baptised as part of the main worship of the family of the church and this includes a communion as this reflects our pattern of worship.

We have continued to have special printed service sheets which many have said are easier to follow making the services more accessible and ensure that all are welcome to attend any of our services.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping.

The Benefice holds an annual All Souls service at which we remember those who had died this past year and others who people wish to give thanks for.

We have enjoyed another year of regular bible studies during Lent and Autumn with about 30 members from around the benefice attending.

Last Easter we said a sad farewell to rev Shemil Mathew our curate who has been appointed as the Chaplain to the Oxford Brookes university and wish him every success in his future ministry.

The annual church fete was well attended as were Christmas and Easter services

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is.

We have been blessed by a team of volunteers who have cut the grass in the churchyard and helped to maintain the trees and plants on a regular basis as well as our yearly Spring Clean days. We have also been blessed by a team of volunteers who have cleaned, tidied and polished the inside of the church as well. The church wouldn't be able to operate without this very appreciated help.

We are also very grateful to Lisa Wenmouth for her playing the church organ at our services and we want to mention the work done by Rosemary Jarvis for the church and community.