

## Parish of St. Michael, Tadley (with Kingsclere) and St. Oswald, Burghfield Common

Priest-in-Charge: Father Stephen Vooght - Parish Administrator: Dan Wisniewski

Presbytery & Office: Tel. 0118 981 4572 – Email: [tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Office hours: Tues, Weds, Thurs, Fri: 9.45am-2.45pm. Closed on Mondays

Website: [www.stmandsto.org.uk](http://www.stmandsto.org.uk)

MASS TIMETABLE					
Day	Date	Feria, Memorial (M), Feast (F), Solemnity (S)	Time	Church	Mass Intention
Sat	13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent - Vigil Mass	6.00pm	St. Michael's	Wayne Togher RIP
Sun	14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent	9.00am	St. Michael's	Gina Poulter RIP
Sun	14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent	11.00am	St. Oswald's	
Mon	15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	NO MASS			
Tues	16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Advent	12 Noon	St. Oswald's	Mgr Canon Martin Lee RIP
Weds	17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Advent	9.30am	St. Michael's	The Noonan Family
Thurs	18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Advent	9.30am	St. Michael's	Ann Marie Fletcher
Fri	19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Advent	7.00pm	St. Michael's	Neil Handley RIP
Sat	20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent – Vigil Mass	6.00pm	St. Michael's	Tomas Landers RIP
Sun	21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	9.00am	St. Michael's	Martin & Johanna Higgins RIP
Sun	21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	11.00am	St. Oswald's	
<i>Children's Liturgy at St. Michael's takes place this Sunday at the 9.00am Mass</i>					
<i>Weekday Masses are preceded by 30 mins of Eucharistic Adoration. Rosary prayed after each Mass.</i>					
<i>Confessions available before Weekday Masses or by appointment</i>					



### Gaudete Sunday

This week is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent which is known as 'Gaudete Sunday'. Gaudete is the Latin word for 'rejoice' or 'be happy' and it is contained in the first reading from the prophet Isaiah who speaks of the hope and joy regarding Israel's imminent return from exile ***"the wilderness and dry land shall be glad and the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus."***

This Sunday is also known as '**Rose Sunday**' as rose-coloured vestments may be worn instead of purple ones and, also, the **rose candle** on the Advent wreath is lit. The colour rose is a symbol of hope and joy. At this midway point of the season of Advent, the Church encourages us in our need to persevere in patience and to always remain strong in our faith and hope in the future coming of Our Lord Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Let us not forget that Jesus comes to us at every Holy Mass. Do we really believe and understand that? St John Vianney said: "If we really understood the Mass, we would die of joy"

**The 2024/25 Annual Parish Financial Report & Financial Statement is attached to the back of this Newsletter**

### **Pastoral Letter from Bishop Philip**

A Pastoral Letter from Bishop Philip will be read at all Masses this weekend. An electronic copy will be sent to all parishioners who receive our Newsletter via email on Sunday afternoon.

There will be a limited number of hard copies available in both our Churches for all other parishioners. PLEASE DO NOT TAKE A HARD COPY IF YOU RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL.

### **ADVENT EVENTS**

#### **Carols on the Wards at Basingstoke Hospital, Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

All those who would like to take part are invited to meet at the Chapel in the hospital at 6 pm. Refreshments available afterwards.

#### **Advent preparation at St. Joseph's, Basingstoke, Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

Advent Taize 4-5pm: All welcome to a simple service of Taize chants, scripture and periods of silence around the Taize cross.

#### **Pastoral Area Reconciliation Service, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

This Advent, St. Joseph's Church, Basingstoke will host the Pastoral Area Reconciliation Service at 7pm Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December. Address: 171A St. Michael's Road, Basingstoke, RG22 6TY

#### **Live Animal Nativity starting at St. Michael's Church, Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

This year's CTAT Nativity experience will start outside our church and journey on to Tadley Common Methodist Church and then on to St Mary's Church from 4pm to 5.30pm. Volunteers to steward the event at our church and then journey with visitors along the route and volunteers to serve refreshments at St Mary's would be greatly appreciated: please let Mary Lee know if you can help, email [maryt.lee@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:maryt.lee@yahoo.co.uk)

### **PARISH CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS**

#### **Christmas Eve - Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

10.00am – 11.00am: Confessions – St. Michael's Church, Tadley

7.30pm: Carol singing – St. Michael's Church, Tadley

8.00pm: Vigil Mass - St. Michael's Church, Tadley

#### **Christmas Day - Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

9.00am: Mass – St. Michael's, Tadley

11.00am: Mass – St. Oswald's, Burghfield Common

#### **Boxing Day – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> December (Feast of St. Stephen)**

10.30am: Mass – St. Michael's, Tadley

#### **Saturday – 27<sup>th</sup> December**

6.00pm: Vigil Mass – St. Michael's, Tadley

#### **Sunday - 28<sup>th</sup> December (Feast of the Holy Family)**

9.00am: Mass – St. Michael's, Tadley

11.00am: Mass – St. Oswald's Burghfield Common

#### **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January (Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God)**

11.00am: Mass – St. Michael's Church, Tadley

#### **Basingstoke Hospital**

Deacon Tony will be taking Holy Communion to Basingstoke Hospital on Christmas Morning. The hospital will provide him with the names and locations of all of the Catholic patients known to them. If you or a loved one is going into hospital, please make sure that the Chaplaincy Team are notified.

If you are a member of staff who is working on Christmas Day, please contact him by email at:

[adarroch@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:adarroch@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) by Monday 22nd December, letting him know where in the hospital you are located & he will do his best to find you.

### Parish Christmas Donations

The individual parish online donation page for your Christmas Collections is now live on Give As You Live:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/tadley-st-michael-and-st-oswald-catholic-parish-christmas-collection-2025>

### Christmas Appeal for MacMillan Cancer Research

Over the Christmas period, please kindly consider leaving your empty Quality Street, Celebrations, etc, large sweet/chocolate plastic tubs in the porch area of our Churches for Deacon Tony to collect to be recycled. Proceeds from the recycling are being donated to the MacMillan Cancer research charity. Please ensure any tubs left are stacked neatly & out of the way, so as not to create obstacles & impede parishioners. Thank you!

### Appeal for a Volunteer to lead the St. Michael's Cleaning Team

We are looking for someone to take charge of the cleaning at St Michael's. There is a committed band of volunteers who turn out, but we need someone to oversee. The work involves:

- Choosing a date (we have been cleaning monthly) & checking that the church and parish room are free
- Emailing volunteers about cleaning dates
- Handing out jobs as people arrive
- Ordering supplies like soap and towels (and claiming reimbursement) or notifying the parish office of supplies that need to be ordered
- Making sure everyone stops cleaning for tea and biscuits afterwards!

More details can be discussed by contacting Tina on [tina@vanewyk.co.uk](mailto:tina@vanewyk.co.uk) or 07738 282574.

### MEETING WITH BISHOP PHILIP ABOUT THE PRIESTHOOD

Bishop Philip is inviting any man in our Diocese, aged 17 or older, who is not married and who would like to know more about being a diocesan priest, to contact him and to come to a short meeting at the Cathedral on Sunday 4th January at 3 o'clock (finishes at 5 pm). Please scan the QR code to register.



### CHURCHES TOGETHER AROUND TADLEY (CTAT)

#### Christmas Day Event

Many thanks to those who have volunteered to help with the Christmas Day event, either in advance with the preparations and set up or on the day itself – it is much appreciated!

As of this morning, Friday 5 December, there were two places remaining for guests for this free event. Advance booking is required. There will be fun, games, quiet areas and Christmas Lunch at the Ambrose Allen Centre, Tadley from 11.30am to 4pm. Transport can be provided within Tadley and Silchester. To book or for more information, please call 07471 848508 or email: [tadleychristmasday@gmail.com](mailto:tadleychristmasday@gmail.com) or register online at: <https://ctat.churchsuite.com/events/kziuxpi8>

#### Volunteers to help with packing Foodbank Christmas Hampers

Volunteers are needed to pack the Christmas hampers – this year in a unit on a Basingstoke industrial estate. To find details of items needed for the hampers and volunteering details, please go to the Basingstoke Foodbank website: <https://basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk/support-us/christmas-hamper-project>

#### Live Animal Nativity on Monday 22 December

This year's CTAT Nativity experience will start outside our church at 4pm and journey on to Tadley Common Methodist Church and then on to St Mary's Church, where there will be refreshments, ending at 5.30pm.

Volunteers would be greatly appreciated to:

- steward the event at our church and then journey with visitors along the route
- bake cakes or bring mulled wine and mince pies
- serve refreshments at St Mary's.

Please let Mary Lee know if you can help in any way on 07821 254100 or email [maryt.lee@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:maryt.lee@yahoo.co.uk)

There will be a planning meeting on Thursday 18 December in St. Mary's Church, Tadley from 7 pm, but even if you can't make the meeting, don't let that stop you from helping!

## ST MICHAEL'S & ST. OSWALD'S PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT: YEAR TO 31 AUGUST 2025

### HEADLINES

- OPERATING DEFICIT CIRCA £8000.OVERALL DEFICIT CIRCA £18,000 AFTER CONTRIBUTION TO CATHEDRAL BUILDING APPEAL
- SMALL INCREASE (2.8%) IN OFFERTORY INCOME v GENERAL INFLATION (3.7%)
- CLOSER TO CHRIST FUNDS CIRCA £6,777 RECEIVED (£9,684 in 2024)
- WITHOUT MAKING CHANGES TO INCREASE INCOME AND REDUCE EXPENDITURE THE LONG-TERM TREND IS CONTINUING DEFICITS DUE MAINLY TO THE COSTS OF MAINTAINING OUR BUILDINGS: CUMULATIVE DEFICIT OF £57,000 IN PAST 5 YEARS
- SINCE 2021 OFFERTORY INCOME HAS INCREASED BY 9% v 24% GENERAL INFLATION (CPI)
- CURRENT STATUS QUO IS NOT SUSTAINABLE

### COMMENTS

- 1.The accompanying table shows the parish financial results for the accounting year ended 31 August 2025, and for comparison, also the preceding 4 years.
  - 2.Gift Aid tax refund £8,039 is below that in 2024(£12,416) when we had a bigger than normal tax rebate because of delayed claims from 2023.
  3. The parish's share of money from the Closer to Christ campaign was £6,777: down from £9,684 last year and it will fall to zero in the next 3 years as remaining pledges to the campaign run their course.
  - 4.“Offertory Collection and Standing Orders” increased by £1,302: an increase of 2.8% over the previous year but below the rate of consumer price inflation 3.7%. Doubtless this reflects the cost-of-living pressures on household budgets and the generous response of many parishioners to the Closer to Christ campaign. This income excludes money given for Second Collections (which are paid over to the diocese or the relevant charity) and the Christmas and Easter offerings for our parish priest.
  - 5.Income in 2025 was boosted by interest of £6,670 on our cash reserves held on deposit. This is not a reliable source of income as interest rates are uncertain and it will fall in future years as cash reserves are used to fund operating deficits.
  - 6.Diocesan levy/Insurance/Council tax £19,023 comprises:

-Diocesan levy	£11,424
-Insurance	£5,654
-Council tax	£1,945
- The diocesan levy is over £2,500 lower than last year due to a change in the formula used by the diocese which benefits smaller parishes like ours.
- 7.Wages £15,761 (£12,658 in 2024) reflect a pay increase in September 2024 for our parish administrator, Dan, and more hours needed to cope with an increased workload due to compliance with ever increasing diocesan requirements.

## 8. Repairs/Refurbishments £20,780 includes:

- £9,751 on our grounds at both churches including tree surveys, tree surgery, hedge cutting grass cutting, and skip hire. The diocese requires parishes to commission regular tree surveys to comply with Health and Safety requirements, and we have many trees at St Oswalds, all of which are subject to Tree Preservation Orders. Trees at St Michaels have been pruned in part to allow access to carry out work on the church roof.
- £5,490 on mandatory inspections, surveys, and servicing of equipment

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

9. In the Diocesan 10 Year Mission Plan (page 12), Bishop Philip writes of his vision for the future:

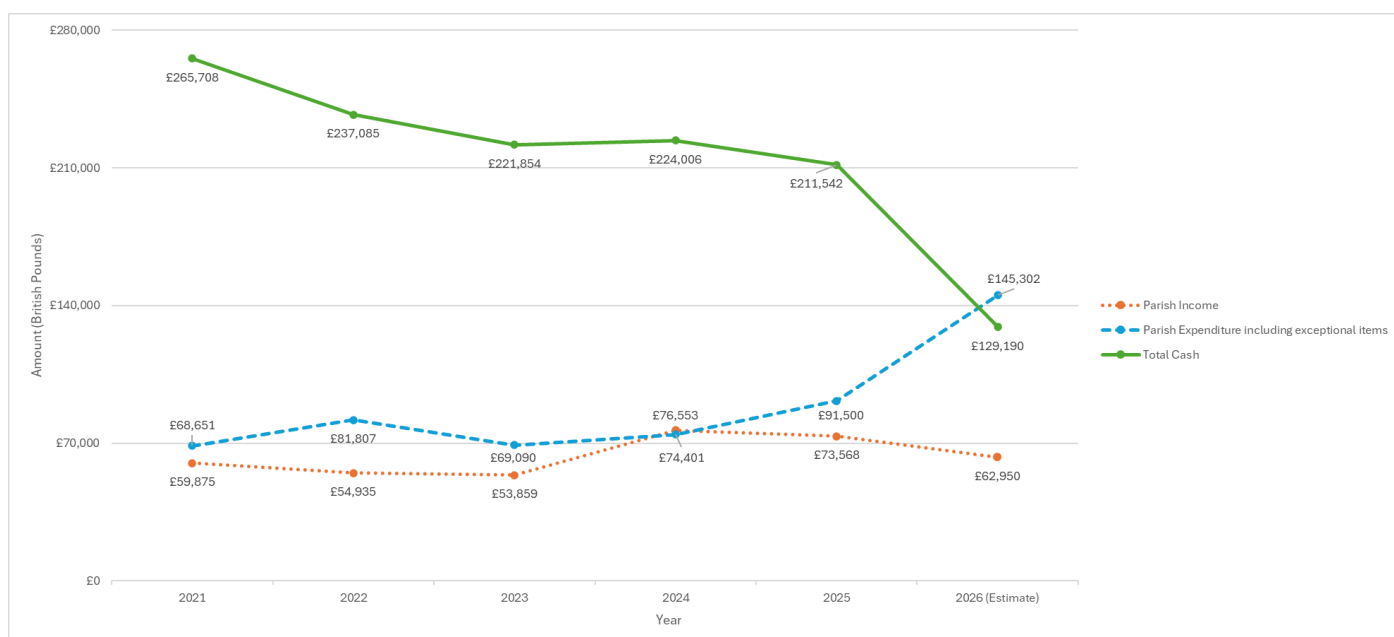
***“It’s about not spending all our time, money and energy on ecclesiastical buildings, plant and property, when frankly, there are hardly many people within them, but on directing our resources more intentionally towards the mission”.***

10. The recent annual Sunday Mass count over 4 weeks in our two churches showed an average of 115 attendees for the whole parish, up from 105 in 2024. St Michaels increased from 80 to 86 and St Oswalds from 25 to 29.

11. As the financial statement shows, our annual income is consistently not enough to pay for the upkeep of the buildings on our two sites. The shortfall is funded by drawing from our cash reserves, but if we continue as we are, the money will eventually run out. In the current financial year 2025/26 we expect our cash reserves to fall by around £80,000 due to an operating deficit for the year and the projected cost of building repairs to St Michael’s church roof. The attached graph shows the fall in our cash reserves since 2021.

12. The future of all the parish buildings in the Basingstoke Pastoral Area (6 churches, 4 halls, and 5 presbyteries) will be considered as part of the overall Pastoral Area plan as it develops. This will involve reviewing all the buildings (churches, presbyteries, halls) in the Pastoral Area, identifying those which are surplus to requirements, and developing and implementing a plan for disposal or repurpose in line with the principle of “Prudent Stewardship”, which is one of the 3 overarching principles of the Mission Plan.

*The parish finance committee will be involved in reviewing the options, and no decisions affecting our buildings will be made without a parish consultation.*



<b>St Michael's &amp; St Oswalds Parish Accounts</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>5 Year Summary</b>				£	£
<b>Income</b>					
Offertory Collection and Standing Orders	47,254	45,942	44,740	43,528	43,306
Gift Aid Tax Refund	8,039	12,416	5,999	9,274	12,199
Closer to Christ	6,777	9,684	-	-	-
Hall Income	1,730	2,062	1,994	967	671
Furlough Support		0	0	0	2,336
Other - (insurance rebate 2024)	3,098	4,698	1,126	1,166	1,363
Interest on Deposit acc	6,670	1,751			
<b>Gross Parish Income</b>	<b>73,568</b>	<b>76,553</b>	<b>53,859</b>	<b>54,935</b>	<b>59,875</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Diocese Levy / Insurance / Council Tax	19,023	23,221	19,571	20,139	19,210
Priest's Stipend / Supply Priests / NIC	5,232	5,197	5,083	4,790	4,790
Wages	15,761	12,658	8,856	13,294	9,081
Utilities / Maintenance	13,379	17,609	22,651	15,372	12,924
Repairs / Refurbishments	20,780	8,905	10,247	4,469	6,276
Liturgical / Altar / Parish Events	2,965	4,371	1,168	1,707	1,017
Office and other support costs	3,792	2,381	1,514	3,149	2,871
Donations	568	60	0	250	145
<b>Gross Parish Expenditure</b>	<b>81,500</b>	<b>74,401</b>	<b>69,090</b>	<b>63,170</b>	<b>56,314</b>
<b>Net Operating Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(7,932)</b>	<b>2,152</b>	<b>(15,231)</b>	<b>(8,235)</b>	<b>3,561</b>
<b>Expenditure met from Kingsclere funds</b>					
Presbytery bathroom - Tadley					-10,092
Boiler / roof - Burghfield					-2,245
Presbytery roof repairs				-6,342	
St. Oswald's tree work				-7,879	
St. Michael's new boiler				-4,416	
Contribution to Cathedral Maintenance Fund	-10,000				
<b>Net Inflow/(Outflow) of Cash</b>	<b>(17,932)</b>	<b>2,152</b>	<b>(15,231)</b>	<b>(26,872)</b>	<b>(8,776)</b>
<b>Funds received on behalf of third parties</b>	<b>5,468</b>				
<b>Cash reserves of Parish at 31 August</b>	<b>211,542</b>	<b>224,006</b>	<b>221,854</b>	<b>237,085</b>	<b>265,708</b>
<b>Xmas/Easter Offerings for year</b>	<b>3,445</b>	<b>2,807</b>	<b>3,191</b>	<b>3,834</b>	
<b>Special Collections for the year</b>					
Cathedral	437	267	147		
Mission Sunday (Missio)	186	143	219		
Home Mission Sunday	128	107	64		
Bamenda	473	397	331		
Crib	133	156	33		
Catholic Education Service	10				
Clergy Assistance Fund	302	318	146		
Holy Places	209	181	174		
Clergy Training Fund	216	95	151		
World Communications	144		138		
Peter's Pence	105	123	135		
Day for Life	90	134	3		
Stella Maris	367	185	379		
CAFOD	1352	1,220	418		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,151</b>	<b>3,326</b>	<b>2,338</b>		