



Christ Church Bath

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Sunday 19 April 2015

**11:30am, Christ Church,
Julian Road, Bath BA1 2RH**

Agenda

1. Opening prayer
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the previous AGM (Sunday 4 May 2014)
and any matters arising not otherwise on the agenda
4. Remarks from the Chair of Trustees
5. Elections
 - a. Election of Churchwardens
 - b. Election of Assistant Churchwardens
 - c. Election of Deanery Synod representative
 - d. Elections to Church Council
 - e. Election of Sidespersons
6. Questions/discussion on written reports
7. AOB
8. Dates of the next AGM and first Council meeting
9. Closing prayer

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Christ Church, Bath, Sunday 4 May 2014

Attending: 46 people. Chair: Canon Angela Townshend.

- 1. Opened with prayer** from Canon Angela.
- 2. Apologies for absence:**
Keri Chivers, Greg Cunningham, Mark Elliott, Rowena Hall, Canon Melvyn Matthews, June Matthews.
- 3. Minutes of the previous AGM** (21 April 2013) were accepted unanimously (proposed by David Rawlings, seconded by Andrew Sillett), with a request that the minutes are published earlier so that they can be studied before the meeting. There were no matters arising not already on the agenda.
- 4. Remarks from the Priest in Charge**
Canon Angela thanked the congregation for their support, particularly during the last difficult six months. She particularly wanted to thank the Trustees for their contributions to the care of Ned, her husband. She expressed her continuing delight at being at Christ Church.
- 5. Election of Churchwardens**
Both Churchwardens are willing to stand again. Both were re-elected unopposed (proposed by Rebekah Cunningham, seconded by Sylvia Ayers).
- 6. Election of Assistant Churchwardens**
Janet Mahto and Yvonne Morris were re-elected (proposed by Judith Bishop, seconded by Morny Davison).
- 7. Election of Sidespersons**
All Sidespersons were re-confirmed in their duties (proposed by Martin Palmer, seconded by Robin Kerr and accepted unanimously).
- 8. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives**
Andrew Sillett and Brenda Wall were re-elected unopposed.

9. Elections to Church Council

Three members were elected unopposed to a three-year term: Matthew Jones (proposed by Alex Soboslay, seconded Morny Davison), Judith Anderson (proposed Andrew Sillett, seconded Robin Kerr) and Sharon Rawlings (proposed Morny Davison, seconded Judith Anderson). Rebecca Nicholson remains as a co-opted member until she leaves for University in September. Alex proposed a voted of thanks to retiring members Rebecca Nicholson and Martin Palmer, which was passed by acclamation.

10. Questions and discussion on Reports

(1) Finance report. David Bishop explained that he is in the process of transferring responsibility for certain spending to the church council. He mentioned that we had fallen behind on Gift Aid claims, but this now has been done. Robin Kerr noted that 24% of our expenditure is on property. David Rawlings expressed surprise that a full financial statement had not been presented, only a profit and loss statement. David Bishop said this was correct, as we are a charitable trust. David R requested a full statement next year.

(2) Buildings. Bob Siderfin commended the building plans which are up on a board at the back of the church, and urged us to fill in the questionnaire about the church reordering.

(3) Bells restoration. Ian Hay Davison aims to replace the current bells with a new set of six – or if enough money is raised, eight – to be cast by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. He has so far raised £74,000 and outlined the proposed timetable for the project. Funds will come from outside the congregation.

(4) Churches Together in Bath. We are hoping to join the Northern Zone. Margaret Heath will continue as our rep but Sylvia Ayers is stepping down and was thanked for all her work.

(5) Concerts and Events. Judith Bishop expressed her gratitude for all the help she has been given with Toppings and other events.

(6) Hospitality. An Italian Evening is planned in June. We have two places for the installation of the new Bishop of Bath and Wells.

11. Date of next AGM

There was no other business. The next AGM was set for Sunday 19 April 2015. The next Council meeting will be 10 June 2014.

12. The meeting closed with the Grace.

REPORTS for 2015

1 Administrative Reports

1.1 Report from the Priest-in-Charge

This year has been a busy one both personally and in work. I have continued to serve on Bishop's Council and the Glebe Committee and I have been a member of the Bishop's Advisory Group for the appointment of the new Bishop of Taunton. It means that I will be in Wells as part of the interviewing panel in April. I continued to lead the occasional assembly at St Andrew's School. I have prepared and welcomed Isaac, Ben, Emily, Lily and Freddie to their first communion.

The major piece of work that I worked hard at bringing to birth was the bells. It was a moving and delightful morning when I came to church and heard the bells for the very first time. I thank all those who gave time, effort and donations to enable the project to be completed. A special thank you to Ian Hay Davison, who shouldered most of the work. Work has continued on the reordering with emphasis on the entrance and doors as well as the heating system.

I continued to see two people for Spiritual Direction and as mentor, as her Continuing Theological Education Tutor. We have had Katie Garner here as a part of her ordination placements. During the year I played my part as Trustee on the Ammerdown Trustees, St Martin's Trustees, Birmingham and the Seeds of Hope Garden Trustees in Guildford. I also made a few appearances (if you can "appear" on radio) on Radio Bristol and went out with a peal on Points West on my last Sunday.

We have continued to worship in a lively, welcoming and spiritually focused way. The music has been superb. My thanks go to Mark Elliott, Keith Pigot and the committed members of the choir who give such a spiritual base from which we can worship the God of Love.

We welcomed the Bishop of Bath and Wells to dedicate our new bells as well as enjoying a lovely nativity, written by Sarah Jones and enacted by the children. We had a very happy Christmas. We have welcomed several new members of the congregation. We hope they will find a loving and spiritual home here with us. Simon Tatton-Brown, who

joined us last year, has ministered to us not only in the choir, but also in his priestly role.

The Church Council has seen some lively if not heated discussions on various issues. We have disagreed at times, but we all agree on the need for the love of God in Christ Church and its community. Thank you to all who have served on the Church Council. The Trustees have co-opted a new member, Charles Rice. Charles brings a wealth of experience to the group. Thank you to all the Trustees and especially to Mark Elliott, who is retiring as the Chair, to Sarah Jones, the Secretary, who has kept us up to date with minutes etc., and to David Bishop, the Treasurer.

Many of us have enjoyed various wonderful social events and celebrations. Our thanks go to Angela Soboslay and the Hospitality Group for all they do as well as those who week after week provide us with good coffee after church. I also thank Judith Bishop and the many volunteers who have helped in making it possible to welcome Toppings Bookshop on many occasions. This not only brings in welcome cash but it also, and more importantly, brings in people. We have had people come to church following an event. Despite Keri Chivers retiring as the organiser of Cedar Tree (though continuing as a volunteer), it has continued to minister to the regulars and those who “drop in”. Many thanks to Keri and everyone who has helped in any way.

I want to thank you all for the support and help you have given, not only in church but personally in what has been an increasingly difficult time. I thank the Church Wardens, Malcolm Wall and Alex Soboslay, who do far more than you might imagine, and the Virger, Angela Soboslay, who keeps things ticking over so well. Thanks go to all the sidespeople, the servers, those who help with flowers and cleaning, the makers of cakes and bacon butties. Thanks too for the support and encouragement I have received from the clergy, Simon Tatton-Brown, Angela Berners-Wilson, Cliff Burrows and Melvyn Matthews, and from Mark Elliott in his role as Reader.

Ned’s increasing disability has meant that he had to move into a more suitable nursing home. For some time I had thought that we might move back to Guildford, where we have family support nearby, in two or three years’ time. A move would mean disruption for Ned and could only be done once, for his well-being. So after a great deal of thought and prayer we decided that the move back to Guildford would have to

come sooner rather than later. Many of you will know that it has been a very difficult time and I am very sorry to leave you so soon. I have very much enjoyed my ministry with you over the last three years or so, and I feel I have been taken to your hearts as you have mine. Christ Church is a very special place and I hope and pray that your important ministry in worship and service in the community will continue to bring God's love to those with whom you are in contact.

Thanks to you all for your love and support. I will continue to pray for you; please pray for Ned and me.

Canon Angela Townshend

1.2 Report from the (outgoing) Chair of Trustees

It has been another eventful year in the life of Christ Church. Obviously, Angela's decision to retire and move back to Guildford in order to better facilitate Ned's care was unexpected and a great sadness, and we are now well into "interregnum mode". I would like to record again my appreciation for all she did for Christ Church in the years she was with us. I know we all send our love and prayers with her and Ned as they settle into their new situation and face the increasing difficulties of Ned's condition. My thanks also to all the other clergy who have helped support Christ Church during the past year, and who I know will continue to do so through the vacancy.

On a happier note, the project to restore the bells was successfully completed in February, and we are hugely grateful to Ian Hay Davison for all of the time and energy he put into this work, and to David Kelly for his organisational skill and advice throughout the project. It's great to hear the bells calling us to worship on a Sunday morning.

Heartfelt thanks also go to Robin Kerr for his time and talent in managing the replacement of the heating system. He is now applying his project management skills to the work on the development work for the west end, porch and toilets, which is the next big scheduled project relating to the fabric of the building. (Proposed plans are available in the latest magazine and at the back of church.)

We welcomed two new trustees during the year. Sue East has joined the trustees as a representative of the Rector of Walcot. Sue is head teacher of St Andrew's school and so brings useful insight to the

trustees' discussions. Charles Rice has been a regular member of the congregation (along with Carol) since moving into the house next door to the east end of the church a couple of years ago. Charles has had an extensive business career and also has previous experience of being a trustee of a church-related trust which administered a legacy to Bury St Edmunds Cathedral. We are delighted that both Sue and Charles feel able to offer their time and expertise as trustees of Christ Church.

As I am now standing down as a trustee of Christ Church, I would like to thank all of the trustees for their support since I took on the role of chair in 2009. I have been glad to be able to serve Christ Church in this capacity through a significant period of change in the church's life, but I'm equally sure that this is the right time for me to step down. I'm delighted that Sarah Jones has been elected as chair of the trustees and I know she will be excellent in that role. She has my full support and I know you will all give her yours as well.

Finally, my thanks to everyone involved in the life of Christ Church for helping to make the church the special place that it is.

Mark Elliott

1.3 Treasurer's Report for financial year 2014

The accounts for 2013 were professionally inspected and submitted to the Charity Commission in October. The following report is based on unaudited figures for 2014, and should be regarded as indicative only. The official 2014 figures are now in preparation, which reflect a separation of the accounts into Council and Trust areas of responsibility.

Trustees

Both the cottages as well as the Upper Lansdown Mews were rented continuously throughout the year, providing steady property income. Management of the cottages passed to Camden Lets following the closure of Challenger International. It became apparent toward the end of the year that the standard of maintenance of the cottages had slipped. A programme of catch-up maintenance for No 1 has now been put in place.

Car parking charges were increased over 2013 levels slightly in excess of inflation.

The Trustees agreed to assist with Ned Townshend's care to relieve some of Canon Angela's financial burden, and £3,200 was paid out over the year. More than half of this was covered by the generosity of members of the congregation.

The church central heating boiler was replaced. This £13,000 bill constituted the major proportion of the Trustees' expenditure on church fabric. A further £7,000 design costs were incurred towards major projects.

Council

Income from planned giving (envelopes and standing orders) increased by about 7% over 2013 to over £35,000. This makes around 90% of charitable giving eligible for tax refund via Gift Aid. A backlog of £19,000 Gift Aid was received in 2014, with a further claim of around £8,000 to be made in 2015.

Revenue from the hire of the church was £2,500, of which the majority again came from Toppings' book signings.

Salaries rose in line with inflation, and Keith Pigot was appointed with a regular monthly fee, replacing the various ad hoc organist payments seen in 2013. Utilities remained similar to 2013 levels; any saving attributable to the more efficient heating system will not be evident until 2015. Administrative costs for 2014, mostly printing, were substantially lower than in 2013, which included administrative costs for Angela Townshend.

Charitable donations (in the form of Genesis Vouchers) were £450, lower than 2013; however, the "Charity of the Month" scheme raised over £300, and the congregation also showed great generosity in supporting the Open Christmas appeal. These cash donations do not go through the Christ Church accounts.

David Bishop

2014 Income and Expenditure

TRUSTEES

INCOME

Investment	£1,200
Cottage 1	£13,200
Cottage 2	£8,800
Upper Mews (<i>note 1</i>)	£8,700
Car Parking	£12,200
Other (<i>note 2</i>)	£2,100

£46,200

EXPENDITURE

Property Maintenance	£1,700
Utilities	£1,500
Church Maintenance	£1,600
Organ Service & Repair	—
Incumbent	£8,900
Insurances	£4,300
Projects (<i>note 3</i>)	£20,500
Charitable Giving (<i>note 4</i>)	£3,200

£41,700

Note 1: £15,000 full year

Note 2: incl £1,500 project gift

Note 3: incl £13,000 new boiler

Note 4: Ned's care

COUNCIL

INCOME

Church Collections	£4,700
Weekly Envelopes	£5,800
Standing Orders	£28,700
Other donations	£100
Use of church	£2,700
Other Income	£400
Gift Aid refund (<i>note 5</i>)	£19,000

£61,400

EXPENDITURE

Wages	£12,600
Utilities	£7,200
Goods	£800
Church Maintenance	£100
Admin	£6,200
Junior Church	—
Diocesan Contribution	£10,000
Charitable Giving	£500
Music/fees/organ	£2,100

£39,500

Note 5: Historical. £8,300 due on 2014 giving

CONSOLIDATED

INCOME

Investments	£1,200
Property	£47,700
Charitable	£58,700

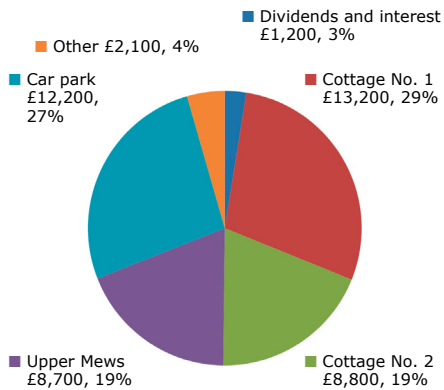
£107,600

EXPENDITURE

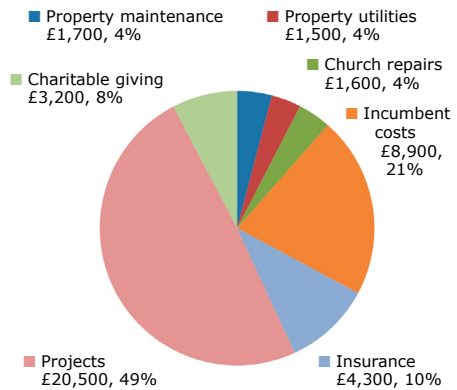
Property	£29,700
Liturgical Use	£37,800
Diocesan donation	£10,000
Donations	£3,700

£81,200

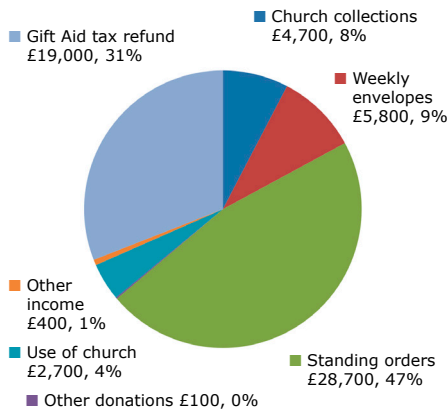
Trustees Income £46,200



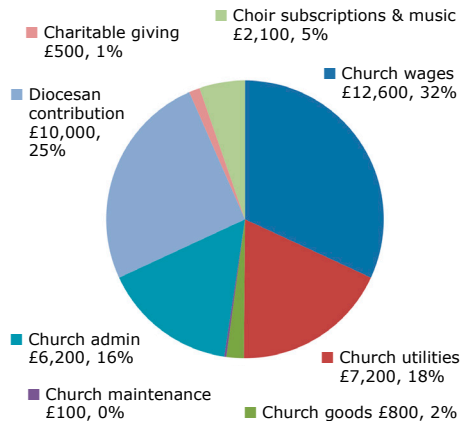
Trustees Expenditure £41,700



Council Income £61,400



Council Expenditure £39,500



1.4 Church Council

In the year since the last AGM in May 2014, Christ Church Council has met seven times. There were 16 members of Council until the end of February 2015, when Canon Angela's resignation took effect. Average attendance at meetings has been 12 (highest 14, lowest 10).

Details of discussions and decisions are in the minutes, which are available on the website: visit www.christchurchbath.org, click on Church Community at the left-hand side, then Church Council. Printed minutes will also be made available at the back of the church.

Council and the Trustees jointly have elected a Standing Committee to help manage things through the interregnum and beyond. The members are Sarah Jones, David Bishop, Malcolm Wall, Alex Soboslay and Andrew Sillett.

Alex Soboslay

1.5 Electoral Roll

The number on the electoral roll as at May 2014 was 66. We have lost no members through death and/or relocation. However, four members have joined the roll. The total as at April 2015 is therefore 70.

We would like to extend an invitation to all of those who have joined Christ Church but are not yet represented on the electoral roll to sign up. Please see Judith Anderson for details.

Judith Anderson

2 Reports on Church Activities

2.1 Building projects

2.1.1 Bells restoration

Our bells were declared unsafe to ring in 2013, mainly because of deterioration of the frames and fittings. We formulated a plan to replace the bells, frames and fittings, and held a public exhibition in October 2013 to seek the views of our neighbours. The response was very favourable, so we applied for a faculty (the Church of England equivalent of planning permission). This was granted in June 2014.

Preparatory work began that month, and by mid July the old bells and frames had been removed. At the end of July the builders started work on measures to reduce the loudness of the bells in the immediate area, including blocking up the louvres in the tower and installing a new sound-proof floor with sound control trapdoors.

The cracked tenor bell was melted down and four new bells were cast for us at Whitechapel Bell Foundry on Thursday 18 September, plus a fifth in mid October. These five new bells were delivered to Christ Church on Monday 8 December, along with three others from the redundant church of St Mary's, Highfield Street, Liverpool, making up our new ring of eight bells.

We held an open day on Friday 19 December so that anyone interested could come to see the bells before they were lifted into the tower, and they were dedicated on Sunday 21 December by Bishop Peter Hancock, the new Bishop of Bath & Wells, on his first visit to Christ Church. They were installed in the tower in early January 2015 by Nicholson's bell-hangers of Bridport, and after tests to verify that the new sound control measures were effective, ringing was officially inaugurated on Sunday 22 February. Fittingly, this was Canon Angela's last Sunday as our Priest-in-Charge. She had been one of the driving forces behind the project.

A "dumb bell" (silent training bell) has been added to the set, and almost all the related work in the tower and ringing chamber is now completed. The electronic clock chime control, however, has proved to be faulty, and repairs are expected to be done by the end of April.

The project has been fully funded by external fundraising and generous donors, who will be acknowledged on a suitable donor board to be mounted in due course. It is anticipated that there will be no cost to the Trustees or congregation of Christ Church. Thanks are due to the project leader and fundraising director, Ian Hay Davison, and also to the volunteers whose work helped greatly to reduce the costs involved: Morley Bray, Phill Butler, Roger Button, Ian Smith, Alex Thomson and particularly David Kelly.

Thanks must also go to the Kelttek Trust, a charity which finds homes for surplus and redundant church bells, which secured our three bells from Liverpool. Bells from our former set are going to new homes in Ipstones, Staffordshire; Willingale, Essex; Prescott, Merseyside; and Dulwich Hill, Sydney, Australia.

2.1.2 Heating

The Heating project started in autumn 2013, when it was realised that the existing boiler might be nursed through the winter but not through another one. In preparation for drafting the necessary faculty, the diocesan energy-saving adviser was consulted in October 2013, resulting in a concept of replacing the gas boiler in the crypt with a modern one (phase 1); splitting the pipework at the west end of the pews; installing an additional wall-hung combi boiler in the kitchen and supplying from it hot water, the west end radiators, and additional ones in the porch/lavatory area, which would allow these to be operated economically during the week independently of the nave, particularly once a “glass wall” had been inserted, thereby creating a warm and welcoming transitional or secular space (phase 2).

Quotations were sought from five contractors, and narrowed to two by August 2014, one of which would exhaust up the existing chimney and the other using a balanced flue through the crypt wall. The contract was awarded to J.S.Tams Ltd as it was marginally cheaper, less risky, and used a better way to take gas supply to the rear boiler. Phase 1 work took place in September 2014 but phase 2 is being deferred until required, as this would involve replacement of the carpet in the nave (because it was discovered to be glued to the floorboards). The price remains fixed. There were a few teething troubles, such as excessive air in the radiators, a small leak in the primary, random shut down of the remote controller, and need for a replacement radiator beside the Lady Chapel, but opinion now seems to be that the church is warm and the system is efficient.

2.1.3 West End works

Planned for the West End of the church are new lavatories, at least one of these being fully accessible, and disabled access through the main doors, complying with the Equality Act 2010. Our architects, Chedburn Dudley, have proposed new stone steps outside, with suitable handrails for ambulant approach, including for weddings and funerals, leading to a stone platform giving level access to the church. In addition, a stone ramp, starting near the choir entrance, will allow wheel chair approach to the platform. The main doors will be re-hung to hinge outwards, and new, electrically actuated glass doors will be added, hinging inwards from the same arch, to contain warmth. The three-door wooden “draught-lock” within the lobby will then be removed, offering a view of the church interior from the street (when the main doors are open).

This concept has already been discussed with B&NES conservation officers, bearing in mind that the church is Listed Grade 2, and the planning application required for the external works has now been submitted. As for the lavatories, these are not subject to Council planning approval. It is hoped to achieve a design with three WCs, but this will require the south outer door to be permanently immobilised.

Robin Kerr & Alex Soboslay

2.2 Cedar Tree Café

Serving the community

The café has continued opening on most Fridays during the past year though sadly, due to insufficient volunteers, has had to close on a couple of occasions. We provide a friendly, welcoming and safe environment for the local community including some of Bath’s homeless people. We also, mainly during the summer, have tourists come in for coffee and cake and a look around the church.

Resourcing

The cafe is staffed by a few regular, dedicated volunteers from Christ Church. Keri stepped down as co-ordinator in January, the work being largely taken over by Janet Mahto. More help is desperately needed to relieve the load on the present volunteers and to enable the café to open every Friday. Financially the café is stable. Most weeks show a slight profit. This year we have been able to make a donation to Julian House. There are also enough funds available to buy Genesis Vouchers which are given out at the café to those who need

them as well as after the service on Sundays.

Thanks

Many thanks to those who tirelessly help run the café, make cakes, set the tables up and pray for us.

Keri Chivers & Janet Mahto

2.3 Charities of the Month

As a charity, Christ Church cannot legally give money to any other causes than those specified in its governing document, and our Trust Deed of 1801 lays down very narrow aims. In order to enable us to give practical support to charities we want to help, Council decided in 2013 to establish a “Charity of the Month” scheme, under which money would be collected for a specific nominated charity each month.

A mix of local, national and international charities was nominated for 2014, and these are the amounts raised:

January 2014	Prince’s Trust	£30
February	Dorothy House	£60
March	Mothers’ Union	£57
April	Church Army	£25
May	Julian House	£15
June	Save the Children	£32
July	Help for Heroes	£80
August	Mentoring Plus	£39
September	Water Aid	(note 1)
October	US (formerly USPG)	£110
November	Women’s Refuge	£11 (plus goods – note 2)
December	(Bath homeless charities)	£924 (note 3)
January 2015	Water Aid	£71
February	Blind Veterans UK	£57.70

Note 1: Collection envelopes supplied by the charity concerned and passed on unopened.

Note 2: The charity asked mainly for useful goods rather than cash.

Note 3: All loose collections in December, shared this year between Open Christmas (£244), Julian House (£244) and Genesis Trust (£436).

Alex Soboslay

2.4 Choir

As in most years, the musical highlights of the last 12 months were, I think, the major services over Advent & Christmas and Holy Week & Easter. I was particularly pleased with what I thought was a very powerful and evocative opening to the Advent Carol service with a very recently published piece by composer Alec Roth. I think it's hugely important that choirs such as Christ Church are able to use new music like this to make sure that church choral music is seen as a living, continually developing tradition. I'm delighted that the choir remains at the heart of the Christ Church community and its worshipping life, and I would like to thank all those members of the congregation who, week by week, comment on how much the music means to them.

It's been a pleasure to see the junior members of our choir make great progress – during the year we've presented Ben with his light blue ribbon and Isaac and Emily with their dark blue ribbons. It would be great to be able to build up the numbers in the junior choir, so if you know of any kids you feel might enjoy singing with us, please let me know!

My thanks to Keith for all the hard work he has put in during the year. I've thoroughly enjoyed working with him during this first full year of his time as organist, and hope for many more! It's also been great to be able to call on the services of David Winters occasionally as our regular "stand-in" organist when either myself or Keith has been away.

Finally my thanks to all the members of the choir who are so committed to singing week by week. Without their time and energy the worship at Christ Church would be greatly diminished.

Mark Elliott

2.5 Churches Together in Bath

It has continued to be a delight to represent Christ Church on the committee of the north east area of Bath. Our meetings are very rewarding; we listen to what other churches are doing and make modest plans to contribute to the spiritual life of Bath.

The county ecumenical officer for Somerset, Gabrielle Grace, is resigning and at the time of writing no successor has been announced.

She has been most conscientious in circulating details of forthcoming events in the region, which I have passed on to possibly interested parties in Christ Church.

The former secretary of the now disbanded central area committee has also continued to circulate news to her list of members. We are indeed fortunate that so much is available to us. I was sad that the well-advertised visit to Christ Church of Karen Armstrong was cancelled by Toppings but I hope to get our colleagues to a service in Christ Church when the vacancy is over.

Because of my impotunity perhaps at last someone will volunteer to join me on the committee. Our meetings are held on a weekday morning, so I appreciate those many members of our congregation in full-time jobs cannot volunteer. But is there not someone out there?

Margaret Heath

2.6 Concerts and Events

I'm pleased to say that Christ Church is a favoured venue for Toppings book signings. We hosted 25 events for them during 2014 including authors such as General Sir David Richards, Gareth Thomas, Graham Hancock, Tom Kerridge and Sir Ranulph Fiennes.

Bath Camerata, internationally renowned chamber choir, again held a workshop in April and used the church for their autumn and Christmas concerts. With a prospect of a new conductor they may have plans for more next year.

All of these events brought in a total of £3,150. An excellent source of fund-raising income but also affording Christ Church much needed exposure to a wider community.

Again, many thanks to members of the congregation who generously give their time on a voluntary basis to assist with stewarding.

Judith Bishop

2.7 Deanery Synod

Your Representatives last year: Andrew Sillett, Brenda Wall and Morny Davison.

Meetings of Deanery Synod during the year

Deanery Synod has met three times over the last 12 months, at the following venues:

- 18th June 2014 at Holy Trinity, Combe Down
- 16th October 2014 at St Michaels by Waitrose, and
- 10th March 2015 at St. Swithin's, Walcot

Topics discussed

When Deanery Synod met on 18th June purpose of the meeting was to “meet and greet” Peter Hancock, our newly-installed Bishop of Bath & Wells. Bishop Peter told us that he was engaged in going out to meet and consult with all the Deaneries in the Diocese. The Archbishop's Council had set him three goals – grow, re-imagine ministry and engage with communities – and asked him to work on all three. Archbishop Justin Welby's charge to him was the need to grow the church through evangelism. Bishop Peter sees that as his “job description”. This is a challenge. Referring to his Pastoral Staff Bishop Peter was reminded that one of the tasks set for him at his consecration was to encourage, restore and build up the body of Christ. Referring to Colossians 4 Bishop Peter asked for prayers for us that God may open a door. Bishop Peter sees himself as a pastor with a pastoral staff, called to rediscover and refine his ministry to discover what it means to lead a diocese in mission.

At the meeting on 16th October Synod was briefed in relation to the new housing developments intended at Endsleigh (Lansdown), Foxhill (Combe Down), Riverside and at Warminster Road, and their implications for the local churches. We were also informed that our Rural Dean, Martin Lloyd Williams, had been appointed Archdeacon of Brighton and Hove.

On 10th March 2015 we were reminded of our call to be “servants of God”, wherever we are. Each member of Synod was given a small piece of towel to take away as a reminder that we are following the “Servant King”. Archdeacon Andy Piggott advised us that it was not yet possible to name the new Rural Dean. He then went on to brief us in relation to Bishop Peter's draft “strategic plan” (very much a “work in progress” and not “tablets of stone”) and of his thoughts on mission and vision

and direction of travel for the Diocese in the light of the Archbishop's Council priorities. Among issues for thought/debate are that the "need" for change seems to be accepted, but is there a "desire" for change? Could we as a Diocese become less "statutory"/legalistic? How do we ensure that all of our "activity" is aligned with our "goals"? Then after a presentation on the importance of "leadership teams" and the work of the "Lead Academy" we were reminded about the "new community" developments around Bath which were ongoing and for which our prayers were asked. The meeting concluded with a very moving update in relation to the "Help and Hope" project being coordinated by Rev. Alan Bain for the victims of the church bombings in Peshawar.

Representation for the next year

Andrew, Brenda and Morny have indicated their willingness to continue to represent Christ Church at Deanery Synod next year.

Next meeting scheduled

On 24th June 2015 Deanery Synod will be meeting at the Church of the Ascension, Oldfield Park

Andrew Sillett

2.8 Hospitality

We had a confirmation service in May followed by refreshments in the Mews. In June we had an enjoyable Italian evening, arranged by Judith Bishop with cooking by Clive Tilling. In October we had our annual Harvest Supper on the evening before Harvest Sunday, organised by Judith. In November there was a fascinating wine tasting evening arranged by Alex Wall. In November was Christ the King with cake and fizz. In December we had our evening Advent and Carol services followed by refreshments.

Also in December we had the bells blessed by the new Bishop of Bath & Wells during the morning service, with cake and bell-shaped biscuits afterwards. In February we said goodbye to Angela and Ned with wine and finger food after the service. There was also the first official peal of bells. In March we had our joint Lent Lunch with St Mary's RC church. Thank you to all who have made cakes, provided food or helped out in any way at any of the social events during the year and helped make Christ Church the welcoming and sociable community it is!

Angela Soboslay

2.9 Junior Church

The children who come to Christ Church form a valuable part of our church family and are some of the most committed members of the congregation in terms of church attendance. The Junior Church leaders aim to ensure that they grow up with a knowledge and understanding of our faith, and as they grow older we hope to support them as they make their own decisions about what Christianity means to them.

We follow a varied programme, using material provided online by Scripture Union. It is an exciting challenge for leaders to provide stimulating and enjoyable activities to suit the wide age range of children who regularly attend. Some of the recent topics covered have been: Samson, King David, The Ark of the Covenant, and the Parables Jesus told. We hope you enjoy hearing about the Junior Church activities in our regular "Show and Tell" slot on Sunday mornings. It is a valuable opportunity for the children to feel included and valued as members of the church as well as to hone their communication skills.

We are a small team of Junior Church leaders but new leaders are welcome. If anyone has an interest in becoming involved in this important part of the church's ministry, then please speak to Sarah Cade, Sarah Jones, Emma Elliott or Chris Hopper. This could be either as a leader or a general helper.

Emma Elliott

2.10 Mothers' Union

After our reporting last year that membership of the Branch had trebled from two to six, with Angela's sad departure we again find ourselves reduced in numbers. We are extremely grateful to Canon Angela, who rejuvenated our Branch when it was on the verge of extinction. Now, from hoping to take more a back seat, it seems that, even as age and infirmity overtake us, both Margaret Burrows and I will have to take up the reins once again if the Branch is not to disappear altogether. The Women's Refuge, the Overseas Appeal and the pre-Christmas Orders will continue, but on our own we will not be able to do much more. Is there someone out there who is willing to lead us forward into the next year?

Sylvia Ayers & Margaret Burrows

2.11 Pilgrim Group

It's been challenging, sometimes alarming, eye-opening, definitely a steep learning curve, but fun and friendly. In fact, it's been exactly what a pilgrimage has always been! A small band of dedicated Home Group members have over the last few months transformed themselves into a Pilgrim Group. We have been exploring the new "Pilgrim Course for the Christian Journey" (published by the Church of England and written by respected theologians Stephen Cottrell, Steven Croft, Paula Gooder and Robert Atwell).

We've started exploring our faith in an open, friendly and non-judgemental way, tackling the problem of evil in our world, our belief in the Holy Spirit and our relationship with God the Father and his Son, Jesus Christ.

As Christians we have been given a great commission: to make disciples of ourselves and others and build a place where people can come to know Christ and follow in the way of faith. And that's what we're trying to do. In the next few weeks we will be looking at the most familiar prayer of all: the Lord's Prayer. We know it so well that we pass over its deeper meanings and fail to notice its hidden meanings. Much will be revealed in the coming sessions.

Come and join us! Details of dates and venue will be on the weekly notice sheet. And by the way... there's always great coffee and cake and a chat at the end!

Brenda Wall

2.12 Prayer Group

"Where two or three are gathered, there I am." Jesus told us to pray constantly, to ask for help through prayer and to give thanks for all our blessings. There are few things more important in the Christian life than prayer, and we aim to be a resource for anybody who would like to be prayed for.

We pray for our world, our country, our city and our Church. We pray for individuals. We know that prayer is answered, prayer protects and

anybody who is being prayed for feels the effect. At this time it's very important that we pray for guidance during the interregnum and finding our new priest.

Please come and pray with us, send us your prayer requests, ask for yourself or somebody else. Details of dates and venue will be on the weekly notice sheet.

Brenda Wall

2.13 St Andrew's School

In these reports, I have sometimes told of OFSTED coming to St Andrew's and all the commotion that has caused, though last time the inspectors did lay the golden egg by declaring us "good". This time I will instead tell you of very recent events. I hope it will give you a flavour of life at the school.

I wish you had been at our Easter service. It was at St Swithin's, with all age groups taking part. The children took us through Holy Week, and on to the resurrection stories. We had narrators, actors and singers. We had a donkey – though carpeting precluded the farm variety – and imaginative costumes of every kind. We had a miraculous draft of fishes, every child of that catch wearing a wonderful fishy headdress. What is more difficult to convey is the intensity of the production, and the moments when all the church fell silent.

The next day, St Andrew's held its own hustings, complete with actual parliamentary candidates, voting booths and ballot boxes. In the afternoon came the art exhibition, cake competition, Easter bonnet parade and concert. So then we listened as a Year 6 child sang Panis Angelicus, as a Year 1 child played D Is For Dolphin on the violin, as the choir sang and as a dance ensemble gave us the Monster Mash.

I mention all these things not to make you feel jealous, but to show you the huge efforts that St Andrew's puts into supporting every child whatever his/her gifts or needs. Here we owe a great debt of gratitude to Sue East and all her staff for their energy, love and patience. Which leaves me a couple of things to say. The first is that St Andrew's always needs more friends, and you might feel you could help in some way. The second is that it is a real privilege to continue as a foundation

governor. And I thank my Christ Church friends for sponsoring me in this role.

Sarah Sheppard

2.14 Traidcraft

We continue to hold the stall twice monthly, on the first and third Sundays of each month, and over the last year the sales have amounted to around £1,700, which is about a 23% increase on last year's total. Last October we held a special Traidcraft Sunday where Melvyn and June Matthews gave a Powerpoint presentation on their trips with Traidcraft to visit producers in India and Kenya. We heard about organisations such as:

- SKVIS, a women's cooperative in silk production, giving a fair wage to 20,000 women;
- the Makomboki tea factory, where the Fairtrade premium they receive has helped to pay for a maternity unit, school improvements and a new road;
- Tara stone cutters, where good working practices protect the workers' health.

We have renewed our status as a Fairtrade church, which means that we serve fairly traded tea and coffee at church events, and support Fairtrade Fortnight every year.

Thank you to everyone who supports the stall, both in buying and in helping to run it. I would like to encourage people to take Traidcraft catalogues, which are full of lovely gift items. You can also look at their website www.traidcraftshop.co.uk. I am happy to take orders, which will save you postage and packing costs.

Rebekah Cunningham

2.15 United Society (formerly USPG)

We have continued to support US over the last year, and again last October welcomed Heather Skull from US to speak to us during a morning service. She has visited us more than once and has been a challenging speaker, so I am personally sorry that she is now no longer

working for US. We held retiring collections for US during the same month and were able to send £110 to them.

However US welcome our prayers as well as our giving and I would like to encourage people to pray for their work as much as possible. Their website, www.weareus.org.uk, has plenty of information and regular updates on their work. They also produce prayer booklets (available at the back of church) with items for daily prayer and a magazine, "Transmission", also available at church. If these have run out please let me know if you would like one and I will order some more. Please also consider taking one of their collecting boxes for your small change – it all mounts up, and I am happy to send them off when full.

Over the last year I have not been able for various reasons to be as proactive in promoting US as I would have liked. I hope in the year to come we can build a stronger link with them. In particular there is a possibility of supporting a specific project in one of four countries (Bangladesh, Lesotho, Philippines or Zimbabwe) which I hope to pursue as this would give the opportunity for us to receive news, stories and pictures from our chosen project and to be able to pray more specifically, so that our link would be a two-way one. We do now have some notice board space at the back of church, so look out for their bright pink logo.

Rebekah Cunningham

The Trustees of Christ Church as at 19 April 2015

Ex officio

(The Bishop of Bath & Wells)

The Ven. Andy Piggott Archdeacon of Bath
Sue East Representing the Rector of Walcot

Appointed

Sarah Jones Chair
David Bishop Treasurer
Yvonne Morris
Sarah Sheppard
Clive Tilling
Jane Nicholson
Martin Palmer
Charles Rice

Office holders as at 19 April 2015

Churchwardens

Malcolm Wall
Alex Soboslay

Assistant Churchwardens

Janet Mahto
Yvonne Morris

Deanery Synod Representatives

Morny Davison (elected until 2015)
Andrew Sillett (elected until 2017)
Brenda Wall (elected until 2017)

Sidespersons

Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers,
Morny Davison, Rowena Hall, Margaret Heath,
Janet Mahto, Jane Nicholson,
Andrew Sillett, Margaret Silver

Church Council

Ex officio

—	(Priest-in-charge)
Mark Elliott	Reader
Malcolm Wall	Churchwarden, Council Treasurer
Alex Soboslay	Churchwarden
Morny Davison	Deanery Synod rep
Andrew Sillett	Deanery Synod rep
Brenda Wall	Deanery Synod rep, Council Secretary

Elected until 2015

Judith Bishop
Sarah Kerr
Bob Siderfin

Elected until 2016

Margaret Burrows
David Rawlings
Angela Soboslay

Lay Chair of Council

Elected until 2017

Judith Anderson
Matthew Jones
Sharon Rawlings

Three members to be elected at this AGM will serve until 2018

CHRIST CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission, as individuals, together and in common with the people of all the other churches in the Diocese, is to:

*Love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our mind
and with all our soul and all our strength and to love our
neighbours as ourselves*

Mission Objectives for 2013-2014

In thanksgiving for the generosity, we aim in the next 12 months to:

1. Foster and encourage discipleship by:

- a. Prayer and opportunity for teaching and exploration of faith
- b. Developing, supporting and incorporating the experience, gifts and vocations of all people
- c. Ecumenical fellowship and co-operation

2. Grow our Church by:

- a. Developing contact and involvement with young people in their schools, colleges and universities
- b. Encouraging and enabling individual mission and witness to people outside the church
- c. Opening our door to all who come as spiritual pilgrims

3. Serve our community by:

- a. Supporting and co-operating with outside agencies
- b. Developing points of contact with people living in our immediate neighbourhood
- c. Recognising our responsibility to the wider community at home and abroad and our membership of the world wide church

4. Resource the above by encouraging spiritually motivated giving of time and money according to individual means and to make efficient use of all that is given to us to further the work of the church.