



# Christ Church Bath

**Sunday 30 April 2017  
11:30am, Christ Church,  
Julian Road, Bath BA1 2RH**

**Election of Churchwardens and Assistant Churchwardens  
followed by**

## **ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING**

### **Agenda**

1. Opening prayer
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the previous AGM (Sunday 24 April 2016)  
and any matters arising not otherwise on the agenda
4. Remarks from the Priest-in-Charge
5. Reports
  - a. Electoral Roll
  - b. Chair of Trustees annual report
  - c. Treasurer's Report for 2016
  - d. Report on the proceedings of Deanery Synod
  - e. Further reports (in this booklet)
6. Elections
  - a. Election of Deanery Synod representatives
  - b. Elections to Church Council
  - c. Election of Sidespersons
7. AOB
8. Dates of the next Annual Church Meeting and Council meeting
9. Closing prayer

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# Minutes of the Christ Church Annual Meeting held on Sunday 24 April 2016

Chair: Rev'd Lore Chumbley, Priest-in-charge. Secretary: Judith Bishop.  
Present: 37 people.

## 1. Opening prayer

The Rev'd Lore Chumbley opened the meeting with a prayer.

## 2. Apologies

Angela Berners-Wilson, Andrew Sillett, Morny Davison, Ian Hay Davison, Carol Rice, Margaret Heath, Sarah Cade, Matthew Jones, Keri Chivers.

## 3. Minutes of the previous AGM (Sunday 19 April 2015).

There were two changes:

- a. Apologies for absence were from Madge North not Madj North.
  - b. Reports 2.4. Although not a "Charity of the month", there was a collection for Children by Choice in November 2015 that raised £86.
- Having noted the corrections, the Minutes were formally accepted. (proposed Charles Rice, seconded Malcolm Wall).

## 4. Remarks from the Priest-in-Charge

I am aware that there is no one here less well qualified to talk about the past year than me, but that's not going to stop me doing it anyway. American presidents review the progress of their administration at 100 days, and this is the 42nd day of our journey together, but I hope the fact that I come with fresh eyes to Christ Church may give you at least the value of a different view on things.

I wrote in the Link about the meaning of ministry. To minister is to serve – to administer comes from the same Latin root – and it is heartening to see and hear so many of you involved in ministry – in the choir, ringing the bells, playing the organ, serving on Council, as Trustees and on Deanery Synod, our Churchwardens and Verger, our flower ladies, those who teach and discuss in our Pilgrim Group, and those who serve food and drink – to the congregation and to those who need it more than we do. That ministry is at the heart of what we do and if our beautiful building were to be destroyed, the church would continue as a serving community – it is only a building and we must not forget that.

It has been I think a difficult year everyone. Difficult saying goodbye to Angela and Andrew, difficult living with the uncertainty over the reordering of the church, uncertainty over your new minister and delays over the work at the West end of the church. The wonderful thing about this church is that we are made up of such a talented and energetic and experienced group of people. I have said with genuine amazement that there are about 70 remarkable people in our congregation – and almost any one of them could lead this church single-handed.

But the inevitable drawback of such ability and talent has been differences of opinion and times when we have not been gentle with each other. The uncertainty of the past year is ending and the momentum of getting on with projects will help us all to pull in the same direction. At the same time, all of us need to be aware that in our interactions with each other, the process is as important as the goal. We are to do and say the things Jesus said and did – in the manner in which he said and did them.

But things are now moving. As you have read in the reports, the reordering of the West end and the

entrance is now underway. The projected ramp is so expensive that as planned it is a project in itself and will form a separate phase of the work. The building work on the West end, toilets and heating should be started and we hope completed this year. This is excellent news and the Buildings Committee is to be congratulated.

At the same time, we need to plan the reordering of the East end. The present state is only temporary. We need to make a decision as to how we plan to order the East end so that the choir, readers and servers and congregation are in a right relationship to each other and to the altar. This is a whole church decision and I have in mind a meeting this summer to which everyone will be invited to discuss the options and attempt to reach consensus.

To do everything I have mentioned will require more money than we have, and we will have to decide if we are prepared to fund the projects out of our own pockets, or to put energy into fundraising, or to delay the work. Those questions will be discussed in our summer meeting. So the future holds more building projects. But Christ Church is not a building, we are a community who gather together for worship, study and service.

**Worship** It is essential for our health and growth that we pray together, study together and serve together. During Holy Week some of us prayed morning prayer together in church and over the summer we will be doing that again.

**Study** The office in the Lower Mews is beginning to look like a welcoming room and the Pilgrim Group will be meeting on Thursday evenings beginning this week. But if you would like to get involved in a new group there is the opportunity to use that space. Perhaps a prayer group during the day? Should we have a go at reading the Gospel of John in Greek? Or a group might want to look at how the Old Testament and the New Testament interact – we have the space. I would be very interested in any suggestions – and don't worry, if you suggest something it doesn't mean you have to lead it.

**Service** Our outreach to the local community is perhaps the most important thing we do here. Colin and I are keen to stay living locally so that we are a visible reminder that Christ Church is a living part of the community. The Cedar Tree café is thriving on Friday mornings – think about dropping in for coffee and cake if you are shopping or just to sit for half an hour and talk to people. I met a Muslim girl who was entranced by the church. Keith showed her round and she said “You ought to open it. It should be open every day”. She's right. So my last thought is a challenge. This year, let's open up Christ Church to even more people than last year.

Following her report Lore thanked the following people: Margaret Burrows for her valued time on Council; David Rawlings for his time on council and for his leadership as Lay Chair; Angela Soboslay for her contribution to Council; Morny Davison for her generous contribution as a Deanery Synod Representative; David Bishop (Trustees Treasurer) for his tireless work keeping the books up to date; Sarah Jones (Chair of Trustees) for her hard work and support during the vacancy.

## 5. Elections

### a. Churchwardens

Malcolm Wall (proposed by Rowena Hall / seconded Andrew Sillett) and Alex Soboslay (proposed by Penny Edwards / seconded Sylvia Ayers). Both were re-elected unopposed.

### b. Assistant Churchwardens

Janet Mahto was re-elected unopposed. Sylvia Ayers (proposed Alex Soboslay / seconded Ken Ayers) was elected unopposed.

### **c. Deanery Synod Representatives**

Brenda Wall advised that Synod meets three times a year but it was not always essential for all representatives to be available for all meetings. However, if there was an important issue being discussed at Synod then the presence of three reps would be essential.

Brenda Wall was re-elected unopposed. Sarah Kerr (proposed Malcolm Wall / seconded Jane Nicholson) and Jane Nicholson (proposed David Rawlings / seconded Georgina Bowman) were elected unopposed.

### **d. Church Council**

The following three were nominated: Virginia Knight (proposed Judith Bishop, seconded Georgina Bowman), Georgina Bowman (proposed Malcolm Wall, seconded Jane Nicholson), Penny Edwards (proposed Malcolm Wall, seconded Wendy Attah). The three were declared elected and will serve until 2019.

### **e. Sidespersons**

There were no additional offers of volunteers to be sidespersons. The current list is: Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers, Morny Davison, Margaret Heath, Janet Mahto, Jane Nicholson, Andrew Sillett, Margaret Silver. Lore proposed that we re-elect them en bloc and this was agreed unopposed.

## **6. Questions/discussions on written Administrative reports**

**1.2. Report from the Chair of Trustees** Sarah Jones confirmed that Janet Mahto had been appointed as a Trustee.

**1.3. Treasurer's Report for financial year 2015** David Bishop added the following remark to his report. This is the first year of differentiation between Trustees and Council accounts and he appreciates Malcolm Wall for his company and for taking on the Council accounts.

**1.4. Church Council & Standing Committee** David Rawlings added to the report his thanks to everyone on Council for their attendance at Council meetings. He reminded the congregation that Council is the "voice of the people" and any matters for discussion or concern should be directed through Council members. Sylvia Ayers congratulated David as the accounts are in credit.

**2.1 Bell ringing** Ian Hay Davison was not present to add anything to his report. Margaret Silver said how lovely it was to hear the bells as she comes to church on a Sunday morning and thanked Ian for raising the money to refurbish the bells. Lore reported that Ian has invited schools to participate in sessions of bell ringing and was also looking for bell ringers from within members of the congregation.

**2.2 Building projects** Robin Kerr added to his report to say that the extension to the heating and the refurbishment of the lavatories in the SW end of church and choir vestry have been approved by Trustees and this work is scheduled to be completed this year. The toilet in the Lower Mews will be refurbished and another added before the ones in the SW corner are taken out of action. Preparation of the tender for these jobs is the next step and as soon as a reasonable quotation has been approved work can start. The next priority will be to prepare the porch so that it is suitable for disabled access and for this we need to apply for a Faculty. Sylvia Ayers commented that of late the lighting has not been satisfactory. David Bishop confirmed that there had been a problem with the lighting that has now been solved but because the original lighting project was completed before the reordering of the East end had been started then we may need to think again how the lighting will work for a new set-up.

**2.3 Cedar Tree Café** Janet Mahto thanked all her helpers and called for more. There is a meeting planned to refresh ideas. She was also pleased to report that Cedar Tree was registered with Bath City Council.

**2.4 Charities** Continue to support US. Alex reminded that none of the amounts detailed have gone through the church books. Rebekah and Rowena will be leading on thoughts of which charities should be supported this year. Rebekah raised that fact that these contributions only represent 1% of the church's income. David Rawlings reminded the meeting that as a charity we do have to be careful which charities we give to. David Bishop also stated that we buy Genesis vouchers (£500-£600) regularly and had contributed a sizeable amount towards Ned Townshend's care. Mark Elliott also mentioned that we are not obliged to pay Parish Share, so our Diocesan Contribution is charitable giving for which we get little benefit. Margaret Burrows talked about Women's Refuge and homeless vouchers that are collected for every year. Virginia Knight reminded us that social type charitable donations as in the Harvest Supper had not happened recently. It was suggested that Council look at the charitable giving.

**2.5 Choir** Lore said what a joy it is to have such lovely music and mentioned in particular the Easter services. We need to publicise our good music more. Sylvia Ayers said she would like to see more children in the choir. Mark Elliott said that more children calls for committed parents. Mark appreciates the thanks he gets every week from the congregation.

**2.6 Churches together in Bath (CTB)** With regret Margaret Heath has resigned as CTB rep. Lore recorded thanks for all Margaret had brought

to the role and all the work she has done over the years. Rebekah Cunningham offered to take on the role of CTB rep. Accepted with thanks.

**2.7 Concerts and Events** Judith Bishop informed the meeting that we now have a formal booking form that needs to be completed and Terms and Conditions that need to be agreed to. All enquiries should be sent though to Judith, who will arrange to send the forms out. This way every enquirer knows exactly where they stand and we have control over their behaviour, which shouldn't annoy neighbours etc. She thanked all the people who help at events, especially Toppings, and although these have fallen away of late this is no reflection on us. Toppings are pushing their events to a wider choice of venues across Bath. We need to encourage more organisations to use our facilities.

**2.11 Junior Church** Lore is delighted when Junior church are running up around the altar and if they want to get a bit closer then that's fine too. Sarah Jones would like to encourage Council to spend a bit of time how it looks at children in our community and how we include them in our worship and liturgy.

**2.12 Mission to Seafarers** Sylvia had nothing to add but brought to the meeting's attention the fact that there is very little contributed to this very worthwhile cause. David Bishop suggested that Council consider this when they discuss charities for the coming year.

**2.13 Mothers' Union** Lore recorded that Mothers' Union had been quite lively and that there are two more meetings planned for this year.

**2.14 Pilgrim Group** Brenda Wall is currently recruiting for the new group which will be interesting and valuable and good fun.

**2.15 St Andrew's School** Lore reported that St Andrew's School are keen to hold their Harvest Festival service in Christ Church.

## **7. AOB**

There were no items for this.

## **8. Date of next AGM**

The next AGM was set for Sunday 30 April 2017. The next Council meeting will be Tuesday 17 May 2016.

## **9. Closing prayer**

The meeting closed with the Grace at 12:35.

# REPORTS for 2017

## 1 Administrative Reports

### 1.1 Electoral Roll

The number on the electoral roll as at May 2016 was 80. We have lost 2 members through death or relocation. However, 7 members have joined the roll. The total as at April 2017 is therefore 85.

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*

### 1.2 Report from the Priest-in-Charge

Almost exactly a year ago the Diocese asked all churches in Bath and Wells to draw up a plan for mission and evangelism. That prompted us to discuss in Council what we were doing to let those outside our church know the joy of the Gospel. As we discussed, it became clear that our priorities for the church were

- to make the West doors, porch and toilet area welcoming and accessible
- to review the configuration of the chancel to ensure it was used in the best possible way to serve our needs for worship.

These two priorities became two of the three prongs of our plan. The third grew out of the challenge I threw down at the 2016 Annual Church Meeting: to open the church more.

These three areas became our Christ Church Mission and Evangelism Plan. By opening the church, creating a welcoming space at the entrance and refining our worship space, the building itself would welcome everybody – church members, visitors and passers-by – into God’s house.

The church community rose to the challenge magnificently. Over the summer we opened the church each Saturday morning in addition to our regular Friday morning café and were visited by tourists, passers-by and curious locals – some of whom had been baptised in the church decades before. One of our visitors commenting on the welcome they received said, “We came in to look at a building but found a commu-



nity.” We completed our summer openings with a successful “Open Church” day.

Our plans to make the church entrance area more accessible have come to fruition under the scrutiny of the Buildings Committee. We now have a light, spacious entrance lobby with glass doors, and modern accessible toilets. We benefit from the increased light that floods into the building, and the local community can see our worship.

The third area of growth and change is our work to re-order the East end of Christ Church. In the summer we spent a fruitful day with Caroline Bruce, the Diocesan Parish Consultancy Officer, and Professor Simon Keys, prayerfully considering what we as a worshipping community need from our church building. We moved on to thinking how we could re-order the East end of Christ Church with sensitivity, taking into account the need for “micro environments” for all users – our musicians and choir, our young people, the differently abled, older worshippers and those who visit the church. We have followed this up with a number of experimental configurations. As the experiments draw to a conclusion this summer we will have seen something of what is possible and desirable and should be in a position to move forward.

I am impressed by the energy and dedication of our church family. The Pilgrim Group has gone from strength to strength and is currently hosting a series of interactive lectures on Spirituality; the choir has been foundational to our worship and continues to thrive under Mark’s leadership; our young people are energetic and insightful. The pastoral care team has quietly supported a number of us through difficult times, and the Cedar Tree café continues to provide a warm welcome on a Friday morning to the local community, while the hospitality team have organised book signings when the state of the building works permitted.

At the beginning of 2017 Sarah Jones stepped down from the position of chair of Trustees, having steered the church through the complexities of an interregnum. We are grateful to her for a steady hand on the tiller. As we move into what, we hope, will be smoother waters, we look towards the challenges of the future – essential repairs to the organ, improvements to the sound and lighting systems, and work on the East end. They will require time, effort and fundraising, but they will facilitate our vocation to proclaim the Gospel in our own way, here in Julian Road.

*Revd Lore Chumbley*

### 1.3 Report from the Chair of Trustees

The current Trustees are: Charles Rice (Chair), David Bishop (Treasurer), Sarah Jones, Sarah Sheppard, Clive Tilling, Jane Nicholson, Janet Mahto, Lewis Boyd; ex officio the Venerable Andrew Piggott (Archdeacon), the Reverend Tim Gleghorn (Rector St Swithin's). The board of Trustees has seen a number of changes during 2016. Janet Mahto became a Trustee in May, bringing with her a strong commitment to Christ Church and her experience of work in the community and her leadership of the Cedar Tree café. Around the year end, Martin Palmer decided to stand down – this was a moment of sadness for all who had worked with him in the past, mixed with appreciation for his major contribution to the church and choir over many years as well as his sense of fun. Lewis Boyd has since agreed to become a Trustee and we welcome the new perspectives which he will bring. The representative from St Swithin's has also changed, with the new Rector, Tim Gleghorn, replacing Sue East, who has given strong support to the Trustees over the years despite her busy schedule. Finally, in December, Sarah Jones announced her decision to stand down as the Chair of Trustees to allow her more time to focus on her outside activities and outreach work. The Trustees are very grateful to Sarah for the leadership which she gave during the transition from Angela Townshend to Lore and are delighted that she has agreed to remain a Trustee going forward.

One of the main responsibilities of the Trustees is to appoint the Priest-in-Charge. 2016 saw the appointment of Lore Chumbley as our new Priest-in-Charge with her licensing service on 12th March presided over by Andy Piggott, our Archdeacon. We were delighted to welcome Lore and her husband Colin to the Christ Church community and to feel the leadership, commitment and moral strength which she has already brought to our church. We look forward to working with Lore and supporting her ministry in the years ahead.

The other main focus of the Trustees in 2016 was buildings-related, with two major projects being undertaken – the renovation of the West end and choir toilets and the complete remodelling of the West porch. A number of people have committed time and effort to the projects, with particular thanks due to Alex Soboslay for his work and efficiency in organising the various diocesan faculties needed before the works could commence, and to Robin Kerr, who ably managed both projects as well as the related central heating extensions. Thanks also to Jane Nicholson for overseeing the colour schemes and sourcing the wall tiles and main

door handles. The transformation of the porch is remarkable and provides a striking first impression of the church. Looking forward, there still remains much to do, with attention switching to the repair and restoration of the organ and the re-ordering of the East end. Both will be major undertakings and will require the raising of considerable funds, which will be the main focus of our efforts over the year ahead.

The Christ Church Trust faces increasing external regulation, as do all charities. While the Trustees are giving more attention to “corporate governance” matters, the main burden continues to fall on David Bishop as Treasurer, and we all owe a debt of gratitude to him for the many hours which he contributes to managing the church’s finances and to preparing the numerous reports, returns and insurance statements without which the trust and Christ Church could not function.

*Charles Rice*

## **1.4 Church Council & Standing Committee**

In the year since the last AGM in April 2016, Christ Church Council will have met eight times. There are 17 members of Council. At the seven meetings up to the preparation of this report (the eighth taking place in the week just before the AGM), average attendance at meetings has been 12 (highest 14, on three occasions; lowest 8, once). Details of discussions and decisions are in the minutes, which should be available on the website: visit [www.christchurchbath.org](http://www.christchurchbath.org), click on Church Life in the menu bar, then Church Council.

The members of Standing Committee, representing both Council and Trustees, are Charles Rice, David Bishop, Malcolm Wall, Alex Soboslay, Virginia Knight and Revd Lore Chumbley. As well as attending to any urgent business that may arise between meetings of Council or of Trustees, Standing Committee acts as a means of communication and co-ordination between Council and Trustees, has been delegated the authority to supervise bell ringing activities, and is the designated body responsible for authorising the sale or supply of alcohol under our Premises Licence.

*Alex Soboslay*

## **1.5 Safeguarding**

We currently have eight people who have been vetted by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for working with young people, with three more in progress. Per guidelines laid out by the Church of England and

the Diocese of Bath and Wells, we do not currently have a need for any vetting for people to work with vulnerable adults.

This year has seen the review of the proposed new Safeguarding policy by the Trustees. This policy is now in its final draft format, and we expect to be able to have this signed-off for publication in the near future.

*Lewis Boyd, Safeguarding officer*

## **1.6 Treasurer's Report for financial year 2016**

The accounts for 2015 were professionally inspected and submitted to the Charity Commission in October 2016.

The 2016 accounts which form the basis for this report have not been inspected and are subject to change before finalisation, but are indicative of the 2016 financial position.

### **Council**

Income from charitable giving during 2016 (standing orders, weekly envelopes, GiftAid envelopes and cash) was £38,300. This represents a 6% growth from 2015. In addition, £3,300 accrued to the Compassion Fund, of which £1,750 was used to provide a wheelchair for a deserving cause.

Revenue from the use of the church was £3,800, compared to £4,800 in 2015. The reduction was due to fewer weddings. Within these figures, secular use of the church (ie book signings, concerts etc) stayed constant at £2,300.

GiftAid of £17,000 was recovered during the year, relating to 2014 and 2015. GiftAid accrued during 2016 (shown on the chart, to be claimed in 2017) amounts to £8,900.

Diocesan Giving was set at £15,000. Half of this was retained until the year end, reflecting the Council's concerns over funding for the toilet refurbishment project. It was paid in early 2017.

Utilities and general church running costs increased over 2015.

### **Bells Project**

Accounting for the Bells project was substantively complete in 2015. GiftAid of just over £10,000 was recovered during 2016.

## **Trustees**

Trustees income was down slightly on 2015 at £52,900, attributable to a legacy received in the previous year. Both Cottages and the Upper Mews have been continuously let through the year.

Following maintenance to Cottage No 1 in 2015, work was carried out on Cottage 2 during 2016. Replacements for some windows are still planned, for completion in 2017. Non-church property costs totalled £15,700, partly including part of the earlier Cottage 1 work.

Trustees' other outgoings were reduced from a full year due to the interregnum continuing through the first quarter.

## **Building projects**

£42,700 was spent on construction projects, most of which was on the toilets (completed during the year), but also initial architect and administrative costs incurred for the Porch. Costs overran the budget due to the agreement to provide temporary toilet facilities.

*David Bishop*

*See table overleaf and charts on centre pages*

## **1.7 Churchwarden's Inventory Report**

In the safe in the vestry, there is a "Terrier and Inventory" for Christ Church in the standard form used for parish churches. This seems to have been compiled in about 1993 and was checked and updated by the Churchwardens annually up until 1998 or '99 (the last signatures are undated) – around the time when, on legal advice, it was made clear that the Trustees, rather than the Churchwardens or Church Council, have overall responsibility for the property and assets of Christ Church. This year, with the consent of the Trustees and without any implications as to the legal position, I have carried out a check of the inventory with the assistance of the Verger.

I have focused in particular on valuable items such as silver and furnishings. It has not been possible to check on books, for example, because for the moment the bookcases at the back of the church are blocked by the choir stalls temporarily stored there. I have also not checked photographs, prints etc, music, or vestments and linen etc (including cassocks, hassocks, altar frontals, banners and altar linen such as purificators). I have documented our sound amplification equipment and electronic devices, which do not seem to have been listed before. I have

## Income and Expenditure 2016

INCOME	2016	2015	2016/2015	EXPENDITURE	2016	2015	2016/2015
<b>Trustees</b>				<b>Trustees</b>			
Property	£39,000	£39,000	100%	Property running costs/repairs	£15,700	£12,300	128%
Car parking	£11,900	£10,600	112%	Church maintenance (incl organ repairs)	£2,900	£11,700	25%
Investment	£1,200	£1,200	100%	Incumbent	£10,900	£2,600	419%
Other Trustees' income	£800	£3,800	21%	Insurances	£4,700	£3,800	124%
<b>Subtotal Trustees' income</b>	<b>£52,900</b>	<b>£54,600</b>	<b>97%</b>	Project work	£42,700	£6,400	667%
<b>Council</b>				Charitable works	£1,500	£2,400	63%
Charitable giving	£41,600	£36,000	116%	<b>Subtotal Trustees expenditure</b>	<b>£78,400</b>	<b>£39,200</b>	<b>200%</b>
GiftAid accrual	£8,900	£8,500	105%	<b>Council</b>			
Use of church & other	£3,800	£4,700	81%	Wages	£12,300	£13,300	92%
<b>Subtotal Council income</b>	<b>£54,300</b>	<b>£49,200</b>	<b>110%</b>	Utilities	£6,100	£4,700	130%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£107,200</b>	<b>£103,800</b>	<b>103%</b>	Other church running costs	£11,000	£8,100	136%
				Choir and music	£2,500	£4,400	57%
				Diocesan Contribution	£15,000	£10,000	150%
				Charitable works	£2,400	£600	400%
				<b>Subtotal Council expenditure</b>	<b>£49,300</b>	<b>£41,100</b>	<b>120%</b>
				<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£127,700</b>	<b>£80,300</b>	<b>159%</b>

checked the stained glass windows, memorial tablets and other fittings listed in the inventory as I found it, but not the condition of the building itself; a quinquennial inspection is due this year.

I have produced a full report which, when accepted by Trustees and Council, will be inserted in the Terrier and Inventory. Briefly, though:

- **Church Plate** (inventory section 8): everything is accounted for except for one stainless steel chalice which we could not locate. There is one additional item which does not seem to be listed: an aspergillum (holy water sprinkler), which I have photographed and documented.
  
- **Furnishings and Fittings** (inventory section 9): everything is accounted for and in good condition, except as noted below.
  - The following items have been temporarily removed under licence for our experimental reordering: item 9(7) Chancel screens; 9(14) Metalwork: Brass communion rails; 9(15) Woodwork: Choir and clergy stalls, frontal chests. (All these are accounted for.)
  - Item 9(12) Bells. I have documented the new bells installed in 2015.
  - Item 9(13) Pianos. The two pianos listed in the inventory in the 1990s are no longer in our possession. I have documented the baby grand piano and the small hand-made pipe organ in the south-east of the nave, and the digital piano in the choir vestry.
  - Item 9(14) Metalwork: Umbrella stands. We could not locate one of the two listed.
  - Item 9(14) Metalwork: Chandeliers and other light fittings. The pendant lights in the nave and gallery were removed when the church lighting was refurbished in 2008. The strip lights in the lavatories were removed in the renovations in 2016.
  - Item 9(14) Metalwork: Medals. We could not locate any of the six medals listed.
  - Item 9(15) Woodwork: Chairs. In the absence of photos, I had some difficulty identifying which chairs were which, but I believe I have located all but eight of the chairs listed.
  - Item 9(15) Woodwork: Crosses. I have been unable to locate two of the four wooden crosses listed.
  - Item 9(15) Woodwork: Tables. In the absence of photos or measurements, I had some difficulty identifying which tables are which, but I believe I have located all but one of the tables listed.
  - Item 9(15) Woodwork: Cupboards and Chests. I believe I have located all but two of the items listed. I think that one, a “contemporary oak vestment wardrobe”, has been disposed of. I do not know what happened to a “contemporary plastic covered deal cupboard” listed in the

choir vestry but I think it must have been replaced by the four metal filing cabinets and two metal cabinets now in the choir vestry, which I have documented.

I have also documented the other furniture now in our possession but not listed in the inventory, including the wooden lectern, the tables and chairs used for the Cedar Tree café, the furniture in the “children’s corner”, the folding tables and chairs in the Lower Mews, and (briefly) the appliances and equipment in the kitchen.

*Alex Soboslay*

## **1.8 Deanery Synod**

Deanery Synod met in April, July and October 2016 and in March 2017, at St Mary’s Bathwick, St Andrew’s Foxhill, St Barnabas’ Southdown and St Bartholomew’s Oldfield Park respectively. This “pilgrimage” around the deanery has enabled us to hear stories from each of those places – their hopes, their plans, their challenges – and also to pray for them in their diverse contexts.

Yet however distinctive the life of one church may be, the common thread running through all the Anglican congregations in Bath Deanery is the determination that everyone should be a disciple (living the story – following, learning, growing), that everyone should be a disciple-maker (telling the story – witnessing, serving, evangelizing), and that everywhere should offer a discipleship invitation.

This vision has continued to inspire our common life together in the past 12 months, during which we have also been challenged to weave together our own vision with the emerging vision of the diocesan strategy, assimilating its three priorities: to put mission and evangelism at the heart of everything we do, to realign our ministry resources towards mission, and to identify, develop and use the gifts of all our people.

The diocesan dimension was unpacked for us in July by Bishop Ruth and her husband, the Revd Dr Howard Worsley (when it comes to mission, the best BOGOF package in the Church of England). The Bishop of Taunton is working hard both to communicate widely, clearly and emphatically the importance of the strategy, and also to implement the changes that it requires in the way our structures work at diocesan level; Dr Worsley is a teacher and theologian whose speciality is the theology and teaching of mission. Together they gave us one of the most inspirational meetings that deanery synod has enjoyed in a long time.



So what actual, practical difference has all this re-envisioning and strategic thinking made to Anglican life in Bath deanery? The answer is, "Plenty!" The 12 months now ending with the current round of APCMs has seen the appointment of a Deanery Rural Mission Enabler and a Deanery Evangelism Adviser, both posts held by clergy in conjunction with ministry in a parish. We have collected a detailed Mission Plan from every parish in the deanery (not just some – all of them) and are collating these into a Deanery Mission Plan which we are required to submit to the diocese. (This "requirement" is not a legalistic threat but an indication that our bishops want to lead us in mission and evangelism and are keen to know in detail what we plan to do: just as we are keen that our bishops should take a knowledgeable interest in what we plan to do.)

Much of the detailed planning is parish-specific; but we have also set up Task Groups in the deanery to look at ways in which parishes can collaborate in mission, to make better use of resources – especially the human resources of our disciples. These Task Groups are at different stages of their work, but they have been looking at mission in and to areas of social deprivation; to the elderly and those suffering from dementia; to the young – with a very helpful and instructive report from Bath Youth for Christ; to the City Centre; to the new housing developments in four places in Bath; and one looking at how church planting can help realise our vision to increase the number of (Anglican) disciples in Bath to 4,000 (from the current figure of between 3,200 and 3,300) in five years.

Mission and evangelism are not about haranguing people on street corners. Jesus taught people about the kingdom of God, but he also healed the sick, gave sight to the blind and freedom to the captive; as his disciples, we must try to undertake similar tasks in our communities across the deanery. For that reason, Synod has looked at the work of Christians Against Poverty, has considered Frontline Ministry (making a difference where you are), has supported chaplaincy, and has highlighted the work of the Dry House & Detox Centre run by DHI.

As if that were not enough, there have been some significant changes in personnel in the Deanery. The reality of the statistic that we have known about for some time – that a large proportion of clergy are coming to the point of retirement – has been felt: the Revd Alastair Davies of the chaplaincy at the RUH has been largely unseen and unsung, but his ministry has been beyond price; the Revd Patrick Whitworth from Weston All Saints and (in the near future) the Revd Paul Kenchington from Holy Trinity Combe Down have both led well-resourced, large

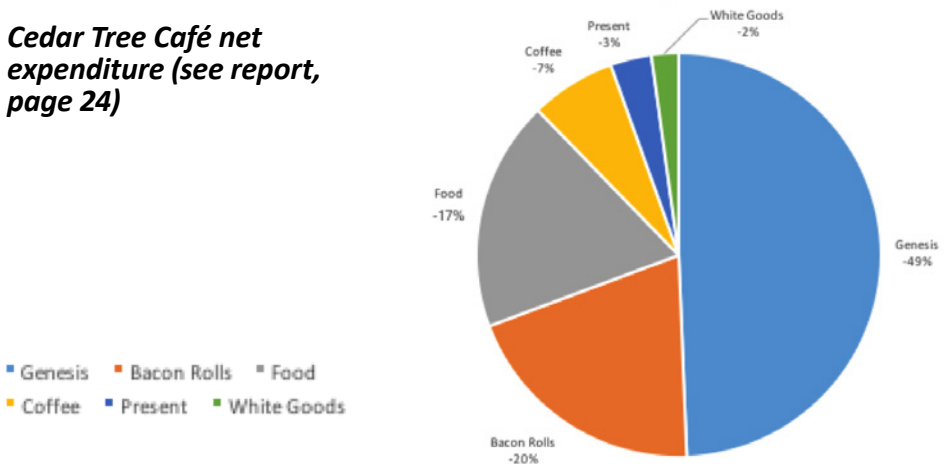
churches in multi-parish benefices; and of course the forthcoming retirement of our Archdeacon, the Venerable Andy Piggott, will cause as much sorrow as it does gratitude for the unstinted and unmeasurable blessings his ministry has showered on so very many. We shall also sorely miss our Assistant Rural Dean, the Revd Jane Burgess, as she leaves us soon for a parish appointment in Salisbury diocese.

This year has also seen the publication of a highly significant report by a Task Group of the Archbishops' Council: it is entitled "Setting God's People Free" and concerns the 98% of the Church of England that is *not* ordained. It should be read and carefully considered by all Anglicans – and can be found on-line: just search "GS 2056". It will be a vital source for implementing the third priority of the diocesan strategy.

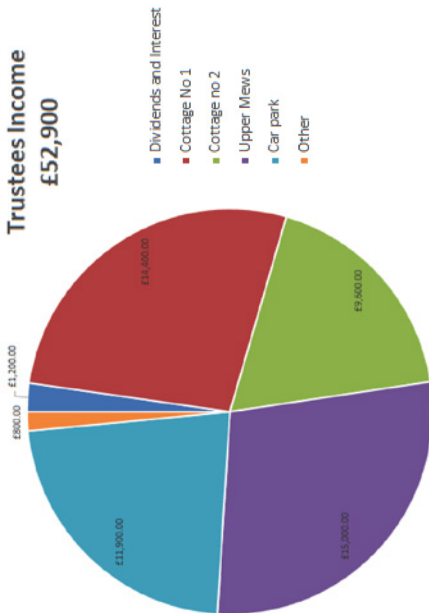
With the APCMs that are taking place this month, the current triennium of Deanery Synod comes to an end. A new Synod will be elected, and from it, the new (and very important) Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group, together with a Treasurer and a Secretary (talents we have recently lacked, to our detriment). Clergy will be members automatically; laity need to be elected – and (as GS 2056 indicates) we shall need vigorous disciples who are keen to turn the vision of both deanery and diocese into reality, for the sake of the kingdom of God. The Anglican Church in Somerset no longer consists of inward-looking, defensive parishes, with diminishing, anxious congregations; the future is confident disciples working together across deaneries, sharing, caring, and determined to live and tell the story of Jesus for the sake of the Gospel.

*Jeremy Key-Pugh, Lay Chair, Bath Deanery*

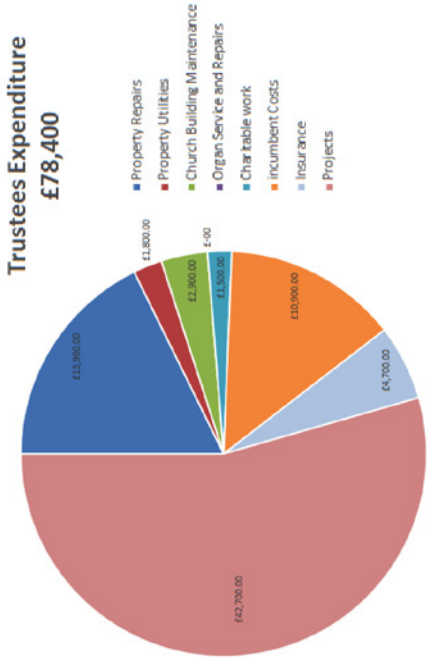
***Cedar Tree Café net expenditure (see report, page 24)***



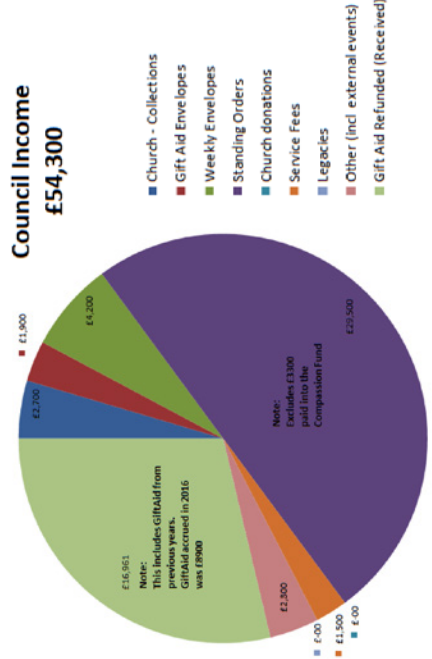
### Trustees Income £52,900



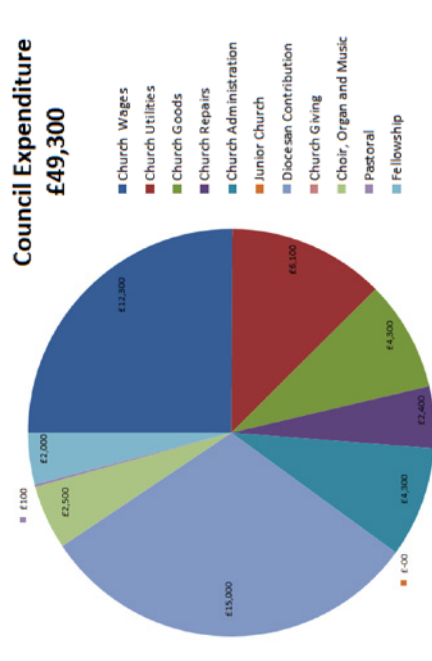
### Trustees Expenditure £78,400



### Council Income £54,300



### Council Expenditure £49,300



## 2 Reports on Church Activities

### 2.1 Bell ringing

This report covers the calendar year 2016, with some later comments.

#### **Ringling**

During the year we rang for 56 services and one wedding and held 46 practices. Practices are from 9:30 to 11 on Saturday mornings and service ringing is 9:15 to 10am on Sundays. Eight quarter peals were rung, three of which were by visiting bands, and one was sponsored for the nationwide charity Strike Back Against Blood Cancer. This raised £1,186. In spite of current restrictions, we have welcomed visiting bands, occasionally surrendering our own ringing time to accommodate them. In May 2016 we had an outing to the North Cotswolds. We rang at Stanway, Temple Guiting, Moreton-in-Marsh and Bourton-on-the-Hill.

#### **Ringers**

Our band – the “Society of Christ Church Youths” – is an informal group with a membership of about 15. We have averaged just under 12 ringers at practices and 9 for service ringing. Our maximum turnout, for a practice, has been 19. Tuition has continued under the direction of Maggie Willans. Visiting ringers have joined us for practices and service ringing. Also, there have been visits from non-ringers, to see who we are and what we do – anyone interested is most welcome.

#### **Soundproofing**

During the year we have installed better soundproofing against the West louvres, and this has proved effective. We propose to do the North and South louvres too. The work has been carried out on a voluntary basis by a Christ Church Youth, Barry Quintin. The minimal cost of materials has been met from the bell fund, which is in good shape: tower takings for the year were £651.

#### **Officers**

At our second AGM on 11 February 2017 I resigned as tower captain and Will Willans was elected in my place. I shall continue as tower secretary. We no longer have a need for a ringing master, a role which Will will discharge. Dave Kelly continues as steeple keeper. I attach Will's report.

*Ian Hay Davison, Tower Secretary*

## **Ringling at Christ Church: the first two years**

On Saturday 31 January 2015, we had our first practice. Next day, Sunday 1 February, the bells were rung for service. We've come a long way since then, and not altogether in the direction any of us had expected.

It seemed rather a lot to ask that ringers from other towers would take on more Sunday ringing on a regular basis, and support Saturday practices. And yet, this is what has happened: the arrangements continue, with ringing for service every Sunday without fail, well-supported practices, and a level of commitment of which any band might be proud.

There have been disappointments. I accepted the post of Ringing Master having been assured that an effective sound control would be in place, the system proved a failure, and remedial action failed to have any significant effect. And so, with complaints about ringing, restrictions have been imposed that remain in force to this day. The band has shown amazing resilience in coping with this, but progress has been limited, and the opportunity for teaching very much reduced.

Having said that, the most recent remedial work does seem to have made a difference. Hope springs eternal...

A good relationship exists between us and the church we're privileged to serve. This is an area that can be developed: for instance, I would like invite Trustees, and the Council, to come and see what we do. Or perhaps the ringers might be invited to meet the Trustees and the Council?

I would like to have Open Tower days, with all comers invited to see ringing and meet ringers: we did this on the last Open Doors Day, although again we were limited by the restrictions.

Recruitment I would see as following on as a natural process, from this closer contact with the public.

All in all, a very great deal has been accomplished under the benign rule of Ian Hay Davison as Tower Captain; in accepting nomination and election as Ian's successor, I fully accept that there's more to be done.

*William Willans, Tower Captain and Ringing Master*

## 2.2 Building projects

Three major projects have been accomplished this year, all of them within budget: Lavatories; Porch; and Heating Phases 2 & 3.

### **Lavatories – Choir**

Refurbishment and redecoration of the choir lavatory and porch in the NW corner of the church were carried out by Acredale during the autumn, delayed by emergent work but completed in early December. Fittings were renewed, some re-plastering of damaged areas was done and a sink for flower arranging was installed. In addition, some outside work, identified during the quinquennial inspection, was carried out. A hot water heater for hand washing has been added; this awaits electrical connection. See also “Heating” below.

### **Lavatories – SW Corner**

Conversion by Acredale of the main lavatories in the SW corner of the church, to provide a fully-compliant disabled toilet and a single conventional one, followed the work on the Choir lavatory. This entailed stripping out and removal of the door to the porch; blanking off the outer doors; creation of new cubicles; new floors laid (non-slip in cubicles and Bath stone in the lobby); installation of all new fittings; decoration, tiling and new lighting, etc. All this was completed by Christmas, but with remaining questions about some disabled WC details and residual damp in the stone floor. See also “Heating” below.

### **Lavatories – Lower Mews**

Last year’s report foresaw upgrade and expansion of the facilities in the Lower Mews. On examining the quotations submitted for this work, the Trustees decided to defer it, concentrating on improving those in the church itself.

### **Porch**

Faculty approval for the porch upgrade came in September. Examination of tenders showed the high cost of automatic door openers and of all-glass doors, so the Trustees decided to defer the former until the disabled ramp is built (but to make cabling provision for them), and to opt for oak-framed glass doors instead of all-glass. The contract was awarded to Ellis’s on 30 November. They agreed to programme the work between Christmas and Easter, starting on 13 February. This entailed: creation of a temporary lobby on the South side; stripping out; removal and trimming of the main oak doors, and their re-hanging on the outer side of the arch, swinging outwards – a major and skilled piece of work;

new glass and oak double doors for both arches of the porch manufactured and installed; dado boarding refurbished and extended (with much cabling concealed behind it); decorative moulding manufactured to fill a gap between the outer doors; new Bath stone floor laid to match that in the SW Lavatories, incorporating a mat well capable of being adapted for wheelchairs; new lighting; re-plastering of damaged areas; stonework stripped of paint; and redecoration. All this was completed on 31 March, with residual work to be done after Easter where the outer doors foul stonework. See also "Heating" below.

### **Heating Phases 2 & 3**

In October, J.S. Tams Ltd undertook Phase 2 of this project: extending heating into the choir toilet from the vestry; installing an additional gas boiler in the kitchen and splitting the main heating system along the line of the gallery pillars so that all the rear radiators work off it, while also providing the hot water in the kitchen; and extending heating and hot water pipework into the SW toilets (the radiators were added in December). In February, Tams undertook Phase 3, further extending the pipework into (and under the new floor of) the porch, and upwards into the ringing chamber, adding the radiators, once decoration was complete.

*Robin Kerr, Project Manager*

## **2.3 Cedar Tree Café**

We continue to provide a friendly, welcoming and safe environment for the local community where they can come on Friday mornings not only for food and warmth but also friendship and advice. One of our regular customers is an accomplished artist as well as poet. A book of his poetry and drawings has been published and is available in our "library". Our "artist in residence" is frequently to be seen sketching a pastoral scene or a small item of the church in exquisite detail. It is planned to have some of his Christ Church drawings printed.

During 2016 Bath City Council decreed that any charitable organisation serving food on a regular basis would need to be registered. Fortunately this did not prove too difficult to achieve as our menu is simple and does not involve the handling of raw food. The food hygiene course was attended and passed. The inspection also was no problem and we now have a five star rating. A refrigerator temperature chart is the only weekly documentation which needs to be completed.

Our main event of the year was the tenth anniversary party in Novem-

ber. Fortunately Nicky Gladstone, who founded the café, was able to attend, as were her original team of helpers and supporters. The event was held in the Lower Mews with a splendid buffet and birthday cake.

We have managed to keep the café open through the reorganisation of the West end and are now enjoying the newly opened front porch.

Financially the café is still stable and making a slight profit. This enables us to buy Genesis vouchers, which are given out to those who need them and also to make a donation to the Genesis organisation itself to help with the conversion of their new premises in Walcot Street. We aim to use as many Fairtrade products as we can. The Co-operative store in Julian Road has also adopted us as one of their community projects and provides free milk as well as any Fairtrade produce we cannot source from our own Fairtrade stall.

### **Thanks**

Thank you to the ever growing band of helpers who willingly make a commitment to help front of house preparing food and drinks, and those behind the scenes who make cakes, set up tables and help clean up afterwards. Thank you also for donations of clothes and shoes. These are of use to some of our less fortunate customers. When they have been in our store for some time they are now taken down to the Genesis LifeLine centre beneath the Quaker Meeting House in York Street. They have facilities for storage and also a larger clientele.

*Janet Mahto*

### **Accounts**

The Cedar Tree accounts remain healthy, with a small monthly surplus of cash. This helps to protect us against unexpected expenditure during the year, such as the purchase of new white goods for the kitchen. Currently, the major expenditure is on vouchers for the Genesis/Julian House scheme, accounting for nearly half of the outgoings. Second comes the funding of our “bacon rolls” scheme for church visitors on Sundays, followed by running expenses of the café itself (i.e. food, coffee etc.).

*Lewis Boyd*

***See expenditure chart on page 18***

## **2.4 Charities of the Month**

As a registered 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, our Church Council decided in 2013 to establish a “Charity of the Month” scheme, under which money is collected for a specific nominated charity each month. (This is distinct from ongoing charitable activities such as distribution of Genesis vouchers and support for the Genesis Sunday Centre, and from special fund-raising events such as Janet Mahto’s annual Garden Party in aid of Genesis.)

A mix of local, national and international charities was nominated for 2016, and these are the amounts raised. These donations are sent direct to the charity concerned and do not go through the Christ Church accounts, so are not included in the financial report.

March/April	Send a Cow	£99.55
May/June	WizzyBugs	£142.63
July	Compassion Fund ( <i>note 1</i> )	£62.80
August	Toilet Twinning	£112.53
September	Diocesan Zambia Link	£82.20
October	Genesis	£96.50
November	Children By Choice	£102.10
December	Genesis / Julian House ( <i>note 2</i> )	£391.89
January 2017	The Gideons	£96.56
February	Bath Mind	£62.50
March	USPG	£72.40

*Note 1: A standing fund for compassionate purposes under the control of the Priest-in-Charge of Christ Church and the Churchwardens, who must agree unanimously on any proposed expenditure.*

*Note 2: As has been our practice for several years, all collections at all services in December up to Christmas, including our share of collections at joint ecumenical services with other churches such as St Mary’s R.C., are given to charities who aid the local homeless and disadvantaged. This year the money was split evenly between Genesis and Julian House.*

Alex Soboslay

## 2.5 Choir

It has been another impressive year for the choir musically. The big, “centrepiece” services around Advent, Christmas, Holy Week and Easter are always special and this year has been no exception. Many people

comment to me after those services (and indeed week by week) how enjoyable and moving they find the music, and it's a joy to be Director of Music in a church where music is so greatly appreciated.

On practical matters, there has been further experimentation with the layout of the east end of the church through the year. A number of people have commented how well the choir comes across to the congregation when we are arranged against the apse wall (as we have been on a number of occasions during Lent). Whilst I agree, and have enjoyed the sound the choir make from back there, I think this only works in unaccompanied pieces. When the organ joins in, because it's positioned forward of the apse, it tends to cut across the choir and the voices are lost. The more we experiment with the space, the more important it seems to me that we have flexibility to move around and use the space in different ways to suit different activities, both musically and liturgically. I'm sure there will be much further discussion on this!

Looking forward to the coming year, the major practical issue we will have to cope with is the absence of the organ, probably for a period of 12 months or so. The damage caused by falling plaster from the wall above the organ means that a large portion of the pipes will need to be removed, both to provide access for scaffolding to get at the wall, and to repair and clean the pipework. We will have a digital replacement instrument whilst we're without the main organ, but this obviously won't be the same. We will, however, be using this as an opportunity to undertake some much needed remedial work to some parts of the organ, so when it comes back, it will be better than ever!

My thanks, of course, to Keith for his dedication and commitment to his very significant part in the music making of the church. My thanks also to David Winters, whose role has developed now into more of a semi-official one as chief deputy organist! We're very lucky to have two such talented and capable organists available to accompany both the choir and the congregational singing. Thanks also to Emma for her assistance with the juniors. It would be great to be able to build up the numbers in the junior choir again – if you know youngsters who you think would be interested, please point them in our direction!

Finally, my thanks to all the members of the choir. Without the time, effort and ability they put in to the worshipping life of Christ Church it would be very different.

*Mark Elliott*

## 2.6 Churches Together in Bath

This Bath-wide organisation has largely been superseded by Bath Christian Action Network – see [www.bathchurches.org.uk](http://www.bathchurches.org.uk) for more information. Their website contains information about Interfaith activities too and some forthcoming events are:

- Wednesday 26th April, 7.30pm, Pulteney Room, Manvers Street Baptist Church, Bath: “Interfaith or Multifaith? It all depends on where you stand”. A talk by Rev Dr Simon Bale, Bath & Wells Diocesan Interfaith Adviser.
- Monday 22nd May, 7.30pm, Christian Science Meeting Room, Claverton Street, Widcombe, Bath BA2 4LE: “Beyond Belief”. A discussion about religion and consumerism, after sharing a Radio 4 recording on the topic.

However there remains a little corner of Bath that still flies the flag for Churches Together in Bath – and we are part of that. Combined events included a Women’s World Day of Prayer service last month, written by women of the Philippines, and two of us represented Christ Church. It was lovely to feel part of the world wide church.

Forthcoming events are the Larkhall Festival, 29th April–1st May, which will include a service in Alice Park on 30th April, time to be confirmed. I receive the weekly notice sheet from St Mary’s RC church down the road and try to publicise items of interest, and we also pass information on some of our events on to them – it was good to welcome Father Jeremy to one of the Spirituality course evenings.

*Rebekah Cunningham*

## 2.7 Concerts and Events

Since the last AGM, I’m very proud to say that Topping & Company Booksellers has again made Christ Church one of their preferred venues for several of their book signing events, making good use of both the church and the Lower Mews. We have seen historians such as Ben McIntyre and John Julius Norwich, politician Nick Clegg and sportsmen including racing drivers Damon Hill and Johnny Herbert and cricketer Mark Nicholas. Musicians have included Lol Tollhurst and Peter Hook. We also had a larger-than-life real astronaut, Mike Massimino. Alongside these we have had the pleasure of hosting many TV & radio celebrities such as Revd Richard Coles, Ben Fogle and Jeremy Paxman as well as other more diverse literary personalities. We already have at least

another seven events in the calendar for the forthcoming season from June through to March 2018. I'd like to thank all the people who have assisted at any of these events. Their help is invaluable.

Bath Camerata, led by their conductor Ben Goodson, again held their Christmas concert in Christ Church. We look forward to welcoming them back this December. We were also very pleased to have been able to provide the venue for Lucis Choir's Christmas concert and hope that they will return this year.

Christ Church Lower Mews was again used for a few events including a University graduation ceremony, Mothers' Union AGM and other one-off events. Bath Academy of Media Makeup was pleased to be able to use the Lower Mews for a series of photography sessions and their Open Day.

Our income from all events in 2016 was over £3,000. The really good news has been the refurbished toilets and more recently the opening up of the porch. With these improvements we can now provide a much more attractive proposition for all users, both in-house and external, for all events held in church. It is important that we maintain the church's facilities in good order if we wish to continue to attract outside users.

Please remember that all events, whether public or private, will be required to complete a booking form in future. This helps to protect Christ Church in the event of inappropriate use or misuse of our property as well as protecting our close neighbours against inappropriate behaviour and noise.

We continue to consider any request for an event to be held in the Mews and/or the church. Provided the nature of the event is not contrary to the church's ethos, this is an excellent way to promote the church and increase the footfall, with a chance of attracting additional members for the congregation.

None of this, of course, would have been possible without the tireless help of a few individuals and I and more importantly, the church, are indebted to them all for their support.

*Judith Bishop*

## 2.8 Genesis Sunday Centre

“Combined Churches and Christ Church” are one of eight teams from 15 charities serving a hot nourishing meal to homeless and vulnerable people weekly. The two venues continue to be Walcot Methodist (Nexus) and St. Michael’s Without.

The Lunch Centre has been enthusiastically led over the last 15 years by Giles Peters. Not only does he organise the rota but also purchases supplies and keeps an eye on us all. We would like to add our congratulations to Giles, whose commitment has been recognised by BANES with the award of Volunteer of the Year.

Numbers of customers visiting remain fairly constant at around 30, although for a while last year this did drop for no apparent reason. It is then difficult to judge how much food to prepare but we will do “take-aways” if there is anything left rather than waste food.

We are on a six-weekly rota usually but this does change occasionally if another team has a problem. A notice of our next date is provided in the weekly notices and a sign-up sheet is on the notice board at the rear of the church. Please do come along to see what we do and how we work. We are grateful for any help you can give, either serving drinks “front of house” or behind the scenes in the kitchen. Please do not feel you have to do a long session – we are grateful for any time you can spare. Food preparation starts about 11am with food served from 12:30. Doors close at 3pm, by which time we have usually washed up and packed everything away.

*Janet Mahto*

## 2.9 Hospitality

The past year, since the arrival of Revd Lore Chumbley, has been full of opportunities to provide hospitality. In addition to the normal provision of coffee after church each week, there was the opportunity to host Open Church mornings throughout the summer holidays in July and August. These Saturday mornings proved to be popular with both members of the congregation and visitors alike. Cakes were made by volunteers and served with tea and coffee.

September started with the now traditional apple-picking lunch at Janet Mahto’s where Janet opens up her house for congregation, local friends and neighbours to pop in when they have time to enjoy a feast

of delicious homemade goodies. A collection for Genesis is traditional and we are always proud to hand over a very generous donation.

The traditional Ride & Stride event was combined with another open day in September where refreshments were served. Our Harvest celebration in October was held in the Lower Mews and took the form of a “bring and share” lunch which proved very popular. The Mothers’ Union held an Italian evening in the Lower Mews and between them Clive Tilling and Janet Mahto served very delicious lasagne (both meat and vegetarian) to a very appreciative and distinguished clientele. Our celebration for Christ the King in November was enhanced by the presence of Bishop Ruth, who presided and preached at the service. We continued celebrating afterwards with a cake, provided by Jude Bishop and Jo Palmer, and fizzy wine.

November also saw the tenth anniversary of Cedar Tree, and Janet Mahto organised a celebratory lunch, inviting those who founded the café, including Nicky Gladstone.

The rest of November and December was full of the usual services. Advent Carol Service was followed by wine and snacks. We held Advent lunches jointly with St Mary’s Catholic Church. Thanks to Revd Lore and Angela Soboslay for organising these.

The Christmas Carol Service was followed with the traditional mulled wine and mince pies. Thanks to Malcolm and Brenda Wall for organising this. Revd Lore provided champagne and mince pies after the Christmas Day service. Most recently we held a Pancake evening on Shrove Tuesday and, although numbers were low, a good time was had by all.

I have mentioned a few names, but all this “entertaining” would not have been possible if we hadn’t had help from lots of different people at different times. Thank you all so much for all the time you give to make Christ Church a welcoming place for strangers to enjoy and a better place to be.

*Jude Bishop*

Last year we started a joint Advent lunch with St Mary’s, which seemed a good idea especially after they held Christmas services in Christ Church after the fire in their church. So a new tradition has started and our links with St Mary’s are not limited to once a year. They are always enjoyable events and many thanks to Keri and Clive and everyone else who has helped to make these lunches happen.

We have had a Macmillan coffee morning in the autumn for the past few years, which was not well attended last year. This year it will be held on a Friday combining it with Cedar Tree. Hopefully more people will come along.

*Angela Soboslay*

## **2.9a Junior Church**

Junior Church sessions run most Sundays in term-time; the children and leaders usually leave the main service after the Collect, returning during the Peace. We talk about the stories and people of the Bible and how they might influence our everyday lives. To meet the different needs of our children, we have re-established trying to run two groups each Sunday with age-appropriate activities. We usually use the lectionary readings as our starting point, and have access to helpful resources from Scripture Union and the Bath & Wells website to give us ideas for sessions. Let us know if you'd like to have a look at any of the materials. Recent highlights for the children and leaders have been the Nativity and Passion plays, the Good Friday children's service and our fantastic social to the Bristol trampolining park: AirHop.

Running two sessions a week does put extra pressure on the three of us leading Junior Church and we would be delighted if there were any other members of the congregation who'd be interested in doing an occasional talk or activity. The children value the opportunity to share their activities with you in the service and we very much appreciate the encouragement from many members of the congregation who affirm and celebrate the presence of children in church. Thank you.

*Sarah Jones, Emma Elliott & Sarah Cade*

## **2.10 Mothers' Union**

We are all growing older and although we can report that one more member has joined in the past 12 months, our activities have been limited by poor health and lack of mobility. In spite of this on 1 November 2016 we held a successful "Evening in Rome" in aid of the Mothers' Union. Clive Tilling and his team created an authentic Italian meal, and Margaret Heath gave a fascinating talk on her insights into art in Rome as a result of her experiences as wife of the first British Ambassador to the Vatican. We had an uplifting, enlightening and hugely enjoyable time as well as raising funds for the MU.

On 25 November 2016, Christ Church hosted the Bath MU service to launch 16 days of Activism against Gender Violence. There was a powerful service with a sermon on Luke 17:5-14. We created a prayer tree and hosted prayer stations for those who wanted to come in and pray over the ensuing 16 days.

Over the next few months the Christ Church branch of the Mothers' Union will be pondering its future. If you would like to be part of that future please contact Sylvia Ayers or Revd Lore.

*Revd Lore Chumbley*

## **2.11 Pilgrim Group**

Pilgrim Group has gone from strength to strength in this past church year under the knowledgeable guidance of Revd Lore. We've studied, in depth, the book of Ruth and the gospel of Mark, and there have been animated discussions about both! We're usually a group of about ten people and the atmosphere in the group is encouraging, open and warm. We don't always agree on everything, but we disagree with grace and an open mind!

We've just begun a series of meetings led by very distinguished speakers, on different approaches to Spirituality, looking at mysticism, prayer and poetry.

There's always room for you if you would like to join in on Thursday evenings and you will find not only a warm welcome but also good coffee (or tea) and the best selection of biscuits this side of the Savoy, courtesy of our very own Georgina, biscuit maker extraordinaire.

As a group, we Pilgrims do like to celebrate and again this year we thoroughly enjoyed our Christmas "Pilgrim Feast" with good food and wine, some games (both of the challenging and silly nature) and general good cheer. For many of us this has become the start of Christmas festivities proper and an event not to be missed.

*Brenda Wall*

## **2.12 St Andrew's School**

St Andrew's is – to my mind – a wonderful school. We are much blessed by the imaginative and caring leadership of Sue East, and by the dedication of the staff. It is a privilege to act, on your behalf, as one of the Foundation Governors and thereby to have watched, over the years,



as the life of the school has evolved. We have a record 219 children at present, 49 of whom are registered as having special educational needs. Currently 26 languages are being spoken at home, and 103 pupils have English as an additional tongue. Life at St. Andrew's, for all these reasons, is never dull.

As you may know, the government is urging (and in some cases requiring) state schools to join together to form Multi-Academy Trusts. We pondered long and hard on which Trust to choose. In February the Governors decided on the one offered by our diocese. We believe this Trust will ensure a sustainable future for the school and will also safeguard its Christian ethos. The Bath and Wells Multi-Academy Trust, unlike some, is already up and running, and we have in fact long worked in close collaboration with the educational department at the Old Deanery. However, before we reach our new pattern of governance, there is bound to be a mass of administrative detail to be worked through, and our busy school office will carry a heavy extra burden.

Last year St Andrew's celebrated 25 years on its current site, and threw a Georgian Tea Party at the Assembly Rooms, a most memorable event. We are also planning for the future. We are redesigning our south entrance (as you may have seen) and can thereby upgrade our disability provision. More building plans remain a twinkle in the school's eye. For now I know St Andrew's would want to thank Lore and all Christ Church friends for their support and encouragement. If any more of you feel you could lend a hand, as for instance with our Reading Army, do not be shy! As I was saying, St Andrew's is a wonderful school, with a very warm welcome.

*Sarah Sheppard*

## **2.13 Traidcraft**

Over the last year we've continued to run the Traidcraft stall twice monthly. Sales were again down to just over £1,000 from just under £1,400 in 2016. This may be a reflection of increasingly available fairtrade goods in supermarkets, but remember Traidcraft has a campaigning wing which we're helping to support through our stall.

Now that we are leaving the EU, Traidcraft's campaigning activity is even more important, so I'll take this opportunity to ask you to make a small step to help the Traidcraft Brexit trade campaign. From the Traidcraft website [www.traidcraft.co.uk/brexit-trade-campaign](http://www.traidcraft.co.uk/brexit-trade-campaign):

"Traidcraft is calling on the government to put in place measures

to safeguard people who trade with us from the poorest countries. These could include duty-free access for products from the poorest countries, and trade rules that make it easier for producers in poor countries to export more valuable products – enabling them to trade their way out of poverty.

“We’re working together with Fairtrade Foundation and other organisations. Together, we’ve launched a petition to International Trade Minister Liam Fox. Please join the campaign – go to <http://traidcraft.takeaction.org.uk/petition/brexit-trade> and ask Liam Fox for a Brexit that works for everyone!”

Christ Church remains a Fairtrade church, which means that we serve fairly traded tea and coffee at church events, use other fairtrade products where possible and support Fairtrade Fortnight every year.

Thank you to all who’ve supported the stall regularly over the last few years. After almost 30 years of selling (in various other churches as well as Christ Church), I have decided to stop organising the stall, and am very grateful to Sally Churchyard and Judith Bishop, who have taken it over. Please do go on supporting it, and do look through the catalogue – there are so many lovely items in it that aren’t stocked on the stall.

*Rebekah Cunningham*

# The Trustees of Christ Church as at 30 April 2017

## Ex officio

(The Bishop of Bath & Wells)

The Ven. Andy Piggott Archdeacon of Bath

Revd Tim Gleghorn The Rector of Walcot (or a representative)

## Appointed

Charles Rice Chair

David Bishop Treasurer

Sarah Jones

Sarah Sheppard

Clive Tilling

Jane Nicholson

Janet Mahto

Lewis Boyd

## Office holders as at 30 April 2017

### Churchwardens

Malcolm Wall

Alex Soboslay

### Assistant Churchwardens

Janet Mahto

Sylvia Ayers

### Deanery Synod Representatives

Brenda Wall

Sarah Kerr

Jane Nicholson

### Sidespersons

Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers,

Morny Davison, Margaret Heath,

Janet Mahto, Jane Nicholson,

Margaret Silver

# Christ Church Council

## Ex officio

Revd Lore Chumbley	Priest-in-charge
Mark Elliott	Reader
Malcolm Wall	Churchwarden
Alex Soboslay	Churchwarden
Sarah Kerr	Deanery Synod rep
Jane Nicholson	Deanery Synod rep
Brenda Wall	Deanery Synod rep

## Elected until 2017

Judith Anderson	
Matthew Jones	
Sharon Rawlings	Secretary

## Elected until 2018

Judith Bishop  
Rowena Hall  
Janet Mahto

## Elected until 2019

Georgina Bowman  
Penny Edwards  
Virginia Knight

## Co-opted

Ian Hay Davison

Three members to be elected at this AGM will serve until 2020