



Christ Church Bath

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

**Sunday 8 May 2022
11:15am, Christ Church,
Julian Road, Bath BA1 2RH**

Agenda

1. Opening prayers
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the previous ACM (Sunday 23 May 2021)
4. Matters Arising
5. Remarks from the Priest-in-Charge
6. Reports
 - (i) Electoral Roll – changes in membership
 - (ii) Chair of Trustees
 - (iii) Financial Report for 2021
 - (iv) Deanery Synod
7. Elections and appointments
 - (i) Election of Churchwardens
 - (ii) Elections to Church Council – to elect 4 members
 - (iii) Appointment of independent financial examiner
8. Any Other Business
 - (i) Motion to admit our Reader as a member of Council this year
9. Date of the next Annual Church Meeting
10. Closing prayers

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Minutes of the Christ Church Annual Meeting held on Sunday 23 May 2021 in the church following the Eucharist

Chair: The Revd Lore Chumbley, Priest-in-charge.

Clerk: The Revd Canon Simon Tatton-Brown, Secretary to the Trustees.

Present: 39 people.

1. Opening Prayers: The Priest-in-charge welcomed everyone. She explained that the meeting again would need to be kept brief because of Coronavirus constraints and to this end all reports would be taken as read. The meeting also agreed to her request that the proceedings be recorded on audio.

After reading from 1 Corinthians 13, she led the meeting in prayer.

2. Apologies for absence were received from Keith Pigot, Rebecca Nicholson, and the Reverends Peter and Beryl Bowles.

3. The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Sunday 11 October 2020 were taken as read and approved without amendment.

4. Matters Arising (the numbers in brackets refer to the Minutes of 11.10.20):

4.1 Bellingers' Donor Board (6.2): The Priest-in-charge said that the provision of the Donor Board was in hand, and is included in the current scheme for re-ordering the west end of the church building (which would require Faculty approval).

4.2 2020 Elections to Church Council: The Priest-in-charge clarified the terms to which those elected will serve. Richard Gabe will serve until 2023, and Rebekah Cunningham until 2022.

5. Remarks from the Priest-in-charge: The Priest-in-charge said that she did not wish to add to her printed remarks in the Annual Meeting booklet. But she commented on how blessed Christ Church is in having so many members offering to serve, as evidenced by the need for an election to the Church Council this year.

She then expressed her thanks on behalf of the Church community to Charles Rice, who is stepping down as Chair of Trustees next month

when he and Carol move away from Bath. She particularly noted his hard work in steering the re-ordering of the east end to a successful conclusion – the works are almost complete.

She informed the meeting that the Trustees had elected Nick Wells to succeed him.

6. Reports

6.1 Electoral Roll: The Priest-in-charge stated that the Roll now stands at 93. She expressed her thanks to Judith Anderson for her work as Electoral Roll Officer.

6.2 Chair of Trustees: Charles Rice referred to the written Report. Virginia Knight asked about upgrading the church lighting. Charles Rice replied that this is in hand, a contract has been agreed, but the contractor is awaiting delivery of the light fittings which are delayed due to the Pandemic.

6.3 Financial Report: Alex Soboslay questioned whether it had been legal to apply the bequest of Penny Edwards to the costs of the new South Chapel, given that her bequest was for the upkeep of the Church. David Bishop (Trustees' Treasurer) clarified the situation, and the Financial Report was received. (See also 8.1, below.)

6.4 Deanery Synod Report: There were no questions on the Report. The Priest-in-charge thanked all who had contributed reports.

7. Elections:

7.1 Churchwardens: Janet Mahto was proposed by Sarah Jones and seconded by Judith Bishop; Jane Nicholson was proposed by Sylvia Ayers and seconded by Ken Ayers. There being no further nominations they were elected unopposed.

7.2 There were four Nominations to the Church Council:

Judith Bishop, proposed by Mark Elliott and seconded by Richard Gabe;

Alex Soboslay, proposed by Sylvia Ayers and seconded by Jane Nicholson;

Jonathan Stead, proposed by Jane Nicholson and seconded by Judith Bishop;

Malcolm Wall, proposed by Lucinda Humbert and seconded by Rebekah Cunningham.

A secret ballot was then conducted (tellers: Virginia Knight, Simon Tatton-Brown) with the following results:

- Judith Bishop received 32 votes;
- Alex Soboslay received 15 votes;
- Jonathan Stead received 34 votes;
- Malcolm Wall received 30 votes.

Jonathan Stead, Judith Bishop and Malcolm Wall were duly returned to serve until 2024.

7.3 Independent Examiner: Robin Kerr proposed, and Ian Hay Davison seconded Chris Willow as the Independent Examiner for the current financial year.

8. Any Other Business:

8.1 Penny Edwards' Bequest: The meeting returned to item 6.2 (above). Charles Rice, in a further answer to Alex Soboslay's question, said that the Bequest had been paid into the General Fund, from which the South Chapel restoration drew funds to finance the work. He said that the Trustees had felt it appropriate to memorialise Penny Edwards by associating the works with her Bequest, rather than letting her gift become 'lost' in the General Fund for the upkeep of the Church. However the bills had not yet been paid, and he said that the Trustees would reconsider their decision in the light of the point raised by Alex Soboslay's question.

8.2 Church Flowers: Robin Kerr declared an interest in that his wife Sarah co-ordinates the flower arrangers, and said that the Flower Team needed new members to fill the gaps left by departing members. He added that they don't have to be women.

8.3 Brenda Wall returned to the question of Penny Edwards' Bequest, making the point that Penny was a woman of prayer, noting that the new Chapel was for prayer, and saying she was sure Penny would have supported her gift being used for it.

8.4 Sylvia Ayers moved a Vote of Thanks to the Reverend Lore Chumbley, not least for her leadership of the Church during the Pandemic. The meeting approved this Vote with prolonged applause.

8.5 Alex Soboslay reminded the meeting that under the Church Representation Rules it is the responsibility of the Annual Church Meeting to agree the inclusion of Lay Readers on a PCC.

Alex Soboslay proposed Mark Elliott be included in Christ Church Council; seconded by Morny Davison. Agreed nem. con.

9. Next Annual Church Meeting: Sunday 8 May 2022, following the morning Eucharist.

10. Closing Prayer: The Priest-in-charge closed the meeting with the Prayer for Grace at 11.35am.

SCTB
23.05.2021

REPORTS for 2021

1. Administrative Reports

1.1 Electoral Roll

The number on the electoral roll as at April 2021 was 93.

Since then, three people have been removed from the register and three added to it.

The count for 2022 is therefore 93.

If anyone else would like to be added to the roll, please ask one of the churchwardens or Judith Anderson for an application form.

Data correct at time of writing (April 2022).

Judith Anderson

1.2 Report from the Priest-in-Charge

2022 was a tumultuous year for all of us. As Covid 19 continued to cause concern locally, nationally and internationally, a year which began for us with the death of Prince Philip in April 2021 ended with a performance of Richard Gabe's dignified and moving Requiem in April 2022. Against that sombre background of death and remembrance Christ Church suffered the loss of Margaret Silver, Dawn Hooper, Jane Fletcher and Sharon Rawlings. We said goodbye to Charles Rice, our previous Chair of Trustees, and to Carol. Both were good neighbours and friends to Christ Church. But we were also heartened to welcome Nick Wells as our new chair of Trustees and Kara as our curate – accompanied by Barney, the irrepressible ministry dog.

Kara's enthusiastic and optimistic pioneering ministry is already having an effect in Christ Church and the local community as she leads prayer walks and expeditions, contributes to our children's ministry and takes her energy and charisma into St Andrew's School, where she teaches netball to an after-school group. We look towards Kara's priesting in the summer, after which she will also be a Eucharistic presence among us.

Christ Church's sense of being available to those who feel themselves at the margin of society encouraged us to organise the first "Living in Love and Faith" course in the Deanery. LLIF is a Church of England national course intended to promote discussion amongst clergy and laity as, yet again, the C of E ponders how it can ensure a welcome to

those who do not identify as heterosexual and cisgender. We were particularly pleased that the Revd Canon Nigel Rawlinson, chaplain to the University of Bath, agreed to lead our course and did so with wisdom and skill. On completion we were able to post our responses and opinions on the LLF website for the National Church to note.

We were very grateful to receive the gift of a hand-embroidered linen altar cloth for our Communion table and two silver candlesticks for the St Michael Chapel. Our plans for reorganisation of noticeboards on the internal west wall of Christ Church are now on application to the DAC and we await their response.

As you will read elsewhere in this report, the choir, Pastoral Care group, charitable giving group and children's church have been led and nurtured with skill and care by church leaders, many of whom do not recognise themselves as "leaders." The hidden strength of Christ Church lies in those people who week by week come to worship, sing and pray and encourage others in hope and love through their faithful example. Through two difficult years you have continued to do so and it is because of you that Christ Church remains in good heart. I am confident that together in faith we will face whatever the future brings.

Revd Lore Chumbley

1.3 Report from the Curate

I have been fortunate to be a member of the Christ Church community since July 2021. As a Pioneer Curate my main remit is to "explore the local context, discern what God is doing and where he wants me to join in". Of course, as part of my Curates training, I also have to learn how to serve the Church Family in a liturgical and pastoral way. Coming from a different church tradition the prospect of Christ Church as my Curacy home was both exciting and daunting. I am so thankful for the warm welcome I have received and the continued encouragement and support in my role.

The Cedar Tree Café is a regular fixture on a Friday morning. My dog Barney is now a much loved regular. As dogs are not normally allowed we had to get him designated as a "ministry dog". Most weeks a group of us head off for a walk with him after the Café. We are exploring different areas of our beautiful city. We always take some time to stop and admire God's wonderful creation and pray together. We have received a generous donation and are using this to organise a number of Cedar Tree Outings. Our first is at the end of this month. We will be visiting Sham Castle, and the Golf Club have said we can park there and

have afternoon tea. We hope this will be the first of many. One of our visitors to the Cedar Tree has had an interest in bellringing for many years but was not confident to do this on her own. Maggie has kindly taken the two of us under her expert eye and we are building both a friendship and learning how to bell ring!

After our Cedar Tree walk I head up to the University Campus where myself and Barney are available to walk with the students or just let them have a cuddle with the dog. Many of them miss their pets and find him very comforting.

Since the beginning of 2022 I have been spending Thursday afternoon in our local primary school St. Andrews. I have been involved in assemblies including a day at St. Swithin's taking the children through a series of stations exploring "The Easter Experience". In addition I have spent time in different classrooms getting to know the staff and the children. After Easter I will be starting a much wanted netball club after school on a Thursday. My prayer through doing this is to get to know some of the families in a more personal way and maybe start a beginners running group with the parents after school drop off. One of the administrators has asked me to baptise one of her children, which is very exciting.

On alternative weeks to the Pilgrim Group I have started the Agape group. This is an informal group where we worship, pray and socialise together. We look at different aspects of church that interest us and discuss these.

Together with the Director of Youth for Christ we have begun a short time of Curated Silence twice a month on a Sunday evening. Our hope for this was that we would attract a number of youth from the local youth groups. We are praying that this will happen.

I was grateful to be invited to visit a local monastic group, Still Waters. I will be joining them for a retreat day on 14 May.

Most Sundays I have been fortunate to be invited to join in with the young people of Christ Church. They are a wonderful group and I have enjoyed getting to know them and their families. We are hoping to have some outside events in the warmer months, to which we hope they will bring their friends.

It has been an interesting first year of Curacy and I look forward to what God is going to do next. Heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all the love, support and encouragement.

Kara Maylor

1.4 Trustees

Christ Church, Bath

Charity No: 1055275

Trustees' Annual Report 2021-2022

List of Trustees

- Chair:** Charles Rice (resigned 27.06.21)
Nick Wells (from 27.06.21, appointed 18.07.18)
- Secretary:** Canon Simon Tatton-Brown (appointed 01.01.19)
- Treasurer:** David Bishop (re-appointed 23.07.19)
The Ven Adrian Youings (ex officio, Archdeacon of Bath)
The Revd Timothy Gleghorn (ex officio, Rector of Walcot)
Jenny Hesketh (appointed 28.11.19)
Sarah Sheppard (re-appointed 23.07.19)
Oosman Tegally (appointed 25.11.21)
Clive Tilling (re-appointed 23.07.19)
Hilary Wild (appointed 25.03.21)

Christ Church is governed by a Trust Deed dated 6 May 1801. The operation of the Deed is regulated by Standing Orders adopted by the Trustees on 23 June 2020, drawn up in the light of Charity Commission guidelines. Appointment to the position of trustee at Christ Church is for a six-year term in accordance with the Policy for the Appointment of a New Trustee, with option to renew subject to the agreement of the other trustees. Trustees are responsible for appointing new Trustees in event of vacancies. The Standing Orders also require that the trustees shall invite the Priest-in-Charge and Churchwardens of Christ Church to attend meetings of the trustees. They may participate fully in the trustees' meetings but without the power to vote.

Public Benefit: The trustees exercise their duties as the owners and custodians of the buildings forming part of the Christ Church Bath estate. The day-to-day responsibility for ordering the worship of Christ Church is exercised by the Priest-in-Charge with the Church Council. It is the view of the Trustees that the Charity complies with the guidance on public benefit as published by the Charity Commission, by providing buildings and open spaces for religious activities, facilities and services for the general public/mankind.

Policies: The Trustees have adopted the following policies: For the Appointment of New Trustees (reviewed 07.04.22); Conflict of Interest (reviewed 17.05.21); Processing Personal Data (reviewed 02.09.21); Safeguarding (revised 28.04.22); Safeguarding Procedures (revised 28.04.22); Risk Policy and Register (reviewed 02.09.21); Health & Safety (adopted 13.01.22); Protection of Electronic and Written Data (13.01.22); Investment Policy (17.06.21); Standing Orders (reviewed 17.06.21). Reserves policy: It is the policy of the trustees to hold a cash reserve of at least £15,000.

Simon Tatton-Brown

1.5 Chair of Trustees

At the time of writing, Trustees have met 7 times since the last Annual Church Meeting. Their focus continues to be the management of Christ Church's estate and finances to support both the ministry of the church and to maintain and update the fabric of its buildings.

Major works during the year have included completion of the second phase of the East End project with installation of the side screen to the South Chapel; replacement of the lighting to the Lady Chapel and side aisles; replacement of the choir vestry roof; installation of central heating to the Lower Mews and subsequent redecoration of the Lower Mews meeting room; replacement of the heaters in Cottage 1; and investigation of the masonry crack beneath the North West window in the Gallery. Much of this was put in train by Charles Rice, our former Chair, before he moved away from Bath. Charles worked closely on these projects with David Bishop and Robin Kerr, and we are extremely grateful to Charles for all he did as Chair, not least in driving forward the extensive East End project and the organ refurbishment. He is much missed.

Trustees' current focus is on rebuilding our financial resources after years of transformational major projects. In particular we wish to ensure adequate reserves ahead of major maintenance of the main church roof, which is likely to arise in the longer term, and to provide a buffer for any unforeseen expenditure triggered by the next Quinquennial inspection, due within the next twelve months.

Under our Architect's advice we will tackle the masonry crack beneath the Gallery North West window and continue the rolling programme of refurbishment of the main Gallery windows as well as looking into what can be done to improve access to the ringing chamber from the Gallery.

Trustees are aware of their ecological responsibilities and are working closely with the Eco Group to explore practical ways in which we can reduce the estate's carbon emissions, recognising this may lead to additional upfront costs.

Robin Kerr redecorated the Lower Mews meeting room and undertook a host of minor repairs across the estate for which we are very grateful. David Bishop, as Treasurer, has been involved in all aspects of the Trust's business and has spent many hours accordingly in our service. Simon Tatton Brown, as Secretary, has been central to the work the Trust has done to further improve the way it governs itself. Significant improvements this year include approving a formal Health & Safety policy. All policies remain subject to annual review. We welcomed Oosman Tegally as a Trustee during the year, filling the vacancy created by Charles Rice's departure.

On behalf of Trustees, I thank Lore for all her work during the past year, for us and for the wider Christ Church community. It has been good to see new faces in church and as Covid restrictions ease I am sure that Christ Church will continue to grow in church life both within our church building and outside it.

Nick Wells

1.6 Church Council

Council met six times on Zoom or in mixed format for the period under review with a high attendance in spite of the difficulties posed by the pandemic. Council also met for an away-day workshop at the Ammerdown Conference Centre on 6 November. At the 2021 Annual Meeting Sharon Rawlings and Zoë Bushell were re-elected to Council, while Richard Gabe and Rebekah Cunningham filled the remaining vacancies. Brenda Wall and Pauline Swaby-Wallace joined as our Deanery Synod representatives. Council was pleased to welcome Kara Maylor, the new curate, to Council as an ex-officio member.

At its first meeting on 29 June Council re-elected Jonathan Stead as Lay Chair. During the year Richard Gabe took over as Treasurer to Council from Georgina Bowman, who has agreed to be church archivist. Council expressed its gratitude to both of them for handling these important portfolios. The tragic death of Sharon Rawlings robbed Council of a valuable voice and she will be sorely missed. David Rawlings was co-opted as a member for the rest of the current Council term.

The changing Government and Church of England rules and guidelines on Covid meant that throughout the year Council dealt with a number

of issues relating to the important question of on-site and online worship. Council erred on the side of caution in this regard given the number of elderly and vulnerable people in the congregation but services have been gradually opened up.

Council dealt with a range of practical issues relating to the church building including the decluttering of surplus furniture and the re-ordering of the west end including the installation of the bells donor board, all of which were thoroughly investigated and debated. The need for an attractive and welcoming entrance and foyer to the church was stressed and that the west wall should reflect both our rich history (previous priests-in-charge and donors) as well as information of interest to current members and visitors.

Council was pleased to receive regular reports on existing church worship including the new monthly Sunday afternoon Iona services led by the laity as well as the Sunday evening silent reflection led by the curate. Council expressed its sincere thanks to Mark Elliott and the people handling the video recordings for all their additional burden caused by the requirements of the dual medium services.

In addition to the key matter of worship, Council now receives reports from the Eco Church and Pastoral Care groups at each meeting. The Eco Church initiative has developed substantially over the year and Rebekah Cunningham is to be thanked for her leadership of this project. Equally the much-valued Pastoral Care Seniors Teas, combined with a Eucharist, were warmly welcomed. Council also receives regular reports from our Deanery Synod representatives on the work and vision of our deanery in Bath.

At its away day in November 2021 the group looked at progress over the last few years and highlighted successes that were worth celebrating and difficulties that also occurred. As the group pondered the Christ Church vision and mission statement, opportunities were discussed and these involved building new and renewing existing bridges – among the congregation, in our Julian Road community, with the other inclusive churches in Bath, and within the Deanery and Diocese.

Jonathan Stead

1.7 Safeguarding

Since my report to the last AGM, I have processed seven DBS checks. I expect to organise checks for four more people in the near future. These checks will now need to be repeated every three years, rather than every five.

I have now completed the Diocesan course for parish safeguarding officers. More recently I completed the Church of England's e-learning module on Safer Recruitment.

I intend to make sure that there is designated space for safeguarding notices when the new West end noticeboards are set up, so that they are not mostly obscured as they are at present. I do however feel confident that anything which needs to be reported to me will reach me. While we are a small enough congregation that it is possible to know who everyone is, there is an increasing amount of activity centred on the church (a welcome development), which means more possibilities for safeguarding breaches.

It is proposed to set up an occasional forum where safeguarding officers can discuss non-confidential matters with one another and with the diocesan safeguarding office. This provides some contact with one's peers in what can otherwise be a very isolated role, which necessitates dealing with both actual incidents with their practical and emotional demands, and an increasing administrative workload. I observe that at least one other Diocese is now splitting the role in two.

Virginia Knight

1.8 Treasurer's Report for financial year 2021

COUNCIL

Richard Gabe replaced Georgina Bowman as Council Treasurer in September 2021, enabling Georgina to concentrate on church history. Thanks are due to her for her involvement over recent years.

Council's income from regular freewill giving to the church in 2021 (collections and standing orders) amounted to £39,000. GiftAid is recovered on all qualifying income. Historically this was done annually in arrears but is now being claimed on a quarterly basis to give Council a smoother income flow, as a result of which the GiftAid income in 2021 was rather higher than normal at £16,000. Together with £5,000 of other income (fees for use of church, income from outside events etc.) this brought the council's income to £60,000. Equivalent figures for 2020 were £37,000 given and £9,000 GiftAid (total £46,000) and £8,000 other income, the main differences for 2021 being the additional £7,000 Catch-up GiftAid and the absence of the 2020 Time and Talent programme.

The fall in income from outside events (mostly Topping book-signings) was inevitably because of Covid restrictions but also because of

Topping's move to larger premises, enabling them to host more events in-house. The completion of the East End reordering is expected to lead to increased secular use in the future.

Council outgoings totalled £48,000, including a final payment made to the Diocese in January 2022, bringing the total paid to the Common Fund to £15,000, an effort marked by a letter from the Archdeacon "thanking you all so much for your continued voluntary contribution to the Common Fund in the Diocese this year. We are very aware of the massive impact that Covid has had on churches, not least financially, over the last 2 years. So we are really grateful for your continued commitment and pray for God's blessing on all you are doing in His name". Utilities (mostly heating and lighting) amounted to £7,000, a figure which is expected to escalate in 2022.

Rationalisation of accounts in 2021 has enabled Council to operate a separate bank account since January 2022, adding greater clarity to future accounting procedures. Thanks are due to those who quickly changed their standing orders over to the new account.

Chris Willows retired as Independent Examiner during 2021 and the Trustees appointed The Waldron Partnership Ltd as Independent Examiner for one year.

TRUST

The Trust's income and expenditure continued through 2021 with few changes. Short term rent relief was given to two of the lessees who were experiencing cashflow difficulties through Covid, but the year's income overall remained close to target at £60,000, excluding a legacy of £500 and East End project donations of £3,000. Other than major project expenditure some £24,000 was spent on regular outgoings and £15,000 on exceptional property maintenance (Lower Mews C/H and new heating in Cottage 1). Robin Kerr's generous offer of his time and talent enabled redecoration to be completed at minimal cost. FY2022 will see greater emphasis on church building maintenance in line with the quinquennial plan.

PROJECTS

Final payments for the main East End project and the north-facing screen of the St Michael chapel were completed, totalling £30,000, with only minor detail (additional carved oak bosses on the columns) outstanding, for which funding is already in place.

The re-roofing of the choir vestry, originally scheduled for 2022, was brought forward to 2021 at the builder's request, enabling us to take advantage of an offered discount and favourable payment terms to suit the Trust's cashflow. The opportunity was also taken to better insulate that part of the building.

David Bishop, Trustees Treasurer / Richard Gabe, Council Treasurer

1.9 Deanery Synod

Christ Church's Deanery Synod representatives are Pauline Swaby-Wallace and Brenda Wall. Deanery Synod has continued to meet throughout the pandemic whether by Zoom or in person. In the past year we had a combination of virtual and face-to-face meetings.

Our May 2021 meeting was a virtual meeting led by Revd Canon Patrick Whitworth, who reflected on the difficulties and losses of the lockdown and also the new challenges facing local churches in the process of coming out of lockdown. Recalling the challenges and opportunities of the Israelites' exile in Egypt, local churches were encouraged to "Come out of Exile" with confidence and hope.

September 2021 found us in the church of St Michael's Without in person as, following on from the virtual May meeting, we joyfully interacted with old friends and new faces. We shared our own particular experiences of the pandemic and of re-opening our churches and restarting face-to-face worship and activities. It was an optimistic meeting with a sense of hope that we can use the experiences of the past two years to deepen relationships between churches and break down stereotypes, working across different parishes and traditions.

In January 2022 we met in the University of Bath to hear different local perspective on Bath becoming a "sustainable" city. Eco-reps from parishes throughout the deanery shared local "living sustainably" news. Throughout the year Deanery Synod has encouraged the "Living in Love and Faith" process. This culminated in a Deanery-wide LLF course in Bath Abbey in the early part of 2022.

Pauline Swaby-Wallace and Brenda Wall

2 Reports on Church Activities

2.1 Bell ringing

This time last year, I was hoping we might ring for Easter. We didn't – but at last, on Pentecost, we were back, to be greeted by Lore with very kind words, and a card – and champagne.

However, it was a limited return. Six ringers, only; for a limited period of time, only; on Sundays, only; those were the rules until July, when we were able to hold our first Saturday morning practice. With coffee in church afterwards – back to “normal”? Not really. We had lost ringers, for one reason or another, while Barry Quintin, our dear Assistant Steeplekeeper, was terminally ill with cancer, and died in September. But we persevered; ringers from other towers helped; we've been blessed with two “returners”; and now we often ring eight for services.

Which is well and good. But more ringers are needed – everywhere – and Maggie Willans, who has qualified as a member of the Association of Ringing Teachers, is running teaching sessions at Christ Church every week; not just for our benefit but for learners at other churches. If you've ever thought of learning to ring – or returning – now is the time. And as I write this, I look forward to ringing for Easter.

William Willans

2.2 Cedar Tree Café

The Cedar Tree café opened again on 30th July after the Covid lockdown. Since then we have been open every Friday with a “full house” – many original customers as well as newcomers.

The menu has remained basically as before. We aim to purchase FairTrade and organic goods wherever possible. Our waste is also disposed of according to Eco guidelines.

The number of customers each week has increased significantly, and also the number of Cedar Tree helpers. A special thank-you to Angela for being there every week to get things ready for us.

New activities include jigsaw puzzles and games – Tumbling Tower is a great favourite. Our thanks also go to Kara, who joins us each week, usually with her dog Barney. Weather permitting, lunchtime ends with a walk in the park.

If you are passing by on a Friday, please do drop in and join us!

Janet Mahto

2.3 Charitable giving

Christ Church has for several years followed a system of supporting a different charity every month, with cash collections on the second and fourth Sundays of each month to raise money for that month's chosen charity. We also invite people to use the option of making online donations. Our cash collections go straight to the charity concerned and are not included in our financial report. While we all have our individual commitments to charitable giving, it is good to give corporately and feel as a church community that we are working together to support those in need.

USPG's project in Malawi is supported quarterly, Genesis Trust and Julian House every December, and a changing selection of other charities through the rest of the year. We welcome suggestions from members of the congregation and have valued the children's and young people's suggestions for the last couple of years. They are always very active and creative in their fundraising efforts and raise impressive totals! We aim to support a mixture of local, national and international charities, both Christian and secular.

Increasingly since the onset of the Covid pandemic it seems that people have tended to carry less cash in general life and make more card transactions, and this seems to have affected our cash donations in church too. Unfortunately we are often unable to find a total for online donations, other than from USPG and sites such as Justgiving, and this is reflected in the figures below.

The charities supported over the year April 2021 to March 2022 are as follows, with the sums given referring to what it was possible to identify; cash donations unless otherwise stated.

<i>Apr 2021</i>	<i>Spafford Children's Centre</i>	<i>£238.00</i>
<i>May</i>	<i>USPG/Malawi</i>	<i>£129.10 cash</i>
<i>Jun</i>	<i>BEMSCA (Bath Ethnic Minorities Senior Citizens' Association)</i>	<i>£196.00</i>
<i>Jul</i>	<i>Christians against Poverty</i>	<i>£155.00</i>
<i>Aug</i>	<i>USPG/Malawi</i>	<i>£124.20 cash</i>
<i>Sep</i>	<i>Save the Children – cash, fundraising efforts and via Justgiving</i>	<i>£927.68</i>
<i>Oct</i>	<i>Just Footprints – cash and via Justgiving</i>	<i>£572.90</i>
<i>Nov</i>	<i>USPG/Malawi</i>	<i>£163.16 cash</i>
<i>Dec</i>	<i>Julian House and Genesis Trust (divided equally)</i>	<i>£343.30</i>

<i>Jan 2022</i>	<i>Bath Welcomes Refugees</i>	<i>£118.00</i>
<i>Feb</i>	<i>USPG/Malawi</i>	<i>£69.06 cash</i>
<i>Mar</i>	<i>Church Housing Trust</i>	<i>£110.10</i>
Total	Cash collections plus Justgiving as above	£3,146.50
	<i>PLUS direct donations to USPG</i>	
	<i>from Christ Church members</i>	<i>£1,050.00</i>
Grand Total		£4,196.50

Rebekah Cunningham

2.4 Choir & Music

The last year has obviously been another strange and difficult one for the choir, and for music in the church generally. Last year I wrote that I hoped the choir would be allowed to sing by late May. As it turned out, whilst we were allowed to sing in May, amateur choirs were bizarrely singled out for a continued application of a “rule of six” and it was the end of July before we were allowed to have all the choir singing together again. This only allowed us a couple of weeks singing together before the holiday period, and so it was really in September we restarted in earnest. Obviously, things were still a long way from “normal”. The difficulty of absences because of Covid – both people catching it and isolating after close contact – meant that everything has still felt quite tentative and contingent for much of the year.

The autumn was obviously overshadowed by the deep, deep sadness of Sharon Rawlings being hospitalised and eventually being taken from us by Covid. Sharon’s dedicated service to the choir over decades is something I am profoundly thankful for, and she is, and will continue to be, acutely missed.

Despite that sadness, the Advent and Christmas services were, as usual, highlights of the choir’s year. The new year also saw a landmark which would’ve been unthinkable a couple of years earlier. On New Year’s Day precisely our “Virtual Choir” video of “Christ be our light”, which we had made for Candlemas in January 2021, surpassed 10,000 views on YouTube! (At the time of writing it has 12,583 views.) It feels like there are very few constructive outcomes of the pandemic period, but the expansion of Christ Church’s online and social media outreach may be one thing we can look at as a genuine positive.

I continue to be delighted, humbled and grateful for the dedication the choir members have shown over this incredibly difficult time to

continue to produce music of a very high standard for our worship. As we finally lose the remaining Covid precautions over the coming months – I’m very much looking forward to moving the singers closer together again, for example! – I hope we can use this as an opportunity to strengthen the choir. It’s perhaps not obvious from seeing the choir singing from week to week given the standard which the choir achieves, but it is all quite fragile at the moment, and it wouldn’t take much for the general trajectory to be downwards rather than upwards. I’m hoping that, with the removal of final Covid precautions, we can build up the security of the choir for the future. It’s been fantastic to welcome Tim and Owen to the junior choir recently, and I’m hopeful we can attract more singers – both juniors and adults – over the next year. I’m supremely grateful to David Winters for his contribution to the music at Christ Church, and I was absolutely delighted that in September he accepted the offer to officially become Organist and Assistant Director of Music. We’re very lucky to have him. We’re also really fortunate to have “backup” organists in David Wrigley and Daniel Cushing. I’m also hugely grateful to Emma for the work she does with training the junior choir. My heartfelt thanks to all of them.

Finally, thank you to everyone who goes out of their way to say how much they enjoy the music and how much it means to them. It is a privilege to be Director of Music at a church like Christ Church, which appreciates good liturgical music and takes it seriously.

Mark Elliott

2.5 Concerts and Events

With another year of restrictions, Christ Church was careful to open its hospitality doors only when we were sure of being able to keep our congregation and visitors safe.

At the end of July, it was with guarded excitement that Cedar Tree Community Café opened again. This provided much needed contact for those who frequent it.

On August 22nd, Christ Church alongside the Museum of Bath at Work hosted the Julian Road Community Celebration. This event was very much an experiment where there were lots of stalls of books, bric-a-brac, games, ice cream, tea and cakes very much in the style of the 1960s/70s. The weather was on our side and most of the stalls were outside in the church car park or outside the Museum. The Steel Band played outside while the organ provided music in the style of “Black-

pool Illuminations.” The Mayor of Bath opened the event at 12:00 and the turnout of visitors was amazing throughout the afternoon.

September saw the return of Topping bookshop with their wide range of authors including Tom Kerridge, Gyles Brandreth, Rick Stein and Michael McIntyre. These events ran through to December.

In October Christ Church offered space for Ling Zi to show her art and in November we hosted a meeting of the Third Order of Franciscans. Bath Film Fest used Christ Church for a silent movie accompanied by David Briggs on the organ. More Toppings came in December as well as carol services for Norland Nannies and the Royal United Hospital.

We look forward to an increase in events as restrictions decrease and people in general getting used to socialising in a careful way. Live-streaming of services continues together with the occasional event where requested. I need to thank everyone who made themselves available and got involved with events when required.

Judith Bishop

2.6 Eco Group

This group sprang into life in June last year following some discussion in Council on energy suppliers, and we cover a wide age range!

Why should we worry about the environment?

The Bible tells us that all God’s creation was very good, such that the angels shouted with joy, and that we were given the responsibility to care for it. In reading that even the death of a sparrow is noticed by God we are given a stirring reminder of God’s love for the entire creation of which we have been given custody and care.

News from around the world tells us that it is poor and disadvantaged communities that are already being disproportionately affected by droughts, flooding etc due to climate change.

The Eco group decided early on to make use of two Christian websites aimed at helping churches think about their ecological impact.

Eco Church, set up by Christian environment charity A Rocha (Portuguese for The Rock), is basically a five-part questionnaire looking at all aspects of church life, including worship, buildings, land, lifestyle and community/global engagement. It offers bronze, silver and gold certificates to churches working through the questionnaire. See <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk>

This is not just a tick box exercise, but a searching and challenging way of assessing our commitment to improving our environmental impact.

The range of questions cannot be completely comprehensive, and new ideas and steps to be taken will almost certainly occur to us. Certification also has the value of announcing to those outside Christ Church who may be looking at what we do, that we are interested in these issues. We are aiming to achieve a Bronze Certificate this year.

Probably the most challenging and certainly the most expensive considerations are around our **buildings** – our utilities suppliers, our insulation etc – and obviously we are not free agents in this, needing to get permission from the Diocesan Advisory Committee as well as our local council and Historic Buildings for many changes. But we are seriously considering how we can make a significant reduction in our carbon footprint.

Our **land** is very limited, but we are already developing the Apse Garden, to make it wildlife friendly as well as a space for quiet meditation, and we are already taking steps under the other three sections of the questionnaire, including recycling bins.

The other programme we are using is the **Climate Emergency Toolkit**, set up by a number of Christian organisations including the Church of England, TearFund and Christian Aid. It has a different focus, encouraging us not only to look at our own environmental impact but to spread the word, to our individual contacts, to those in our neighbourhood, to those who use our church buildings and to people in positions of power. See <https://www.climateemergencytoolkit.com>

Our plans are not just aimed at Christ Church BA1 2RH; we hope to encourage every member of Christ Church to consider their own environmental impact.

You can look at <https://creationcare.org.uk> to assess your own household; other websites looking specifically at carbon footprint are:

- www.footprint.wwf.org.uk/
- www.carbonfootprint.com/
- www.worldlandtrust.org/carbon-calculator/
- <https://offset.climateneutralnow.org/footprintcalc>
- <https://360carbon.org>

You may decide to install solar panels, or simply to turn your thermostat down one degree, but every change contributes. Whatever our circumstances, whether living in a small flat or bedsit or spacious home and garden, there will be ways we can all find to reduce our carbon footprint.

Rebekah Cunningham

2.7 Hospitality

Coming out of the pandemic, we resumed the regular Friday Cedar Tree Community Café in late July. Coffee after the 10am service also came back around the same time with members of the congregation respecting the recommended distancing and continuing to wear face masks, except when drinking coffee.

Janet Mahto was again able to offer her house for “Apple Picking Sunday” and with the weather being in a cooperative mood we all had a great afternoon.

Our Patronal festival, Christ the King, was celebrated with the traditional large fruit cake being cut up into portions and again topped with a suitable motif made in icing created by Jo Palmer. While people collected their slice, we served glasses of bubbly.

We look forward to getting the social side of Christ Church back on the road on a more regular basis.

Judith Bishop

2.8 Junior Church

We often joke about how, if you ask children what they like best about church, they will say, “the biscuits”! This seems flippant, and rather sweet, but it’s much more than this. This is a quote from Father Chris Routledge:

When we are very young and we go to church, there are biscuits there, here is what we are learning. Church is a place where we are fed. And church is a place where we are fed for free. We don’t have to do anything to earn or pay for the biscuits at church. They are freely offered simply because we are there to receive them. And there are enough to go around, so we don’t have to fight or be worried. That sounds a lot like grace and love to me.

As well as our very important biscuit ministry we hope that we offer a place that welcomes children and their parents in other ways. A recent Twitter thread from the St Albans diocese was an affirming reminder that it’s easy to get demoralised and compare our ministry negatively to other churches, but that good news in children’s ministry can take many forms such as:

- A story or activity that seemed to resonate with a child and mean something to them.
- Providing a place that a child can come to where they aren’t

assessed or measured against any standards but can just be themselves and be loved.

- Children play in our building.
- A child talked about something they are interested in and wasn't shut down or dismissed. They learned that they matter and someone cares.

These were just a few ideas, among many others. Success looks like “preaching the Gospel afresh in every generation”.

We have been enjoying the chance to meet together more freely during junior church sessions and, while we continue to take reasonable precautions, we have been able to relax some of the Covid restrictions that made our sessions more of a challenge. Our Nativity play, written by Sarah J, took the form of a play that goes wrong! It was well-received, as always. Over the coming months we hope to re-think the space we have available for our sessions. We are also finding that we need to be flexible with the groups, given the age range of our growing number of children (← success story, right there 😊).

It has been an absolute delight to welcome Kara to our Junior Church sessions. She has been very supportive and has brought some new ideas to the groups, as well as some new beanbags to sit on! We'd like to thank her for her support. Our thanks, as always, go to Lore, who is ever-supportive; to Janet, for the Apple Picking Party (annual highlight) and we'd like to make a special mention this year to Angela (the Biscuit Fairy), who knows which biscuits the children like best!

Emma E, Sarah J, Sarah C and Virginia

Recommended reading for anyone interested in children's ministry is *Beyond the Children's Corner - Creating a culture of welcome for all ages* by Margaret Pritchard Houston, Sandra Millar.

The quote from Father Chris Routledge SMMS was posted on the @OurCofELike Twitter thread. Chris Routledge is the Vicar of Bradwell and Porthill in the Lichfield Diocese.

2.9 Pastoral Care

We meet on an ad hoc basis to discuss the needs of some of our older or more vulnerable church members to see if there are things we could do to help them. We keep in touch by phone or by visits where appropriate. After the isolation of lockdown, it has been lovely to revive face-to-face gatherings, and every couple of months, we have a special service at the church followed by a tea party in the Lower Mews. It is a

chance for older members who no longer attend on a regular basis to catch up with each other and to feel part of our church community. It's important that they know we are thinking about them even if they are not around on Sundays. It was lovely that Jane Fletcher was able to come to one of these tea parties just before she died.

If anyone would like to join this group, we would welcome recruits! Please contact me on jenny.hesketh@me.com or 07966962444.

Jenny Hesketh

2.10 Pilgrim Group

Having completed reading Pope Francis's latest book, *Let us dream – a path to a new future*, Pilgrim Group members continued to meet "virtually" over the early summer of 2021, reverting to a fortnightly pattern. We looked at Pastoral Principles as a prelude to the Living in Love and Faith course (LLF) which was run as a pilot scheme at Christ Church later in the summer. These Principles are described by the Church of England as six "pervading evils": Prejudice, Silence, Ignorance, Fear, Hypocrisy and Power", which can prevent us from "living well together", in particular relating to issues of sexuality.

For the autumn term we resumed meeting in the Lower Mews, while still including on Zoom those not wishing to attend in person. Brenda Wall led some excellent discussions exploring extracts from the writings of C.S. Lewis. Since Christmas the group has studied the OT book of Job, facilitated by Lore, which has been stimulating and thought-provoking, and well-attended.

During the summer months the plan is for individuals to give a short presentation on a book of their choice for discussion and reflection. The gatherings will continue fortnightly, with the new Agapé group led by Kara meeting on the alternate Thursday evenings. New members are always welcome at both groups, whether on Zoom or face to face – contact Lore or Kara for details.

Beryl Bowes

2.11 St Andrew's School

Dear Christ Church friends, in this annual report I had hoped to write about life at St Andrew's School after the pandemic. But that was not to be. So instead I thought I would tell you about a recent project in which I took part as a Foundation Governor.

At St Andrew's we celebrate the great diversity of backgrounds from which our children come, the many languages they speak at home and the diverse religious understandings into which they are born. We are mindful that the school's Christian foundation needs to be presented in appropriate ways. This important task is steered by the Ethos Committee, of which I am a member. Recently this committee chose six values – love, peace, courage, hope, joy and creativity – to run as themes through the school year. Each in turn finds its way into times of worship, learning projects and classroom discussion. We know all six values have a relevance for our children.

Meanwhile these same values have been greatly in evidence as Jayne and her team have tirelessly contrived – against the odds – to find cover for teachers, teaching assistants and support staff off sick with Covid. In line with this, I have seen something of the heroic efforts being made to ensure that Covid steals as little as possible from the children's learning experience.

I love St Andrew's greatly, and it is a privilege to serve this community. Hope now glimmers of better times ahead. Our many virtual meetings on Teams are gradually being replaced by meetings in school. And Jayne and I have even managed to take an actual cup of coffee together.

Sarah Sheppard, Foundation Governor, St Andrew's School

Christ Church Council 2021-22

Ex officio

Revd Lore Chumbley	Priest-in-charge
Mark Elliott	Reader
Janet Mahto	Churchwarden
Jane Nicholson	Churchwarden
Pauline Swaby-Wallace	Deanery Synod rep
Brenda Wall	Deanery Synod rep
Revd deacon Kara Maylor	Curate

Elected until 2022

Georgina Bowman
Virginia Knight
Rebekah Cunningham (*pro tem*)

Elected until 2023

Zoë Bushell
Richard Gabe Treasurer
David Rawlings (*pro tem*)

Elected until 2024

Judith Bishop Secretary
Jonathan Stead Lay Chair
Malcolm Wall

Three members to be elected at this ACM will serve until 2025.

Office holders as at 8 May 2022

Churchwardens

Janet Mahto
Jane Nicholson

Deanery Synod Representatives

Pauline Swaby-Wallace
Brenda Wall



Christ Church is a proprietary chapel consecrated in 1798 “for the free use of all such persons as might wish to attend divine service according to the rites and ceremonies of the Church of England.” (Christ Church Trust Deed 1801)

As part of the Diocese of Bath and Wells, “In response to God’s immense love for us we seek to be God’s people living and telling the story of Jesus.”

As part of the Church of England, our mission is “To promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.”