



Christ Church Bath

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Sunday 4 May 2014

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

Agenda

1. Opening prayer
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the previous AGM (Sunday 21 April 2013)
and any matters arising not otherwise on the agenda
4. Remarks from the Priest-in-Charge
5. Elections
 - a. Election of Churchwardens
 - b. Election of Assistant Churchwardens
 - c. Election of Deanery Synod representatives
 - d. Elections to Church Council
 - e. Election of Sidespersons
6. Questions/discussion on written reports
7. AOB
8. Dates of the next AGM and first Council meeting
9. Closing prayer

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Christ Church, Bath, Sunday 21 April 2013

Attending: 45 people. Chair: Canon Angela Townshend.

1. Opened with prayer from Canon Angela.

2. Apologies for absence:

Sylvia and Ken Ayers, Matthew and Sarah Jones.

3. Minutes of the previous AGM were accepted. Proposed by Bob Siderfin, seconded by Andrew Sillett.

4. Remarks from the Priest in Charge

Canon Angela said she felt welcomed when she arrived and she continues to feel supported and loved by all. The re-ordering of the east end of the church will involve moving the choir stalls and bringing the altar down. This is a trial under licence from the archdeacon and it can be put back if we don't like it. Under Bob and the Buildings Committee an architect is making drawings of what might be done at the west end of the church. Applause for the committee. The changes can be in place for 15 months, then we have to apply for a Faculty or put everything back.

5. Remarks from the Chair of Trustees

Mark expressed thanks to Canon Angela. He commended his report to the meeting and asked for patience and goodwill in all the changes. Should we rent the Mews commercially? Lewis Boyd suggested that the Church Council discuss this. Seconded by David Bishop. Alex Soboslay asked for the finance report to have within it a coloured version of the pie chart so we can make it out, and Robin Kerr asked for the finance report to be issued before the meeting, so we can study it. Seconded by David Rawlings.

6. Election of Churchwarden

Penny Edwards proposed Alex Soboslay, seconded by Lewis Boyd. Elected unanimously. Andrew proposed a vote of thanks to Lewis for all his work.

7. Election of Assistant Churchwardens

Dylan Blackshear offered himself and Janet Mahto was proposed by Angela Berners-Wilson. Both were elected unanimously. Yvonne Morris is the other Assistant Churchwarden.

8. Election of Sidespersons

Arthur Jones was taken off the list and a vote of thanks was recorded to him. Jane Nicholson's name was added to the list.

9. Elections to Church Council

Lewis outlined the changes to the Council. There will now be only 16 members and the Verger will now not be a member ex officio. Three members were elected unanimously to a three year term: Angela Soboslay, David Rawlings and Margaret Burrows. Margaret Silver tendered her resignation, and was thanked for her service. To fill the vacant position (pro tem until 2014) Jane Nicholson proposed Dylan Blackshear, seconded by David Rawlings. He was elected unanimously.

10. Questions on Reports

Rebekah Cunningham asked how much was given to the United Society. Virginia Knight prepares the prayer list.

11. Any Other Business

Penny Edwards asked how many people are on the electoral roll. Judith Anderson replied 61. That means that there has been a significant drop in numbers. It was suggested that maybe Council should take a look at this.

12. Date of next AGM

The next meeting was set for Sunday 6 April 2014. The next Council meeting will be Tuesday 21 May 2013.

13. The meeting closed with the Grace at 12:20.

REPORTS for 2014

1 Administrative

1.1 Report from the Priest-in-Charge

Changes

This has been a hard year for me. Ned's increasing disability and, in November, his move to be in a nursing home have taken their toll. I am grateful for the support and love I have received from the people of Christ Church over this period.

As a member of Bishop's Council I was interviewed and asked for my opinions on the appointment of the new Bishop of Bath and Wells. Bishop Peter Hancock will be installed as Bishop of Bath and Wells in June. I also sit on the Glebe Land Committee for the diocese. This committee reports on land owned by the church which may be sold or a change of use proposed. I am a member of the Diocesan Synod. I have taken part in the Diocesan Mentor's training and Group Facilitation training. I preached at Cheltenham College, was heard a couple of times on Radio Bristol and conducted the Wives Fellowship service. Philip Hawthorn and I have concluded a two year course of teaching, "Exploring Christianity". I am pleased to say that a number of Christ Church members, as well as others from St Stephen's, St Mary's Charlcombe and other parishes, completed this course. I joined with Philip Hawthorn in Marriage Preparation and helped during his sick leave in the summer by taking a number of weddings in St. Stephen's, St. Mary's Charlcombe and Lullington. I have continued to take a regular assembly at St Andrew's School. I have fulfilled commitments to three Trusts, St Martin's Trust, Birmingham, Seeds of Hope Garden, Guildford and I see two people for Spiritual Direction, one as a Mentor and another as her Continuing Theological Education tutor. We have welcomed a potential ordinand to experience a different sort of worship from her usual church. We hosted the Bath Clergy Chapter.

Amongst our usual clergy and Reader we welcomed Catherine Wright, the Diocesan Director of Ordinands, a speaker from US (formally USPG), the Archdeacon, Andy Piggott and the Bishop of Taunton for the Dedication of the Lanterns. My thanks to Sarah Jones who preached on Mothering Sunday. We had a film of the plight of Christians in Syria. We

also welcomed Antony Claridge and the Norland Nannies for their Christmas Service.

The Electoral Roll has been kept up to date, thanks to Judith Anderson.

Two of our members were confirmed at St Saviour's by the Bishop in April. We have welcomed Melvyn and June Matthews. Melvyn has come as an assistant priest and I am thankful for his support, challenging sermons and sensitive presiding at the Eucharist. My thanks, of course also go to Angela Berners-Wilson, who celebrated her 20 years as a priest this March, Cliff Burrows and our Reader, Mark Elliott. We have also welcomed another clerical member in Simon Tatton-Brown, who has joined the choir.

In the Autumn Christ Church hosted an evening of Safeguarding Training.

The Church Council have had some lively and interesting discussions at their meetings over the year including making recommendations to the Trustees on issues such as the Bells Project and the re-ordering of the church building.

The Bells Project is now awaiting the completion of the faculty and about half the money required has been raised. Our thanks go to Ian Hay Davison for his hard work and commitment to the project and for bringing the work to this point despite major surgery during the year.

The Buildings Group has worked hard and with architect and the advice of the Diocesan Advisory Committee has come up with some exciting ideas.

The Liturgy Group has completed their work for the time being and we now have a full set of services for the various seasons of the year.

We continue to worship with a lively, traditional and musical experience in our main Sunday service. Thanks to Mark Elliott and the members of the choir and various musicians we have had over the last year, who have enabled us to worship with joy and excellence. We welcome Keith Pigot to the team in his role as Assistant Musical Director. To all the servers, readers, sidespeople, coffee makers, cleaners, flower arrangers and the many people who help in one way or another in making this a welcoming and beautiful place to worship I give thanks.

Programme

About twenty or so of us enjoyed a hearty Harvest Supper and a Pancake Party on Shrove Tuesday. Thanks must go to Angela Soboslay and the Hospitality Group for organizing these events. Socialising is a very important part of our mission and ministry here at Christ Church. Any ideas for the future will be welcomed. I also want to thank Jude Bishop and all those who have helped her in the organising of the Toppings Events in Christ Church. These events have brought some financial reward, but more importantly they have brought people into the building and they have gone away knowing that Christ Church is open for business!

On Ash Wednesday there was a choice of daytime or evening services for the Imposition of Ashes at Charlcombe and at Christ Church. During Lent, Christ Church twice shared Lent Lunches with St Mary's Catholic Church and we sent a donation to Genesis from those who attended. Philip and I have celebrated a weekly midweek communion service in St Mary's, St Stephen's and Christ Church and the three churches shared an Agape meal at St Stephen's on Maundy Thursday.

Holy Week and Easter

The Palm Sunday Service began in the Lower Mews and we processed into Church with palm crosses. It was a day of celebrating the entry into Jerusalem and looking forward to the Passion, through the reading of the dramatised version of the gospel. My thanks to Melvyn Matthews and to all those who took part, particularly Brenda Wall for her work on the Passion Story and for Isaac, who, I am told, was a wonderful Jesus. I am sorry I wasn't able to be there. From Monday to Wednesday evening the churches have shared Compline.

Good Friday was a special day, beginning with the Cross Walk, partly organised by Angela Berners-Wilson and involved many of the churches of all denominations across the city. At 12.00 there was an hour of silent meditation. At 1.00 a service for children where we enacted the story, using the church building as our theatre. We had our own version of the Last Supper, we ran and hid as the disciples did and we carried in the cross. At 1.30 we were privileged to meditate on eight of the Stations of the Cross with music by the choir and organ as we remembered the events of the first Good Friday.

Saturday morning saw the decoration of the church organised by Angela Soboslay and her team of volunteers. Thanks go to Angela and

her team. Saturday evening a small group gathered outside the church around a fire for the Easter Ceremonies and the small group who gathered for this very reflective service felt honoured to be a part of the beginnings of the celebration of the resurrection. It is a pity more people do not come to this as it is a very special short ceremony in preparation for Easter Day. Early on Easter Sunday morning, just before the sun rose and to the sound of the dawn chorus a group of people from all three of our group churches met together at the Holy Well in St Mary's beautiful garden. Here the group began to realise that Good Friday was not the end and that we were at the beginning of something wonderful. There were readings, meditation and prayers and as the sun rose the shout went up, "He is risen indeed, alleluia!" The wonder of Easter Day continued with a quiet service of Communion at 8.00 followed by an amazing Sung Eucharist and Baptism at 10.00, where we celebrated with champagne in the chalice.

Future

Now we are in the build up to Pentecost and the long period of "Ordinary Time". But this is in no way going to be "ordinary". We are continuing to work on the reordering with our architect, and we are looking forward to the work on the bells and tower.

Thanks

I am impressed by the way individuals and groups pull together to enable the work of Christ Church. I am only here on a very part-time "Housing Allowance for Duty" basis and I need all the help I can get. So a big "thank you" to everyone who has helped in any way and an especial "thank you" to the Church Wardens, Alex and Malcolm; the Verger, Angela; Mark and Keith and the choir members; the Sidespeople, the Servers; the Treasurer, David; those who help at the Cedar Tree Café, particularly Keri, who organiser; the makers of coffee and cakes and bacon butties; those who have cleaned and tidied and arranged flowers; the members of the Trustees and the Church Council. Again thank you too to Angela Berners-Wilson, Melvyn Matthews and Cliff Burrows for their support, presiding and preaching and to Mark Elliott for his work as our Reader. I also want to thank Philip Hawthorn for his support, help, enthusiasm and colleagueship. I cannot mention everyone so please take a big thank you from me for you all!

Please pray for me and for Ned.

Canon Angela Townshend

1.2 Report from the Chair of Trustees

It has been another busy year in the life of Christ Church and I would like first of all to record the trustees' thanks to Canon Angela for all her hard work and dedication in her role as Priest-in-Charge. It is good to have her at the heart of our thriving community. It has obviously been a difficult year for her given the deterioration in Ned's condition, and I know we will all continue to provide her with the help and support she needs as she in turn provides help, support and leadership to the Christ Church congregation. My thanks also go to the other clergy who support Angela and enrich our worship through their regular participation in our liturgy and in the wider life of the church: Angela Berners-Wilson, Cliff Burrows and this year it's been a pleasure to welcome Canon Melvyn Matthews.

There are a number of projects "on the go" relating to the fabric of the building at the moment. The trustees have met five times for formal meetings since the last AGM, and the first of those meetings saw the trustees making a formal decision to support the project to restore the bells to fully working order, subject to public consultation. Ian Hay Davison (a member of our 8 o'clock congregation) has led that project throughout the year, supported by David Kelly from the Keltek Trust, and we are now in a position where a faculty application is in progress and fund raising is well underway. We are hoping to be able to start some preliminary work in the summer. At the same meeting we agreed to undertake the work to the external lanterns (with support of bequests from Audrey Sheppard and Frank Twissell) which were then dedicated by the Bishop of Taunton when he visited Christ Church in November.

September saw the resignation of Howard Mathers as a trustee – a position he filled as a representative of the Rector of Walcot for 18 years. I would like to record my heartfelt thanks to him for his dedication to Christ Church over that time. That position still remains vacant whilst a suitable representative of the Walcot parish is sought. The other change in personnel on the trust is initiated by the retirement of the Bishop of Bath and Wells who is an ex-officio trustee (although Bishop Peter chose not to exercise his right to take a position as a trustee). We will be writing to the new bishop once he is officially in post to inform him of his right to sit as a trustee of Christ Church. (Given the busy role of a diocesan bishop, it is probably unlikely he will wish to exercise that right either!)

The other major projects which the trustees have discussed and agreed to support during meetings this year are the replacement of the boiler, and the renovation and reconfiguration of the entrance and porch of the church. The boiler project will be funded in full by the trust, and will involve the splitting of the heating into two zones – one for the main church, and one for the kitchen and the back of church. The trustees have also agreed to release £35,000 to kick start the funding of the entrance and porch renovation. This project will require more funding than this to complete, so some significant fund raising efforts will be required, but the trustees acknowledge the great importance of this work to improve the welcome the church presents to the public.

I should also note the trustees' decision to support Ned Townshend's care by paying a proportion of his monthly nursing home fees. This proposal was unanimously supported by the trustees and appears to have the universal support of the congregation.

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

Mark Elliott

1.3 Financial Report

The accounts for 2012 were professionally inspected and submitted to the Charity Commission in October. The following report is based on unaudited figures for 2013, and should be regarded as indicative only. The official 2013 figures are now in preparation. Following the move for Council to operate its own budget, a new accounting protocol was introduced for 2013 enabling Council and Trust activities to be accounted for separately. This annual report reflects the consolidated position.

Both the cottages as well as the Upper Christ Church Mews were rented throughout the year, providing steady income.

Car parking charges were increased substantially over 2012 levels, putting them now broadly in line with other parking facilities in Bath.

Income from charitable giving (envelopes, plate and standing orders) increased by about 7% over 2012 to over £35,000. Almost 90% of planned giving is now done through bank standing orders, with the

remainder through the envelope scheme. Anonymous donations (e.g. via the collection plate) make up less than 10% of total charitable giving, enabling us to make substantial tax reclaims via the Gift Aid scheme. Payment of a Gift Aid claim put in to HMRC in September was delayed to early 2014 by administrative problems, and is not reflected in the 2013 accounts.

Revenue from the hire of the church tripled to £1,700, £1,300 of which came from Toppings' book signings. Apart from the revenue generated, this has brought over 1,000 new faces into the church.

Salaries were increased from the start of 2013, for the first time in several years. Following David Wrigley's departure organists were paid on an ad hoc basis for their services. As predicted, utilities costs reduced sharply compared to 2012 once an historical issue with gas billing had been resolved. Church maintenance increased to a more typical level after 2012's low expenditure, and a further £19,000 was spent on projects – mostly the setting up of the Lower Mews and the beginnings of the church reordering and refurbishment work. Other running costs – consumables etc stayed very close to 2012 levels.

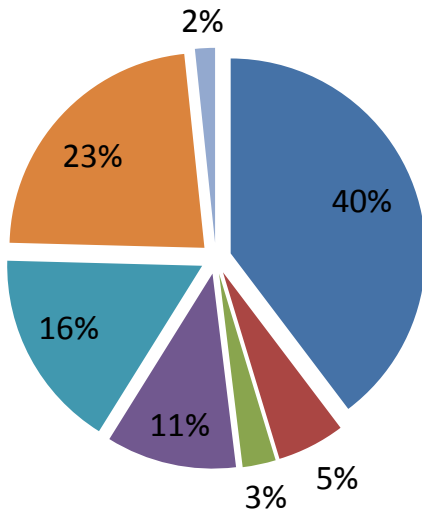
The building refurbishment of the Mews totalled around £20,000. Most of this was for work on the Lower Mews but substantial repairs were found necessary to the roof and drainage. This work was more than covered by the dilapidations paid by B&NES the previous year. Opportunities for the Lower Mews to generate income are still being reviewed.

Charitable donations (in the form of Genesis Vouchers) were £600, similar to last year's. In addition the congregation showed great generosity in supporting the Open Christmas appeal (the funding of which does not pass through Christ Church Accounts).

The main expenditures in the church's music budget were for organ tuning and a new electronic keyboard, replacing the vestry upright piano. This was mostly covered by money donated for the purpose. The programme of essential organ maintenance was deferred until the views of the new organist could be established.

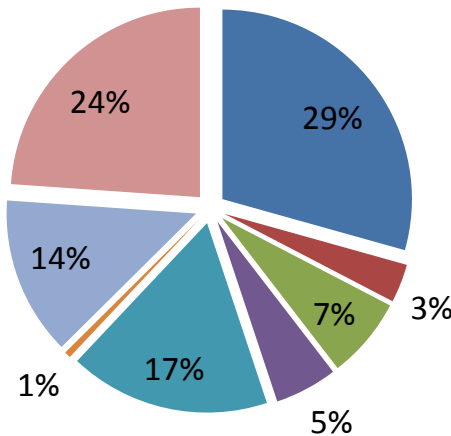
David Bishop

Income



- Voluntary giving
- Other donations/legacies
- Use of church
- Parking
- Tuition Centre
- Cottages

Expenditure



- Wages/admin/goods
- Music
- Utilities
- Church maintenance
- Projects
- Giving

INCOME

	2012	2013
Voluntary giving	£33,700	£36,000
Other donations /legacies	£10,800	£5,100
Use of church	£0	£2,500
Parking	£9,500	£9,800
Tuition Centre ¹	£7,500	£15,000
Cottages	£16,300	£20,800
Investments	£1,900	£1,500
	<u>£79,700</u>	<u>£90,700</u>

EXPENDITURE

	2012	2013
Wages/admin/goods	£24,100	£32,400
Music	£1,600	£3,600
Utilities	£15,400	£7,700
Church maintenance	£4,300	£5,900
Projects	£0	£19,000
Giving	£600	£600
Diocesan share	£28,500	£15,000
Property	£36,800	£26,500
	<u>£111,700</u>	<u>£110,600</u>

1.4 Church Council

In the year since the last AGM in April 2013, Christ Church Council has met eight times. Details of discussions and decisions are in the minutes, which are available on the website: visit www.christchurchbath.org, click on Church Community at the left-hand side, then Church Council.

There were 16 members of Council until September, when Dylan Blackshear resigned because he was returning to the US. Average attendance at meetings has been 12 (highest 13, lowest 10).

The planned devolution of some financial responsibilities from the Trustees to Council has not yet come into effect. Council has asked for a definitive statement of what it will be responsible for.

We have had lively discussions about the reordering and building projects under way, but it is not yet clear what formal role Council will play in these matters, and in particular in applications for a Faculty

(the Church of England equivalent of planning permission). The Faculty procedure laid down by legislation is designed for parish churches, so it is not applicable in every detail to Christ Church as a proprietary chapel: in an ordinary parish church, Faculty applications are made by the Incumbent and Churchwardens following a resolution of the PCC; but in our case, because the building is entrusted to the Trustees, applications will be made by the Priest-in-Charge and the Chair of Trustees following a resolution of the Trustees. The Trustees have undertaken to set out a procedure that, even if we can't follow the letter of the legislation, gives effect to its intention – that Faculty applications reflect the formally-decided will of the congregation – but we are yet to see what role Council, as representatives of the congregation, will have.

Alex Soboslay

1.5 Electoral Roll

The number on the electoral roll as at March 2013 was 59. We have lost two members through death and/or relocation. However, nine members have joined the roll. The total as at May 2014 is therefore 66.

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

Judith Anderson

2 Reports on Church Activities

2.1 Buildings Working Group

Last year at this time we were considering the introduction of a Pilot Scheme for the Re-ordering of the Chancel/Apse area. This was duly started in May 2013 and has involved many adjustments since, but has enabled us over the last year to carefully work through a number of options. The trial had been due to be concluded after Easter this year so that we would have had a full year of experience and to meet the deadlines of the Archdeacon's Licence. However, although we have made much progress towards what works with the help of feedback from many members of the Congregation, it has been becoming clear that more time was needed to enable us to trial the additional options that have emerged. The advice of the Diocesan Advisory Committee during their visit that an extension to the Pilot Scheme could be granted was therefore welcomed and an application for an extension of the Pilot Scheme for a further year is being made.

As you may already know, the Church boiler has given considerable cause for concern during last Winter, and the professional advice is that it should be replaced as soon as possible. The necessary permissions are currently being sought and it is planned not only to replace the main boiler but also to install a new domestic sized boiler in the kitchen to provide not only hot water, but also to heat the Porch and WC areas – and later (when funds permit) the planned screened space under the balcony at the back of the Church. We also hope that we will be able to improve the Porch area during the Summer.

Work continues on:

- Obtaining Planning Permission for demolition of the rubble wall near the Boiler room.
- Designing a safer access to the roof space of the Church.
- Wheelchair access to the Main Entrance of the Church.
- Enlarging the access doorway to the Ringing Chamber.

I would like to thank the Members of the Working Group (Canon Angela, Mark Elliott, Robin and Sarah Kerr, Morny Davison and Martin Palmer) for their unstinting support and particularly Martin who is also Project Officer for the Re-ordering and Robin who not only is Project Officer for the Boilers but also acted as Chair whilst I was recovering

after an operation. Thanks also to Sarah Cade, who has a watching brief on behalf of the Youth.

Finally, please review the plans displayed at the back of the Church and complete a questionnaire so that we can assess your views and answer any questions you may have.

Bob Siderfin

2.2 Cedar Tree Café

Serving the community

Over the past year the cafe has been open every Friday except two over the Christmas period and Good Friday. We serve light lunches and provide a friendly and welcoming environment for between ten and twenty “regulars” from the local community including some of Bath’s homeless people. Vulnerable people feel safe and welcome. We also have a sprinkling of tourists pop in for coffee and cake and a look around the church.

Resourcing

The café is operated by a few regular dedicated volunteers from Christ Church, the occasional helper from St Stephens and a Chinese PhD student from the university. More help is desperately needed to relieve the load on the present volunteers.

Financially the café is stable. Most weeks show a slight profit which is used to provide Birthday and Christmas gifts for regulars. There are also enough funds available to buy Genesis Vouchers which are given at the café to those who need them.

The Cedar Tree provides a necessary link with the local community. More volunteers to help, even only for the odd Friday, would be appreciated, as would a continued supply of cakes.

Thanks

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

Keri Chivers

2.3 Choir

It's been a year of change and experimentation for the choir.

David Wrigley made the decision, after 19 years dedicated service, that he needed a break from the regular commitment of an organist's post, and so we said goodbye to him at a heartfelt, joyful service followed by lunch in the Mews on 21st July. I had worked with David for 16½ of those 19 years, and it has been a privilege to have such a talented and dedicated organist for all that time.

I made the decision not to attempt to appoint a new organist immediately, but to use a rota of players, in order to have a kind of musical interregnum. After working so long with one person I think it was valuable to have some space to work out what we were looking for in a new appointment, and I'm extremely grateful to the organists who were able to play during that period – Harold Jones, Nic Pillow, Jules Addison, Robert Anderson, and our own David Bishop!

Having continued with the rota arrangement for eight months or so, I was delighted at the end of March that Keith Pigot agreed to take on the role of Organist and Assistant Director of Music. Keith brings to the post a great deal of experience as Head of Music at Clayesmore and Oswestry schools, and before that at United World College of SE Asia in Singapore, where he was also Organist and Choir Master of St Andrew's Cathedral. I greatly look forward to developing our music partnership over the coming months and years.

The other area of experimentation has, of course, been with the layout of the east end of the church. Whilst really a buildings committee matter, I mention this in the choir report as the need to balance liturgical, aesthetic and acoustic requirements has meant trying out a number of configurations over the past 8 or so months. We're still experimenting, but we seem to be forming some more concrete ideas now about what does and doesn't work which will be shared and discussed with the congregation over the next few months.

I continue to feel immensely privileged to be able to lead the choir at Christ Church. People's lives are very busy, and I'm grateful for the commitment that everyone in the choir makes to maintaining such a consistently high standard of music making throughout the year.

Mark Elliott

2.4 Churches Together in Bath

Sylvia Ayers and I continued to attend Central Zone meetings and Sylvia attended the AGM. At this it was decided to close the Central Branch, as Sylvia has reported in the March issue of the Link. She has been valiant in attending meetings and writing them up and now wishes to resign if we join another group. We owe her a debt of thanks.

A member of Charlcombe church, Margaret Ledbury, has been secretary of the Central Zone as she was formerly at St Mary's Bathwick and stayed on with us, working with three successive Chairpersons. Again, we owe her our thanks.

I am exploring joining the North Eastern zone, as agreed by our church council. It would be a pity, in my view, to lose the links with Churches Together in Somerset and Churches Together in England.

Margaret Heath

2.5 Concerts and Events

Christ Church increased its number of events to 15 during the year 2013. Topping & Company, booksellers of Bath and Ely, chose Christ Church for 13 of their book signings with, amongst others, Sam Warburton, Kate Adie, Simon Sharma, Brian May, Iain Rankin. All great successes. More Toppings events are planned for next year.

Bath Camerata, internationally renowned chamber choir, held their autumn and Christmas concerts in the church and have plans for more next year.

All of these events brought in a total of £1,700. Not only a good source of fund-raising income but also affording Christ Church much needed exposure to a wider community.

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

Judith Bishop

2.6 Deanery Synod

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

Meetings of Deanery Synod during the year

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

- 26th June 2013 at St. Luke's Wellsway,
- 17th October 2013 at Bath University, and
- 18th March 2014 at All Saints Weston.

Topics discussed

On 26th June we received an update on St Luke's three years on from renovation. The Coffee Shop is developing a heart of its own (keep fit, and then come and eat cake) and the crypt has now become the "lower church rooms", used by youth groups and after-school club. Although BNES use of the Centre had ceased the Centre's income post-BNES had actually gone up, and not decreased! Bath YFC then gave a presentation in relation to the work of the Romance Academy, whose aim was to help young people deal with issues such as teenage pregnancy and low "self-esteem". The Academy organised 12 regular sessions providing an opportunity to share with and be good listeners to young people about the issues they face. The Academy's aim was not to tell people what to do, but to enable them to make good choices.

On 17th October Synod met at Bath University. Preb. Angela gave a presentation about the work of the Chaplaincy Centre in the University. The meeting then split into groups for workshops looking at what the Deanery undertook, what it succeeded at – and what it could do better. The Diocesan Closed Churches group is exploring the future of Holy Trinity Queen Square and it is hoped, though not certain, that it will remain in Christian use.

On 18th March 2014 David Jennings (the Resource & Strategy Unit at Church House) presented bullet points from the last 12 months findings of the Church Growth Resource Programme, including:

- The church is declining due to its failure to attract teenagers and young adults
- Only 30% of Anglicans feel it is important for their children to learn the faith
- "Amalgamations" are a strategy for "managing decline"
- Churches grow better when there is one leader for one church

- There has been significant growth through “Fresh Expressions” of Church
- “Intentionality” (having a clear “mission” and “purpose”) is vital
- Good leadership from the clergy (to motivate, envision and innovate) is important
- The laity need to be willing and involved. A willingness to experience “change” is important
- Good “lay leadership” and a rotation of key lay roles are associated with growth.

Representation for the next year

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

Next meeting of Deanery Synod: Wednesday 18th June 2014 at Holy Trinity, Combe Down.

Andrew Sillett

2.7 Genesis Sunday Centre

Week in, week out the Sunday Centre has continued to provide a hot, appetising two course meal in the comfortable surroundings of Nexus Methodist Church. Our team, known as Combined Churches with Christ Church, is one of eight serving on average 44 customers per week (figures supplied by our co-ordinator Giles Peters at the AGM in September).

My thanks to everyone for the magnificent support over my first year “in post”.

With the full quota of volunteers it has meant there is time to engage with the customers. However we are always pleased to have some new assistants with tasks ranging from chopping carrots, making trifle, front of house, making tea and coffee and manning the dishwasher! As in all situations – many hands make light work.

Many of you will remember Steve Taylor who manned the dishwasher each week. Sadly Steve died at the end of March. A memorial service was held at St. Michael’s on May 1st.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Donald and Yvonne Morris who have been dedicated volunteers over the years. They also opened

their lovely house and garden to raise funds for the Centre over the years. It is a hard act to follow but we are continuing their excellent tradition by holding a similar annual event at Granville Lodge. Last year the Apple Picking Sunday in September raised over £300.

Dates for the diary:

- Our next Sunday Centre June 1st.
- Genesis Open Garden Saturday June 28th.

Janet Mahto

2.8 Hospitality Committee

We had an enjoyable Harvest supper on the Saturday before Harvest Sunday which was well attended, and we will do the same again this year. Christ the King came before the busy time of Advent with cake and fizz, and Advent and Carol services were followed by seasonal refreshments. Clive Tilling made the pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, and Angela Townshend created an interesting quiz identifying cathedrals and a getting-to-know game. A fun evening.

There have been a number of baptisms and other significant events during the year, so there has been lots of cake and fizz. We have a confirmation service in May, so there will be more cake to celebrate! A big thank-you to all who have made cakes, provided food or helped out in any way at any of the social events during the year, including any I might have forgotten to mention. It all helps sustain the well-deserved reputation of Christ Church as a welcoming and sociable community!

Angela Soboslay

2.9 Junior Church

Part of the purpose of Junior Church will be obvious to all members of our congregation – that of keeping the children entertained and (relatively!) quiet during the readings, sermon and intercessions. However I believe that there is much more to it than this. As Junior Church leaders we are also aiming to teach the children and young people who attend Junior Church some bible stories and to help them to make their own decisions about being a Christian. At the moment we are making use of the resources available in the Scripture Union

“LightLive” programmes. The programmes provide resources suitable for different age groups and many of the leaders have found them to be very helpful in providing suggestions for presenting bible passages in interesting ways and providing interesting and thought-provoking discussions as well as the ever-popular colouring and crafts!

The children and young people that regularly attend Junior Church are currently working very well as one group with an age range of 2-10. This group has six regular members with occasional extras. The group is led by a group of four people on a rota and writing this report gives me an opportunity to thank them all for their hard work to ensure our young people have interesting way to explore and develop the faith that we share.

We would be very happy to welcome anyone else who would like to help, even if only on an occasional basis. If you are interested in finding out more about what goes on at Junior Church or could considering helping to lead one of our groups please let me know.

Chris Hopper

2.10 Mothers' Union

It is with real thankfulness that we can report that membership of the Branch has trebled in the past year from two to six. While this is by no means a massive number, it shows just what can be done through the efforts of one enthusiastic member. In fact, in April, it was pointed out to us that, according to the inscription on a kneeler in the Lady Chapel, Christ Church Branch is now 100 years old, having been founded in 1914. We are extremely grateful to Rev. Angela, who rejuvenated our numbers when they were on the verge of extinction. As age and infirmity overtake us, both Margaret Burrows and I are very happy to be able to take more of a back seat, now that we have a new and vibrant member to take us forward.

Several meetings have already been held, and the monthly 11am Corporate Communion have been reinstated, for which we can thank Angela very much. We do hope the Branch can continue, and that even more members will join our number shortly. Please feel free to speak to any of us if you would like to be a part of this new initiative.

Sylvia Ayers, Margaret Burrows and Angela Townshend

2.11 Publicity

Our publicity efforts continue to grow and develop as we try to find the best ways to reach out to our local community and beyond.

We continue to use posters and postcards to advertise our special services, particularly at Christmas and Easter. We are very grateful to everyone who helps to distribute our postcards to over 1,600 local homes. However, we have noticed that we are increasingly reliant on a few people who distribute a very large number of cards. When Christmas is approaching, please consider whether you would be able to help with this task – it would be wonderful to have 31 volunteers to match the 31 streets we cover! At Christmas, we were able to distribute postcards in Lampard's Buildings and the Ballance Street Flats for the first time, thanks to the kind co-operation of Curo (the landlord). We are really pleased to be able to reach some of our closest neighbours in this way.

We continue to keep the website up-to-date on a weekly basis and still get regular enquiries about the church via this route. In the Autumn, Christ Church joined the world of social media, as Virginia kindly set up Twitter (@ChristChBath) and Facebook accounts for the church. We are still developing the way these are used, but they are proving to be a useful way to remind congregation members and local people about upcoming events, as well as keeping in touch with the Christ Church Diaspora! Many thanks to Virginia for her ongoing help with this.

We have established a list of contacts in local media organisations, to which we circulate press releases about particularly newsworthy events. In the past year, this has resulted in stories in the *Bath Chronicle* and on other local news websites about the bells exhibition and the restored lanterns, and a mention for our Remembrance Sunday service on BBC Radio Bristol.

The publicity is an ongoing task; if anyone has ideas about how we can best go forward, please let us know. Also, if you are planning an event, do tell us about it so we can incorporate it into our various publications.

Matthew & Sarah Jones

2.12 St Andrew's School

In Holy Week, tiny scenes of the Passion were displayed in many Walcot Street shop windows. These were made by all the different year groups at St Andrew's – a wonderful act of witness. Through the historic link of Christ Church Infants, St Andrew's is our local Church primary school. It has 178 children on the books. This figure includes those in the nursery. The Inspectors came in February and upgraded the school to "good" in every respect. They said: "This is an inclusive school where all the pupils are valued as individuals, ensuring that everyone is encouraged to be the best that they can". But don't just take it from the grown-ups. School Council leader Stephania says: "We told the inspectors that St Andrew's is the best school ever because all the teachers are really friendly, we learn lots of different things in different ways. We go to other places, like museums and the theatre, to learn as well!"

There is something to be done at the school most of the time, and I am by no means the busiest of the governors. Tomorrow I will be leading an assembly on the Ascension, and next week will be part of an interview panel appointing new members of staff. It is a delight for me to continue as a foundation governor at St Andrew's and to share something of its life. I know that Sue East, the Head, is keen to build church and community link. Might you be able to help? The school always needs more volunteers, for extra reading with pupils and for many other things. If you are interested, please get in touch with Canon Angela or with me.

Sarah Sheppard

2.13 Traidcraft

The stall has continued to be held twice monthly, on the first and third Sundays of each month, and has sold more than £1,300-worth of fairly traded items over the last year (particularly chocolate!). Last month we promoted Fair Trade Fortnight with fairly traded cakes, and a quiz which was won by Angela Townshend! Thank you to all those who help out on the stall, and also to those who buy so faithfully. Traidcraft has a wealth of stories of farmers' and producers' lives transformed by a regular and assured income. I would like to encourage people to take

Traidcraft catalogues, which are full of lovely gift items. I am happy to take orders and this avoids postage and packing costs.

Rebekah Cunningham

2.14 United Society (formerly USPG)

To remind you, United Society (US) changed its name to be more appealing to people in 21st century. They say “Our new name is rooted in the gospel. It is a reminder that God’s love is for all of us – Jesus’ promise of a full life is for every person in every community. We are all part of ‘us’, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender or sexuality. We are all made in God’s creative image. There is room for us all.” Their aim is to fulfil, for people all over the world, Christ’s words “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full”. (John 10:10)

We have continued to support US over the last year through giving and prayer. Our Harvest collection, totalling £352, was sent to them and there have also been collection boxes available at the back of church – if anyone has one ready to be sent off I would be delighted to do that for them.

It was also a great pleasure to welcome Heather Skull, US’s Outreach and Engagement Officer, to come and speak at our 10am service in December, fresh from a trip to Zimbabwe. She reminded us that Christ came to bring hope, and spoke of the transforming power of that hope among communities in Zimbabwe. Heather also led a series of Bible studies during Lent on a Heart for Mission. Sadly they were not well attended as they proved very stimulating – if anyone would like a copy of the study booklet I have some spare.

I hope that we will have a noticeboard space in the near future to keep us up to date with what US are doing, and to remind us to pray for them, and if anyone would like a collecting box please ask me or look at the back of church for US’s bright pink logo.

Rebekah Cunningham

The Trustees of Christ Church

Ex officio

(The Bishop of Bath & Wells)

The Ven. Andy Piggott Archdeacon of Bath

Revd Simon Holland Rector of Walcot

Appointed

David Bishop Treasurer

Mark Elliott Chair

Sarah Jones Secretary

Yvonne Morris

Sarah Sheppard

Clive Tilling

Jane Nicholson

Martin Palmer

Office holders as at 4 May 2014

Churchwardens

Malcolm Wall

Alex Soboslay

Assistant Churchwardens

Yvonne Morris

Janet Mahto

Deanery Synod Representatives

Andrew Sillett (elected until 2014)

Brenda Wall (elected until 2014)

Morny Davison (elected until 2015)

Sidespersons

Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers,

Iain Barrowman, Morny Davison,

Rowena Hall, Margaret Heath,

Janet Mahto, Jane Nicholson,

Andrew Sillett, Margaret Silver

Church Council

Ex officio

Canon Angela Townshend	Priest-in-charge, chair of council
Mark Elliott	Reader
Malcolm Wall	Churchwarden, council treasurer
Alex Soboslay	Churchwarden
Morny Davison	Deanery Synod rep
Andrew Sillett	Deanery Synod rep
Brenda Wall	Deanery Synod rep, council secretary

Elected until 2014

Rebecca Nicholson
Martin Palmer
(one position vacant as a result of resignation)

Elected until 2015

Judith Bishop
Sarah Kerr
Bob Siderfin

Elected until 2016

Margaret Burrows
David Rawlings Lay chair of council
Angela Soboslay

Three members to be elected at this AGM will serve until 2017

CHRIST CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

Mission Objectives for 2013-2014

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

1. Foster and encourage discipleship by:

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

2. Grow our Church by:

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

3. Serve our community by:

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

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