



Christ Church Bath

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

**Sunday 22 April 2018
11:30am, Christ Church,
Julian Road, Bath BA1 2RH**

Agenda

1. Opening prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the previous AGM (Sunday 30 April 2017) and any matters arising not otherwise on the agenda
4. Remarks from the Priest-in-Charge
5. Motion: That Christ Church reintroduce a limit of six years continuous service as churchwarden, as set out in the Churchwardens Measure 2001 (section 3).
6. Reports
 - a. Electoral Roll
 - b. Chair of Trustees
 - c. Financial Report for 2017
 - d. Deanery Synod
 - e. Further reports (in this booklet)
7. Elections
 - a. Election of Churchwardens
 - b. Elections to Church Council
 - c. Appointment of Sidespersons
 - d. Appointment of independent financial reviewer
8. AOB
9. Dates of the next Annual Church Meeting and Council meeting
10. Closing prayer

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Christ Church, Bath

Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting

Held on Sunday 30 April 2017

Chair: Rev'd Lore Chumbley, Priest-in-charge

Secretary: Judith Bishop

Present: 30 people

1. Opening prayer

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

2. Apologies

Mark Elliott, Sharon Rawlings, David Rawlings

4. Elections

a. Churchwardens

Lore started with an apology and an explanation and said she took full responsibility for this. She pointed out that in Church of England churchwardens stand for six years and then they stand down for at least two years before being re-elected. This is because the sacrificial work of being a churchwarden takes a lot out of you and you need a sabbatical to recover. Malcolm has served 7 years and was not eligible for election. Given that and the fact that we haven't discussed the possibility of being churchwarden with anyone else, and that Malcolm and Alex are working together rather well Lore suggested that we pass a resolution that on this occasion we set aside the church's advice, which is advisory. Lore suggested that we pass a resolution to set aside the churchwardens measure so that we can re-elect Malcolm if that is the will of the meeting and Lore's advice was that we should consider next year rescinding that because the law is there for a very good reason. It is to give our churchwardens a rest and we do not want to force them into working for years and years.

Lore asked for thoughts from the floor.

Georgina Bowman suggested that we stagger the tenure of the Churchwardens. Lore confirmed that we do that already, with Malcolm beginning his eighth year and Alex starting his fifth year.

At the end of discussions, Lore put forward a resolution that the normal maxim of continuous period of service should not apply in this church.

This was proposed Margaret Heath, seconded Ian Hay-Davison, with 21 in favour. The resolution was passed.

Following the acceptance of the resolution, both of the following churchwardens were re-elected unopposed:

Malcolm Wall (proposed by Penny Edwards, seconded Rowena Hall) and Alex Soboslay (proposed by Sylvia Ayers, seconded Jane Nicholson).

b. Assistant Churchwardens

Janet Mahto was re-elected unopposed

Sylvia Ayers was re-elected unopposed.

Jane Nicholson (proposed Brenda Wall, seconded Georgina Bowman) was elected unopposed

End of Vestry meeting

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on Sunday 30 April 2017

Chair: Rev'd Lore Chumbley, Priest-in-charge

Secretary: Judith Bishop

Present: nn people

Opening prayer

Opened with a piece from the Bible suggested by a member of the congregation followed by a prayer

1. Apologies

Mark Elliott, Sharon & David Rawlings, Sarah Jones, Emma Elliott, Janet Mahto, Angela Morris, Madge North

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

There were no changes to the Minutes of the previous AGM (30 April 2017).

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Charles Rice and seconded by Robin Kerr and passed without dissent.

3. Matters Arising

None to be recorded

4. Remarks from the Priest-in-Charge

First of all: Thank you to Alex and Malcolm who have agreed to stand again and to our assistant Churchwardens.

This is also an appropriate time to thank Sarah Jones who as chair of Trustees steered Christ Church through the interregnum – not only that, it was also the beginning of the work on the East end of church. As you know from the all age worship services Sarah has designed, Sarah has a grace-filled, prayerful and generous approach. What you see in her worship services reflects the approach she brought to leadership – and I don't think Christ Church would be in the good state it is today without her leadership. Sarah we are very grateful for all the time and attention and prayer you give to Christ Church.

We have some flowers for you as a very inadequate gesture of our thanks.

And while I'm on the subject of thanks, may I register how grateful we are to all of you who spend time and energy on Christ Church:

- Mark and Keith and David and the choir
- Angela our Verger
- Our servers and chalice assistants
- Janet and all who help with the Cedar Tree & Genesis, coffee and refreshments
- The cleaning team who cleaned the church yesterday and throughout the year
- The Fairtrade team
- The council and the Trustees

- Our bell-ringers –Will Willans has taken over as Tower Master from Ian Hay-Davison who is continuing as Tower secretary
- Those of you who have written reports
- Emma, Sarah & Sarah who run junior church with such sensitivity and depth
- Our young people for putting up with us when we are boring and old-fashioned and our older members for putting up with us when we are experimental or inaudible

The list goes on. There are so many of you that I can't mention you all but Christ Church wouldn't function without each one of you. Please may we give each other a round of applause.

So, **Looking back** on the year I am full of gratitude. We have had a good year. Last year I challenged us to **open the church up** to the local community and we got behind the idea. We opened every Saturday morning for three months over the summer and culminated in an open day on September 10th with an organ recital, demonstrations of the bells, children's activities and a magnificent choir concert. It was so good we are planning to do it all again this year on September 9th.

We were delighted that years 3 and 4 from St Andrew's School chose to come to Christ Church for a week as part of their 'School without walls' project. They did a project on the subject of 'Creation' taking inspiration from the stained glass and carvings and the eagle lectern for their pictures and writing.

Being open to our local community – visibly and audibly the presence of God in Julian Road is part of what we are called to and the new porch and toilets completed this year make a big statement of welcome. We are grateful to Robin and the team of buildings committee who saw the programme through with attention to detail.

Another area in which we are open to our community is in our **charitable giving** and this year we have increased it as you will see in the Charities of the Month report; an impressive increase. While I know you are individually generous I think it is also important for us as the church, the body of Christ to be generous not only with time and care and prayer as I know you are but also with our money and I am heartened to see that increase.

Looking forward, there are exciting projects ahead. We are coming to the end of our experimental period for the East end and we will need to collate the responses and clarify our vision of what we as a church want at the East end of church. Having seen the responses and talked to many of you I think a consensus is emerging. We need to continue to do this with sensitivity to each other's needs and respecting the constraints of the building we have.

The organ needs work and we are all in agreement that Christ Church needs an organ. So at some point this year or next, the organ will be removed for repairs

and we will be using a smaller temporary organ.

All this will need some funds and we will get together for some fundraising activities. We are delighted that Malcolm has agreed to be the motivational lead for fundraising and Alex will handle the paperwork and Mark will lead the 'Organ restoration fundraising'. I would like it to be an exciting and energising time to do things we enjoy and believe it to be worthwhile to raise funds for something that really matters. Crucially we will not lose sight of our core values while we are raising money for our organ and building. Let's continue with confidence to gradually increase our outreach and charitable giving.

As you know we will be spending time together in Kelston Old Barn in May on a 'day of refreshment'. Later in the year some of us will be travelling to Walsingham for five days, including the Feast of the Assumption. If you would like to join us there is still, just, time to register, let me know. I would like us to consider a trip elsewhere, perhaps to Iona in 2018. And then in September we will hold our apple day. These amongst other things make the coming year an exciting prospect.

One of the more difficult things to look forward to is getting older. Our pastoral care team has been busy with looking after folk in hospital or having difficulties at home. They do a fantastic job and I do want to say, there isn't a membership scheme for pastoral care. ALL of us are warmly invited:

- To take part
- To be aware when people are not in church and enquire if they are all right
- To visit
- To help out with lifts and shopping

But because there are increasing needs, Margaret Heath has put together a booklet called 'Where to turn' – and has created a tremendously useful up to date list of useful contacts. I hope we will hear more about it from Margaret when we discuss the work of the Pastoral Care team.

So much to look back on with gratitude but not complacency. Much to look forward to with boldness and fresh hope.

5. Reports

5.1 Electoral Roll

Judith Anderson reported that last year there were 69 on the Electoral roll and this year there are 85

Georgina corrected this to say that last year there were 80.

5.2 Chair of Trustees annual report

Charles repeated the more important points of his written report and asked for questions from the floor. There being none, Lore thanked Charles for

taking on the role of Chair of Trustees making it an energised and forward-looking committee.

5.3 Treasurer's Report for 2017

David didn't think that he needed to comment on his report but said he would welcome any questions. Not included in the report David thought he would add a bit of background. For the last couple of years we've moved the system separating the accounts between the Trustees and the council. He strongly believes that the council should run its own budget and take on a sense of responsibility for things that it chooses to do for the church. Malcolm had taken on the role of council treasurer but after a year has indicated that he can no longer do this. David urged the council to appoint another treasurer soon. He added that this role was not an onerous one but whoever takes it on takes on the responsibility for how the council spends its budget and to be aware with the church being open more often that we don't become slack in use of resources.

There were no questions from the floor.

Lore proposed a vote of thanks for all that David does not only with all the bookkeeping but also with the visionary side of keeping us on track financially.

5.4 Report on the proceeding of Deanery Synod

Lore explained that the very full Deanery report had been sent to us written by Jeremy Key-Pugh. Lore asked for comments from the Deanery Synod representatives. There were none.

Work of Deanery Synod is very important and 3 representatives would be elected this year towards the end of this meeting.

5.5 Further reports (in this booklet)

5.5.1 Bell ringing

Lore said it would be really encouraging to the bell ringers if some of us could go up and see what they're up to when they're ringing before services. They love a bit of interaction. And on open Saturdays in the summer they come down and have their tea so please come and say hello to them.

5.5.2 Building Projects

Robin pointed out that the outer doors still needed to be adapted at the top so as not to interfere with the outer stonework. Also the automatic mechanism had not been installed but provision had been made below the doorposts to install this and activate it when the ramp has been installed. Also there is provision for a chandelier in the middle of the porch ceiling should a generous benefactor come

forward.

Manifestations need to be decided on. They will not be etched but will be in the format of transfers. Sylvia requested we should have 'push/pull' signs on the doors. Buildings committee will discuss this. Lore thanked Robin.

5.5.3 Cedar tree Café

There were no comments from the floor.

5.5.4 Charities of the month

In Rebekah's absence Lore asked if there were any questions from the floor. Margaret Heath mentioned a collection for Diane Davies's granddaughter who has been raising money to buy lego bricks for children in hospital. Lore confirmed it is in our list of monthly charities for June.

Rowena said thank you for the twinning toilet pictures. It would be nice to see them up on the walls at some point. Buildings Group to discuss.

5.5.5 Choir

Lore thought the choir had been magnificent this year even through all the moving around. She asked for questions/comments from the floor. A vote of thanks to the choir.

5.5.6 Churches together in Bath

There were no comments from the floor.

5.5.7 Concerts and events

Jude explained that there were a few people who always helped at events throughout the year but she would like to encourage more people to help thus relieving those who help on a regular basis. The work is not onerous and even if you can't help then your support as audience would be appreciated. We need to show that Christ Church is a venue of choice especially if we are working to get the church to be a more beautiful place.

Lore thanked Jude for all she does to organise the events and to lead the hospitality team.

5.5.8 Genesis Sunday Centre

There were no comments from the floor.

5.5.9 Hospitality

There were no comments from the floor.

5.5.10 Mothers' Union

Sylvia pointed out that we're not actually a branch. Lore thanked Sylvia for all she does to hold the unit together. Virginia thought we should be able to grow our group with some effort. Mothers' Union has got older and has not evolved.

Lore thanked her for her comments and would welcome a discussion to see just how we might do this.

5.5.11 Pilgrim Group

Brenda Wall commented on this. She had nothing to add to the report other than to come and join us. It is not a closed group or a club. The group has learned a lot and is fun.

5.5.12 St Andrew's School

There were no comments from the floor.

5.5.13 Traidcraft

Jude responded. Rebekah had decided to give up organising Traidcraft due to the fact that she is currently very busy doing other things and had done it for a long time not only here but in previous churches where she has been a member. She has handed the reins over to Sally Churchyard, Chris Tanner and Jude. It's slowly getting back together running on the first & third Sundays of the month. We can order from the catalogue/website as well as having a live stall. Always looking for people to man the stall, again not an onerous task and better if you have two people doing it. Long live Traidcraft stall.

Lore thanked Sally, Chris and Jude for taking the stall over.

5.5.14 Junior Church report

Lore was pleased to have this report available and although the church does things for Junior church they are becoming an entity in their own right.

Jonathan Stead read out a report from the Junior Church. Written by Sarah Jones and Sarah Cade.

Jonathan added that it is wonderful to have children and that we should include them in prayer and in the planning of our services to bring in the young and integrate them fully.

Charles added that when he and Carol lived in a village, the church offered a drop off service for their children to attend Junior Church even if the parents were not churchgoers.

5.5.15 Pastoral Care Committee

Margaret Heath compiled a list of what was available free. The leaflet, "Where to turn", is a collaborative effort of useful information that Churchwardens should have at their fingertips. The leaflet is currently with Alex for proofreading and getting it in a state to be printed with an acknowledgement to Christ Church in the document. When it's ready to produce then we should think where to distribute it.

Lore thanked Margaret for her report and for being the moving force behind this very useful leaflet.

6. Deanery Synod Representatives

The following three were nominated:

Brenda Wall (proposed Malcolm Wall, seconded Penny Edwards) was elected unopposed.

Sarah Kerr (proposed Morny Davison, seconded Malcolm Wall) was elected unopposed

Jane Nicholson (proposed Alex Soboslay, seconded Rowena Hall) was elected unopposed

7. Church Council

The following two were nominated:

Matthew Jones (proposed Rowena Hall, seconded Janet Mahto)

Sharon Rawlings (proposed David Rawlings, seconded Keith Pigot)

Judith Anderson's term has finished and she has decided not to be re-elected.

Subsequently the two nominees were declared elected and will serve until the 2020 AGM.

8. Sidespersons

The current list is:

Ken Ayers

Sylvia Ayers

Morny Davison

Margaret Heath

Janet Mahto

Jane Nicholson

Margaret Silver

Jonathan Stead volunteered to be a sidesperson. He was added to the list.

Lore proposed that we re-elect the sides-persons en bloc and to include Jonathan and this was agreed unopposed

9. AOB

9.1. Item from Ken Ayers regarding the church clock and the need to repair this.

Charles responded and, although we have tried to adjust it there is a

fundamental flaw in the mechanism. This will be looked at by the Buildings Group.

- 9.2. Brenda put in a plea for a 'Prayer Group' to meet regularly in addition to the one on a Thursday morning. Lore thought this was an excellent idea and asked for volunteers to think about creating a group.
- 9.3. Jude also asked for more volunteers for the reading/intercessions/chalice assistants rota.

10. Date of next AGM

The next AGM was set for **Sunday 22 April 2018**.

11. Closing prayer

The meeting closed with the Grace.

REPORTS for 2018

1 Administrative Reports

1.1 Electoral Roll

The number on the electoral roll as at April 2017 was 85. We have lost 3 members through death or relocation. However, 2 members have joined the roll. The total as at April 2018 is therefore 84.

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

Judith Anderson

1.2 Report from the Priest-in-Charge

Christ Church was founded to serve the community and at the annual meeting last year I spoke of my hope that we would see even more openness and outreach to the local community and an increase in our charitable giving over the ensuing year. As I look back over the year, I can see evidence of that movement towards openness. During the summer of 2017 we opened our Thursday evening 'Pilgrim' group to a wider audience, inviting the local community and members of other churches to a 'Spirituality course.' Over the course of three months, eight speakers from around the country drew people to talks which addressed the spirituality to be found in poetry, icons, the desert, pilgrimage, the religious life, and finally the spirituality of the novels of Jane Austen. Building on the connections we had made, we again opened Christ Church on Saturday mornings during the summer. Local people and tourists visited the church to enjoy our hospitality and realised that our church is a living community rather than a closed building. In the Spring of 2018 Christ Church joined with staff and children of St. Andrew's Primary School for a joint production of 'Jonah-Man Jazz' in Christ Church. Musicians, singers and scenery makers all contributed to a celebratory performance.

Our charitable giving has continued to rise. In addition to our 'Charity of the Month' scheme, the charities group proposed to the church that we should commit to support a USPG project in Malawi which supports households through teenage girls' education. Some individuals have

chosen to give regularly and the project will feature as our charity of the month four times in the calendar year. One of our charities of the month last year was the local branch of 'Developing Health and Independence' which supports clients as they come off drugs and alcohol. It is heartening that five members of Christ Church congregation are now in training to become volunteer 'Befrienders' in our local detox unit.

The themes of openness and charitable giving came together when the Revd David and Maggie Bruno joined us for Holy Week with the theme 'The Resurrection didn't happen in a church.' The musical experience of Holy Week was outstanding, while David's experience of ministry all over the world, including South Africa under apartheid and India at the time of the Bangladesh refugee crisis, spoke to our own experience of ministry here in Julian Road.

At the end of 2017, largely in recognition of the work done by the Cedar Tree Café, we were granted £1,200 for community outreach work. Starting from the end of April 2018 we will be running a series of weekly lunchtime activities on the theme 'A New You.' There will be regular opportunities for gentle 'Keep Fit' activities, sessions on cooking and eating healthily on a budget and creative activities.

Looking toward the rest of the year, we have plans in place for another series of speakers on the theme 'Taking Theology out of the Church.' We will once again open the church to the local community on summer Saturdays. More than that, we are planning a celebration of our Caribbean community's stories to coincide with the 70th anniversary celebration of the arrival of the Windrush. As we gain confidence in our plans for the reorganisation of the east end of the church and work on the organ begins, we aim to ensure that fundraising activities bring together church members and the local population to build us into one community as we raise money for the planned changes.

As we look to the future, the core work of Christ Church remains: to continue to worship with integrity and beauty, to be honest before God and each other in our faith and doubt, and to serve God through serving our local community.

Revd Lore Chumbley

1.3 Report from the Chair of Trustees

The current Trustees are: Charles Rice (Chair), David Bishop (Treasurer), Sarah Jones, Sarah Sheppard, Clive Tilling, Jane Nicholson, Janet Mahto, Lewis Boyd, and ex officio the Archdeacon of Bath & Wells and the Reverend Tim Gleghorn (Rector of St Swithin's). There have been no changes in the composition of the Trustee board during the course of the last year (the Archdeacon excepted). The Trustees have met ten times during the year. In addition, a number of sub-committee meetings have been held principally related to building maintenance, property management or fund-raising issues.

Following the work on the toilets and the West porch in 2016, the main focus of the Trustees has been the Organ Project and the East End Reordering Project:

- **Organ Project:** as a result of the damage to the organ from falling plaster, an outside expert report was commissioned to review the repairs proposed and to comment on possible improvements to the instrument itself. This led to a proposed target scheme of works costing approximately £106,500 of which the insurance will cover approximately £40,000. The Trustees have committed a further £20,000 of Trust funds to the project leaving the balance of £46,500 to be raised by the appeal launched recently by Mark Elliott. Nicholson & Co have been appointed to carry out the works to the organ and have already made a start; the completion date of the project will depend on the final scheme of works (to be decided by the Trustees once the outcome of the funding appeal can be estimated). If the full scheme of works is confirmed then re-commissioning is likely to be in the first quarter of 2019.
- **East End Reordering:** in the latter part of 2017, two firms of architects were commissioned by Trustees to come up with a series of options for the reordering of the East End. These different options were discussed over a number of Trustee meetings leading to a final design being agreed by Trustees and subsequently by Council at their March meetings. This design proposal is now displayed at the back of the church and the views of members of the congregation are being sought. Once Trustees judge that a broad consensus has been achieved, they will commission architects to prepare a faculty application to the diocese. In the meantime a number of fund raising initiatives are already underway.

In addition to this project related business, various sub-committees of Trustees have commissioned and supervised a number of repairs to the fabric of both the church and Christ Church Cottages. A series of negotiations with tenants and car park users have also been held resulting in improved income from the church's estate.

Much of the administrative burden of managing the Christ Church Trust continues to fall on David Bishop as Treasurer: we all owe him a debt of gratitude for the many hours which he contributes to managing the church's finances and governance returns.

Charles Rice

1.4 Church Council & Standing Committee

In the year since the last AGM in April 2017, Christ Church Council has met six times. There are 16 members of Council. Average attendance at meetings has been 12 (highest 14, on one occasion; lowest 9, once). Details of discussions and decisions are in the minutes, which are available in printed form at the back of the church once ratified and on our website, www.christchurchbath.org – click on Church Life in the menu bar, then Church Council.

The members of Standing Committee, representing both Council and Trustees, are Charles Rice, David Bishop, Malcolm Wall, Alex Soboslay, Virginia Knight and Revd Lore Chumbley. At Christ Church, Standing Committee is the designated body responsible for authorising the sale or supply of alcohol under our Premises Licence, and has been delegated the authority to supervise bell ringing activities. Standing Committee has not met since 21 June 2017, and decisions on these matters have been made by round-robin e-mail. Because it has not met, Standing Committee has not undertaken the normal parish standing committee duty “to transact the business of the Council between the meetings thereof”, nor has it pursued its special function at Christ Church of acting as a channel of communication and co-ordination between Council and Trustees. Council and Trustees may wish to consider what value they place on these things, how they want Standing Committee to function going forward, and how to ensure that it does so.

Alex Soboslay

1.5 Safeguarding

We currently have 15 people who are approved via the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for working with children. This year we produced an updated Safeguarding Policy and Procedure for Christ Church, in accordance with guidance from the Diocese, which has been officially adopted by the Trustees. In addition, we have now signed up to an online system for processing DBS applications for people wishing to work with children and vulnerable adults. I hope that this will help to streamline the process for completing DBS checks, and reduce the amount of time between application and award of certificate.

Lewis Boyd, Safeguarding officer

1.6 Treasurer's Report for financial year 2017

The accounts for 2016 were professionally inspected and submitted to the Charity Commission in October 2017.

The 2017 accounts which form the basis for this report have not yet been inspected and are subject to change before finalisation but are indicative of the 2017 financial position.

Council

Income from charitable giving during 2017 (standing orders, weekly envelopes, GiftAid envelopes and cash) was £36,600. This is down slightly from 2016 but in keeping with 2015, the fluctuations reflecting the comings and goings of members of the congregation. In addition, £1,800 accrued from freewill offerings to the Compassion Fund (banked separately from the Council funds).

Revenue from the use of the church (services and secular use) was £8,400, compared to £3,800 in 2016, the change attributable mostly to increased church hire for events.

GiftAid of £8,500 accrued during 2017, which has been recovered from HMRC since the end of the year.

Diocesan giving was set at £15,000. An accrual was allowed, and this payment was made in early 2018.

Utilities and general church running costs totalled £17,000, a similar figure overall to 2016, although church heating costs rose, a reflection of increased use of the building through the autumn and winter. Office administration, chiefly printing costs, also rose significantly.

Fundraising, specifically for the organ refurbishment and the East End re-ordering, has been accounted for since July 2017. £3,600 was raised from events and personal endeavour, while more ambitious plans were put in place for 2018.

Bells Project

£30,000 was repaid to the Trustees mid-year, substantively clearing the project loan. The bell-ringers maintain their own account for subscriptions and running costs.

Trustees

Trustees income was in line with 2016 levels at £53,000. Cottage 1 was vacated toward the year end, reducing income, but this was offset by rates for property rental and car parking being increased in line with contracts in the last quarter of the year.

Building projects

£53,200 was spent on construction projects, most of which was the refurbishment of the porch with allied installation of the new west-end heating system. The porch project was brought in within budget, much to the credit of the project manager.

David Bishop

See table opposite and charts on centre pages

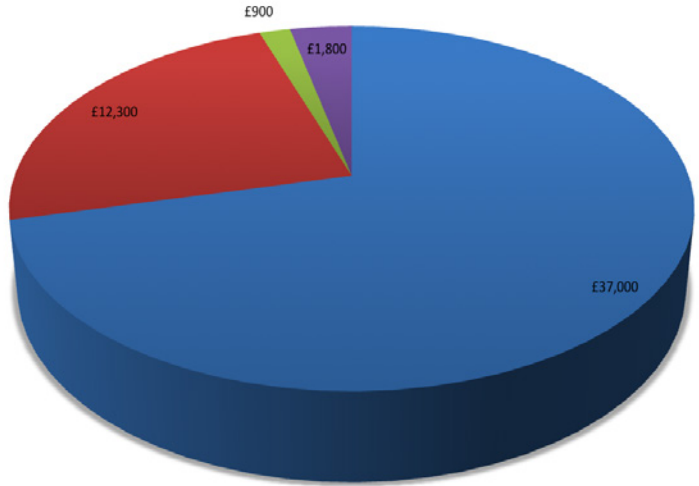
Christ Church 2017

Income	2017	2016	2017/2016
Property	£37,000	£39,000	95%
Carparking	£12,300	£11,900	103%
Investment	£900	£1,200	75%
Other Trustees' income	£1,800	£800	225%
ST Trustees Income	£53,000	£52,900	100%
Charitable giving	£36,600	£41,600	88%
GiftAid accrual	£8,500	£8,900	96%
Use of church & other	£8,400	£3,800	221%
ST Council Income	£53,500	£54,300	99%
TOTAL INCOME	£106,500	£107,200	99%
Expenditure	2017	2016	2017/2016
Property running costs/repairs	£6,500	£15,700	41%
Church maint (incl organ repairs)	£1,100	£2,900	38%
Incumbent	£13,800	£10,900	127%
Insurances	£4,000	£4,700	85%
Project work	£53,200	£42,700	125%
Charitable works	£0	£1,500	0%
ST Trustees Expenditure	£78,600	£78,400	100%
Wages	£11,600	£12,300	94%
Utilities	£7,900	£6,100	130%
Other church running costs	£9,300	£11,000	85%
Choir and music	£3,900	£2,500	156%
Diocesan contribution	£15,000	£15,000	100%
Charitable works*	£1,900	£2,400	79%
ST Council Expenditure	£49,600	£49,300	101%
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£128,200	£127,700	100%

* excl special collections not put through accounts

Trustees Income

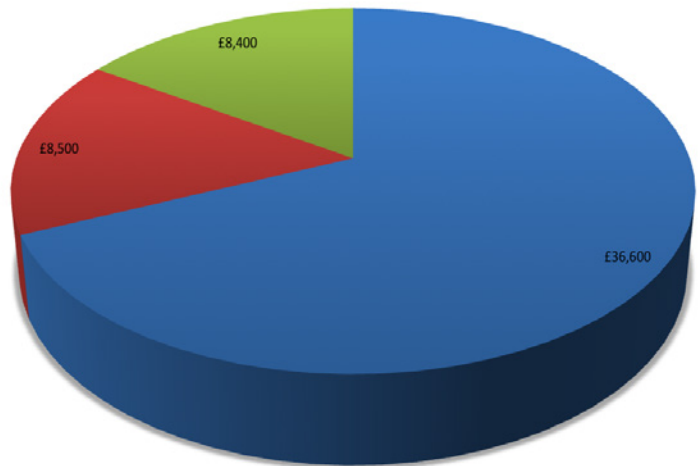
£53,000



- Property
- Carparking
- Investment
- Other

Council Income

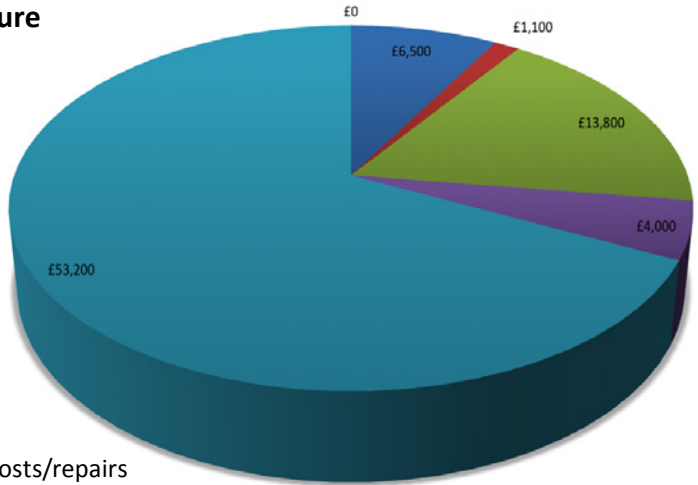
£53,500



- Charitable giving
- GiftAid
- Use of church & other

Trustees Expenditure

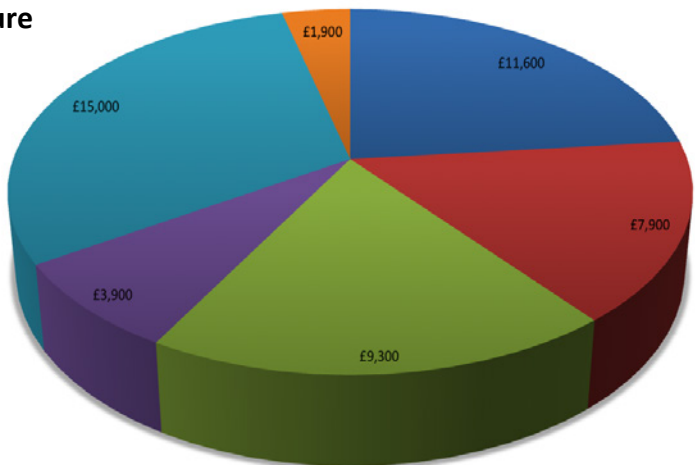
£78,600



- Property running costs/repairs
- Church maintenance (inc organ repairs)
- Incumbent
- Insurances
- Project work
- Charitable works

Council Expenditure

£49,600



- Wages
- Utilities
- Other church running costs
- Choir & music
- Diocesan Contribution
- Charitable works (excl. special collections)

1.7 Churchwarden's Inventory Report

Since the last AGM in 2017, we have acquired a wooden shelf unit in the "children's corner" at the back of the church, a black plastic display shelf unit on castors, and a new sound mixer and amplification system.

Alex Soboslay

1.8 Deanery Synod

(1) Deanery Synod meeting 20 June 2017, St Michael's Without

Christ Church representatives: Jane Nicholson and Lore Chumbley

The meeting started with a communion service. After a brief introduction to St Michael's Without, the Rural Dean updated us on the current status of the Deanery Mission Plan. He reminded us that 'synod' comes from the Greek for 'walking together' and that Deanery Synod existed so that churches in our area could support, encourage and help each other as in different ways we engage in the process of being and making disciples.

The goals of the Deanery Mission Plan are:

- to develop healthy evangelistic churches;
- to set God's people free for mission and whole life discipleship;
- to grow leaders;
- to plant Churches;
- to grow a younger Church;
- to collaborate across the deanery in mission and unite in prayer.

In the light of these goals churches are asked to:

- 1) review and update our parish plan at Council in September 2017;
- 2) support the Deanery post of a Bath College Chaplain. This is a new post. The chaplain will work 16 hours a week and the post is initially for four years and six months. They will minister to 2,000 students and the 600 staff, and will take a special interest in mental health as well as spirituality issues.
- 3) The Deanery also requests that we consider supporting the work of Christians against Poverty (CAP), particularly the work on debt relief which is being done out of St Andrews, Foxhill. They need commitments to regular financial support.
- 4) Put 'evangelism' on our Council agenda quarterly.
- 5) Review the place of young people in our church life and mission

(2) Deanery Synod 11 October 2017

Sarah Kerr, Deanery Synod Representative

We met at St Luke's Church, Bear Flat, with Bishop Ruth and the Rural Dean, the Revd Richard Wilson, in attendance. We started with hymns and prayers, followed by a discussion about The House of Prayer Bath website, which St Luke's uses to bring together youth from other churches because there are not enough young people at individual churches. It created a safe space and Christian environment for them.

A recent survey of the population of England found that:

53% were non-religious

15% were Anglican, and

72% of 18-24 year olds have no religion at all.

There is a 1% drop in church-goers in Bath in the last five years. If groups of 20 could bring one person into the fold every year, it would help. We need to have: a Culture of Invitation all the year round; a 20% increase in Discipleship Groups; Church Planting in poorer areas; funding a Student Chaplain at Bath College; richer parishes joining with poorer ones.

Bishop Ruth pointed out from the results of a survey by the bishops touring the diocese: in answer to the question "How did you first hear the story of Jesus" 46% heard through family, 25% through Sunday School and 11% through school. Seeds of the story begin as a child but the lack of RE in schools is not passing on the seed.

We need to generate the resources to bring the word to all communities. We need to grow together and discuss between each other, have more people on the PCC, involve them and be more confident; organise parenting groups and youth leaders to talk about the problems of teenagers.

The Deanery Mission Plan is not just to enlarge congregations, but to share the word of Christ while doing something worthwhile in a Christian way. The church is "moving from being a church of convention to a church of conviction" – the Dean of Taunton.

On November 5th the new Archdeacon, Adrian Youings, will be installed, and Ann Gell is the new Archdeacon of Wells.

(3) Deanery Synod 8 March 2018, St Michael's Twerton

Brenda Wall, Deanery Synod Representative

The overall theme of the meeting was "Whole Life Discipleship" and how we can "Engage with the community in a Jesus shaped way".

1) Christina Baron, Lay Member for Bath and Wells, gave us news from General Synod. She emphasised the point that decisions made in General Synod, meeting in York or London, have a direct impact upon us here, in Bath. We are all given an opportunity to vote for members, but only half the people who can vote, actually do so. So, does the Synod actually represent all of us, or just the "active" few? Recently Synod passed legislation to the effect that:

- 1 Celebrants of the Eucharist are now able to preside at the altar not wearing vestments;
- 2 Suicide victims may be given a full funeral in church.

In the future it is expected that synod will debate:

- 1 The wording of a liturgy for people with Down's syndrome married in church (and this is not the only marriage service that will be discussed).
- 2 The next big issue is going to be the reunification with the Methodist church. The issue here is church governance and the position of Bishops within that governance. The proposal is that in future all Methodist ordinands will be Episcopally ordained.

2) The rest of the meeting concerned the role of the Laity. The role of the laity within the Church of England is being closely scrutinised at the present time, leading to a paper "Setting God's People Free" (GS 2056). After all, the laity is the majority of the Church and with fewer and fewer ordained clergy, the laity will need to take on a more active and important role. How can the church increase the effectiveness and confidence of lay people? Eventually the church will issue a report entitled "Serving Together". Interestingly, this is not the first time that the urgency of all serving together has been in the spotlight. As far back as 1946 the church issued a report on this topic called "Towards the Conversion of England".

The point was made that "Front-Line" ministry is actually LAY ministry, we can reach nine-tenths of the community more effectively than a priest. But how good at it are we? We have to go back to first principles of "evangelising the nation" and making the love of God known to all. To do this effectively Lay and Ordained people have to work together, with mutual respect.

We have to accept that membership of the Church is still going down, lay ministry is about the whole of life, the church is not the building, it is all of US. So, what are we going to do about it?

We were encouraged to start a REVOLUTION! There will be more opportunities for us all to develop in our vocations as Christians and members of the Church. The position of “Lay Ministries Developer” is about to start, as part of the Diocese vocations team. The message is “watch this space” and “be prepared to volunteer”.

Finally, a new initiative has started in Bath, consisting of community houses of prayer. Do we have any near Christ Church? If not, should we establish some?

Note of interest: St Michael’s Twerton has been completely reordered and refurbished! It is now a beautiful, welcoming, redecorated, flexible, carpeted space, well-fitted to serve the community in which it sits: mainly Twerton, where there are more families living well below the poverty line than anywhere else in Bath. If this church can achieve what it has done,

[At the Deanery Synod meeting Brenda agreed to be a lay member of the DMPG (Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group) task group on leadership development.]

Jane Nicholson, Sarah Kerr and Brenda Wall

2 Reports on Church Activities

2.1 Bell ringing

Our eight bells are rung by a loose association of about 20 local ringers who call themselves the Society of Christ Church Youths. We ring every Sunday from 9:15 until 10 and on high days and holidays, and practise from 9:30 to 11 on Saturday mornings. We average a turnout of over 11 for practices and over nine for service ringing when some ringers are committed elsewhere – happily the Abbey service starts at 11:15, which fits in well with our timing. Our ringing is conducted by Will Willans, our Tower Captain.

During the year we welcomed more than 90 visitors, including more than 29 associated with the Campaign against Blood Cancer, which was initiated by Julie McDonnell, a sufferer and ringer, and which we sponsored and for which our tower raised £1,135.80. On two occasions quarter peals were rung: these are pieces of continuous ringing which can last up to an hour. The Trustees are careful to be sure that local residents are not discommoded by our bells but nonetheless the new bells are regularly proclaiming that our church is open for business.

A few members of the congregation have come up at ringing times to see what we do, and these visits are always welcome.

Ian Hay Davison, Tower Secretary

2.2 Building projects

The major project this year has been on the organ and its surrounding plasterwork. This can be found in the report by the Chair of Trustees.

In addition, various minor works took place, notably:

- 1 In the porch: installation of various fittings and completion of the outer door 'hinged tips'.
- 2 In the vestry: replacement of a radiator and rehangng of a door.
- 3 In the SW lavatories: installation of more mirrors, and a disabled toilet seat.
- 4 In the choir lavatory: completion of the water heater installation for hand washing.
- 5 In the Lower Mews: replacement of an electric hob by a gas one.

Last Autumn, research took place into more effective control of our car parking by provision of a rising barrier instead of the present padlockable gates. Competitive quotations were obtained but the Trustees decided not to proceed with this scheme at present.

Robin Kerr, Project Manager

2.3 Cedar Tree Café

I am very pleased to be able to report another successful year for the Cedar Tree Café. 'Successful' in this context means that we have been open every Friday apart from December 29th and Good Friday. Unfortunately snow did close us down just before Easter when we made a committee decision that conditions were such that no-one was likely to venture out. We did have to relocate to the Mews whilst the damaged organ pipes were being removed.

The area at the West end of church with the new light entrance foyer makes an inviting space for our regular customers to enjoy friendship, companionship and animated discussions on a wide range of subjects as well as enjoying our simple but nutritious meals. We all much appreciate Lore's presence every week answering questions and providing support to anyone in need.

Visitors are very welcome, so do stop by for a coffee if you are around on Fridays. Of great interest are foreign tourists – this year there have been French, German and South American, amongst others. A chance for the linguists amongst us to practise their skills.

The Cedar Tree is very lucky in having a willing band of volunteers who sign up several weeks in advance despite having career and family commitments themselves. We are indebted to Angela our verger, who has the tables out ready for us each week and generally keeps an eye on things.

Janet Mahto

2.4 Charities of the Month

As a registered charity, Christ Church cannot legally give money to any other causes than those specified in its governing document, and our Trust Deed of 1801 lays down very narrow aims. In order to enable us to

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

The following are the charities for 2017, and the amounts raised. These donations are sent direct to the charity concerned and don’t go through the Christ Church accounts, so are not included in the financial report.

January	The Gideons	£127.56
February	Bath Mind	£100.00
March	USPG	£97.40
April	Bishops’ Lent Appeal	£169.10
May	Burlington House	£178.93
June	Fairy Bricks (<i>note 1</i>)	£300
July	Bath Street Pastors	£156.68
August	Mission to Seafarers	£271.68
September	Libra Women’s Project	£70.55
October	Church Housing Trust	£56.41
November	USPG Malawi Project	£163.20
December	Genesis / Julian House (<i>note 2</i>)	£442.82

Note 1: £148.47 collection, topped up by Lore.

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

Alex Soboslay

2.5 Choir

There have been a number of musical highlights during the year with, as usual, the services in Advent, Christmas, Holy Week and Easter being particularly rewarding. The choir also very much enjoyed the visit to sing evensong at Stogumber Parish Church as part of the Stogumber Music Festival in September at the invitation of Angela Berners-Wilson. We

were treated extremely hospitably by the people of St Mary's and they seemed extremely appreciative of our efforts. When talking of musical highlights I must also mention the bittersweet occasion of Martin Palmer's memorial service. Martin had been a stalwart member of the choir since 2001 and a big character at Christ Church. As might be expected of him, the music he selected for the service was not straightforward! However, it went fantastically well, and it was good to be able to give him such a splendid send-off. I think he would've been pleased.

Emily, Isaac and Ben all acquitted themselves superbly in their examinations for their RSCM Dean's Chorister awards. We're very lucky to have these talented youngsters with us week-by-week. My thanks also to Emma for the effort she puts in to their training, and particularly in the preparation for that exam. Whilst there is no lack of talent in the children we have, I've said for some time that we need to rebuild the numbers in the junior choir. The recent Jonah-man Jazz production which St Andrew's school held at Christ Church, and for which we provided the band and some back-up singers, has initiated a link with the music teacher there. I hope to be able to foster that link to perhaps encourage some of the children at St Andrew's, who evidently enjoy singing, to try our choir.

Obviously this year will be a slightly strange one musically because we will be without a proper pipe organ for most of the year. However, I'm delighted that we have chosen to use the unfortunate incident with the fall of plasterwork to undertake further improvements to the instrument, and I'm very excited about hearing the results later in the year.

As always, my heartfelt thanks to Keith for his exceptional accompaniment and assistance with the choir throughout the year, and to David Winters for his excellent organ playing also; and many thanks to all the choir members for their continued commitment and music excellence. It is genuinely a pleasure to conduct the choir week-by-week.

Mark Elliott

2.6 Concerts and Events

Christ Church has continued its success as 'preferred venue' for hosting book signings for Topping & Company Booksellers. Celebrities have included Evan Davies, Jeremy Vine, Brian Blessed, Robert Peston and Ruby Wax. We've hosted musicians such as Brett Anderson (Suede) and Dave Hill (Slade). We heard about life in a spacecraft from Scott Kelly

and amusing anecdotes from the cricket commentary box by Henry Blofeld. We had the Hairy Bikers giving us their unique adventures in cookery, and chef Tom Kerridge came for a second time and spoke of how, having lost weight, he retains a sensible diet without missing out on interesting food.

We look forward to hosting more book signing throughout the summer through to March 2019 with the hope that regular exposure to the outside world and increased footfall will attract new members to the Christ Church congregation.

My thanks go to the team of helpers who give very generously of their time and without which we, Christ Church, wouldn't be able to run such events.

We were very excited about The Community Big Band who gave a concert in aid of Dorothy House. This was a great success and lots of fun. We hope that they will be keen to use us again.

After several attempts, we were able to host a talk by Peter Osborne arranged by the Friends of Palestine group. He spoke to an audience of around 70 people.

We have also had a series of speech and drama lessons running in the Mews and hope to increase the access by letting the main room for a few hours a week to a local flute teacher.

We raised around £3,000 through all these events

At the beginning of October we upgraded the sound system, installing a new, larger control panel at the front of the church. We replaced existing speakers and added others where we thought the sound levels were weak. The gallery was equipped for the first time with speakers, enabling better use of the church where audiences exceeded the capacity of the main body of the church. The control panel can be operated remotely using a smart device and this provides flexibility for both services and events.

In March, Christ Church was delighted to host St Andrew's School with their performance of Jonah-man Jazz. Mark Elliott directed a band of musical instruments while a few upper voices supported the children singing the mini musical. To see the chancel full of bright faces full of

energy and hear them sing the story of Jonah was indeed an event not to miss. With the plans we have for developing a flexible space at the east end of church there is no reason why we shouldn't repeat this type of event on a regular basis.

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

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

Judith Bishop

2.7 Genesis Sunday Centre

The Sunday Lunch Centre is one of the many support projects run by the Genesis Trust. The accommodation and kitchen facilities at Nexus Methodist Church provide an ideal setting for this valuable service. There is also an excellent store cupboard where stock can be stored from week to week. The crypt at St. Michael's is the alternative if Nexus is unavailable. It does require just a bit more effort on the part of the volunteers and particularly Giles Peters, who masterminds the project.

The project runs every Sunday in the year including Christmas and Easter. Understandably there might be some dates when it is difficult for a team to find enough helpers. Giles then puts out an SOS (via e-mail!) for extra help. We have been able to support some other groups and have also benefited ourselves from outside help. Youngsters doing their Duke of Edinburgh challenge also volunteer.

Numbers of 'customers' average about 20 to 30 – some of whom will also ask for 'takeaways'. Each time one sees some old familiar faces along with some new ones. Some customers are homeless but many others are in accommodation. They come not only for the cheap £1.50 hot meal but for the company. On a cold, wet day it is difficult to move them along to clear up but at least one has the satisfaction of knowing that they have had a hot meal and warmth for a short while.

We of the 'Combined Churches with Christ Church' team have some new recruits and have been able to fulfil all commitments even when our usual cook had time off for her Golden Wedding celebrations. Thank you to you all.

Janet Mahto

2.8 Hospitality

Christ Church has had another year of opportunities to provide hospitality.

We continue to offer coffee and biscuits after the 10am service each week as well as welcoming our visitors after the services.

In the wake of the Brexit result, we decided that we should celebrate being British. On Saturday June 24th Clive and the hospitality team put on a very successful 'Best of British' dinner in the Mews where they served the traditional Sunday roast of beef and chicken with all the trimmings followed by apple pie and cream. This was well attended and enjoyed by all.

We also repeated the Open Church mornings that proved so popular over the summer of 2016 during July and August. Cakes were made by volunteers and served with tea and coffee. We also took the opportunity to run a book sale on a couple of occasions which brought in many visitors including passers-by.

Janet Mahto offered her 'Apple-picking' lunch on 10th September. This is where Janet opens up her house for congregation, local friends and neighbours to pop in when they have time to enjoy a feast of delicious homemade goodies. A collection for Genesis is traditional and we are always proud to hand over a very generous donation.

The traditional 'Ride & Stride' event was combined with another Open day in September where refreshments were served.

Unfortunately we were unable to host a Harvest celebration in October as there were already a number of events arranged. We will, however, run this event this coming autumn.

September also saw the official launch of the newly acquired and refurbished Burlington House. This is a short-term refuge for people recover-

ing from addictive habits and has been running in Bath for quite a few years. It provides interesting activities for the guests to get involved in while they are recovering. For some it gives them an introduction to a vocational subject that can be continued after they have completed their course of treatment. The celebration was held in Christ Church and took the form of a tea party and was attended by Burlington House guests as well as representatives from Bath City Council. Christ Church provided tea, coffee and soft drink while the guests of Burlington House brought delicious homemade cakes.

Again we celebrated our patronal festival of Christ the King in November with a good musical service followed by a cake, baked by Jude Bishop and professionally and creatively iced by Jo Palmer, alongside fizzy wine and coffee.

As usual November and December was full of the regular services. Advent Carol Service was followed by wine and snacks. We held Advent and Lent lunches combined with St Mary's Catholic Church and thanks go to Angela Soboslay for organizing this.

The Christmas Carol Service was followed with the traditional mulled wine and mince pies. Thanks to Malcolm and Brenda Wall for organizing this. As is traditional, Revd Lore provided champagne and mince pies after the Christmas Day service.

Holy Week was quite special this year where we invited a guest to be with us throughout the week. David Bruno has a wealth of experience having travelled widely during his career as a priest and he gave a talk on the church in India accompanied by cheese and wine. There was a reasonable audience who enjoyed the talk and some were interested to talk to our guest afterwards. This was followed by a service of Compline in the church.

Maundy Thursday saw Christ Church host its own agape service. This was a break with tradition where some church members would normally join in with St Stephen's. Janet Mahto and Jude Bishop offered a spicy lamb casserole, chicken casserole and vegetarian alternative to 38 guests. This was followed by apple crumble. The food was enjoyed and, together with the Passover service conducted by Revd Lore and David Bruno, provided a meaningful focus for this special occasion.

I have mentioned a few names throughout this article, but all this

‘entertaining’ would not have been possible if we hadn’t had help from lots of different people at different times. Thank you all for all you do to make Christ Church a welcoming place for strangers to enjoy and a better place to be.

Jude Bishop

2.9 Junior Church

The children of our Junior Church are small in number but are very faithful members of the congregation. Their enthusiasm in the recent Time and Talents fundraising event has been an inspiration to many. The Christmas, Holy Week and Easter festivals are always highlights of the church year for them and it’s wonderful when we can give them opportunities to contribute more fully. Their participation in the Nativity Play is always something that is very special for them, and often other members of the congregation find this a very spiritually uplifting event in the church year. This year two members of our Junior Church played a key part in the Maundy Thursday Agape meal, fulfilling the traditional role of the youngest child, asking questions at the Passover meal in a Jewish household.

There are only three adults who regularly run sessions for the children, and we try to offer two sessions each week, where possible, to meet the needs of our wide age range. Unfortunately, it is not always possible. We were pleased that, following the topic of children and young people being raised at Council in August, two members of council volunteered to become more involved in Junior Church work, and a third member has expressed an interest since then. At the same Council meeting in August, our Church Council also approved a new “Welcome to Children” document. This aims to provide a friendly, welcoming, supportive message to parents who bring children to church, as well as practical information. We look forward to this being launched more widely in the near future, and we hope that its message will become an integral part of “who we are” as a church congregation.

The Junior Church and their leaders are always very grateful to those members of the congregation who offer their support in different ways, including chatting to the children, taking an interest in their artwork and activities, showing support of the “Show and Tell” slot in the 10 am service, and thoughtful prayers in the prayer rota and intercessions.

Emma Elliott, Sarah Jones, Sarah Cade

2.10 Mission to Seafarers

For some years, I have been the registered Christ Church contact for the Mission to Seafarers. When I took over this duty, several members of the congregation gave annual cash donations to the Mission, and I also received regular parcels of used stamps. Sadly, as the years have gone on, the number of supporters has dwindled, and the cash donations have now ceased altogether. In the same way, the flow of stamps has also all but dried up, as I now have only one regular contributor to this cause. However, I do acknowledge that the Royal Mail's practice of printing their own labels for our parcels has much reduced the availability of genuine used stamps.

The Mission will not take the ordinary first and second class red and blue used issues but even so there must still be many other used British and foreign picture stamps which are being thrown away. I can send all these to the Mission's headquarters in London, where they are passed to stamp dealers for sale to collectors. The market for used items is immense, with some being sold for as much as twice their mint price, so why not help me to continue to support the Mission to Seafarers throughout the world. I always look forward to receiving your parcels on Sundays after the morning service.

Sylvia Ayers

2.11 Mothers' Union

In 2017 we had seven paid-up members, three of whom subscribed to the MU "Families First" Magazine. We had hoped that when Revd Lore joined us, she would become our new leader. Unfortunately, she decided to resign this position in January 2018 after only one year, due to her many other commitments. Also, Margaret Burrows is no longer able to take an active part in our Mothers' Union. As we are no longer a Branch, our remaining members are of course always welcome at the Combe Down MU meetings, but our own Christ Church activities are now greatly reduced.

However, with the help of the Christ Church congregation, we have still been able to carry out two of our annual projects. In October the congregation donated 80 much-needed gifts to the Bath Women's Refuge as well as a year's supply of magazines; and in November we managed to

sell 23 items from our Christmas catalogue, which was half the number sold in the previous year.

Sylvia Ayers (Christ Church MU Treasurer)

2.12 Pilgrim Group

The Pilgrim Group has continued to go from strength to strength. We meet on alternate Thursday evenings in the Lower Mews, we enjoy coffee and some excellent biscuits and treats made by Georgina (for which, many thanks!) and then we begin our ongoing study of the Scriptures. This past term we've continued looking closely at Acts, the second instalment of Luke's account of the origins of the Christian church. By the time Luke was writing, Christianity was becoming a major force in the Roman Empire, a close-knit fellowship, which began to act as such a force, in a relatively short space of time. We've followed the journeys of Paul as he becomes the "apostle to the Gentiles", expanding the church from Palestine into the regions of modern-day Turkey and Greece.

We have had fascinating evenings, sometimes with differing opinions being voiced and considered. We leave feeling it's been worthwhile coming out on a Thursday evening.

This Christmas saw another Pilgrim Feast, with excellent food and wine interspersed with suitably wacky games. This Pilgrim group knows how to let their hair down as well as think and pray!

Do please come and try an evening with us. You will be most welcome. Call Brenda on 01225 864933 if you need more information.

Brenda Wall

2.13 St Andrew's School

We are very blessed to have St Andrew's school serving our local community. I believe it gives wonderful opportunities, both in book learning and in learning for life. We have 207 children on the books at present. They, as you probably know, have many different mother tongues and come from widely varying cultures. All are learning how to live in our "global village".

The children certainly focus on book learning (or perhaps I should say book and computer learning), but there much else on offer. Recently pupils in years 3 and 4 went up to London and visited the Houses of

Parliament. They watched speeches from the gallery of the Commons and took part in their own debating workshops. And they had a cruise down the Thames. Friends of St Andrew's helped fund this trip, and I am sure the children will long remember it.

Also this spring, and after many months of information gathering, debate and consultation, St Andrew's joined the Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust. We feel we are in safe hands with this Trust, as we have worked closely with the diocese for many years. The children may not notice any great change, but we did put the old St Andrew's "to bed". At the end of the school day, the children changed into pyjamas, and then enjoyed hot chocolate and story time. After all that there was a singalong and a tree was created incorporating the fingerprint of each child. Again, it was a memorable occasion.

A further special event was the production of Jonah-Man Jazz that took place at Christ Church just before Easter (which I was very sorry to miss). How heartwarming to see this close partnership between the school and our congregation, a partnership about which I know Lore and many others care greatly. I am sure there will be further opportunities for Christ Church to support St Andrew's, not least by sharing its sacred space.

St Andrew's offers such a lot to its children but to do this complicated, demanding work it really needs its Christian partners. So, might you like to become a Friend, and offer help as you are able? Could you join the Reading Army, and help children to become confident readers? Just let me know. Here is a Church foundation serving all who come, and that is a real witness. And here is a dedicated team of teachers, teaching assistants and many more who are grateful for all available help.

Sarah Sheppard

2.14 Traidcraft

Having taken over the stall from Rebekah at the beginning of 2017, we continued to run the stall on two Sundays of each month.

Although Traidcraft has made around £400 in cash, we still have stock in hand of around £250. Trade has, on the whole, been diminishing as the goods sold are somewhat more expensive than those offered in large shops with a larger turnover. The continuance of the stall relies on members of the congregation being very generous in supporting this venture.

We realise that making money for Christ Church is not the aim in this venture, but supporting Fairtrade goods is not viable at the present time as there are so many other calls on the generosity of our congregation. It is with regret that we have decided to close the stall but will continue to support Traidcraft with orders on request. We will endeavour to keep up-to-date copies of the catalogue for those wishing to purchase items on an individual basis although the website is easy to negotiate and a good source of all products available.

We will hold the stall on Sunday mornings until the current stock is liquidated. So please see if there is anything there that you need.

Christ Church remains a 'Fairtrade' church serving fairly traded tea and coffee at church events. We use other fairtrade products where possible and would like to support the Fairtrade fortnight every year. Thank you for all the support over the last year.

Jude Bishop

The Trustees of Christ Church as at 22 April 2018

Ex officio

(The Bishop of Bath & Wells)

The Ven. Dr Adrian Youings Archdeacon of Bath
Revd Tim Gleghorn The Rector of Walcot (or a representative)

Appointed

Charles Rice Chair
David Bishop Treasurer
Sarah Jones
Sarah Sheppard
Clive Tilling
Jane Nicholson
Janet Mahto
Lewis Boyd

Office holders as at 22 April 2018

Churchwardens

Malcolm Wall
Alex Soboslay

Assistant Churchwardens

Janet Mahto
Sylvia Ayers
Jane Nicholson

Deanery Synod Representatives

Brenda Wall
Sarah Kerr
Jane Nicholson

Sidespersons

Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers, Morny Davison,
Janet Mahto, Jane Nicholson,
Margaret Silver, Jonathan Stead

Christ Church Council 2017-18

Ex officio

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

Elected until 2018

Judith Bishop
Rowena Hall
Janet Mahto

Elected until 2019

Georgina Bowman	Treasurer
Penny Edwards	
Virginia Knight	

Elected until 2020

Matthew Jones
Sharon Rawlings

Co-opted

Will Willans	Tower Captain & Ringing Master
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Three members to be elected at this AGM will serve until 2021