



# Christ Church Bath

## ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

**Sunday 23 May 2021  
11:15am, Christ Church,  
Julian Road, Bath BA1 2RH**

### Agenda

1. Opening prayers
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the previous ACM (Sunday 11 October 2020)
4. Matters Arising
5. Remarks from the Priest-in-Charge
6. Reports
  - (i) Electoral Roll – changes in membership
  - (ii) Chair of Trustees
  - (iii) Financial Report for 2020
  - (iv) Deanery Synod
7. Elections and appointments
  - (i) Elections to Church Council – to elect 3 members
  - (ii) Election of Churchwardens – 2 to be elected
  - (iii) Appointment of independent financial examiner
8. Any Other Business
9. Date of the next Annual Church Meeting
10. Closing prayers

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# Minutes of the Christ Church Annual Meeting held on Sunday 11 October 2020

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

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

**Present:** 36 people.

**1. Opening Prayers:** The Priest-in-charge welcomed everyone to the meeting. She asked the meeting to approve the appointment of Canon Tatton-Brown as clerk, and for the meeting's permission to record the meeting to assist the clerk. She added that the meeting needed to be kept brief in the light of Covid-19 guidance.

She then opened the meeting with prayer, in which the meeting remembered those members of the church who had died since the previous annual church meeting.

**2. Apologies:** Margaret White.

**3. Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the annual church meeting of 7 April 2019 were taken as read and approved.

**4. Matters arising:** The Priest-in-charge referred to the minutes which had set the date of the annual church meeting as 26 April 2020 and reminded the meeting that it had been deferred in line with government and Church of England guidance because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

**5. Remarks from the Priest-in-charge:** The priest-in-charge spoke of the difficult past few months of Covid-19, and expressed her thanks for:

- all who had helped see Christ Church through lockdown;
- those who had raised funds for the east end project, and particular Time and Talents which had raised £4,500, and donations to the cost of the sanctuary furniture;
- the two churchwardens, and in particular Lewis Boyd, who is standing down;
- Mark Elliott, in his two roles as Director of Music (particularly during lockdown) and lay Reader
- Angela Soboslay, our verger, who had cleaned and set out the church again after the building contractors had left;

- Charles Rice, assisted by Robin Kerr, who had overseen the completion of the east end project on time and in budget;
- the Trustees, the Church Council, and all members of the congregation for their contributions.

**6. Reports:** All reports were taken as read.

**6.1 Electoral Roll:** In the absence of Judith Anderson, electoral roll officer, the Priest-in-charge reported that the Roll stands at 86, the same number as in 2019.

**6.2 Chair of Trustees:** Charles Rice, chair of Trustees, in particular thanked all who had responded to appeals for the east end furniture and had given £69,000 (including gift aid) towards the costs.

Ian Hay Davison asked about plans for the west end re-ordering, as the bellringers' donation board still needed a home. The chair of trustees said that the priest-in-charge and church council were now looking at plans for the west end.

**6.3 Finance Report:** David Bishop, treasurer, said that he had presented the report in a fresh format with more detailed numbers. The full accounts were available to anyone who wished to see them. He pointed out that the financial year was for 2019 and had not been adjusted to fit in with the adjourned date of the annual church meeting.

**6.4 Deanery Synod Report:** There were no questions.

All reports were received by the meeting without a vote.

## 7. Elections

**7.1 Deanery Synod:** Brenda Wall, proposed by Rebekah Cunningham, seconded by Jonathan Stead; Pauline Swaby, proposed by Wilhelmine Ligt, seconded by Mark Elliott. There being no other nominations, the Priest-in-charge declared them duly elected.

**7.2 Church Council:** The Priest-in-charge thanked Matthew Jones, who was standing down, and who had served as lay chair of the council.

There were four nominations for four vacancies:  
Richard Gabe, proposed by Judith Bishop, seconded by Simon Tatton-Brown;  
Rebekah Cunningham, proposed by Brenda Wall, seconded by Malcolm Wall;  
Zoë Bushell, proposed by Judith Anderson, seconded by Emma Elliott;  
Sharon Rawlings, proposed by Jonathan Stead, seconded by Georgina Bowman.

There being no other nominations, the Priest-in-charge declared them duly elected.

**7.3 Churchwardens:** The Priest-in-charge again thanked Lewis Boyd, who is standing down. There were two nominations:  
Janet Mahto, proposed by Rebekah Cunningham, seconded by Mark Elliott;  
Jane Nicholson, proposed by Janet Mahto, seconded by Emma Elliott.

There being no other nominations, the Priest-in-charge declared them duly elected.

**7.4 Independent Examiner:** Chris Willows had agreed to continue as Examiner, and was proposed by Clive Tilling and seconded by Ian Hay Davison. His appointment was approved by the meeting.

**8. Any other business:** None.

**9. Closing Prayer:** The Priest-in-charge thanked everyone who had stood for office, and closed the meeting with prayer at 11:40am.

SCTB  
11.10.2020

# REPORTS for 2020

## 1. Administrative Reports

### 1.1 Electoral Roll

The number on the electoral roll as at September 2020 was 86.

Since then, one person has been removed from the register and eight people have been added to it.

The count for 2021 is therefore 93.

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

Data correct at time of writing (April 2021).

*Judith Anderson*

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

The last Annual Church Meeting was six months ago, so this report covers the six months from 10 October to today. In common with other Anglican churches, we were able to return our church building on 2 December. Mark and the choir worked miracles so that when we re-opened on the following Sunday, 6 December, it was not only for our Sunday morning Eucharist but also for our Advent Carol Service. It was a deeply touching service made all the more impressive by the knowledge that the choir had had only two days in which to rehearse. It is still available online and is worth watching if you haven't seen and heard it. Our Christmas services were equally joyful with live music and a memorable nativity service complete with three dragons. Our neighbours, Bath Academy of Media Makeup, generously lent us their garden and we were able to hold an outdoor fire-lit family carol service on Christmas Eve. After Christmas, national guidelines meant that we returned to live-streamed services in the second lockdown until Easter Day, when once more the church building was able to open for services.

Throughout this time we have been heartened by the care and generosity of our congregation and church friends. The family of Margaret and Cliff Burrows made a generous donation in their memory and Penny Edwards, for many years a Christ Church friend, left money in

her will for the upkeep of the building. Those donations enabled the Trustees to authorise the final works on the South Chapel. The re-organisation of the West wall of church and the placing of the Bells Donors board will be the next Council project.

The most exciting news of the past six months is that we are to have a curate. Kara, who will join us in June is in training to become a “pioneer minister” – that is, an ordained minister who looks for opportunities for ministry outside the church building. Kara will be with us for three years, and we look forward to her deaconing in September and her priesting next year. It takes a whole church congregation to train a curate – I know Christ Church will rise to the challenge.

The last six months have not been easy, but our Council and Trustees, Verger, organists, choir, retired clergy and in particular our lay reader and musical director Mark have been indefatigable. We look toward whatever the future may bring with hope and confidence.

*Revd Lore Chumbley*

## **1.3 Trustees**

**Christ Church, Bath**

**Charity No: 1055275**

**Trustees' Annual Report for 11 Oct 2020 to 25 April 2021**

### **List of Trustees**

**Chair:** Charles Rice (re-appointed 23.07.19)

**Secretary:** Canon Simon Tatton-Brown (appointed 01.01.19)

**Treasurer:** David Bishop (re-appointed 23.07.19)

The Ven Adrian Youings (ex officio, Archdeacon of Bath)

The Revd Timothy Gleghorn (ex officio, Rector of Walcot)

Jenny Hesketh (appointed 28.11.19)

Jane Nicholson (resigned 25.03.21)

Sarah Sheppard (re-appointed 23.07.19)

Clive Tilling (re-appointed 23.07.19)

Nick Wells (appointed 18.07.18)

Hilary Wild (appointed 25.03.21)

Christ Church is governed by a Trust Deed dated 6 May 1801. The operation of the Deed is regulated by Standing Orders adopted by the Trustees on 23 June 2020, drawn up in the light of Charity Commission

guidelines. Appointment to the position of Trustee at Christ Church is for a six-year term in accordance with the Policy for the Appointment of a New Trustee, with option to renew subject to the agreement of the other Trustees. Trustees are responsible for appointing new Trustees in event of vacancies. The Standing Orders also require that the Trustees shall invite the Priest-in-Charge and Churchwardens of Christ Church to attend meetings of the Trustees. They may participate fully in the Trustees' meetings but without the power to vote.

**Public Benefit:** The Trustees exercise their duties as the owners and custodians of the buildings forming part of the Christ Church Bath estate. The day-to-day responsibility for ordering the worship of Christ Church is exercised by the Priest-in-Charge with the Church Council. It is the view of the Trustees that the Charity complies with the guidance on public benefit as published by the Charity Commission.

**Policies:** The Trustees have adopted the following policies: For the Appointment of New Trustees (reviewed 29.04.21); Conflict of Interest (reviewed 10.09.20); Processing Personal Data (reviewed 10.09.20); Safeguarding (revised 25.03.21); Risk Policy and Register (reviewed 23.06.20); Standing Orders (adopted 23.06.20). Reserves policy: It is the policy of the trustees to hold a cash reserve of at least £15,000.

*Simon Tatton-Brown*

## **1.4 Chair of Trustees**

Trustees normally meet monthly during the year except in December and August. Their focus is on the management of Christ Church's estate and finances to support both the ministry of the church and to maintain and update the fabric of its buildings. During the past year considerable effort has also gone into improving the way the Trust governs itself. New Standing Orders were adopted in June 2020 to meet both Charity Commission guidelines and to enable meetings and decisions to be made remotely via online meetings or email correspondence. The various policies adopted by Trustees for the governance of Christ Church are now reviewed annually based on a rota prepared by the Secretary.

Since our last AGM in October, there has been a pause in project work to enable our cash reserves to recover. Thanks in part to the generous donation by the Burrows family referred to in Lore's report, Trustees have agreed that the final phase of the East End project can now be



completed. Ellis will start work on the missing side screen to the South Chapel in April with installation expected in May. At the same time, the lighting to the Lady Chapel and side aisles will be replaced and upgraded to match the quality of the new South Chapel. A rolling, multi-year programme of refurbishment of the main gallery windows will commence in the third quarter as will the installation of a new central heating system to the church mews.

In addition to these major items, a whole host of minor repairs are carried out by Robin Kerr. I would like to thank Robin for the many hours that he has devoted to Christ Church over the past year which have done so much to keep the church running smoothly. Great thanks are also due to David as Treasurer for steering us safely through the major expenditures involved in the projects of recent years: alongside the accounting work involved he has also had to manage our Gift Aid and VAT returns as well as negotiate a major claim with our insurers.

In conclusion and on behalf of Trustees, I would again like to thank Lore for the devotion and energy which she has brought to Christ Church. The past year of the Covid pandemic has not been easy but despite the need for remote worship via streamed services, the Christ Church community feels strong and confident about the future.

*Charles Rice*

## **1.5 Church Council**

Council met five times on Zoom between April 2020 and March 2021, with a high attendance. Its membership changed at a Covid-delayed Annual Meeting on 11 October, when new elections were held for the body and thanks were expressed to Lewis Boyd (Churchwarden), Matthew Jones (Lay Chair) and Sarah Kerr (Deanery Synod Representative), who did not stand for re-election. Their work has been highly valued by Council especially during the East End reordering process. At the Annual Meeting Sharon Rawlings and Zoë Bushell were re-elected to Council, while Richard Gabe and Rebekah Cunningham filled the remaining vacancies. Brenda Wall and Pauline Swaby-Wallace joined us as our Deanery Synod Representatives. At its first meeting on 3 November Council elected Jonathan Stead as Lay Chair. Virginia Knight has kindly agreed to take on the important portfolio of Safeguarding, and she will ensure that other members of the church are appropriately resourced and trained.

During the year the Council dealt with a number of issues relating to the important question of on-site and online worship during the pandemic, and prayerfully considered all sides of this sensitive question. A special meeting was called on 8 January to canvass fully Council members' views in the light of changing circumstances and the current advice from the Bishop and Archdeacon.

Council was pleased to receive regular reports on existing church worship as well as possible new initiatives once we return to the church for services. Council expressed its sincere thanks to Lore Chumbley, Mark Elliott and all those who have enabled us to participate in worship from home through the use of technology. Council also sought to reach out through the Pastoral Care group to those who were shielding at home and either not able to attend services when held in the church or access them online.

The possibility of hosting a curate was introduced by the Priest in Charge, and Council agreed to support this after members had met the prospective candidate online. Council looks forward to warmly welcoming Kara Maylor to our community during the year.

The issue of Cedar Tree Café governance was discussed and a working group appointed that submitted recommendations to Council so as to ensure that the oversight and finances of this important service to our local community were effective. Their recommendations will be fully implemented by the time the Café is able to open again.

Council dealt with a number of issues relating to the interior of the church including decluttering and the disposal of items no longer required. There was also the need to make the west wall area more attractive as well as showcase our history, including a new board to commemorate the bell appeal. There was discussion on the importance of noticeboards within the church both for the use of the congregation as well as visitors, and this is an ongoing project.

Details of discussions at Council, decisions taken and its membership can be found on the Christ Church website ([www.christchurchbath.org](http://www.christchurchbath.org)).

*Jonathan Stead, Lay Chair*

## 1.6 Safeguarding

I took over from Lewis Boyd as Safeguarding Officer at Christ Church in March and am in the process of completing the Church of England training procedures for Safeguarding Officers.

My first priority will be to bring all DBS checks up to date, which is needed in several cases but could not be arranged earlier because of restrictions on meeting in person. In the longer term I would like to encourage more at Christ Church to be DBS checked, particularly if we are going to use the church for more external events. It can only benefit Christ Church's reputation if we not only are a safe place, but are seen to be one. Overall, I can confirm that Christ Church has complied with our duty to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The church's safeguarding policy has also been recently updated.

*Virginia Knight*

## 1.7 Treasurer's Report for financial year 2020

The whole of Christ Church's financial affairs comes under Charity Commission jurisdiction. Three sets of accounts are maintained internally under this umbrella, for the Council, for the Trust itself and for the Bell Ringers. Treasurers for 2020 were Georgina Bowman for the Council, David Bishop for the Trust, and Ian Hay Davison for the Bell Ringers.

The previous year's (2019) statutory accounts were professionally inspected during 2020, as required by the Charity Commission at Christ Church's level of turnover, and were submitted to the Charity Commission ahead of the deadline in October 2020.

The 2020 accounts which form the basis for this report have been completed and inspected.

### **Trustees**

Trustees' property income totalled £52,000 (£38,400 from rentals and £13,600 from parking). This was about 9% below the 2019 level (£57,400) due to reliefs allowed on property rentals and parking due to business difficulties during Covid. Investment income provided a further £1,600.

Property and church maintenance, and running costs not covered by Council, totalled £11,400. Employment costs were £14,900 and other administrative costs (principally insurances) were £5,000.

In terms of cashflow the Trust outlaid £118,200 on the East End project during 2020 (prior to recovery of VAT of £9,800 through the DCMS Listed Places of Worship Scheme). As a registered charity, the Trust is also able to recover GiftAid on qualifying donations, for specific project donations (as well as for charitable giving to the church – see Council below). Over £6,000 GiftAid was accrued during 2020 for project donations.

The Trust's current funds at the year-end was £36,800 in bank accounts and £39,800 in the CCLA Church of England CBF Fund, with fixed investments in the CCLA Charity Investment Fund Units (COIF) valued at £34,000 (the latter an increase of £2,000 over December 2019), giving the Trust a total reserve of £74,000 outside of current bank accounts. Prior to commencing a major project the Trust ensures that funds will be available to underwrite any shortfall in direct project fundraising efforts without impacting on this reserve or on the £15,000 working capital retained at the bank, and was again successful in achieving this during 2020.

### **Council**

Regular income from charitable giving during 2020 (i.e. standing orders, white GiftAid envelopes and Sunday collections) totalled £37,000, the slight reduction from the 2019 level of £38,900 being attributable to reduced plate collections during the Covid closure. This excludes the congregation's generous Charity-of-the-Month collections, which do not pass through the church's accounts.

Council accrued almost £9,000 of GiftAid during 2020.

Revenue for the use of the church was £600 for service fees. One Top-pings payment of £1,600 relating to 2019 events and some £4,800 from the Time and Talent initiative contributed to £8,300 of other income.

The budgeted Diocesan contribution level of £15,000 was once again achieved.

Church utilities were £7,400, down significantly from the 2019 level (£9,500) because of the sustained church closure in the colder months.

Wages were paid in full throughout lockdown, totalling £14,300. Other church running costs totalled £9,100, including the provision of cameras and equipment for outside broadcasts during lockdown.

### **General Fund**

A small fund exists for discretionary spending on compassionate grounds. There were no transactions during 2020 other than accrual of minor interest, and the fund stood at £6,500 at the year end.

### **Bells Project**

Whilst included under the umbrella of the Trust's accounting, the Bell Ringers maintain their own books and bank account for subscriptions and running costs.

*David Bishop*

*See table on page 15*

## **1.8 Deanery Synod**

Brenda Wall and Pauline Swaby-Wallace are Deanery Synod Representatives for Christ Church and Brenda has also been elected to the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group (DMPG)

Meetings have of course had to be on Zoom, but last November Pippa Page was elected the new Lay Dean and we met the new Area Dean, Revd Stephen Girling.

Revd Girling sees the way ahead in the Bath Deanery as a "Shaping of a culture of Prayerfulness, Hospitality and Innovation".

In the DMPG five sectors of the Deanery have each been given "watchmen and women" to watch for God's working within and without the church and to feed back to the group any priorities and success stories that the Deanery may need to focus upon specifically.

Christ Church is in the Central sector along with Bathwick St Mary. Brenda feels confident that there will be plenty to feed back to the group, based on the good work our own Pastoral Group continues, working with Southdown Methodists and Oasis for food distribution, working on the "make lunch" project and the Community Pantry.

The February meeting of the Deanery Synod was very much an ecumenical meeting, involving presentations from Bath Elim Church,

Father's House, Bath and Life Church, Bath. The overriding message from all was the desire for the church in Bath to develop unity.

We also heard from Eden Hunter about his work as Bath College Chaplain. Christ Church has contributed some funds for his support, along with the rest of the Deanery, so it was good to hear that his presence has proved helpful with counselling and supporting students.

There are undoubtedly challenges ahead in our deanery, with more demands and a shrinking budget. Unity, flexibility and imaginative management will be needed, along with much prayer!

It's very comforting to know that Christ Church already has a thriving culture of prayerfulness, hospitality and innovation.

Brenda has been invited to worship, when we are able, at other churches in the Deanery and would very much like to invite other members of the Deanery to enjoy our wonderful Sunday morning Eucharist. What a joy it will be to be able to be back with one another again!

*Brenda Wall*

# Christ Church 2020

AGM, May 2021

<b>Income</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<i>2020/ 2019</i>
<i>Trustees</i>			
Property	£38,400	£41,400	93%
Carparking	£13,600	£16,000	85%
Investments	£1,600	£1,700	94%
Other Trustees' income	£2,000	£400	500%
<b>ST Trustees Income</b>	<b>£55,600</b>	<b>£59,500</b>	<b>93%</b>
<i>Council</i>			
Charitable giving	£46,900	£38,900	121%
GiftAid received	£10,300	£9,500	108%
Use of church & other	£2,200	£4,300	51%
<b>ST Council Income</b>	<b>£59,400</b>	<b>£52,700</b>	<b>113%</b>
<i>Major Project Fundraising</i>			
Donations	£19,900	£20,100	99%
Church initiatives	£6,700	£9,600	70%
GiftAid received	£7,200	£3,900	
<b>ST Fundraising</b>	<b>£33,800</b>	<b>£33,600</b>	<b>101%</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£148,800</b>	<b>£145,800</b>	<b>102%</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<i>2020/ 2019</i>
<i>Trustees</i>			
Property running costs/repairs	£3,900	£9,400	41%
Church maint	£8,000	£1,600	500%
Incumbent and admin	£14,900	£15,300	97%
Insurances	£4,500	£4,000	113%
<b>ST Trustees Expenditure</b>	<b>£31,300</b>	<b>£30,300</b>	<b>103%</b>
<i>Council</i>			
Wages	£14,300	£15,600	92%
Utilities	£7,400	£9,500	78%
Other church running costs	£6,700	£6,500	103%
Choir and music	£2,200	£1,000	220%
Diocesan contribution	£15,000	£15,000	100%
Charitable works	£200	£800	25%
<b>ST Council Expenditure</b>	<b>£45,800</b>	<b>£48,400</b>	<b>95%</b>
<i>Major Project Expenditure</i>			
Organ repairs		£57,600	0%
East End	£108,500	£7,600	1428%
<b>ST Projects</b>	<b>£108,500</b>	<b>£65,200</b>	<b>166%</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£185,600</b>	<b>£143,900</b>	<b>129%</b>





## 2 Reports on Church Activities

### 2.1 Bell ringing

We rang on Christmas Day. We were allowed back, to ring six bells. And yes, I wondered how it would go, after so long. But I needn't have worried – that, by the way, is the story of my life – it was a total success: good ringing, from start to finish, and a credit to all concerned.

There's not much else to report. After many weeks of chiming, I decided we might at last ring for services in October, on three bells, socially distanced, masked and sanitised. We were getting on quite well with that – until the November lockdown. Then in December, with enhanced restrictions – apart from Christmas Day – it was Maggie and I back to chiming again.

And now here we are, locked down once more. We keep the Christ Church Youths (and Friends) in being, as a social group, with our Saturday morning Zoom meetings. I send out a group e-mail twice a week with what news there is, sometimes with a video, or an essay – and gossip, of course.

One day, we'll ring again – and believe me, we'll be ready.

*William Willans*

### 2.2 Cedar Tree Café

Sadly, the Cedar Tree Café has not been able to open since March 2020. We all miss our friends, both staff and "customers", and have been pleased to be able to keep in touch with our faithful helpers Helen and Tracy.

As things stand at present we hope to re-open on Friday 25 June 2021.

*Janet Mahto*

### 2.3 Charitable Giving

The lockdowns have meant it has not always been possible to find totals of our monthly giving, though our monthly charities have been promoted as much as possible each month, via the notice sheet, [Link](#)

magazine, Facebook page, and our website. When the church has been closed, online giving has been encouraged but the results were often not accessible. However, with our own struggles over the last year we've become especially aware of how other, more disadvantaged, communities have been facing the problems of the virus without our resources, and of the rise in cases of alcoholism, domestic abuse etc as a result of the pandemic, so our charitable giving has been needed more than ever.

The charities supported over the year April 2020 – March 2021 are as follows, with the sums given referring to what it was possible to identify. Items in italics refer to lockdown periods.

- **Open Doors** – working worldwide to support Christians persecuted for their faith
- **USPG/Malawi** – a project focusing on education for girls, protecting livelihoods, care of the environment, and hygiene/sanitation
- **Project 28** – young people's drug and alcohol service in BaNES
- **Burlington House** – a supported "dry house" in Bath for those recovering from drug or alcohol abuse
- **Unseen** – a Bristol based charity fighting modern slavery and human trafficking.
- **Bath Women's Refuge** – providing support for women suffering domestic abuse
- **Oasis Pantry** – a community pantry run by our neighbours at Oasis Church, supplying low cost, high quality food each week to local residents on low incomes.
- **Genesis Trust** – giving immediate and long-term help to Bath's hungry, vulnerable and homeless
- **Julian House Bath** – running our night shelter, among other projects for the vulnerable

<i>(March 20</i>	<i>Bath Welcomes Refugees</i>	<i>£158.50</i>
	<i>was entered as TBC at October AGM)</i>	
<i>April 20</i>	<i>Open Doors</i>	<i>not known</i>
<i>May</i>	<i>USPG/Malawi</i>	<i>See below</i>
<i>June</i>	<i>Project 28 Bath</i>	<i>£690.50 localgiving.org</i>
<i>July</i>	<i>Burlington House Bath</i>	<i>£72.00 localgiving.org</i>
<i>August</i>	<i>USPG/Malawi</i>	<i>See below</i>
<i>September</i>	<i>Unseen</i>	<i>£193.91 loose change collection</i>
<i>October</i>	<i>Bath Women's Refuge (Libra)</i>	<i>£161.65 loose/localgiving.org</i>
<i>November</i>	<i>USPG/Malawi</i>	<i>See below</i>

December	Genesis Trust/ Julian House	£558.50 (divided equally)	loose
January	Oasis Pantry	£313 (approx.)	Justgiving.org
February	USPG/Malawi		See below
March	Revitalise		not known

It has proved difficult to give a quarterly total for donations to USPG. The following figures have been given:

Total giving to USPG April 2020 – March 2021 via DD, SO and cash donations £1,062.50, of which £252.50 were cash donations.

Total identifiable charitable giving April 2020 – March 2021: £3,052.06

Special mention must go to the young people who suggested June's charity, Project 28. Their fundraising efforts, a **Name That Sweet** quiz, raised a truly impressive amount as well as bringing a bit of welcome fun (at least it did to me). Thank you to them especially for their efforts.

*Rebekah Cunningham*

## 2.4 Choir & Music

In my report for the delayed AGM in October 2020 I said “things may be somewhat stop-start over the coming months” and so it has proved to be. After being able to sing for a while in September and October, the lockdown in November meant a return to Virtual Choir, and again with the extended lockdown beginning in January which is only now just beginning to ease. Currently we expect that we may be able to sing again in late May, but we await any official confirmation of this one way or the other.

That did, however, allow us to be able to provide live music for Advent and Christmas and given the circumstances I think the Carol Services and other Christmas services went brilliantly well. We obviously greatly missed the big congregational carols, and the lack of congregational communal singing is something I'm personally feeling very deeply, but given the extra spacing and the obvious lack of preparation time I was delighted with the results.

I would lack to thank everyone in the choir for their continued efforts with Virtual Choir. The commitment needed to submit the videos week by week can't be underestimated. Most of us sing because of the huge thrill we get singing together – the feeling of the thing being greater

than the sum of its parts – and obviously that pleasure and satisfaction is denied to us at the moment, making the Virtual Choir a very, very different experience to live singing. However, I think everyone should be hugely proud of the Virtual Choir output we’re producing, and I sincerely hope that it helps the wider congregation in their worship whilst we’re all physically isolated from one another. I’m very grateful for the encouraging messages we get every week by people posting comments on Facebook about how much they have enjoyed the music in the service. It’s also been great to be able to welcome back past members of the choir who have moved away from Bath into the Virtual Choir – one of the few genuine advantages to the Virtual Choir enterprise!

During this last lockdown we have, of course, been allowed to broadcast from church, including with a live organist. I’m enormously grateful to David Winters and Daniel Cushing for their playing on a Sunday morning, which really gives a lift to the service. Also to David for his work with me producing the backing tracks for the Virtual Choir. Producing this volume of recorded material to such a high standard in very strange circumstances – playing the accompaniment when there is no choir present to accompany – is no mean feat.

Easter Day 2020 was our first outing for the Virtual Choir, and as I write I am planning the Virtual Choir output for Holy Week and Easter 2021. We have come a long way in that 12 months, and I’m proud of what we have achieved, but I’m greatly looking forward to the return of live singing, and hope that from when we next return circumstances will consistently improve, with a bit less of the stop-start we’ve experienced in the pandemic thus far.

Whatever happens over the next few months we will eventually be allowed to sing normally again. As with many, many other things, the choir will I’m sure emerge from the pandemic changed, but I hope it will be with a renewed commitment and realisation of how much we value singing together and playing our part in leading the worship at Christ Church.

*Mark Elliott*

## **2.5 Concerts and Events**

It will come as no surprise to anyone that the year that has just flown by has been empty of events, both internal and external.

We have embarked on a marketing exercise to review what we can offer for the future in our newly-formed performance space and are encouraged that we have the promise of some reduced capacity book signings through Toppings and one or two enquiries for choral concerts.

If there is any benefit to be drawn from the pandemic, it has to be the development of our ability to live-stream events when required. We are certainly richer for that.

*Judith Bishop*

## **2.6 Hospitality**

This has been an obvious casualty of the pandemic making it nigh-on-impossible to provide any social activities even when we were allowed to be in church for services in the autumn. We have been denied coffee and mingling after church, there has been no Cedar Tree, and certainly no getting together for Harvest celebrations.

I'm pleased to say that Janet Mahto was able to offer her house for "apple picking Sunday", organising it in such a way that everyone was able take part at a suitable distance. And it was a real joy to be live in church for our Patronal Festival, Christ the King, last November, where we shared our traditional cake but in a unique way. A large rich fruit cake was made and the top was covered in marzipan and icing. Jo Palmer was engaged to create a suitable motif topping for individual slices. This she did with her usual expert hand and eye, and we thank her for that. All the slices were presented to members of the congregation in an individual box that they were able to take home and enjoy, and for those who were not able to be in church, Lore organised a delivery service. Unfortunately the bubbly and the social side of the event were absent.

We certainly look forward to the "new normal" when we can get together at a distance.

*Judith Bishop*

## **2.7 Junior Church**

Lockdown has given us all a lot of time to think. I have done my fair share of thinking about all sorts of things, including the shape of the church when we emerge out of the other side of this global pandemic. I think we should all take the opportunity to reflect. What has changed?

What is still the same? What are the things we value the most? Here at Christ Church, I sincerely hope that our ministry to children will be at the forefront of our continued conversations. I have never been a child at Christ Church, but over the past (nearly) 30 years, I have known lots of children who have. I would love to tap into their memories. I am sure that biscuits would feature a lot, but I hope there would be other things as well. I think it would be valuable to find out what Christ Church did to nurture them, and also, what we got wrong. It might help shape our thoughts on the special and fundamentally important task bestowed upon us all, to cherish the young and support them on their journey of faith. A book titled *Beyond the Children's Corner* by Margaret Pritchard Houston is recommended reading to anyone interested. The subtitle is "Creating a culture of welcome for all ages".

Following the last lockdown, we have done our best to provide some activities for children with all the new restrictions, but since the last report, sadly, there has been only minimal opportunity. Some of the highlights have been the beautiful outdoor service in Janet's garden at the children's apple picking party, a wonderful Saints and Souls service, incorporating some of the fun of Halloween, and the truly magical Children's Christmas service, which included stories and stargazing in the Mews garden. All of these have been led by Lore, who has a real gift with young people, and we thank her for her continued support. Our Socially-Distanced Nativity play took place on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. As always, it was beautifully written by Sarah J and acted by the children.

We have held Junior Church sessions on Sundays when we were permitted to. We have welcomed a new member to the younger group. Your Junior Church leaders are Virginia, Sarah C, Emma and Sarah J. Please remember us and all the Christ Church children in your prayers.

*Emma Elliott*

## **2.8 Pastoral Care**

Pastoral care has remained an important part of Christ Church's work during the previous six months of the Covid-19 epidemic, although our activities have remained very limited.

The Pastoral Care team continue to make regular phone calls to those in our community who are more or less housebound or felt to be

vulnerable, and these are very much valued. At Christmas we also put together some baskets of goodies which we delivered to several members of the congregation and local community, and these were also appreciated. We are aware of several people who attend Christ Church or Cedar Tree who have had to go into residential care, and wherever possible are visiting them regularly.

When social distancing has been relaxed we would like to hold more of our afternoon Holy Communion services followed by a tea party, and have plans to perhaps invite some children and young families along to share these events.

Several of the Pastoral Care team continue to assist Oasis Hub with its Make Lunch food distribution project and are also involved in their new Pantry project, which is in effect a Thursday afternoon “shop” where local people on low incomes can buy a certain number of groceries – a couple of bagsful – for only £2-3. The groceries are supplied by Fare-Share, a charity who collect good quality surplus food from across the food industry and redistribute it to other charities. It has proved very rewarding to build up this valuable and valued link with one of our neighbouring churches.

*Rebekah Cunningham*

## **2.9 Pilgrim Group and Discipleship**

Pilgrim has met as a virtual group on Zoom since the beginning of the first lockdown in March 2020, sometimes weekly, sometimes fortnightly. The study of John’s Gospel and 1 John took us to the summer break. Meetings resumed in October exploring the theme of what it might mean to be Resurrection People. The Revd Jacques Desrosiers introduced our theme reminding us that being Resurrection People was essentially about keeping company with the risen Jesus and was always a matter of living it out, with implications ethically, politically and for relationships with others.

The theme was explored further in subsequent sessions, led by different members of the group. Amongst the questions we explored were: What does it mean to be a person who believes in miracles in a secular and sceptical world? Is there any evidence for miracles in our 21st century lives? How, as Resurrection People, do we interact with creation and what can the natural world teach us as Christians? What are we given by the natural world, what do we take from it – good and bad –

and what do we need to give back to it? What can we do as individuals and as a Church? Over two sessions we explored different aspects of how we behave as Resurrection People, and we found this poem helpful as a focus for thought, prayer and reflection.

**A Lenten Fast** (author unknown)

Give up harsh words: use generous ones

Give up unhappiness: take up gratitude

Give up anger: take up gentleness and patience

Give up pessimism: take up hope and optimism

Give up worrying: take up trust in God

Give up complaining: value what you have

Give up stress: take up prayer

Give up judging others: discover Jesus within them

Give up sorrow and bitterness: fill your heart with joy

Give up selfishness: take up compassion for others

Give up being unforgiving: learn reconciliation

Give up words: fill yourself with silence, and listen to others

All in all a rich and challenging set of meetings, with plenty of ideas for further thought and exploration, and undoubtedly a work in progress both for the Pilgrim Group and to be shared with the wider Christ Church community. This exploration has continued into the new year as we started to read together Pope Francis's new book *Let us dream – a path to a new future*.

We hope it will be possible before too long to resume face-to-face meetings in the Lower Mews.

New members of the group are always welcome whether on Zoom or face-to-face – contact Lore for details. If numbers grow, new groups could be started with the freedom to discuss different topics from the original group if they wished – there's no set agenda.

The Deanery-wide "Exploring Christianity" course has also continued on Zoom during the year. Several Christ Church people are attending the course, which Lore leads.

*Peter Bowes*



## 2.10 St Andrew's School

St Andrew's School is a remarkable community. I love to drop in when passing and see the life of the school unfolding all around me. These flying visits have not of course been possible since the first lockdown of 2019. For now, we the governors have to keep in touch by phone, and hold our meetings over the internet using Teams.

I thought you would like to learn of a recent event: it had St Andrew's hallmarks of kindness and creativity. On Monday 8 March – the day when the nation's children all went back into school – St Andrew's declared a Thrive Day. The aim was to give everyone a chance to “re-connect, relax and rebuild relationships”. There were special events for all the age groups, and times for reflection and stillness. Mrs Jayne (as we like to call our Head) took up the theme as she wrote to parents and carers: “We would like you to feel connected... We would like to celebrate the positives that we have experienced over the last few weeks and what we are feeling thankful for.”

We do feel thankful for positives. Yet we also know that COVID-19 has brought much suffering and loneliness to many of our school's families, especially to those with members living far away. Our teachers have also carried a heavy burden, holding classes half in school and half through computer link. In addition, they have spent much time on welfare phone calls, checking that each child was safe and coping at home.

When the pandemic please God is over, our Ethos Committee, which upholds our school's Christian foundation, plans to hold a time of remembrance. There will be such a story to tell, and so many memories to share. For this has been, in Charles Dickens' words, “the best of times” through the care people have had of each other, and the “worst of times” in the deep losses so many have sustained.

*Sarah Sheppard, Foundation Governor, St Andrew's School*

# Christ Church Council 2020-21

## Ex officio

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

## Elected until 2021

Judith Bishop	Secretary
Jonathan Stead	Lay Chair
Alex Soboslay ( <i>pro tem</i> )	

## Elected until 2022

Georgina Bowman	Treasurer
Virginia Knight	
Rebekah Cunningham ( <i>pro tem</i> )	

## Elected until 2023

Zoë Bushell  
Richard Gabe  
Sharon Rawlings

Three members to be elected at this ACM will serve until 2024.

# Office holders as at 23 May 2021

## Churchwardens

Janet Mahto  
Jane Nicholson

## Assistant Churchwardens / Sidespersons

To be appointed by Church Council

## Deanery Synod Representatives

Pauline Swaby-Wallace  
Brenda Wall



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

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

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