

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 11 October 2020 11:15am, Christ Church, Julian Road, Bath BA1 2RH

Agenda

- 1. Opening prayers
- 2. Apologies for absence
- 3. Minutes of the previous ACM (Sunday 7 April 2019)
- 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 2019
 - (iv) Deanery Synod
- 7. Elections and appointments
 - (i) Election of Deanery Synod representatives 2 to be elected
 - (ii) Elections to Church Council to elect 4 members
 - (iii) Election of Churchwardens 2 to be elected
 - (iv) 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 7 April 2019

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

Clerk: Tosin Onile-Fre Rotini.

Present: 31 people.

Opening prayers

Led by Lore Chumbley, Priest-In-Charge

Apologies

Nick Wells, Rebekah and Gregory Cunningham, Penny Edwards, Judith Anderson, David Bishop, Rebecca Nicholson, Brenda Wall, Thomas Wolker-Darlev.

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the previous AGM (22 April 2018) were distributed prior to the meeting. Jonathan Stead proposed adopting the minutes and the motion was seconded by Judith Bishop.

Opening remarks

The priest-in-charge remarked that the church is blessed by the level of engagement of the people in Christ Church. She noted that it has been a challenging year for the church with the number of people who have been unwell and the untimely demise of Rowena. She welcomed the many newcomers to the church. She noted that there had been a many celebratory events organised including the Windrush service and barbecue. Charitable giving by church members was rising and the target for 2018 had been exceeded. The plans for the reorganisation of the east end are progressing and the work on the refurbishment of the organ is in hand. Mark Elliott has been leading the fundraising for the organ and Jonathan Stead is leading the "Hands-on" fundraising group for the east end reorganisation.

Agenda

1. Report on Electoral Roll from Judith Anderson in her absence. There are 86 members recorded on the electoral roll.

- **2. Report from Chair of Trustees:** Charles thanked Lore and the Verger, Angela, for their hard work and commitment.
 - a. The Chair of Trustees, Charles Rice reported that lots of minor faults had been fixed.
 - b. The organ refurbishment would actually be completed ahead of schedule.
 - c. The plans for the reorganisation of the East End were continuing to progress.
 - d. In questions, Ian Hay Davison noted that there is no fire alarm in the ringing chamber. Charles Rice replied that this will be reviewed.
- **3. Financial report for 2018:** In the absence of the Treasurer this was taken as read. 2018 has been a high period of expenditure but despite this, thanks to careful management, church finances are in good shape. Lore thanked David Bishop in his absence for his work as Treasurer.
- **4. Deanery Synod:** The report was received without questions.

5. Elections

- a. Churchwardens: Janet Mahto proposed by Jo Wrigley and seconded by Judith Anderson. Lewis Boyd proposed by Sarah Jones and seconded by Zoe Bushell. Both were re-elected by acclamation.
- b. Elections to Church Council

Georgina Bowman was nominated by Jude Bishop and seconded by Richard Gabe;

Penny Edwards was nominated by Jo Wrigley and seconded by Sarah Jones;

Virginia Knight was nominated by Zoe Bushell and seconded by Judith Anderson.

Alex Soboslay was proposed by Sylvia Ayers and seconded by Ken Ayers. The appointment is for two years.

Zoe Bushell was proposed by Mark Elliott and seconded by Sarah Cade. The appointment is for one year.

All were elected by acclamation.

- c. Appointment of Sidespersons. The sidespersons Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers, Morny Davison, Jane Nicholson, Margaret Silver, Jonathan Stead were re-appointed
- d. Appointment of Assistant Churchwardens. These are: Jane Nicholson, Tosin Onile-Ere Rotini and Judith Bishop. Alex Soboslay

- offered to serve as Assistant Churchwarden and the offer was gratefully accepted.
- e. Independent Reviewer. Chris Willows has agreed to continue to review the accounts and was voted in again, proposed Lewis Boyd, seconded Judith Bishop
- 6. AOB: Jonathan Stead and Matthew Jones have been in contact with the University of Bath and will continue to co-ordinate communication and activities with students and young people.

Margaret Burrows thanked the church for the support for herself and her husband.

7. Date and Time of next meeting: Sunday 26 April 2020 at 11:30

REPORTS for 2020

1 Administrative Reports

1.1 Trustees

Christ Church, Bath Charity No: 1055275

Trustees' Annual Report for 2019-2020

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) Sarah Jones (resigned 23.07.19)

Jane Nicholson (re-appointed 10.09.20) Sarah Sheppard (re-appointed 23.07.19) Clive Tilling (re-appointed 23.07.19) Nick Wells (appointed 18.07.18)

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 (adopted 10.09.20); Processing personal data (adopted 10.09.20); Safeguarding (revised 27 May 2020); Risk policy and register (adopted 30.06.2020); Reserves policy: It is the policy of the trustees to hold a cash reserve of at least £15,000.

Simon Tatton-Brown

1.2 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 to meet the growing regulatory burden flowing from the Church of England itself and the Charities Commission and to streamline its own procedures. Principally, this involved a further update to our Safeguarding Policy and a detailed Risk Review. New Standing Orders were also adopted to meet both Charity Commission guidelines and to enable meetings and decisions to be made remotely via online meetings or email correspondence.

The principal building project overseen by the Trust during the past year has been the reordering of the East End. The lengthy consultation and planning process reached its conclusion in December with our submission of a Faculty application to the diocese for approval to proceed with Phases 1 (Chancel and Apse) & 2 (South Chapel) of our overall concept for the East End. Approval was granted in February 2020 with work commencing in April. Although the social distancing requirements relating to the Covid epidemic complicated and slowed the building works, they were substantially completed in time for the re-opening of the church for public worship in July. The trust funded the work to the fabric of the building at a cost of £35,000 with the new chancel and choir furniture being paid for via a very well organised and supported public appeal. The results achieved by Lore and by Jonathan Stead's Hands-on Fundraising Group were remarkable and we owe all participants a major vote of thanks.

Looking forward, after a period of major project works to the church (West entrance and toilets, organ renovation and East End re-ordering), the trustees intend to focus expenditure in the coming year on maintenance work to ensure that we avoid the build-up a backlog of minor faults.

As Chairman of Trustees, I would again like to thank Lore for all her work during the past year, which has seen Christ Church full of life and responding with initiative and imagination to the challenges posed by Covid.

Charles Rice

1.3 Electoral Roll

The number on the electoral roll as at April 2019 was 86.

Since then, two people have died and there have been two additions to the register.

The count for 2020 is, as it was in 2019, 86.

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 (September 2020).

Judith Anderson

1.4 Report from the Priest-in-Charge

It's just over 18 months since our last AGM on 7 April 2019. Since then we have lived through two very different celebrations of Easter; the loss of four loved church members or former members – Eileen Selmes, Wendy Attah, Cliff Burrows and Penny Edwards; the changes caused by the current viral pandemic; and the completion of almost all the works of phases 1 and 2 of our east end reorganisation.

It started calmly enough. We celebrated Easter 2019 with joy and spent a day at Roundhill Barn near Kelston, where we planted a Rowan tree in memory of Rowena Hall. Our 2019 summer lecture series entitled "Spirituality on the Edge" was well supported. A number of us went on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, bringing back photos, memories and stories. Our Windrush service and cookout celebration was a "Two bottle success" — one bottle (of rum) in 2018, two bottles in 2019 and

who knows how many in 2021! We were honoured to be asked to host funerals in Christ Church for two loved members of the Caribbean community, Andrew Fitzgerald Harewood and Levi Swaby.

In July 2019 a group from Christ Church collaborated with Oasis Church to set up a "Make Lunch" group providing hot lunches to children and their parents who would otherwise go hungry in the school holidays. During the coronavirus pandemic in 2020 that group became part of a team making weekly deliveries of food, vegetables and dry goods to over 40 local families.

We also collaborated with Oasis Church in an inclusive carol service intentionally welcoming those whom the wider church has often, to our shame, rejected. We were heartened that 100 people came to that service.

At the end of February 2020 Margaret Barker visited to launch our Lent observances, speaking on "Easter Day in St John's Gospel", but at the end of March church was closed and everyone forbidden to enter it. Easter celebrations, like everything else, had to go online.

In those strange, early days of lockdown Mark Elliott used his technical skills first to enable live streaming of services from our home, and then to stitch together recordings of our choir to give us back music for worship. Some of the congregation bravely logged onto Facebook for the first time to join our online services. The pastoral care team offered a shopping and delivery service – only to find that our stoical congregation generally felt able to look after themselves.

It was disappointing that after seven years of discussion of the east end re-organisation project a formal objection was raised from within the church to our petition for faculty. The chancellor found in the church's favour on all counts and the building work was completed during lockdown on time and within a whisker of the planned budget. Charles' close oversight as project manager and the work of the fundraising team were key to this. You will read about their activities elsewhere in this report.

As we return to church for services we are aware of those who have participated through our virtual services and are still not able to attend Christ Church in person. We will continue to live-stream services in order to include them. Throughout the past 18 months the rhythm of

prayer, study and worship has continued uninterrupted and we have stayed true to our core values: "Beauty in worship, honesty in our faith and doubt, service in our community."

Revd Lore Chumbley

1.5 Church Council and Standing Committee

In the year after the last AGM in April 2019 up to March 2020, Christ Church Council met eight times, with an average attendance of 12 (range 11–13), and subsequently met once virtually by Zoom in September 2020, with all current members taking part. There were 17 members of Council until the death of Penny Edwards on 29 May 2020, which reduced the membership to 16.

Council meetings regularly cover all the areas of church life described elsewhere in this AGM report, with worship and the east end reordering project being the most common topics discussed since the last AGM. Details of discussions and decisions are in the minutes, which are available on the church website: visit www.christchurchbath.org, click on Church Life in the menu bar, then Church Council. You can also see a list of council members here.

Penny Edwards was part way through her term as a council member when she sadly died last year. Council were very grateful for her many thoughtful contributions over the years. We are also very grateful for the service as council members of Matthew Jones, Sharon Rawlings and Zoë Bushell, who come to the end of their term of office at the 2020 AGM (although they may stand for election again if nominated). All members of the electoral roll are encouraged to prayerfully consider whether they could stand for election to council this year.

Standing Committee, which is made up of members of Trustees and Council, is required to transact the business of Council between its regular meetings, and to provide a means of communication between the Council and Trustees. Standing Committee has not met face to face during the course of the year, but has elected instead to discuss business via email. This method has worked well to ensure that matters such as approval of alcohol licensing for events and of bell ringing activities are discussed and enacted as needed. The members of Standing Committee from the Trustees are Charles Rice and David Bishop. Council is represented by Lewis Boyd, Janet Mahto, Georgina Bowman and Lore Chumbley.

1.6 Safeguarding

There are currently 16 people at Christ Church who have been vetted via the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for working with children and vulnerable adults in voluntary roles. We have released an updated Safeguarding policy this year, in which we have extended our requirements to cover the Chair and Treasurer of the Trustees. This new policy was agreed and adopted by the Trustees at the meeting on 27th May 2020.

Lewis Boyd, Safequarding officer

1.7 Treasurer's Report for financial year 2019

The whole of Christ Church's financial affairs comes under Charity Commission jurisdiction. Three accounts are maintained internally under this umbrella, for the Council, for the Trust itself and for the Bell ringers. Treasurers for 2019 were Georgina Bowman for the Council. David Bishop for the Trust, and Ian Hay Davison for the Bell ringers.

The previous year's (2018) accounts were professionally inspected during 2019, 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 2019.

The 2019 accounts which form the basis for this report have already been inspected. They were approved by the Trustees in September and will be submitted to the Charity Commission before 31 October.

Trustees

Trustees' property income totalled £57,400 (£41,400 from rental and £16,000 from parking). The higher property income compared to 2018 reflects steadier occupancy through the year. Investment and other minor income provided a further £2,300.

Property and church maintenance, and running costs not covered by Council, totalled £11,000. Employment costs were £15,300 and other administrative costs (principally insurances) were £4,000.

During 2019 the Trust agreed to award £35,000 to the East End Project.

As a registered charity, the Trust is able to recover GiftAid on qualifying donations (£3,900 in respect of funds raised from April 2018 to March

2019), and to recover significant VAT through the DCMS Listed Places of Worship Scheme (£25,700). A final payment of £8,500 was also received from the insurers in respect of the earlier organ damage claim. In terms of cashflow the Trust outlaid £94,800 on major projects during 2019 (prior to recovery of VAT, GiftAid and insurance as above). Of this the majority related to the organ rebuild, with only £7,600 spent in 2019 on early East End Project costs.

The Trust's investment capital at the year-end was £39,800 in the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund and CCLA Charity Investment Fund Units (COIF) valued at £32,000 (the latter an increase of £4,800 over Dec 2018), giving the Trust a total reserve of over £70,000. 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 2019.

Council

Regular income from charitable giving during 2019 (i.e. standing orders, white GiftAid envelopes and Sunday collections) totalled £38,900, a small increase over 2018 (£37,900). This excludes the congregation's generous Charity-of-the-Month collections, which do not pass through the church's accounts.

The Trust recovers GiftAid on most of the charitable giving. For many years this has been based on April to March tax years. This practice will change to bring it in line with Christ Church's Jan to Dec accounting year by the end of 2020. Council received £9,500 of GiftAid during 2019, related to April 2018-March 2019 giving.

Revenue from the use of the church for services and secular use (mostly Toppings' book signings) was £4,100, resulting in a total Council income of £52,500.

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

Church utilities were £9,500, up from 2018 level, continuing a trend over the past three years, reflecting increased use of the church building and a greater desire for worshippers and other visitors to be comfortable. Wages totalled £15,600, an increase over 2018 reflecting employment of a regular cleaner, and other church running costs amounted to £8,300.

Project Fundraising

Major construction projects are managed by the Trust, with funding coming from the Trust itself, from donations received directly from individuals (some of whom prefer to be anonymous), and from an impressive variety of fundraising initiatives described elsewhere in this report. Fundraising efforts in 2019 saw a transition from the Organ Rebuild towards East End Reordering. During the year £10,400 was raised for the organ, and £19,300 raised towards the East End Reordering. Note that these sums reflect bank receipts during 2019 and may differ from other fundraising reporting. Overall Christ Church accounts and fundraising accounting are reconciled frequently.

General Fund

A small fund exists for discretionary spending on compassionate grounds. There were no transactions during 2019 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. The Trust made a loan to the Bell Ringers during the Bells Project, and the outstanding balance of £11,900 was repaid to the Trustees during 2019, clearing the loan.

David Bishop

1.8 Deanery Synod

(1) Overview

Deanery Synod continues to be a huge source of expertise and fellowship with a great blending of different types of churchmanship and committed faith. I am always amazed at the amount and variety of discipleship which is happening all the time in Bath, often unseen.

Each time the synod meets it is at a different church in the deanery (it's quite challenging to find some of the venues!). Each meeting begins with refreshments and an opportunity to mingle with both clergy and lay members of the synod, followed by a short act of worship before the business agenda is started. How many different approaches there are to the concept of refreshments! Almost as many as the different

styles of worship in the Bath area. It's an honour and a challenge to host deanery synod and different congregations rise to the occasion in different ways: we've seen processions with banners, enjoyed hymns with drums, clergy in jeans without collars, clergy in deepest black and, when our own Christ Church was the host, our outstanding choir! The common denominator is a prayerful atmosphere. It is very uplifting!

The business part of the Diocesan Synod does actually have a very important purpose: resolutions carried at Deanery Synod are passed up to Diocesan Synod and then to General Synod, which debates important changes within the Anglican Communion. What we debate in Bath has real importance throughout the Church of England: it's a real responsibility.

Diocesan Synod met shortly before lockdown and looking back at what was said, many of the things discussed have helped many people through the difficult times. For example we were all encouraged to put in place "Five Simple Habits": Pray every day, Read the Bible every day, join a house group (Pilgrim Group has continued online), commit to worship and GIVE, not just financially, but through generosity of time. Christ Church has certainly done all of those things.

Throughout the pandemic and on-going one of the most necessary things we needed here in Bath was community engagement and whilst we could no longer open our doors, we could contribute food and money through the "Compassionate Community" which has been established.

Sadly coronavirus put paid to an exciting theatrical venture, "One Good Friday", a passion play to be performed free for everybody in Parade Gardens on Good Friday. Maybe it will happen next year.

Once Deanery Synod can meet again there will be elections for places on Diocesan Synod. I would urge members of Christ Church to think about becoming part of the management of the church in this way. It's after all very important, with so many huge issues on the horizon, to have our Christ Church voice heard.

Brenda Wall

(2) Meeting of Tuesday 4 June 2019:

The first of the three meetings of Deanery Synod in this final year of the Synod elected in 2017 took place in June 2019 at St Michael's, Twerton.

In addition to the usual items – worship, a presentation about our hosting parish, and notices – three guest speakers widened our horizons: Sharon Blair described the National Parenting Initiative; Sue Snell spoke about the Life Project in Bath and how we can make our churches more welcoming to people with learning difficulties; and Amanda Wetton reminded us of the huge significance of Christians Against Poverty and its plans to move from Combe Down to the centre of Bath, the better to serve those who need its help. We also talked in small groups about "Everyday Faith" – the opportunities that we all have, to live and tell the story of Jesus in our Monday-to-Saturday lives in community, with the focus on "small shifts make a big difference".

Among the notices was the announcement that the Archdeacon of Bath had resolved to delegate to deanery leaders the regular inspection visits to ensure that statutorily required records are being kept. The inspection regime has fallen into what a classical scholar would call desuetude... and anyone else would call abevance.

Jeremy Key-Pugh

(3) Meeting of Wednesday 16 October 2019:

We were welcomed by the Rev Tim Buckley at St Matthew's Church, Widcombe, which was built by Manners in 1846. Originally in a bad state of repair and used as a Community Hall, it is now a thriving church after some extensive refurbishment, with a newly planted congregation. Tim Buckley was appointed in 2014 as vicar to both this church and St Thomas-a-Becket Church further up the hill in Widcombe, where there are two very different types of worship: a contemporary style with band-led praise and worship in the afternoon at St Matthew's and a traditional style service at St Thomas's.

We were asked to note that the Archdeacon's Inspections are on a rolling three year programme starting soon. Every single church in the Deanery will receive a letter six weeks before the visit, so we need to prepare for this.

We were reminded that we are currently in the "October Count" period, i.e. counting all the churchgoers in the churches in the Deanery.

The following, who have been appointed to Bath, spoke to us about their mission:

• The Reverend Rachel Spence: has become a Pioneer Minister at Whiteway and Bournville, Weston-super-Mare, as part of the Diocese's Progressive Pioneer Project, which aims to create nine new Pioneer posts by 2020. She will help to support the poorest areas in the both communities.

- Eden Hunter: a very young, new Chaplain has been appointed to Bath College for the wellbeing of the students, as well as a youth worker for St Luke's Church. He will help the students with mental health and anxieties and generally encourage faith by engaging with them and building relationships.
- The Reverend Michael Ferrier: is a full-time Social Worker and Church Planter and has become Vicar of "Grace Church" in Bath. He holds weekly services at Emmanuel Church at Weston.
- The Reverend Richard Miles: has been a curate at three small parishes outside Wells and was ordained Priest and Assistant Curate at Beacon Trinity benefice in 2019. He is hoping to create a faith community within the 16-29 age group, of which there are about 35,000 in Bath.

Sarah Kerr

(4) Meeting of Monday 24 February 2020:

In February 2020, we were the guests of All Saints Weston, "a church on the Way – following, growing and going", as they put it, a church which believes that projects are not the way to reach people: it's people who do that. They cultivate five habits – prayer, bible-reading, small group membership, commitment to the one worshipping community, and generous giving.

In the spirit of generous giving of time and service which All Saints commends, we learned of two initiatives to serve the people of Bath: 3SG is the B&NES 3rd Sector Group, which draws together voluntary and faith groups to "galvanise and co-ordinate" the work of the Third Sector (third after the public and the private sectors) in such endeavours as children's and youth work, lunch clubs, etc. "Compassionate Community" is another opportunity for churches to sign up to serving the city by making it the sort of place we think it ought to be, in terms of caring for the disadvantaged.

There was also a presentation on behalf of the team managing "One Good Friday", the Passion Play which was to have replaced the customary Cross Walks on 11 April. Alas, as we now know, that fell victim to the constraints of lockdown and is postponed.

Jeremy Key-Pugh

2 Reports on Church Activities

2.1 Bell ringing

2019 was a good year for the Christ Church Youths. We maintained our record of ringing every Sunday, and other occasions when required. Practices were well-attended, and we used practice time on "5th Saturdays" for quarter-peals; there were four attempts, all successful, and Minmin Xi achieved her first quarter ever in August, the first ringer to do so at Christ Church for well over a century.

Another quarter was rung in honour of Lore's birthday; her sister Emily, a musician and also a ringer herself, heard part of it and pronounced it good; for that, to quote the late William Rushton, we took a preen.

And this year? Well, it started on a sad note, with the death of Jim Cook. In spite of illness and injury, Jim had been a regular supporter of ringing at Christ Church, and we miss him very much. However, the usual activities prospered, and I think we were doing rather well; the clip filmed by Minmin, used for online services, was taken at a regular practice, and it's a "piece" of which any local band might be proud. We can take a preen for that, too.

In January there was another peal, by a visiting band drawn from near and far. In contrast to the first, well publicised as a fund-raiser, this had no publicity – and it was received with no complaints at all. There could not be a clearer sign that at last the bells were being accepted as part of local life.

On Sunday 15 March, in spite of Covid-19, not to mention the Bath Half Marathon, we rang. We even rang all eight. The very next morning, from the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers – on what authority is far from clear – word came to cease ringing at once: followed by lockdown, the unprecedented closure of churches and all the rest of the "new normal".

Maggie and I chime three bells on Sundays. We keep in touch with a Saturday morning Zoom meeting. Some of us even manage to ring, at towers where conditions are compatible with the Central Council "guidelines". And we wait: a time will come when the Christ Church Youths can return.

When it does, we'll be ready.

William Willans, Tower Captain

2.2 Cedar Tree Café

At the time of writing at the end of July, Cedar Tree is closed and has been since the outbreak of the pandemic in March. As soon as permitted we will be back to welcome our faithful local customers as well as any visitors.

Thank you to the willing band of helpers who gave so generously of their time and catering/cake making skills when we were open. I would particularly like to pause here to remember our dear friend and team member Wendy Attah, who died at Christmas time. Her family have very kindly kept in touch with us.

Hopefully we will be back in operation soon and enjoying the result of the amazing work which has been carried out in Christ Church. Please do drop in to join us if you are in the area on Friday mornings from 10:30am to 2:00pm. The menu will remain the same and any offers of help gratefully received.

Janet Mahto

2.3 Charitable Giving

Our charitable giving is an important aspect of our church life. Most of us will make personal gifts to needy causes but it is good to do this as an outward looking church congregation too, as part of the Body of Christ. In the last few months we have suffered and struggled with the rest of the world with Covid-19 and have felt a new empathy for our fellow human beings.

We therefore have a Charity of the Month system whereby we have a specific collection twice a month in aid of nominated charities. We aim to have a mixture of local, national, and international charities, some specifically Christian and some secular. Some we continue from year to year while others change. Since the beginning of 2019 we have been supporting USPG's project in Malawi on a quarterly basis.

These donations are sent direct to the charity concerned and do not go through the Christ Church accounts, so are not included in the financial report.

These are the charities we supported in the year April 19 – March 20:

- Open Doors working worldwide to support Christians persecuted for their faith
- USPG Malawi Project a project focusing on education for girls, protecting livelihoods, care of the environment, and hygiene/sanitation
- Tearfund a Christian organisation working world wide to end poverty, and a member of the DEC.
- Bath Welcomes Refugees a local charity with an international flavour, supporting refugees in Bath
- Burlington House a supported "dry house" in Bath for those recovering from drug or alcohol abuse
- Bath Women's refuge providing support for women suffering domestic abuse
- Genesis Trust giving immediate and long-term help to Bath's hungry, vulnerable & homeless
- Julian House, Bath running our night shelter, among other projects for the vulnerable
- Bath City Farm working to aid mental/social wellbeing and to help disadvantaged and disabled people to develop new skills and confidence

Monthly charities and money raised have been as follows:

Jan 2019	USPG Malawi project	£232.27
Feb 2019	Amnesty International	£242.17
Mar 2019	Children's Hospice South West	£438.27
Apr 2019	Open Doors	£347.49
May 2019	USPG Malawi Project	£334.07
Jun 2019	Burlington House	£489.15
Jul 2019	Bath Welcomes Refugees	£228.52
Aug 2019	USPG Malawi Project	£255.76
Sep 2019	Tearfund	£214.11
Oct 2019	Bath Women's Refuge (Libra)	£287.92
Nov 2019	USPG Malawi Project	£336.27
Dec2019	Genesis and Julian House	£451.86
Jan 2020	Bath City Farm (divided equally)	£211.51
Feb 2020	USPG Malawi Project	£190.54
Mar 2020	Bath Welcomes Refugees	TBC
Total lanuary	C2 0F7 0C	
Total January 2019 – December 2019 Total April 2019 – March 2020		£3,857.86
iotal April 201	£3,347.20	

In addition to the Charity of the Month giving:

Lent Lunches 18 March 2019 £104.50 25 March 2019 f122.50

All went to Children's Hospice SW

Advent Lunch 12 December 2019 f65.00

Went to Genesis and Julian House

In addition, during 2019 USPG received a further £705.02 by direct debit from individual members of the congregation.

Total giving January – December 2019

£4.854.88

We welcome any suggestion for charities we might support during 2021. Do look (when we are able) at our notice board at the back of church, which we hope will be bigger and more visible soon!

Rebekah Cunninaham

2.4 Choir & Music

In the normal run of things, this report would have been written in March or April 2020, looking back over the previous year. The fact that it is being written in September 2020 because of coronavirus, the lockdown, and everything that ensued from it, makes it difficult to take one's mind back to "ordinary" times and review the year pre-Covid-19, but it's obviously important that we do that.

In May 2019 four members of the choir, Ben, Isaac, Emily and Zoë, took their RSCM Bishop's Chorister examinations – all succeeding admirably, and with Ben taking the Geoffrey Fillary award for the highest mark in the diocese by an under-18 chorister (repeating the achievement he made with the Dean's chorister the year before)!

On Trinity Sunday 2019 the rebuilt organ had its first public outing. It has been a joy to have the instrument reinstated with not only the damage from the earlier plaster fall fixed, but with such a greatly improved tonal quality and with the flexibility of the movable console. In the Autumn, internationally renowned organist David Briggs came to give a short recital, followed by an improvisation to the film Dr Jekyll & My Hyde, and in November local organist David Bednall (who is developing an international reputation as a composer) improvised to the Russian film The Women of Ryzan as part of Bath Film Festival. Both events were

extremely well attended, and it was great to have the opportunity to show off the organ to a "non-church" audience.

Sadly, Keith Pigot made the decision over the summer of 2019 to stand down from his position as Organist and Assistant Director of Music, with his final service on the Feast of Christ the King. I am indebted to him for his work with me and the choir over the previous five years. He is a dedicated, hugely experienced, and talented organist and choir director and we shall miss him greatly. My gratitude and appreciation go to David Winters and Daniel Cushing, who have undertaken most of the organ duties since then (and to David Wrigley, who also undertook some playing until the arrival of baby Jessica understandably curtailed his availability!)

Following a typically successful and enjoyable Advent and Christmas period, we were just gearing up for Holy Week and Easter when the world turned upside down. Much could be written about lockdown period, but I would simply like to register my deep and heartfelt thanks to the choir for their efforts with the "virtual choir" whilst we have not been allowed to sing live. It's been great also to welcome some new (and returning) members to the virtual choir, who aren't able to sing with us normally. Most singers find the virtual choir considerably more stressful and exposing than "real" choral singing, but I've been astounded and delighted at what we've been able to produce.

Although the guidance now allows a return for live amateur choral singing after six months absence (albeit heavily controlled and restricted), we still face a lot of uncertainty. Things may be somewhat stop-start over the coming months. We're exceedingly lucky that the fantastic new choir furniture allows us to space singers out to comply with distancing requirements, but we don't know what new requirements or restrictions the coming months will bring, or how Advent and Christmas will work this year. We will continue to offer the best we can under the guidance as it develops in response to circumstances.

I continue to be delighted and heartened by the commitment of the choir and the support and encouragement of the congregation shown towards the music at Christ Church, and I hope and believe we emerge from the other side of the coronavirus pandemic changed, but strengthened.

Mark Elliott

2.5 Concerts and Events

We began the year with a very successful Bring & Buy sale held in the church on Sunday 24 March that, in addition to members of the congregation, attracted quite a few neighbours and passers-by. There were stalls offering plants, fresh produce, books and "upmarket" bric-a-brac. All stall holders were very conscientious and pleased with the turn-out.

In May Christ Church was a venue for the Bath Festival Party in the City and hosted a number of amateur groups displaying their talents. A very good chance for us to get good footfall through the doors.

On 1 June we hosted a Dutch instrumental group, Lundi Bleu. Indeed a very talented group of comparatively young and very promising musicians. The concert was not as well attended as was anticipated, mostly because of the Bath Festival having just finished. I hope the group wasn't too daunted by the lack of audience and may return to us at some time in the future.

Over the last couple of years, having embarked on fundraising towards the East End reordering project, we were also faced with fundraising for the organ. Two events were held to celebrate the restoration of the organ: David Briggs, in September, improvised to a Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde movie; and David Bednall, in November, in conjunction with the Bath Film Festival, improvised to a very old Russian movie. Both events proved very successful and attracted audiences from far and wide.

In previous years we have always tried to provide entertainment for all and in contrast to the more "specialist" events mentioned above, we held a couple of more "home-spun" events. September was the time for the all-age games day, held after Sunday service, and in November we devised a quiz evening. Both of these events created a very good community spirit. Thanks to all involved in getting both of these events together.

We were very fortunate to be chosen to host an event as part of the Children's Literary Festival. Illustrator Jim Kay let us into the secret of how he creates drawings for both the Harry Potter books and the films. It was magical and he is quite an amazingly talented artist.

Our ration of Topping Book Shop events numbered 27 covering the period Jan 2019 to Feb 2020. A bumper year full of historians, chefs,

politicians, musicians, actors and sports personalities. Audiences ranged between 70 and 450, making an average footfall of 194 per event. We should count it as a privilege to be able host every one of the evenings. We couldn't have managed the hard work that some of the evenings offer without the support of 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. So, thank you.

The Lower Mews has had some exposure as well this year, being used for groups meeting on a regular basis such as Pilgrim Group and **Exploring Christianity**.

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.

Jude Bishop

2.6 Fundraising

The fundraising for the East End reordering over the last three years has consisted of proposals to external trusts and foundations, appeals to individual members of the congregation, and a series of activities designed to involve the members of Christ Church in creative fundraising.

Applications to charitable trusts has been hard work as few charities are keen to give money for the particular works we proposed. However, Malcolm Wall persevered with applications and in May 2019 his tenacity was rewarded when the Philip Stoate Trust agreed to donate a fourfigure sum.

The appeal to individuals to sponsor pieces of furniture was launched in the autumn of 2019 with an attractive brochure. Over the next six months the congregation of Christ Church and a wider network of supporters pledged an incredibly generous total of £25,040.

Meanwhile, "hands-on fundraising" continued with enthusiasm and creativity. A decision was taken after the very successful Time and Talent project in 2018 to hold it again in 2020, and that other events be held during 2019. An All Age Games Day was organised on Sunday 22 September 2019 after church. In spite of poor weather, the participants used both the church and Lower Mews spaces to create a series of indoor games in which all ages could participate. Much laughter ensued and it was an enjoyable day complemented by a light lunch.

The first ever Christ Church Quiz was held on Saturday 16 November in the Lower Mews and attracted nine teams of four players who competed for prizes of wine, plants and chocolates. Jonathan Stead was the guizmaster, ably assisted by Zoe Bushell, who kept the scores and acted as the judge. A delicious supper was provided and the tightlyfought contest was won by the Elliott family competing under the banner of "The House of Elliott". The guiz was well-received and it was suggested that it should become part of the Christ Church calendar.

Unfortunately, the coronavirus outbreak and the lockdown of the church affected the 2020 Time and Talent project that was launched in March. However, it has continued online and members of the congregation have been raising funds through innovative projects including delivering breakfast baskets, converting LPs and CDs, and doing odd jobs. It will conclude with an exhibition later in the year of five paintings painted and kindly donated by a member of the congregation. Time and Talent has raised over £2,500 to date this year.

Overall, since January 2018 more than £43,000 has been raised towards the East End reordering project. This is a magnificent result and has allowed us to complete the major part of the works. Our thanks go to the Hands-on Fundraising Group who have organised events over the past three years: Jude Bishop, Lore Chumbley, Morny Davison, Lucy Humbert, Jane Nicholson, Carol Rice, Jonathan Stead, and Brenda and Malcolm Wall, and in particular to Jonathan Stead, who led the group with a "daring faith." Our appreciation also goes to David Bishop, the Treasurer, who has kindly assisted in the recording and reconciling of the funds raised, to Mark Elliott for distributing regular Time and Talent bulletins and of course to all of you for your generosity.

The Fundraising Committee

2.7 Hospitality

The past year has seen the usual community based events as part of what we offer in hospitality at Christ Church.

Lent lunches continue to feature combining congregations of St Mary's Catholic church, the LMG and Christ Church. Although this was good opportunity to join with our neighbours, attendance was disappointing.

Windrush Day is celebrated on 22 June. Our service of celebration was on Sunday 23 June and included the traditional steel band. The service was followed by a Caribbean Cookout, traditional Caribbean food cooked and eaten in the garden above Christ Church Mews.

Janet Mahto treated us to another feast of delicious homemade food at the Apple-picking party held in her house on Sunday 8 September. This was well-attended and enjoyed by members of our congregation, local friends and neighbours. Again there was a collection for Genesis and Janet was able hand over another generous donation.

As usual, our patronal festival service of Christ the King was held at the end of November. This was followed by a cake, again baked by a member of the congregation and professionally and creatively iced by Jo Palmer, alongside fizzy wine and coffee. In addition, this year, we held a bring and share lunch followed by desserts and more cake.

Keeping with tradition, we complemented our services in December with combinations of wine and nibbles, mulled wine and mince pies and fizzy wine. Thanks to all who helped with any of these events.

We always like to give a warm welcome to any visitors on a Sunday morning as well as giving ourselves a chance to socialise and catch up with the latest news. We do this by offering coffee and biscuits after the 10am service on Sundays. This of course relies on regular help.

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 again for all you do to make Christ Church a welcoming place for strangers to enjoy and a better place to be.

Jude Bishop

2.8 Junior Church

We started last year's report with a bible verse from the Gospel of Mark, and it's difficult to come up with a better way of starting this year's report: Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

We said this last year too, but we feel it's so important, it's worth repeating: Children have spiritual needs, just like adults. They want to understand who they are and what their purpose is. They need to feel loved unconditionally, by God and by those around them, who nurture them as they grow in their faith. They are learning to have courage and at times may feel the need for healing. We often describe our church as like a family. It should be a place of safety, where children can be surrounded by a community of love and grow in faith as they start out on their journey through life. Some say that the children are the church of the future. This may be true, but they are also the church of today.

We are grateful to Lore, who continues to nurture the Junior Church and their families. She makes them feel a special part of the church community. Once again this year, she treated the Junior Church to a New-Year trip to Longleat, to see the lantern parade, which was a wonderful occasion. At the end of lockdown she led a service to "Wake Up the Church", with a fire, an egg hunt, music, dancing and stories. We are so grateful for the support she provides.

Since last year's report, we have had four adults running weekly sessions for the children, and we thank Virginia for continuing to be part of the team of Junior Church leaders. We have continued to try our best to meet the needs of our wide age range by running sessions for two different age groups, where we can. During the lockdown period, we have enjoyed watching Scruffy Church TV, a resource provided by the very talented Reverend Philip, Rector of St Stephen's and St Mary's Charlcombe.

Other highlights of the year were:

- The fantastic Nativity play, which gives the children a wonderful opportunity to play a role in our Christmas traditions.
- Janet's Apple Picking Party, which provides fellowship for children and adults alike.
- This year, the children were invited to select the Charity of the Month for the month of June, and they raised nearly £700 for Project 28, a local

charity that provides support to young people struggling with drug and alcohol addiction. As well as a quiz, they put on a "Lockdown Concert" and it was lovely that so many children took part, from the very youngest to the oldest.

We continue to welcome your prayers, and if there is any interest in getting involved in the work of Junior Church, please get in touch.

Emma Elliott, Sarah Jones, Sarah Cade, Virginia Knight

2.9 Mothers' Union

As we are no longer registered as a Branch, and as Jane, Keri, Janet and I are the only MU Members left, our own Christ Church activities are now even more reduced. In September, the congregation bought 55 items from our MU Christmas catalogue, including diaries, Christmas cards and calendars, as well as 20 Colour-In Cards and 13 Advent calendars for the Junior Church. We hope that they enjoyed them. Following the change of ownership of the Bath Women's Refuge, we were not able to appeal for our usual gifts. Instead, the church has added the Refuge to the list of charities which we support, and in October 2019 we sent the sum of £288 to the Refuge organisers.

I am unable to submit a Report for the Missions to Seafarers, as there has been no activity at all during 2019, not even any donations of used postage stamps.

Sylvia Ayers

2.10 Pastoral Care

We have all, during this time of coronavirus, been challenged to help others in difficulties and have no doubt had many individual opportunities to do so. Barriers have come down, we have got to know our neighbours better, and we have all found ways to help each other.

The pastoral care team exists to focus this activity in church, though, of course, much goes on quietly and unseen outside the team's activities, as we all live out our Christian faith and calling. The team has become more established and structured from January this year, which has proved very timely in our current situation.

Pre coronavirus we were continuing the practice, started in 2018, of



occasional afternoon tea with Holv Communion. In February Jane Nicholson very kindly hosted a variation on this theme afternoon tea with Songs of Praise. About 15 of us, including members of the team, enjoyed an afternoon of hymn singing, with hymns chosen by all the participants, accompanied on Jane's piano. This was followed by a delicious

afternoon tea and was very much enjoyed and appreciated.

Then Covid-19 intervened and prevented any more tea parties for the time being. However, we were able to plan how we could offer support to the older or otherwise more vulnerable members of the congregation and also those known to us in the nearby community. Initially we were able to do shopping for those who found it difficult to get out. This was eventually superseded by people making their own arrangements. Some of the children of our congregation also sent pictures and letters to those who were housebound, which has brought great delight to the recipients. At the moment we regularly phone those who are more or less housebound, to offer support, practical help or just a chat.

In August last year several of our team joined with Oasis Hub as it began its Make Lunch project, providing cooked lunches for families struggling to feed their children in the school holidays. We continue to be linked with the Hub as it takes this project forward. Covid-19 meant that gatherings for a cooked lunch were replaced by food parcel distribution to 45 families, and several of us have been able to help with this.

We hope we can continue to rise to the evolving challenges of this pandemic, and beyond, as we seek to show God's love, both to those in the Christ Church congregation and to others known to us in our local community.

Rebekah Cunningham

2.11 Pilgrim Group and Discipleship

As has been our custom for the past two years, the summer term of Pilgrim Group was devoted to a series of invited lectures. In the summer of 2019 our theme was "Spirituality on the Edge." Rachel Mann, transgender priest, poet, writer and broadcaster opened our series with her titular lecture.

Jonathan Stead reflected on "Spirituality in a time of Crisis," drawing on his experiences of living under, and through the collapse of, apartheid in South Africa, Fiona Gardner, psychoanalytic psychotherapist, spiritual director, writer and congregation member, brought spiritual and psychological insight to the American contemplative and writer Thomas Merton in her talk "On the edge of insight: the contemplative mysticism of Thomas Merton."

Revd Maria Shepherd, Rector of Avebury, explored the challenges and possibilities presented by working in a community with strong links to a spirituality older than Christianity. Her talk on "Building Bridges," a story of emerging understanding between Christians and Pagans, introduced us to the challenges and surprises found in ministering in this ancient village. At the end of our series we were delighted to welcome back Nicky Gladstone, ordinand and project leader at Carecent York, who is well known to Christ Church. She reflected on her work with those who may feel themselves on the edge of society

In the Autumn term, the group read aloud together Rowan Williams' book Being Disciples. The discipline of reading aloud slowed us down and enabled us to absorb this deeply written book. We ended the year with a reflective Pilgrim feast sharing food, stories, poems and music.

In January 2020 we embarked on a study of the Gospel of John in the light of Mark's Gospel. In March it became clear that we would have to continue as a virtual group – and found the format so successful that we increased the frequency of meetings from fortnightly to weekly. We added on a study of 1 John led by Peter and Beryl Bowes, which took us up to the end of July. We will rest over the summer and restart on Thursday 1 October, when we will be exploring what it means to be Resurrection people.

Christ Church is also running an Exploring Christianity Group which is about to embark on the sixth and last module of the course. It is now nearly two years since we started, and the group has become a supportive discipleship group, helping all of us involved to learn, question, and explore the challenges of faith and vocation.

Lore Chumbley

2.12 St Andrew's School

St Andrew's has risen wonderfully to the challenge of Covid-19. As you can imagine, there has been a huge amount of planning to do. The leadership team has spent much time in co-ordinating between the Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust, to which we now belong, members of staff on and off site, and hundreds of anxious families. Jayne our Head has also been required to compile an exhaustive risk assessment document. Times change: I imagine that Christ Church Infants in 1940 would only have had brief notes to follow in case of gas attacks, air raids or bomb damage. I might be wrong.

You will be heartened, not surprised, to know that the chief part of St Andrew's care has been going to our vulnerable children. We know that many of them see school as a sanctuary, and life in lockdown has been anything but fun for them. On a practical note, free school lunches usually give these children the nourishment they badly need. So over the emergency St. Andrew's has been helping out with food parcels.

All the children at St Andrew's are busy recording their reactions to the pandemic. Even the very young have been using a series of different colours in their drawings to express their hopes and fears. This is the beginning of a process that can only be concluded once the pandemic. please God, is over. Then the school will be planning a special time of reflection for us all.

Sarah Sheppard, Foundation Governor, St Andrew's School

Christ Church Council 2019-20

Ex officio

Revd Lore Chumbley

Mark Elliott Reader

Churchwarden Lewis Boyd Janet Mahto Churchwarden Sarah Kerr Deanery Synod rep Jane Nicholson Deanery Synod rep Brenda Wall Deanery Synod rep

Elected until 2020

Matthew Jones **Sharon Rawlings** Zoë Bushell

Vice Chair

Priest-in-charge

Elected until 2021

Judith Bishop Jonathan Stead Alex Soboslay

Elected until 2022

Georgina Bowman Virginia Knight (one position vacant) Treasurer

Co-opted

Will Willans **Tower Captain & Ringing Master**

Three members to be elected at this AGM will serve until 2023. A fourth member may be elected to serve pro tem until 2022.

Office holders as at 11 October 2020

Churchwardens

Lewis Boyd Janet Mahto

Assistant Churchwardens

Sylvia Ayers, Jane Nicholson, Tosin Onile-Ere Rotini, Judith Bishop, Alex Soboslav

Deanery Synod Representatives

Brenda Wall Sarah Kerr Jane Nicholson Two reps to be elected at this AGM will serve until 2023

Sidespersons

Ken Avers, Sylvia Avers, Morny Davison, Jane Nicholson, Margaret Silver, Jonathan Stead



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."