

The project vision and importance

Christ Church has an important role in both providing support for its congregation and the Bath area through help for people and charities. We aim to be the 'heart' of our community, through:

- The Christ Church Community Café.
- Practical support for the homeless at Church.
- Food bank collection and distribution.
- Support by the Church for Genesis Trust, Julian House, Burlington House.
- Working with St Andrews School and local churches.
- Promoting education in the local community through interactive lectures, our 'New You' initiative promoting healthy living and eating, and our Pilgrim Course.
- We have responded to demands in the community for a place to meet for study and discussion, lectures, music making and a place to go to for care, attention and support.
- Christ Church has increasingly become a 'Go To' place for friendship in our local society. We are an 'all week, all year' inclusive and welcoming church.
- We want to provide better facilities for everybody, and grow as a reliable centre of community and Christian excellence.
- We support public talks, debates, charity events, book launches and discussion forums, music recitals and concerts, joint worship, care and advice to the troubled and poor, and education through socialising with other churches as part of ecumenical work.

What is Christ Church?

Christ Church is located to the north of Bath city centre. This Grade II listed building was designed by architect John Palmer, (c.1738 -1817) and was the first church built in Bath in the neo-Gothic style. It was consecrated in November 1798 and was known as a preaching house.

A curved and decorated apse was added in 1866 when the house adjacent to the church at 5 Montpelier was purchased and demolished, and beautiful stained glass windows by A.O. Hemmings were added in 1890.

The church is in the Bath Conservation Area and Bath World Heritage Site, within the Parish of Walcot, but as a proprietary chapel, (or Peculiar), it stands outside of the Church of England parish system.

It is significant that the founding of the church was led by a group of benefactors, amongst whom was William Wilberforce, the great anti slavery campaigner, and Charles Daubney, its first vicar, with the aim of providing worship with free seating for the many people in Bath who could not afford the pew rents in Bath Abbey.



*A liberal & inclusive church,
seeking God through beauty in our
worship, honesty in our faith &
doubt, & service in our community*

*Reordering
Appeal*



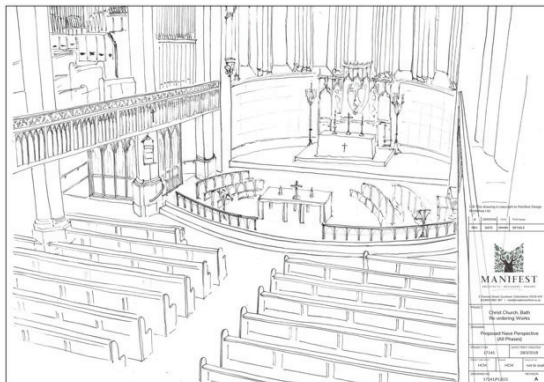
Christ Church

What have we already done?

We have raised over £300,000 in the past 15 years for major projects:

- Replacement of church lighting.
- A modernised church kitchen.
- Improvements in the adjacent Church Hall for meetings, socials and social care, available for local people.
- Complete restoration and rehang of the bells.
- New boiler and heating system.
- New accessible toilets and a new lobby.
- A new amplification system (with T link for the hard of hearing).
- Our organ has been repaired and upgraded over the years, and as part of separate fund raising and because of recent serious damage, is undergoing further improvements. It is one of the best in the area, supporting our choir and congregation, and regular organ recitals are planned when work on the organ is completed.

All of these changes will help the church to become more of a focal point for our local area.



What are we planning to do?

East End Reordering

We want Christ Church to welcome everybody, to be a focus for the good news of the gospel and to be a central point for the community.

We need financial help to improve our facilities further. The full cost which is outlined below is £98,000.

Phase 1.

At the east end of the church we need to reduce the number of steps from 4 to 2 and provide a large stage which can be used by the community as a single level for worship, lectures, education and recitals. There will be a new curved communion rail.

timing: first half of 2019

estimated cost: £15,000

We will install new, flexible furniture at the east end for our choir and clergy which will be in a curved design to mirror the apse and give a greater sense of gathering together round the communion table

timing: end of 2019

estimated cost: £42,000

We will need a new communion table for the new configuration

timing: mid 2019

estimated cost: £4,000

Fees and contingencies : £9,000

Phase 2

We will create a chapel for private prayer and meditation at the south side of the church with new screens to the north and west

timing: end of 2019

estimated Cost: £28,000

Phase 3

The Lady Chapel will be moved to the new south chapel and wheelchair access provided via a ramp.

Future Plans— for which we are not now applying for funds

At the west end, outside the Church, a ramp will allow wheelchair access for both members of the congregation and the general public.

Inside the church, glass screening at the rear of the church, behind the pews will provide space for hospitality and secure meeting and play areas. We have had several requests for this facility.

How can we pay for this?

£98,000 is required for the first two phases of the east end work, and we plan to raise the money in three ways:-

1. From the Christ Church Trust - £21,000
2. Fund raising by the congregation has already started with £8,000 raised so far - Target £10,000
3. A direct appeal to individuals - £20,000
4. Applying to trusts and charities - £47,000

Christ Church, Bath

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