



# Christ Church Bath

## ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

**Sunday 14 May 2023  
11:15am, Christ Church,  
Julian Road, Bath BA1 2RH**

### Agenda

1. Opening prayers
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the previous ACM (Sunday 8 May 2022)
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 2022
  - (iv) Deanery Synod
7. Elections and appointments
  - (i) Election of Churchwardens
  - (ii) Election of Deanery Synod Representatives – 2 to be elected
  - (iii) Elections to Church Council – to elect 4 members
  - (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 8 May 2022 at 11:30 am

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

**Clerk:** Emma Elliott.

**Present:** 31 people.

It was agreed by assent that Emma Elliott would take minutes at the meeting because the Secretary to the Trustees was unwell.

**1. Opening Prayers:** Lore opened the meeting with prayer and remembered especially Dawn Hooper, Margaret Silver, Jane Fletcher and Sharon Rawlings, who have died over the past year.

**2. Apologies:** Margaret White, Simon Tatton Brown, Kara Maylor, Robin Kerr and Sarah Kerr sent their apologies.

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes were adopted as a true accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by Mark Elliott, seconded by Malcolm Wall. All votes in favour.

**4. Matters Arising:** Alex Soboslay asked for confirmation on what happened to the bequest made by Penny Edwards. Nick Wells reported that it was paid into general funds.

**5. Remarks from the Priest-in-charge:** In addition to her report in the booklet Lore made some further remarks. Her spirits are raised now that we can come together again as a congregation because she remembers the time when we couldn't meet. Things have changed in the last year. We have lost people, some of whom have died, and others who have moved away. We have also welcomed new people, especially our Curate Kara (who is unable to be present at the meeting due to a diocesan training day).

She expressed her thanks to many people including

- our Trustees, especially to Nick Wells, who took over as Chair this year
- our Council, and Jonathan our lay chair

- our retired clergy team: Peter and Beryl Bowes, and Simon Tatton-Brown
- to all those who figure in the reports
- Angela our verger, who works behind the scenes to make things run smoothly
- Alex Soboslay for producing our magazine

On Sunday 18th September Bishop Michael will come to Christ Church to consecrate the St Michael Chapel.

## 6. Reports

**6a Electoral Roll:** The Electoral Roll report records 93 people on the roll as of 24th April 2022.

**6b Chair of Trustees:** Following on from the published report from the Chair of Trustees, there were no further questions raised. Lore expressed her thanks to all the time, effort, and attention to detail that the Trustees give to the church.

**6c Financial Report:** Alex Soboslay asked for further clarification on the separation of the bank accounts. David Bishop responded:

There are three accounts in total. All three accounts fall under the Christ Church Financial Accounts.

- Bellringers
- Property
- General

A decision was made some years ago to better-define the Church Council duties and responsibilities. In line with this, it made sense for Council to have control of a bank account for practical reasons. The Council's treasurer can look after that account and pay bills etc. Since Richard Gabe took over as Council treasurer, the regular freewill giving has been moved to the General account (instead of the property account) and this is the account that the Council will have access to, in order to carry out their duties. The bellringers account is a separate small account that the bellringers have direct access to.

David made one further separate point of clarification, that the expenditure of £30,000 (under projects) includes some payments for the vestry roof.

Lore expressed gratitude to David Bishop and Richard Gabe. She reported that a letter had been received from the Archdeacon, thanking the church for maintaining its voluntary Parish Share payments to the diocese over the pandemic.

**6d Deanery Synod Report:** One small correction to the report was noted. The Deanery Synod meeting referenced in section 1.9 (on page 16) was in May 2021, not May 2022. There were no further questions to the Deanery Synod representatives. Brenda and Pauline were thanked for standing as reps.

## 7. Elections:

**7a Churchwardens:** Janet Mahto was proposed by David Rawlings and seconded by Georgina Bowman. Jane Nicholson was proposed by Sarah Cade and seconded by Clive Tilling.

There being no other nominations, Jane and Janet were elected unopposed as churchwardens and thanked for their continued service.

**7b Church Council:** Council rules state that if there is a “Casual Vacancy” on Council, and no general meeting will take place within two months, then the Council can elect someone to fill that post. Sharon Rawlings was a member of Council, and following her death, it was agreed that David Rawlings would be asked to take her place on the Council. However, the minutes of the Council, when the appointment was made, state that David was co-opted at this meeting, rather than elected, to fill the post. Ian Hay Davison proposed that we affirm the action of the Council. All were in favour and therefore David remains appointed to Council until 2023.

There are three vacancies to fill, to stand until 2025. The following nominations were received:

Zi Ling (proposed Georgina Bowman, seconded Rebekah Cunningham)

Isaac Elliott (proposed Jenny Hesketh, seconded Zoe Bushell)

Lucy Humbert (Proposed Jane Nicholson, seconded Wilhelmina Ligt)

All three were duly declared elected.

**7c Independent Financial Examiner:** Waldron Partnership will be appointed as independent examiners for the forthcoming financial year. This was proposed by David Bishop and seconded by Oosman Tegally. All were in favour.

**7d Approval for the inclusion of Lay Reader on Church Council:** Lore asked for approval to include Mark Elliott as an ex-officio member of Council. This was proposed by Sylvia Ayers and seconded by Jane Nicholson. All were in favour.

## 8. Any Other Business:

**8.i Letter of thanks to Bishop Ruth:** Jonathan Stead proposed that a letter of thanks be drawn up and sent to Bishop Ruth, who has been standing in for the Bishop of Bath and Wells during his absence. All agreed that this was an excellent suggestion, and Jonathan kindly agreed to draft the letter.

**8.ii West End:** Ian Hay Davison asked when we can expect to begin work on the west end renovations, which includes the addition of a Donors' board for the bells. Lore reported that a faculty application has been lodged. As well as the west end changes, this faculty application also includes the donors' board and two new silver candlesticks for the St Michael Chapel.

**8.iii Bell ringers:** Ian Hay Davison reported that over the past year, seven ringers have been lost, due to illness, retirement or death. Training of new ringers is being done by Maggie. New ringers are always welcome.

Ian requested that Will Willans, the Tower Captain, be co-opted on to Council. All were in favour and acknowledged the importance of this appointment.

Brenda Wall asked Ian to pass on our thanks to the ringers. It is always a joy to hear them ringing on Sunday mornings and they ring to a very high standard.

**8.iv Flowers:** Nick Wells thanked the flower arrangers for their service and reminded the congregation that new flower arrangers are always welcome. The current team is a small one and is looking to expand. The flower arranging at church is of a very high standard.

**8.v Vote of thanks to Lore:** Sylvia Ayers proposed a vote of thanks to Lore for all she does for us, and especially for her sermons. All agreed, and Lore received a lengthy round of applause and a standing ovation.

**9. Next Annual Church Meeting:** Sunday 14 May 2023, following the morning Eucharist.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 11:59am with the Grace.

# REPORTS for 2022

## 1. Administrative Reports

### 1.1 Electoral Roll

The number on the electoral roll as at April 2022 was 93.

Since then, four people have been removed from the register and nine added to it.

The count for 2023 is therefore 98.

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

Current members of the electoral roll whose address has changed since April 2022 should inform me of their updated details.

Data correct at time of writing (April 2023).

*Judith Anderson*

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

It is a great privilege to continue to serve you as priest in charge of Christ Church in this, our 225th anniversary year. As we look back over the past year we remember those we have lost, and in particular: Yvonne Morris, who with Donald served Christ Church faithfully for many years; Ian Hay Davison, who masterminded the installation of our bells; and our recent past chair of Trustees, Charles Rice. For each of them the Christ Church family responded to their death with glorious music, flowers arranged with love and sensitivity and the solemn ringing of bells. We are all mortal but Christ's church will continue, expectant, until his return and it is heartening that we have welcomed new people, young and old, into Christ Church this year.

During Holy Week of 2022, Kara our curate sang the exultet with a convincing clarity at our Easter vigil service. Covid restrictions lifted sufficiently for us to attend her priesting in June and join her as she presided at her first Communion service the next day. We marked the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in style with a regal tea party. The Lower Mews hosted two art exhibitions for Christ Church artists and a celebration of Ken and Sylvia's diamond wedding anniversary. When the sad announcement was made that her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had died, Christ Church responded. Within 30 minutes the doors were open, candles burning and music playing to welcome the community in for refectation and prayer.

And that I hope is the motif for the past year. Almost imperceptibly Christ Church has become a place to which people come. The Cedar Tree community cafe is thriving. Our Caribbean community celebrated not only Windrush Day, but also a new Caribbean community or “Cari-com” service in Christ Church, and we will do so again this year. At Christmas we were proud to host an inclusive carol service jointly with St Stephen’s, St Mary’s Charlcombe and Oasis Church. Paul Bayes, retired bishop of Liverpool, spoke about the need for the church to model humility, lament and genuine welcome. Around a hundred people attended and afterwards lingered over refreshments, touched to find they were truly welcome. Kara’s walks with Barney the ministry dog at the University of Bath have encouraged students to discover Christ Church, and we are happy that some have made it their home church. At the beginning of 2022 Christ Church Council discerned a calling to build bridges to those around us – to individuals, the local community and to local churches. The foundations were already in place and as Covid restrictions were lifted we have been able to build those bridges strengthening our partnerships. As we celebrate our 225th year we look forward to hosting community celebrations in Julian Road in partnership with The Museum of Bath at Work, St Mary’s Roman Catholic Church and Burlington House, and welcoming local people into Christ Church – their church.

*Revd Lore Chumbley*

### **1.3 Report from the Curate**

It is a joy being a Curate at Christ Church. The rich variety of liturgical celebrations together with the passionate approach towards our Church community and wider community has taught me so much. Highlights have been outings with the wonderful Cedar Tree community both to Sham Castle and City Farm together with our weekly walks in our beautiful city. On our walks we always make time to appreciate and pray for each other and situations and we have seen many prayers answered, and our relationships to God and each other go deeper.

Holy Week is a particular highlight with the wonderful father-son duo of Mark and Isaac leading us in sung Compline, the community spirit of the Passover meal, then the solemnity of Good Friday culminating in the Easter Vigil at St. Mary’s. Then the stunning sunrise service in the garden leading to the jubilation of our Easter Day celebrations.

Walking with the students at the University has been so fulfilling. Barney our ministry dog is a firm favourite and through this a number



of them have been welcomed into our Christ Church family. We had the privilege of baptising Michael last year. In addition there is now an evening group specifically for the under-30s age group, the Lighthouse group. This is led admirably by our fabulous Carol. I was fortunate to have them all to my house for an Easter celebration. Two of the girls cooked us the most delicious curry.

I have loved becoming part of the St. Andrew's School community too. I lead assemblies a couple of times a term and am in once a week to coach netball for Year 5 and 6. We have our first match against Bathford in a couple of weeks.

My membership of the local ecumenical group Still Waters has led to many beautiful evenings in St. John's Within. Once a month, we share food, a creative hour (which can be a variety of things from craft to walking) and evening prayer. Any of you would always be welcome.

Being priested in the Abbey was a truly joyful day and I was thrilled that so many of you joined me. I was so honoured by the celebration you held for me and the way my family and friends were made to feel so welcome.

I have enjoyed learning to ring the bells although I am a slow learner and Maggie has been so patient with me. Hopefully by the end of my Curacy I will actually be able to join a Tower team!

Being involved in the church at the death of Her Majesty the Queen and the Coronation which is coming soon has been very interesting. The resources that the Anglican Church provided us so well illustrate the breadth of the institution of which I feel honoured to be a part.

The celebrations for our 225 birthday are of course still all to come. I am really looking forward to Lucy and I doing our "brunch and boogie" morning – i.e., brunch then a guided walk after church, in a couple of weeks. And am intrigued to see what will happen with our artist inspired workshop "the Net" in June. And that is only a tiny glimpse of the rest of the year.

Huge thanks to you all and of course most especially to Lore for being the most inspiring, wise, kind and encouraging Training Incumbent a person could have.

*Revd Kara Maylor*

## 1.4 Trustees

**Christ Church, Bath**

**Charity No: 1055275**

**Trustees' Annual Report 2022-2023**

### List of Trustees

**Chair:** Nick Wells (from 27.06.21, appointed 18.07.18)

**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 Sheppard (re-appointed 23.07.19)

Oosman Tegally (appointed 25.11.21)

Clive Tilling (re-appointed 23.07.19)

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, by providing buildings and open spaces for religious activities, facilities and services for the general public/mankind.

**Policies:** The Trustees have adopted the following policies: For the Appointment of New Trustees (reviewed 09.03.23); Conflict of Interest (reviewed 08.09.22); Processing Personal Data (reviewed 08.09.22); Safeguarding (revised 28.04.22) Protection of Electronic and Written Data (08.09.22); Safeguarding Policy and Safeguarding Procedures (revised 09.03.23); Risk Policy and Register (reviewed 13.10.22); Health & Safety (adopted 19.01.23); Investment Policy (09.02.23); Standing Orders (reviewed 08.09.22). Reserves policy: It is the policy of the Trustees to hold a cash reserve of at least £15,000.

*Simon Tatton-Brown*

## **1.5 Chair of Trustees**

Trustees have continued to meet every six weeks or so throughout the year. Their focus continues to be the effective 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.

Trustees' immediate aim is to build our financial resources at a time when costs are rising rapidly after several years of large transformational projects. In particular, we wish to ensure adequate reserves ahead of major maintenance of the main church roof, which is likely to arise in the longer term, and to provide a buffer for expenditure triggered by the imminent Quinquennial inspection.

Our income in 2022/23 was significantly reduced as a result of the long-term tenant in the Upper Mews leaving in August. A new commercial tenant has recently signed an eight-year lease and is expected to move in shortly. There has also been a change of tenancy in one of the Cottages albeit with only a short vacant period. The opportunity has been taken when negotiating with new tenants to raise rents to reflect current market rates.

A number of safety improvements have been made, or are in train. In particular, the staircase in the tower has been strengthened and approval sought for safety rails on the church roof.

Under our Architect's advice we continue to monitor the masonry crack beneath the Gallery North West window and to date, the movement appears historic. We have consulted a stained glass window specialist regarding refurbishment of the main Gallery windows and he has advised that limited repair is unlikely to be effective and that wholesale repair will require external scaffolding, significantly increasing the cost. Any programme in this regard is on hold pending the findings of the

Quinquennial inspection. Trustees will then prioritise works according to urgency.

We were pleased to get Diocesan approval for the new bells simulator used for bellringer training.

Robin Kerr again undertook a host of repairs across the estate for which we are very grateful. Robin has installed insulation in the church and in one of the cottages thereby improving energy efficiency. David Bishop, as Treasurer, has been involved in all aspects of the Trust's business and has spent many hours accordingly in our service. Simon Tatton Brown, as Secretary, has been central to the work the Trust continues to do to tighten our governance. Trustees now consider safeguarding and health & safety at every meeting and regular reports are provided on these matters. All the Trust's policies remain subject to annual review.

After many years' service as a Trustee, Clive Tilling is standing down and he leaves with our very best wishes for good health and happiness in his well-earned "retirement".

On behalf of Trustees, I thank Lore again for her work during the past year for the whole Christ Church community. We are also grateful for Kara's contribution and for that of our hardworking churchwardens. I pray that Christ Church will continue to grow both within our church building and outside it.

*Nick Wells, Chair, Trustees of Christ Church Bath*

## **1.6 Church Council**

The Council met 5 times during the year under review and was able to move to virtual attendance rather than a hybrid of Zoom and in person. At the Annual Meeting on 8 May 2022 the congregation elected Zi Ling, Isaac Elliott and Lucy Humbert to the Council and they were warmly welcomed. In addition our Deanery Synod representatives, Pauline Swaby-Wallace and Brenda Wall, are valuable members.

At its first meeting the new Council re-elected Jonathan Stead as Lay Chair. A vote of appreciation was passed to former members Virginia Knight, Georgina Bowman and Rebekah Cunningham for their service.

Council discussions followed regular reports on church activities from the Pastoral Care group, worship leaders and Deanery Synod as well as from the Council Treasurer, Richard Gabe. Council thanked the Pastoral Care team for the quarterly Eucharist and tea for older members of the congregation and those whose who have moved away from our area. These events are much valued by the attendees. The monthly reflec-

tive Iona service has become established on our calendar and attracts a regular group.

The Council Treasurer kept Council up to date with the current financial situation and our need to raise our income through various streams but most important, through increased dedicated giving that enables the church to do longer term planning.

The 225th anniversary of Christ Church in 2023 provided Council with the opportunity to start developing a programme of events to celebrate the occasion. This would include a Time and Talent challenge, an Open Day, a ceilidh, and a festive Eucharist on the Sunday closest to the day of its dedication. A marketing leaflet was designed and agreed upon, and will be available for visitors to the church. This would be part of a general programme to raise the profile of Christ Church as many Bath residents do not know of its existence.

There were extensive discussions on the cost of energy in relation to the church usage but also in terms of the “warm spaces” project to provide a heated and safe space for local people during the winter. The need to be as green as possible in energy choices was emphasised, in line with our commitment through the Eco-Church declaration.

Council is very appreciative of the tireless work of the Priest in Charge, Revd Lore Chumbley, the Curate, Revd Kara Maylor, and the Director of Music as well as all those involved in the many varied activities that make Christ Church such a dynamic and creative worshipping community.

*Jonathan Stead*

## **1.7 Safeguarding**

I am happy to record that there have been no significant incidents regarding safeguarding since my 2022 report.

I have set up a dedicated email address [christchbathsafeguarding@gmail.com](mailto:christchbathsafeguarding@gmail.com) to separate safeguarding correspondence from my personal email. Details of this and of the new Diocesan out-of-hours telephone number for safeguarding (0303 003 1111) are posted at the back of church. I look forward to the arrival of the church noticeboards, which will have a dedicated area for safeguarding notices: contact email addresses and phone numbers, our policy and procedures, and the posters about Modern Slavery and domestic abuse which we have been asked to display.

Since April 2023 I have arranged 8 DBS checks. The number of these checks has increased because more people require them, and now more frequently – every 3 years instead of every 5. As a result, arranging them, and fielding any resulting exchanges of email, is now taking up a larger part of the safeguarding role that was ever originally intended. With this in mind I propose that someone else should take over primary responsibility for DBS checks at Christ Church. I would remain available to assist with the checks if needed. Such a splitting of the safeguarding role is increasingly becoming the pattern in larger churches where there is no paid administrator.

I took part in the first online diocesan safeguarding forum, which I found moderately helpful, though sparsely attended. I hope to attend other such forums when time pressures permit.

Safeguarding is an important task which remains largely invisible and it has been proposed that we make it a theme for one Sunday. In fact, there was an official “Safeguarding Sunday” in 2022 but it was rather thoughtlessly placed on the Sunday before Advent, a busy one for many churches and especially so at Christ Church. This year it is on 19th November, which avoids that particular clash and might be a possibility.

*Virginia Knight, Safeguarding Officer*

## **1.8 Treasurer’s Report on the Financial Year 2022**

The FY2021 accounts for Christ Church Bath were inspected by Waldrons and filed with the Charity Commission on time. The church’s finances remained healthy through 2022 with funds increasing by £18,000, reflecting a year without significant project or building maintenance expenditure.

### **Trust**

Rent from carparking and from the two cottages continued as normal with only one month’s rent lost from Cottage 1 due to a change of tenancy. In financial terms the most significant event of 2022 was BAMM’s decision to close their business at the end of their ten-year lease on 2 August. A new tenant was found in late November who is currently moving in, but the vacancy has resulted in over 8 months of lost revenue, increased overheads and legal costs, resulting in a net loss to Christ Church funds in excess of £25,000.

The shortfall was offset by £8,500 of VAT recovered from the last bills of the East End project under the DCMS’s Listed Places of Worship Scheme.

A generous legacy was received from the estate of a church member who died in 2022.

The Upper Mews vacancy led to the Trustees deferring their policy decision to build up Trust investments in preparation for future major building maintenance, such as the main church roof. This comes after a number of years of major project expenditure in the church. Necessary repairs to the Mews building roof and measures to improve church balcony security are already under discussion, and a quinquennial inspection by the church architect in April will further help define our medium-term commitments, facilitating longer-term planning and adherence to the Trust's investment policy.

## **Council**

Freewill offerings from church members remained at a high level (over £50,000 including GiftAid recovery), with 95% now paid regularly by standing orders. This gives comparative assurance of regular month on month income which is a great help in managing the Council's budget.

Christ Church continues to build its reputation for hosting outside events. Concerts, talks, silent movie screenings, book signings and other events brought in over £6,500 in 2022. Despite Toppings moving to larger premises better suited to their book signings, 13 such events were hosted at Christ Church during 2022 with others scheduled in 2023.

Internal events such as sales of artwork and jewellery raised almost £1,500.

The church's £15,000 promised contribution to the Diocese was met in full, and this amount has been increased by 10% for 2023. Spending on wages rose in line with inflation, and Will Beech joined the payroll in October as Organ Scholar.

Despite the energy price hikes in 2022, spending on utilities remained in line with previous years as Christ Church's electricity and gas contract prices were fixed. These costs were mitigated by the Church of England's £750 energy grant, covering about 10% of spend. Both utilities contracts are both due for renegotiation in 2023, with higher prices appearing inevitable. Other church running costs remained broadly in line with previous years.

*David Bishop*

***(see table, next page)***

### Key figures for 2022, presented on a non-accrual basis

<b>Income</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
<i>Trustees</i>		
Property	£34,700	£41,300
Carparking	£21,500	£17,400
Investments	£1,300	£1,100
Other Trustees' income	£6,100	£500
<b>ST Trustees Income</b>	<b>£63,600</b>	<b>£60,300</b>
<i>Council</i>		
Charitable giving	£39,500	£38,900
GiftAid received	£9,500	£15,900
Use of church & other	£15,100	£4,800
<b>ST Council Income</b>	<b>£64,100</b>	<b>£59,600</b>
<i>Major Project Fundraising</i>		
Donations	£0	£3,200
Church initiatives	£0	£0
VAT recovery	£8,600	£0
<b>ST Fundraising</b>	<b>£8,600</b>	<b>£3,200</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£136,300</b>	<b>£123,100</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<i>Trustees</i>		
Property running costs/repairs	£16,400	£15,400
Church maint	£300	£1,800
Incumbent and admin	£15,500	£18,000
Insurances	£5,200	£3,900
<b>ST Trustees Expenditure</b>	<b>£37,400</b>	<b>£39,100</b>
<i>Council</i>		
Wages	£16,300	£15,200
Utilities	£7,500	£7,100
Other church running costs	£13,200	£7,800
Choir and music	£2,900	£1,900
Diocesan contribution *	£14,000	£15,000
Charitable works	£800	£900
<b>ST Council Expenditure</b>	<b>£54,700</b>	<b>£47,900</b>
<i>Major Project Expenditure</i>		
East End (chapel & lighting)	£26,300	£30,800
<b>ST Projects</b>	<b>£26,300</b>	<b>£30,800</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£ 118,400</b>	<b>£ 117,800</b>
<b>Gain / Loss</b>	<b>£17,900</b>	<b>£5,300</b>

\* Final £1000 paid in January



## 1.9 Deanery Synod

Challenging topics and issues have had to be faced and discussed at Deanery Synod meetings over the last few months, and the difficulties and challenging decisions to be made are by no means over yet.

The way ahead for the Deanery is seen as shaping a culture of prayerfulness, hospitality and innovation. Prayer is the cornerstone and direction for developing faith in the City and villages around Bath.

Hospitality has been defined as “looking for Christ in the other” and “being vulnerable to the other” so that they can see Christ in us, especially our neighbours of different faiths and none.

Innovation in the Deanery is going to mean taking risks, learning from the past and building on what is going to be fruitful in the future, where God is working amongst us.

It seems to me that Christ Church is already advanced on the path of prayer, innovation and hospitality and we can be pleased with what we already have achieved. Meeting and hearing from Pastors and ministers in other churches outside the CofE in Bath demonstrated a great longing for unity and strategy in mission in order to find the “lost souls of Bath”, to encourage one another as we move closer to the glory of God.

I have been elected to the DMPG – the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group – where some very painful issues have been faced head-on. Numbers of regular worshippers have been declining during the last ten years in Bath and the Diocese as a whole, and the pandemic had a profound effect on the Christian congregations of Bath: many worshippers simply did not return after lockdown was lifted. As a result the Church in Bath is running at a £1.25million deficit and there are few reserves.

The fact also is that Bath is “overpopulated” with stipendiary clergy when compared with other parts of the diocese and the country as a whole. Changes in the way that the churches in Bath are staffed and run will have to be made over the next few years. The financially better off parishes are going to have to support the poorer “magnificat parishes”, and those parishes who have the luxury of being well provided for in terms of ordained ministry may have to lose some of it. Four stipendiary posts will have to go, probably through retirements of clergy, and lay people are going to have to be trained to help across the Deanery.

It is hoped that partnerships of churches and congregations will be forged so that resources are carefully and effectively used and the Church in Bath remains vibrant and continues to grow. We all have to be responsible stewards, working in faith and continually praying for God’s help. “Come Holy Ghost our souls inspire!”

*Brenda Wall*

## 2 Reports on Church Activities

### 2.1 Bell ringing

We have had twelve uninterrupted months. I'd almost forgotten what that was like. Even against a background of "interesting times", nationally and globally, there was a satisfaction I think we all shared, in getting back to the regular rhythm of practice and service ringing.

And, as they say, much more besides.

First, the Platinum Jubilee, for which the ringing was done by our most recent recruits and returners – Maggie's idea – more on this later. We tolled at the death of Her late Majesty – as it happened, within minutes of the announcement, which was picked up during a tied-bell session. We rang for the Proclamation in Bath of His Majesty King Charles III. We tolled again at the State Funeral.

Then we lost Ian, who had achieved what many thought was the impossible task of getting Christ Church "a proper ring of bells"; who in addition to countless other commitments served first as Tower Master, then as our Secretary and Treasurer; whose ebullient personality was an inspiration to us all. We rang, of course – as instructed, half-muffled before the funeral, "open" after, and getting the muffles off during the service was a bit of a challenge – but we coped, as Ian knew we would.

Meanwhile, the regular ringing has prospered, thanks to long-term regulars – also recent "returners", among them David Guy, back after nearly forty years. And, Christ Church is fully involved in a national recruiting drive, looking forward to the Coronation – "Ring for the King". Maggie is taking the lead in this, and reports:

With the advent of the simulator upgrade last year, there is much more potential for Christ Church to be known as a "teaching tower". We can muffle all eight bells and use a laptop to simulate the sound of each bell in real time, so the neighbours are undisturbed and we have extra time for practising.

Over the last year we have had extra individual or group sessions in the tower on at least three days each week. This involves 12 novices, 2 new ringing teachers, and 7 more experienced people returning to ringing after a gap of some years. As well as those who call Christ Church their home tower, we have ringers from Bathampton, Keynsham, Bathwick, and the Abbey, as well as two new students from the University of Bath.

Ringling is not just for the Coronation, but we are looking forward to including as many of these friends as possible when Christ Church rings for King Charles III.

I think Ian would be proud of us.

*William Willans, Tower Master*

## **2.2 Cedar Tree Café**

Cedar Tree continues to flourish. It is held every Friday from 11am to 1:30pm. The “regulars” enjoy their lunch and home-made cakes alongside the chance to sit and chat. Games of table-top Jenga are played with enormous enthusiasm, while some are helping make cards for sale in Christ Church or doing puzzles. Other folk see our sign outside on a Friday and drop in to see us. All are welcome to join in the friendly atmosphere and have a cup of coffee or tea – or something more substantial.

We should welcome more volunteers to help from time to time. Please contact Jenny Hesketh on 07966962444 or email [jenny.hesketh@me.com](mailto:jenny.hesketh@me.com) if you could spare a few hours on a Friday.

*Jenny Hesketh*

## **2.3 Charitable giving**

During the recent pandemic there was a general decline in charitable giving through the plate as fewer people attended church and also because many do not carry cash in this credit/debit card society. This did not improve in 2022 compared to the 2021 or pre-pandemic levels. Some members have been contributing to our charities through a direct gift to the charity in question either through a debit order to USPG or through Just Giving pages. This also means it is difficult to tally how much money the congregation of Christ Church has raised for a particular charity.

It was very heartening to see the congregation responding to the call for new charities to support – and to become their champion for the month in question.

Charitable donation through the plate in church is reflected below:

March 2022 - Church Housing Trust: £110.10

April - Open Doors: £263.70

May - USPG Malawi Project: £104.00

June - New Bridge Foundation: £86.01  
July - Woodland Trust: £96.50  
August - USPG Malawi Project: £141.80  
September - (selected by the Youth Church) Boys in Mind: £418.15  
October - Water Aid UK: £113.00  
November - USPG Malawi Project: £205.70  
December - Julian House/Genesis Trust: £69.30 each  
January/February 2023 - Burlington House: £261.83  
Total: £1,939.39 (excluding donations made directly to charities online or by debit orders)

All donations were made by individuals directly to the named charity. Special mention must be made of the Youth Church, who not only promoted their chosen charity from the lectern but also organised a very successful cake sale and a creative (and entertaining) quiz to guess “who was who” through baby photographs of members of the congregation.

Champions of the various charities pointed out that only a month per charity made it difficult to advertise the charity and raise awareness. As a result Council agreed to give each charity a two month period. As a result we will have 6 charities a year: USPG Malawi Project, Julian House/Genesis Trust, and a charity chosen by the young people, and then 3 other charities selected each year. It was also agreed that local charities should be selected where possible so that the congregation could interact them personally.

We continue to welcome suggestions and comments from the congregation, and will re-assess the new arrangement at the end of the year. We also wish to thank the congregation for their faithful giving at a time when personal finances are tight and there are other calls on their resources.

*Jonathan Stead*

## **2.4 Choir & Music**

Looking back at the last three years’ reports, it’s a great pleasure to be writing this year about a year of growth and building up of the choir, and the wider musical life of the church, after the very difficult Covid years. Whilst in many ways Covid seems a long time ago now, I should note that at the time of the last report just a year ago we were still

singing observing 2m distancing, and it wasn't until June 2022 that we moved the singers back to standing together properly as a choir.

Since then, I'm pleased to say that things have gone from strength to strength: we have had new members join the choir, including two more juniors, which is fantastic; the musical standard has become, if anything, I think higher than immediately pre-Covid; the choir stalls are regularly full on a Sunday morning (which was again not the case immediately pre-Covid). All-in-all, the choir is heading in a very positive direction. The Advent and Christmas carol services have of course been highlights as usual, but I'd also mention the Candlemas "Service of Light". We first held one of these in Feb 2020, just before everything stopped. I thought at the time how successful it was and that we should make it an annual event, which obviously wasn't to be. So being able, eventually, to hold another one three years later felt like another element of putting the pandemic properly behind us.

On a wider musical front, it's been great to be able to restart hosting concerts at Christ Church. The reordered east end now lends itself brilliantly to performances of all types, and we've had everything from a full symphony orchestra to a single folk-fiddle player performing in the space, with a couple of organ improvisations to silent movies on a big screen as well! The fact that it works so well liturgically, but also as a performance space for such diverse performances, proves what a huge success the reordering has been.

I'm grateful to all the people who contribute to producing the music at Christ Church. Everyone in the choir for their dedication, talent and support week by week. David Winters for his skilful, musical, and sensitive organ playing. Will Beach, whom we welcomed to the team as Organ Scholar in the Autumn – it's excellent to have him join us. And to Emma for her great work with our growing junior choir.

Finally, thank you to the congregation of Christ Church for wanting and supporting the choir and musicians. I continue to feel deeply privileged to be Director of Music in a place which so clearly appreciates the contribution we make to the worshipping life of the church.

*Mark Elliott*

## **2.5 Concerts and Events**

2022 has been a busy year for both Christ Church and the Lower Mews and I'd like to thank all those who made themselves available to help where they could.

The Lower Mews was the space for such events as Julian House Day Centre. This ran on one day during the week to encourage those living on the streets to get a hot meal and hot drinks whilst giving an opportunity to benefit from counselling and medical care should individuals need it. Having started with a lot of enthusiasm it unfortunately closed its doors after only a few weeks.

The Lower Mews also was the ideal place to hold a baby massage course, a Bath Councillor surgery on Saturday mornings, a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) parcel wrapping service just before Christmas and even a yoga session for a group on a “Hen” weekend.

A joint art exhibition run by Ling Zi and Colin Chumbley was also a great success.

Christ Church hosted Toppings events started in March 2022 with Michael Morpurgo and continued through the year until November, 13 events in all, and included such famous names as Ian Rankin, footballer Peter Crouch, David Dimbleby and Melvyn Bragg.

Friends of Palestine held a couple of talks during the year and Bath Festival included Christ Church as a venue in their opening night of the Festival, Party in the City. David Briggs gave an organ recital and David Bednall improvised on the organ while the silent film *Nosferatu* was shown.

Again Christ Church played host to Norland Nannies’ carol service, and the Royal School of Church Music, RSCM, held a Friday evensong in the church as part of their weekend course.

The church has hosted a number of concerts including a first performance of Richard Gabe’s *Requiem*, University of Bath Choral and Orchestral Society (ChaOS) as well as two folk concerts: Sam Sweeney and Owen Spafford & Louis Campbell.

There has been an amazing variety of usage of the Church and Lower Mews, which is good. It gets the name of Christ Church out there and the church benefits from the footfall. 2023 promises to be as diverse.

Live-streaming of services continues together with the occasional event where requested.

*Judith Bishop*

## **2.6 Hospitality**

We are known as a welcoming and hospitable community and continue to celebrate after services such as Christ the King and the Christmas

services. In fact we use any opportunity to socialise and celebrate and raise a glass where possible.

Let's continue this through 2023.

Thanks again to all the helpers, we couldn't do this without you!

*Judith Bishop*

## **2.7 Junior Church**

The Junior Church continues to thrive, and we have two groups running on most Sundays. We have recently decided to adjust the groups, and moving forward will be running a creche and a group for older children. This seems to best-serve the needs of our children, with the limitations that we have on space and leaders. We have four regular leaders, as well as Kara, who is very supportive. She often helps with sessions and runs them from time to time. We are grateful for her support. We also thank Lore for her continued nurturing and support of the group.

Some highlights for us from this year have been:

- our Nativity play, which was well-received, as always. Thank you to Sarah J for her beautiful writing.
- child-focused services at Christmas and Easter.
- apple picking day – and our thanks go to Janet for hosting this event.

The Juniors raised a fantastic total of over £400 for their chosen charity in September, Boys in Mind. Thanks must go to all the congregation, who are so supportive of the children's efforts. We are delighted to be supporting the Spafford Children's Center this year and we have enjoyed finding out more about the work of the centre.

We were sad to say goodbye to our friends Akira and Misue earlier this year, as they returned to Japan, but we hope we can keep in touch with them and their family. We have been pleased to welcome some new children into the group over recent months.

It was a pleasure to hear some of the children read so beautifully at our Mothering Sunday service and on Palm Sunday. Also, look out for the children's offerings in the recently-launched Time and Talent initiative. When we look for opportunities for the children to be more involved in church life, we are always mindful that they are not performing seals! Any involvement must be genuine, must make them feel affirmed and valued, and must be meaningful for them.

Thank you to the members of the congregation who are so supportive of the children. Please continue to remember us in your prayers. Anyone interested in helping on an occasional or more regular basis should get in touch.

*Emma Elliott*

Recommended reading for anyone interested in children's ministry is *Beyond the Children's Corner - Creating a culture of welcome for all ages* by Margaret Pritchard Houston, Sandra Millar.

## **2.8 Pastoral Care Group**

This group meets from time to time to ensure that we keep in touch with our community, particularly folk who may be finding it difficult to get to services or are known to be facing problems. Two or three times a year we have a special service in the afternoon, followed by tea in the Mews. Cream teas and homemade cakes are very popular!

*Jenny Hesketh*

## **2.9 Pilgrim Group**

The Pilgrim Group has met in person in the Lower Mews on a fortnightly basis throughout 2022 (with a break for the summer) and after a Christmas break has continued into 2023. During the first half of the year the group studied the Old Testament book of Job, facilitated by Lore, which was stimulating and thought-provoking, engaging as it does with the perennial problem of suffering.

After the summer break we embarked on a study of one of St Paul's earliest (and longest) letters, 1 Corinthians, written to a recently established church struggling with many tricky problems as they explored the implications of their new-found faith. In addition to trying to understand the text and tease out the questions and answers it poses, we have also sought to draw lessons for ourselves in today's Christ Church in 21st century Bath. Several members of the group have contributed stimulating material to start the evening sessions, fuelling lively discussion. At present rates of progress it will certainly be after Easter before we get to the end of the letter!

Sessions have been well-attended throughout the year. Thought is now beginning to turn to "What next?" and the programme for the summer and autumn.

*Beryl and Peter Bowes*



## 2.10 St Andrew's School

As you probably know, I am a foundation governor at St Andrew's School. Long ago I was invited to take up this role to strengthen the link between the school and Christ Church. So Christ Church deserves to hear what has been going on over the last year.

To set the scene, the school has 231 children at present on its books. This number includes our thriving nursery. 39 of our children are currently receiving pupil premium funding. One major concern at present is how the school can best support those early years children badly affected by the isolation COVID caused. When they would normally have been practising playing and learning with others, the pandemic kept them apart. They have missed out on their critical social skills, and this will take a long time to repair. We are not clear what funding the government will provide in this unprecedented situation.

On quite another different note, Jayne Rochford-Smith our head teacher has been given time to share good practice for early years reading and writing across our Bath and Wells Multi-Academy Trust. In time this training package will extend beyond our Trust. We are very proud of Jayne's contribution to this project.

I am grateful for all the insights St Andrew's gives me and for the kindness it extends to me. It is a privilege to serve such an exceptional school.

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

# Christ Church Council 2022-23

## Ex officio

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

## Elected until 2023

Zoë Bushell	
Richard Gabe	Treasurer
David Rawlings ( <i>pro tem</i> )	

## Elected until 2024

Judith Bishop	Secretary
Jonathan Stead	Lay Chair
Malcolm Wall	

## Elected until 2025

Isaac Elliott  
Lucy Humbert  
(*One position vacant*)

Three members to be elected at this ACM will serve until 2026, and one will serve *pro tem* until 2025.

# Office holders as at 14 May 2023

## Churchwardens

Janet Mahto  
Jane Nicholson

## Deanery Synod Representatives

Pauline Swaby-Wallace  
Brenda Wall

Two Deanery Synod reps to be elected as this ACM will serve until 2026.



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.”