



Annual Report 2015-16

Christ Church Downend
Learning to Live the Life



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Report and accounts for the Annual Church Meeting for the Year 2015-16, which were published on 10th April 2016.

Christ Church is the Anglican (Church of England) Parish Church of Downend, serving a population of over 27 000 people including those living in the communities of Staple Hill, Oldbury Court, Downend, Blackhorse, Bromley Heath and part of Emersons Green. It is part of the Diocese of Bristol.

Our vision is to become a vibrant community that is 'Learning to Live the Life'.

Many thanks to Helen Barnett and Chris Dobson for providing the photographs throughout the report.

Introduction

In 2015 we celebrated our ministry with children within and beyond the church. Tracie's report reminds us of some of the memorable highlights of the year, including the launch of Messy Church which is being enjoyed already by a significant number of children and families who are new to Christ Church Downend. The Family Forest Day in the Brecon Beacons is sure to become a regular feature of Christ Church's life as we seek to enlarge the scope of 'ways of being church' in the years ahead.

This Annual Report includes reflections from each of the new Heads of Ministries, leadership roles that have emerged from the re-structuring of our church which is better facilitating the outworking of the goal of become a whole life disciple-making church. The pages that follow give us a glimpse of the range and numbers of people who are making this 'mission' possible, and I want to thank every single person who is part of Christ Church for the unique contribution they make to our life as a community of faith, united in Christ.

Over the last year we have shared the sadness of bereavement, as some longstanding members of our church have 'gone home' to be with the Lord. But we have also celebrated so much new life that comes with each season and stage of our journey on earth. We have seen our church family grow, especially in relation to the range and numbers of people of all ages coming together at midweek gatherings, and there seems to be a deepening desire to grow closer to God in our discipleship.

As we move into 2016 we have a clear vision of what God is calling us to become – a community that is together 'learning to live the life'. Four values are emerging that will enable this vision to be more fully lived out as we embrace them. They are values that describe the way we behave, out of love, towards God and others.

- **Prayerfulness** – bringing everything to God in prayer, and trusting in his power to equip us
- **Openness** – being responsive to the Spirit's guiding, and having an attitude of vulnerability with one another and acceptance of our differences
- **Graciousness** – out of the grace God has shown us in Christ we seek to act in grace in the way we communicate and connect with others
- **Thankfulness** – the conscious choice to be grateful and to celebrate the life we have been given by God which overflows into an attitude that creates a culture of joy

These values are rooted in the belief that this way of living is rooted in the Bible's teaching and testimonies of ordinary people who have been transformed by the Spirit of Christ.

May the Spirit continue to transform us all so that we might be a sign of God's kingdom life wherever he has placed us.

Jo Vickery | Vicar

About Christ Church Downend

Christ Church Downend, Parish Office, 57 North Street, Downend, Bristol. BS16 5SG
0117 908 9867 | office@christchurchdownend.com | www.christchurchdownend.com

Clergy: Rev Jonathan Vickery (Vicar)
Rev Paul Peterson (Associate Minister
and Chair of PCC)
Rev Chris Dobson (Assistant Minister)

Church Wardens: Andy Smith and
Rachael Cottell

PCC Elected Members from April 2015

Helen Barnett, Sally Bartram,
Martin Brown, Roger Cholmondeley,
David James, Adam Parfitt, Hilary Kitchen
(resigned November 15), David Moller,
Jamie Paddon (vice chair of PCC),
Roy Pope, Ben Prosser, Deb Turpin and
Jane White

Committee Structure: The PCC has
delegated responsibilities as follows:

The Giving4Life team oversee the
church's finances, the Wardens take
responsibility for general building issues
and the Building4Life group take a lead
with the church re-ordering project. In
addition a Vision team works with the
Incumbent in setting and reviewing
mission priorities and their effectiveness.

Hall committees oversee the upkeep and
smooth running of the Church Centre
and Parish Hall.

Other elected posts

PCC Secretary: Maggie Nichols

Deanery Synod: Roger Cholmondeley
and Andy Smith

Honorary Treasurer: Ray Hackney

Health and Safety Officer: Roy Pope

Electoral Roll Officer: Elissa Murphy

Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Kathy Prosser

Safeguarding Administrator:

Brenda Greet

Deputy Wardens (Church Centre
Quakers Road): Malcolm Coles
and Sally Green

Licensed Lay Ministers: Martin Brown,
Rob Stewart and Rich Harris

CAP Centre Manager: Jane White

CAP Community Links Coordinator:

Jayne Till (from March 2016)

Parish Administrator: Elissa Murphy

Administration Assistants: Claire Bird
and Maggie Nichols

Verger: Andy McNeill

Assistant Verger: Steve Powell

Ministry Heads

Children: Tracie Jenkins

Creative Media: Helen Barnett

Discipleship for all ages: Anita Dobson

Mission/Outreach: Paul Peterson

Resources: Nigel Stowe

Wholeness: Kathy Prosser

Worship/Leadership Development:

Jo Vickery

Youth: Diane Paddon

Report from the PCC

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) held six meetings during 2015 with special presentations focusing on aspects of worship, prayer, local and global outreach and youth work.



Throughout the year, following prayer, reflection and discussion, a number of proposals were approved by the PCC including:

- Paul Peterson continuing with us in the Parish but in a part time role and because of this the property at Glendale being sold to the Diocese
- All PCC members undertaken Safeguarding Training
- Ministry Heads commissioned in July
- Paul Peterson and Chris Dobson both had sabbaticals in 2015/16 and both had returned refreshed
- The approval of a break-even 2016 Budget.

The PCC sanctioned a number of staff changes. At last year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Jamie Paddon resigned as Church Warden. Andy Smith and Rachael Cottell were elected for the coming year. Robert Southgate, Kathy Prosser and Hayley Carter stood down as members of the PCC. Helen Barnett, Martin Brown, Sally Bartram, Roger Cholmondeley, Hilary Kitchen, David James, Dave Moller, Ben Prosser, Jamie Paddon, Adam Parfitt, Roy Pope, Debra Turpin and Jane White were elected as PCC members. Ray Hackney remained as Treasurer and Maggie Nichols as Clerk. Peter Misselbrook resigned as Planned Giving Secretary during the year and this role was taken on by Dave Tooby.

2015 has been a very tough year for me and my family and I am very grateful to both Jo and Paul for all their help and support. Without the strength that God is giving me to carry on day by day and the prayers and support of my family, some very close friends and the Church family, I would not have been able to carry on in this role or in fact my other roles within the Church. With heartfelt thanks.

Maggie Nichols | PCC Secretary



Church structure

Vision Team: Vicar, PCC

Children's ministry

Tracie Jenkins

- Connect
- Crèche
- JaM club
- Messy Church
 - Schools
 - Sparklers
- Uniformed events

Creative media

Helen Barnett

- Christ Church Life
 - Church Directory
- Comms Team
 - Projection
 - Publicity
- Social Media
 - Sound
 - Story-gathering

Discipleship for all ages

Anita Dobson

- Aquila
- Discipleship triplets/triads
- Faith at home
 - Jigsaw
- Life Groups
- Marriage course
 - Mentoring
- Mothers' Union
 - Newcomers
- Parenting course
 - Toddlers
- Women's Ministry

Leadership development and Worship

Jo Vickery

- Church School Ethos
 - Creativity in Worship
- Lay ministers
- Leading4Life
- Open Church
 - Services
- Welcome team

and Church Wardens

Mission and Outreach

Paul Peterson

- Alpha
- Baptism preparation
- Christians Against Poverty (CAP)
- Care4 Creation
- Men's Ministry
- Mission partners
- Nurture groups
- Occasional offices

Resources

Nigel Stowe

- Parish Office
- Administration
 - Personnel
- Conferences
 - Buildings' Management Committees
 - Cleaning
 - Finance
- Financial Planning
 - Giving4Life

Wholeness

Kathy Prosser

- Bereavement
 - Church Fellowship
- Home visits
 - Home Communion
 - Sanctuary
- Prayer for others
- Safeguarding
- Women in work

Youth

Diane Paddon

- Elev8
- Evaluate
 - Faith
 - Ignite
- Training and Growth (TaG)
- Youth drop in

Rooted in prayer



Ministry priorities 2015-16

Worship

My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him Psalm 62: 1

We began 2015 by exploring the significance of the Sabbath as a key to finding rest and peace in God. In our Lent series on 'The Rest of God' we saw that the rest God offers is far more than a break from doing lots of things but rather addresses the deeper need within every person to be 'at rest or at peace' within. This what Jesus offers when he invites whoever is honest enough to admit their 'I can't go on like this' condition to, 'Come to me ALL who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.....rest for your souls.' Matthew 11: 28-30



The challenge of Jesus wanting us to learn the habit of resting from work on the Sabbath was taken further into learning how to work from rest for the following days, drawing on his energy as we live each day in his loving presence. It has been inspiring to see how, for so many, the saying holds true that worship is the fuel for mission, and that by making weekly worship a top priority on Sundays we not only honour God but are resourced to live out of the 'overflow' of his life on our frontlines.

Worship at Christ Church is not only happening on Sundays, but every day of the week. The Parish Church is open on Mondays and Wednesdays for Morning Prayer, on Tuesdays for meditation and Bible study, on Thursdays for Holy Communion and spectacular cakes, and Fridays for the youngest worshippers in the Parish to celebrate life with God! Messy Church has added yet another dimension to our regular pattern of worship once a month.

With so many expressions of worship taking place we had to take the difficult decision to prune the 1662 Prayer Book service at 8am, but it is a tribute to those who went faithfully that most have found a home in other congregations, most especially at the Church Centre at 9.15 am.

The increasing use of creative ways of worship has continued to transform the life of our church and we can be so thankful that there is a genuine openness to try new things and push boundaries as God leads us deeper into his love, joy and peace.

Jo Vickery | Vicar

Wholeness, pastoral care and safeguarding

This last year we have seen many within our church community face difficult times of life; I am so glad to see the commitment of many in caring for one another; evidence that as a whole faith community we are becoming more equipped by God in our Pastoral care. I am grateful for the continued high level commitment of Pastoral Leaders in their Pastoral Vision and care of those most in need within our church community, and in the wider Parish. We have achieved significant steps forward in our Safeguarding Policy, training and general awareness, with support from Brenda Greet and Helen Sheppard.



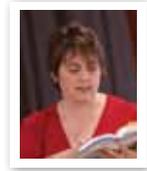
We have many challenges ahead; our three priorities are God's healing to wholeness throughout the community of Christ Church and beyond; shepherding the lost to wholeness/safe and welcome church for all; Mission and Evangelism/wholeness in a wider context. We look to the future of a re-energised 'Anointing in prayer and healing ministry' under the leadership of Pauline Pearce, within the gathered and scattered church. We are encouraged by the response to the inclusion of Prayer by anointing within our services. This will continue on a regular basis in the morning and evening service, and in Outreach Communion services. Val Henderson and Wendy Breward are guiding our newly launched bereavement support, through correspondence, visits, and a once a month group held in the Welcome area. We have just begun the 'Doorways' group which will be looking at the inclusion of those with frailty of mind, body, spirit and/or disability in our Vision of whole life discipleship and worship. Efforts will be made to reach out to those who through frailty find they can no longer join the gathered church and feel isolated from the faith community. Specific life groups such as the Sanctuary Carers and Women in work groups will continue. Safeguarding remains a priority for us, with new policy guidance and our desire to recruit another person to help with the DBS applications/renewals. We continue our outreach to local residential homes and to individuals in their own homes, breaking into the isolation experienced by people, with our faith, friendship and prayer. We seek God's anointing and blessing on every small act of generous love.

There are many different ways to serve within Christ Church and we would love to welcome new members to the Pastoral team in 2016; do speak with me if you feel you would like to find out more.

Kathy Prosser | Head of ministry of wholeness, pastoral care, safeguarding

Children's ministry

Great efforts were made during 2015 to raise the profile of our Children's Ministry amongst the church family and the wider community. The results have been significant and a huge blessing to all concerned.



Sunday Ministry for children has seen its leadership teams grow in numbers and confidence with a strong Team Leader in place for each of the four groups. The children are sharing in fun and engaging activities as they learn about Jesus and discipleship. During home visits, we hear many examples of the children taking home what they have learnt and sharing with their families and friends.

The children from our two church schools have spent many fun, inspirational and reflective times with us through Collective Worship services, Experience Easter and Harvest, Wonder Week, Prayer Spaces, the Wonder Walk and special Christian festival services. Other schools in the Parish have also visited the church to learn about its purpose.

The commencement of Messy Church in September has been truly blessed by God. He has honoured the plans and energies of a great team by sending us 20 new families who share with a small number of existing Christ Church families to worship together in a gloriously 'messy' way every month. Our hope and prayer is to see these children and their grown-ups actively seeking a personal relationship with Jesus and exploring what this means for their individual lives.



One very special event from 2015 was our Family Forest Fun Day in the Brecon Beacons. Families with young children joined together for a fantastic day of worship, a walk through outstanding scenery and forest activities including den building, a treasure hunt and a bonfire. A day when new friendships were made, existing friendships built upon and delight was shared at God's awesome creation. This event will be repeated in June 2016. Don't miss out!

2016 will also see the start of our new Tower Club to replace JaM Club: an after school club every Thursday during term time where school children are safe to be themselves, valued for their uniqueness, and shown Christian values in action. Please pray for all the connections we have with children; that they may become connections with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Tracie Jenkins | Head of children's ministry

Youth ministry

Just as we are welcomed into a relationship with God, Youth Ministry too is relational. This is not easy with well over 100 Young People regularly attending, but it is our challenge, opportunity and great blessing! The Friday 'After-School Drop-In' draws between 20-25 Young People and is a place where friendships flourish. Our Thursday night Youth Groups have been renamed 'Ignite' and 'Ignite+' where each week around 80 Young People enjoy an amazing programme and receive opportunities for faith ignition! The 'Elev8' Home Groups are a great opportunity to take our relationship with God to another level. It has been wonderful to see Young People leading these sessions. 'Faith' continues on Sundays. We have been moved and inspired by members of the Family Church sharing on 'Story Sundays'. Young People have commented how grateful they are for tackling difficult questions on 'Sons and Daughters Sundays'. 'Serving Sundays' have included bulb planting in the community, car washing, introducing a new multi-sensory style All Age Worship service and selling home-made cakes to raise funds for the Toilet Twinning Challenge. Joint Youth Celebrations provide opportunities to build relationships with other Churches and it was great to host Christmas Dynamic. Many of our Young People have also attended camps, such as Heatree, Soul Survivor, Haslemere, Hill House and a mission trip to Tanzania. There are many opportunities to build relationships with friends, the Church Family, the wider community and ultimately with God.



Key to all relationships is communication and communication in Youth Ministry was smashed out of the ball park by our new outstanding website. Like 587 people have done so far, please pay us a visit – www.igniteyouth-christchurchdownend.co.uk As all research points to parents being the most significant influence in the lives of most Young People, the Youth Team held a Sticky Faith Parents Evening. This has led to planning three 'Parents and Puddings' evenings a year – a place for parents and youth leaders to build relationships.



Relationships within the Youth Team continue to grow stronger: a loving family embraced by the arms of the wider Church Family. Weekly prayer meetings are well attended. We shared in a wonderful retreat together. Pastoral Supervision is available. A Horizons Youth Leaders Course module is explored once a term. Three Youth Leaders attended a Youth Conference and the teaching material is being used by the whole Team in a Youth Conference Brunch once a term. We are very grateful to the Parish Council for providing Team T-shirts and lanyards; promoting Team identity and unity.

Some of the year's highlights include a visit from Bishop Mike, a number of visits from our local PCSO Jacqui, who helped us secure a £500 Commissioner's Community Grant, a Matt Redman concert, carol singing in a packed Britannia Court (a number of the residents have attended Church since), Dawn and Chris kindly offering Maths Revision to our GCSE students, the Church's prayer support during exam season and beyond, a sleep-out in aid of the Nepal Earthquake appeal, a trip to Wembley to watch England beat Lithuania 4-0 in a 2016 World Cup qualifier, a Youth Alpha course (so grateful to the Family Church for providing cakes), a 'Secret Church' meeting in Page Park, a record breaking 'The Noise!' attendance and a walk around Emerson's Green with Downend Round Table's Santa, whose gift to us was a £200 donation!

It's wonderful to see the Young People serving in many areas of the Church: in sound and lighting, within the PCC, in the music group and preaching and in offering to join and committing to the Youth Team, and it's great to hear of their impact in the community; that a number of our Young People are leading a well-attended Alpha Course at St Mary Redcliffe's Sixth Form and to see them serving on the Soup Run. The Youth Team are looking to reward discipleship development - that Christ-like

character and commitment. Hence, a Youth Hub sleep-over and breakfast following the last Dynamic, as featured in Downend Voice, and a trip to Air Hop for those who attended Youth Alpha.

Moving forward we are creating a prayer space in the Youth Hub and we are really encouraging the Young People to choose five adults who can support and encourage them in their journeys. If you love the Lord and have a heart for this ministry, and would like to support a Young Person in this way, please let me know. It is such a privilege to be alongside these Young People as they discover the most wonderful relationship with God: our loving Father, friend in Jesus and empowering Holy Spirit.

Diane Paddon | Head of youth ministry

Discipleship for all ages

Back in April 2015 there were separate areas of ministry: Family, Work and Discipleship. But what if the things that helps families grow in faith are not so different from those which help individuals? Everyone can be encouraged to take a Next Step in their journey with God, whether 3, 33 or 93. The result is Discipleship for All Ages: not so easy to say, but in practice an amazing opportunity to look at some traditional areas of church ministry with new lenses.



We continue to seek ways for families to grow together in faith and life. At Jigsaw, our Toddler Service, people have found a deeper sense of faith through learning alongside their toddlers. Messy Church and the Forest Family Day have allowed families to spend quality time together and discover hidden treasures. All Age services have provided a place to celebrate God's love, for those who recognise it every day but also for those who are not sure but feel drawn to the light.

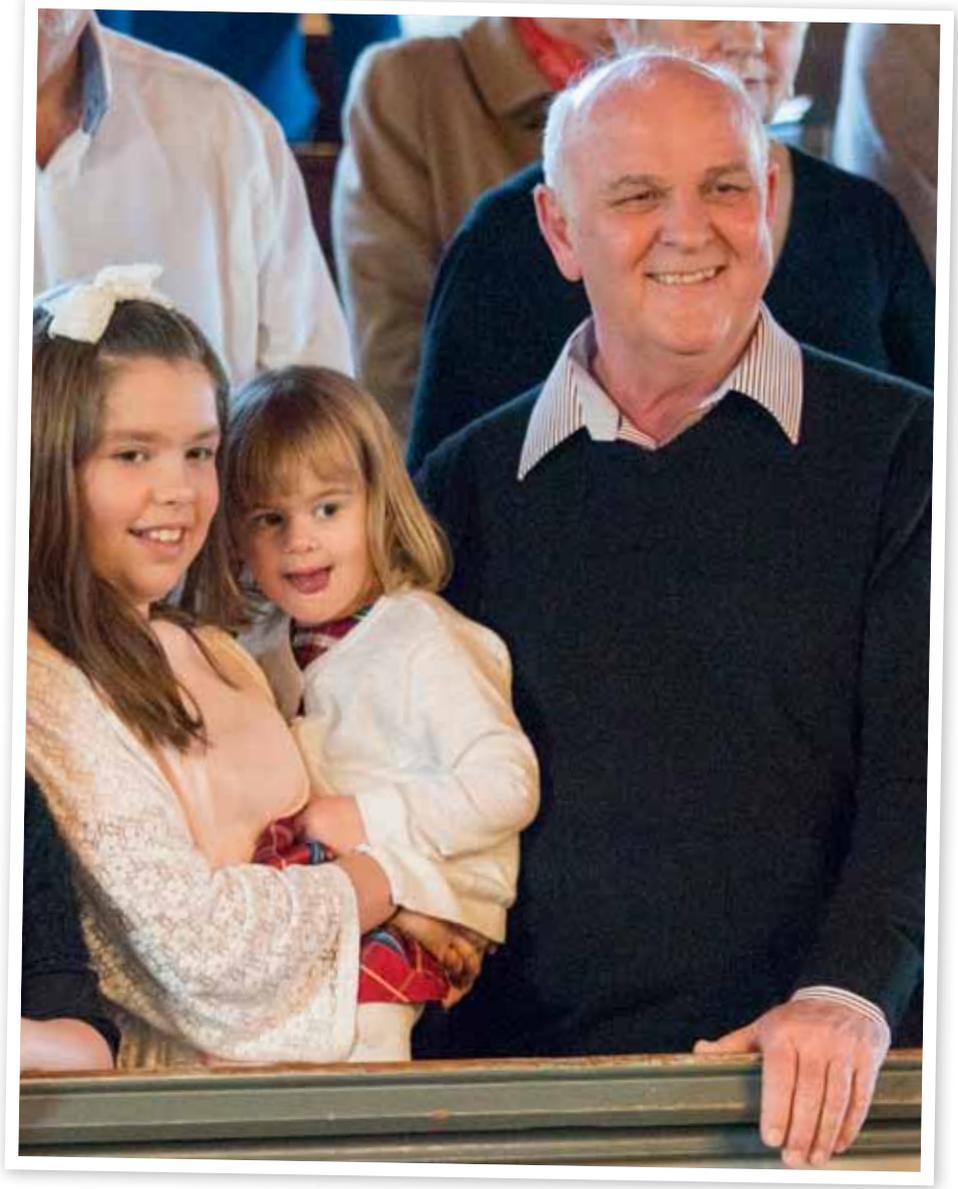
But also we have been looking at how to encourage individuals and groups of adults to grow in faith. People have taken steps to meet their hunger for God. We've created the term "Life groups" as an umbrella to describe the home groups, triplet and triads that help people find life in faith and faith in life. Relationships have been strengthened through the women's events and newcomer's evenings. Some have found their calling in seeing how God can use them where they are.

2016: Taking Next Steps on the road to becoming disciple makers

How great it would be if every person you asked at Christ Church in December 2016 could tell you, "I believe God has given me a gift of..... and I believe he has placed me in to use that gift for his Kingdom. As we begin to discover how God wants to use us in our "frontlines", the everyday places he's called us to, we are extending God's kingdom, growing as disciples AND beginning to make other disciples. In other words, we will be obeying Jesus' call in Matthew 28:19 -20 (my italics):

¹⁹ Go, then, to all peoples *everywhere in your residential home, in your office, at your*

school gate, in your family, with your grandchildren, at the sports club... and make them my disciples. Live a life like mine: Make good work, Mould the culture, Minister grace and love, be a Messenger for the Gospel, be a Mouthpiece for truth and justice and Model godly character. Then when they become disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age."



We continue in the same direction this year, aiming to:

- **Help members of the congregation find / develop their calling as disciples and disciple makers.**

"Individuals growing with joyful purpose"

- Continuing to look for stories of growth and stories of challenge in people's lives, whatever our life situation, background, employment status, experiences etc.
- Continuing to make sure those new to faith, and/or new to Christ Church, are able to feel valued and equipped for life on their frontlines
- Listening and sharing with those who have different needs, about how they might be able to grow as disciples and disciple makers
- Encouraging people to take a next step in their growth in faith, closer to becoming the person and living the life that God has called them to. Wherever we are starting from, there is always a next step we can take.

- **Church based groups and activities have a clear sense of their disciple making purpose and are steering towards that aim.**

"Groups and activities growing with joyful purpose"

- Each group/ activity will be able to identify how people can grow more Christ like through its activity, and how it helps in the process of making new disciples. Some might be directly involved in making new disciples; other activities might be about equipping, refreshing, resourcing and training people for the whole of life through gathered church activities such as worship services, Life groups, support groups etc. so that they can both worship in gratitude, and return to their frontline lives better equipped and inspired by God's love.
- Once that "joyful purpose" is clear, groups can begin to make 1 degree shifts where necessary to ensure that the atmosphere, activities and direction all support that purpose more fully.

Anita Dobson | Head of Discipleship for all ages

Mission and outreach

On return from my sabbatical I had a conversation with a church member who was wrestling with the frustration of not having enough time to commit to church outreach activities. Their life was crammed full with work commitments, family and social commitments. They then proceeded to talk with great enthusiasm about two conversations they'd had with work colleagues about faith over the preceding weeks. Hallelujah! That's whole life discipleship at work. Our mission frontline is outside of the church building - we just need to grasp that and value it.



However I would exceed my word limit if I tried to list all of the ways in which members of the congregation live out and share their faith in the wider world. So here are a few reflections on the centrally co-ordinated mission initiatives of the past 12 months.

1. The mission life of the church is expressed in most if not all of the other ministry areas. Messy Church, our open youth work, Jam Club, Jigsaw, Open Church and Fellowship amongst others have all been places where people's hearts have been drawn to Christ. Mission isn't something you can separate out!
2. We have been exploring how to make the most of missional opportunities created by the Occasional Offices, especially baptisms and funerals. It's in times of great joy and extreme sadness that people are often more open to spiritual things, and through drawing alongside and offering ways in to Christian faith and fellowship, we begin to fulfil Christ's call.
3. My vision for our world mission links has always been to make them expressions of true partnership. Once again in 2015 we have given over £30,000 to various mission projects, but perhaps more importantly we've engaged in creative ways and sought to encourage those serving Christ in different parts of the world.

A couple of highlights:

The mission Trip to Iringa Tanzania, where 10 of our teenagers and a handful of adults, learnt so much through partnering with Ben and Katy Ray at Neema Crafts, and the FISCH street children's project. As one team member commented: "It is almost impossible to put in only a few words the enormity of our trip and life changing experiences we encountered. We set out for Africa with very little idea of what we would be experiencing. The impact to our lives was very special."



Proof that CAP works! The powerful testimony of a former client – now free from debt and experiencing the fullness of life that Christ offers. Over the past 6 months Jayne has been volunteering with CAP and has recently taken up a paid role as Community Links Co-ordinator. More on CAP from Jane White below.

Moving forward we'll be taking forward nurture courses for those who've begun to explore faith through Messy Church, Baptism and CAP outreach; securing funding for the longer term future of our CAP Centre through a series of grant applications; looking at how we equip and resource church members for sharing their faith on the frontline; and celebrating our link with the church in Moldova, through a possible visit in 2017.

Paul Peterson | Head of mission and outreach ministry

Christians Against Poverty

I can't believe that another whole year has gone by and that in May this year I will have been working with Christians Against Poverty (CAP) in this community for two years.



So much has happened, eight clients have become debt free and I am working with a further 19 clients who are working well with CAP and are on their way to becoming debt free. Several clients have attended church events and all have commented on the friendliness of Christ Church Downend. I had many comments from clients about how wonderful the Carols by Candlelight service was.

As you probably all know Mark Rich was unable to continue working with this debt centre and due to other commitments resigned last August. However Jayne Till, a now debt free CAP client, stepped in on a volunteer basis and has been a great help to me and to our clients over the last six months. At the time of writing this report Jayne is on her way to CAP Head Office in Bradford to train as a Community Links Co-ordinator, which means that she will be going out into the community and to spread the good news. Jayne will also be helping with fund raising and client events. Jayne and I work so well as a team and Jayne tells clients "CAP works. I worked with them and now I'm debt free".

Our regular prayer meetings have now moved and one group is run by Martin Brown and the CAP team and clients are prayed for every Tuesday during Open Church. Fred and Ann Travers have also kindly asked for details of clients to pray for and I will be giving them regular requests and updates on how clients are progressing.

We couldn't help clients in all the ways we do if it wasn't for you; the members of Christ Church. Food parcels are delivered when required. All of our clients received a wonderful Christmas Hamper and Clive and Anne Wentworth did a wonderful job assembling and arranging delivery of all of the food and treats.

Jayne and I spoke at several churches in the county and we also sold our knitted Father Christmases, Christmas Puddings, and assorted penguins and robins and raised just over



£700, which we then used to bless clients at Christmas by topping up utility meters. We hope to raise more money this year.

CAP is not and never will be an easy option for people, the budgets are very tight but we do this work with love and the clear understanding that if clients work with CAP there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Objectives

- Lead more people to faith in Jesus Christ.
- To make the work of CAP within the local area more accessible, by running drop ins at local community centres, Job Centres and libraries
- Invite more clients to Christ Church events.
- Visit other churches in the area to publicise the work of CAP within the community
- Encourage and invite more people to attend locally run CAP Money Courses , CAP Job Clubs and CAP Life Skill Courses.

When anyone asks me what I do I never like to say 'my job is' or 'I work for' because that's not how I feel about what I do. This thing that I do with CAP and Christ Church is something that God has called me to do and I know that I wouldn't be able to do this without His support and the support of Christ Church. So I'd like to say a huge THANK YOU to all of you at Christ Church for bringing me to God and for supporting me and enabling me to go out into this community.

Jane White | CAP centre manager

Resources: Finance, Buildings and Parish Office

The Giving4Life team - of Jamie Paddon, Ray Hackney, Sally Bartram Nigel Stowe and Dave Tooby oversee church finances. Dave has succeeded Peter Misselbrook as Planned Giving Secretary We are very grateful to Peter for all he has done. Ray Hackney is planning to retire as PCC Treasurer in April 2017 and a process is underway for a replacement. The team's focus has been on good stewardship and balancing the budget, and encouraging greater participation in the Planned Giving schemes. Giving Tokens have been a way of linking those who give through the bank to our act of worship.



Income and Expenditure – in 2105 our General Fund income was down £13.4k (6.3%) on prior year, and expenditure was down by £18.3k (8.3%). We saw an increase in direct debit Planned Giving of 3.2%. Cost savings included a reduction of 17.5% in the Parish Office hours and a 32% (£3.8k) reduction in total energy prices for all buildings through a renegotiation of suppliers. Our deficit for 2015 was -£4.2k (-£8.6 2014). We have a balanced 2016 budget with expenditure reduced by 5.0% (£10.2k) over 2015.

Church Wardens - 2015 saw Andy Smith continuing as Church Warden with Jamie Paddon standing down being succeeded by Rachael Cottell.



Parish Church - Broadband has now been installed. We have not yet been successful in obtaining a church roof grant to replace the crèche room flat roof, but we are currently reapplying. One of the two Parish Church heating boilers is now inoperative so we will continue with just one until a total replacement in the reordering project.

Parish Hall – The Parish Hall finances were substantially back in the black having fully recovered from the disruption to lettings during the refurbishment. Income was up 12% to £16.7k and expenditure down 8% providing a £3k surplus. Bill Robbins has taken on the role of Chairman of the Parish Hall Committee.

Quakers Road Church Centre – income grew 7.3% to £18.1k allowing funds to refurbish the kitchen and resurface the main floor.

Parish Office - The Parish Office of Clare and Maggie under Elissa's leadership juggle the ever increasing demands of a busy church and community, on reduced hours, and we are very grateful to them.

Nigel Stowe | Head of resources ministry

Creative media

Jesus wasn't afraid to challenge, to come alongside, to meet needs and to bless. His actions communicated the truth of who He was and the hope He brought to a needy world. Today we are His voice, His hands and His feet, taking the love of God and His peace to everyone we have contact with. In fact, we are all part of His communications team and the challenge to each of us is: who are we specifically praying for and reaching out to in a personal way?



Creative Media is a new job title at Christ Church but parts of this role were already being covered by a team of eager communicators. Together, we facilitate communication both within the church and outwards to our work places, schools, clubs and neighbourhoods. Images, quotes, interviews and films, gathered and presented in creative ways, are all part of how we tell the story of our faith. These stories are shared in church services, Downend Voice and on notice boards in Quaker's Road, the Parish Hall and the welcome space. Images are often shared in community groups on Facebook and form "ccdnews", which is shown on screens at Christ Church midweek and on Sundays. Our local community is very likely to have heard about what is going on at Christ Church.

If you use social media, tweet your faith and retweet Christian messages to your followers or share something about your faith on Facebook. I was particularly struck by one church member who shared on Facebook, "I needed to hear that message at Church today". It opened up possibilities for discussion with their friends in such a natural yet powerful way.

If social media isn't your thing, then please don't feel like you cannot take part. Have you ever shared a word of scripture via email, or sent someone a text telling them you were praying for them, or written a verse of the Bible in a card to someone? Give a copy

of Christ Church Life to your neighbour, leave a flyer for Messy Church in the doctor's waiting room, speak to the person at the supermarket checkout or invite your friends to special services, events or just the next Sunday service. You never know when your words, seasoned with Christ, will be the very thing that someone needs to hear.

We have this treasure in jars of clay. (2 Cor 4:7) But let's not keep it hidden. Let's shine for Him.

If you have a computer or electronic device you can see regular updates on social media by looking on the home page of the Church Website. Follow us on twitter: @ChristChDownend. On Facebook there is a public page called Christ Church Downend and a closed group called Christ Church Notice Board.

Helen Barnett | Head of creative media ministry

Building4Life

God is working his purpose out as year succeeds to year!

We have been called to be the generation that realises God's purposes for the church which we have inherited from those who have gone before. We have been called to realise the vision of a re-ordered Parish church that is a place of community, creativity and Christian Spirituality which connects with contemporary culture and is fit for the purposes the Lord has for the future. It is taking much longer than we had thought but it is happening!

We reported last year that The Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) gave the project its full support and no objections were made by the general public. Our Bishop and Archdeacon urged us to press ahead with the plans. However, the issues raised by South Gloucestershire Planning department, especially in relation to the proposed removal of the side balconies, resulted in the Chancellor to the Diocese (the legal adjudicator) making the decision to call for a 'hearing', which would have had considerable potential costs associated with it. The Building4Life team and PCC therefore decided to withdraw the faculty application as it stood. So we have been in a further process of consultation and working with our architects to make some modifications to the plans which now keep the side balconies but make them far more usable, retaining the front row of pews only and creating space at the ends near the chancel for small gatherings and storage. The DAC have again been very positive in recommendations moving forward. The revised plans for the whole re-ordering will shortly be on display in the church as we present the project to the Chancellor once more. Once final approval is given we can move onto the more detailed design in which the Building4Life team will be inviting whoever is interested in seeing this church transformed to contribute ideas and pray through what kind of response God is calling each person to make towards the final costs. We will only really know that once tenders come in, but we have already been blessed with resources in the order of £650,000 in the restricted Building4Life Fund, which is a significant proportion of the funds needed to complete the work.



It has been inspiring to see the building of a new church taking place in Ursoaia, Moldova, where Pastor Misa has been overseeing the work, funded by the tithe of the church's giving to our building project in partnership with Transform Europe Now (TEN). In view of the PCC being unable, for legal reasons, to tithe the income from the sale of 131 and 133 High Street, Staple Hill and 15 Glendale, a church member has sent £30,000 directly to TEN in support of the church build in Moldova.

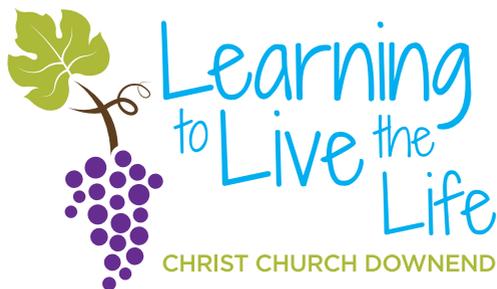
Our partnership with this courageous missionary church includes much prayer and a commitment to support God's work as they reach out with compassion to desperately deprived people in this rural community in one of the poorest areas of Europe. Misa in a recent letter wrote to us saying: "Each Sunday we bring our church members from village Ursoaia (where they do not have a church building) to the church meeting in Pelinei. We're very happy to meet people in this village telling us that they like what we do and they're going to come and see the building. Even the workers are proud to be part of the team working on the church building. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the whole ministry you do and we believe God is going to work."

May we continue to be 'faithful in prayer' as we thank God for all he is doing here in Downend and in Moldova which will result in His LIFE being released as buildings are transformed to serve God's mission now and in future generations.

Jo Vickery and Ruth Martin | Building4Life team

Notes





**A version with larger print is available.
Please contact the Parish Office.**

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