

Christ Church Downend

Learning to Live the Life



Annual Report 2020-21

Contents

- 4 Introduction
- 6 About Christ Church Downend
- 8 Parochial Church Council (PCC)
- 10 Churchwardens
- 12 Church structure
- 14 Ministry priorities 2020-21: Worship
- 15 Care co-ordinators team
- 16 Children’s ministry
- 17 Youth ministry
- 18 Discipleship
- 19 Open church
- 20 Mission and outreach
- 21 Chaplaincy in the community
- 22 Christians Against Poverty (CAP)
- 23 Creative media
- 24 Christ Church schools
- 25 Finance report
- 26 Income and expenditure
- 27 Sources of income, how we spent our income

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A copy of the full church accounts will be made available in advance of the APCM.

Christ Church is the Anglican (Church of England) Parish Church of Downend, serving a population of over 30,000 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’.

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Many thanks to Chris Dobson for providing the images.



Introduction

Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Ephesians 6: 18

If there is one thing that has dominated our lives over the past year it has to be prayer. In the midst of this most debilitating and fear-inducing pandemic we have been brought to our knees maybe as never before. And in that place we have experienced both the wonder of God's presence with us, and the emptiness of a silent response or worse. Yet, as St Paul urged the Christians in Ephesus, we have heard afresh the call to pray for our suffering world and keep on praying on all occasions for one another in the love of the Spirit of Christ.

*'If there is one thing that has dominated our lives
over the past year it has to be prayer.'*

Who knows what impact this will have had on us as a church in the long term, but I do know that when we began 2020 with the cry, 'Lord, teach us to pray' we could have had no way of knowing quite what we were asking for, and how the Lord would be teaching us.

As we travel toward a new kind of normality over the months ahead, we would be wise to pause and note the things we can see the Lord has been showing us and how we have been changed by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

This report gives us a glimpse of how the life of the risen Jesus has continued to be seen in the diversity of his church and in the unity we share through the love of Christ.

Please read it, not for information but for inspiration as it reveals how God has led us and watched over our **going out** and **coming in**.

We have continued to see new people coming in to the Christ Church community, whether it be the many babies born over the past year, or others of all ages who have been drawn to the life of God at Christ Church, many through the considerable online presence of our church or by experiencing live worship and fellowship despite all the limitations.

There has also been quite a movement of 'going out'. We have grieved and given thanks for the lives of some long standing members of our church family, all of whom we miss so much. Some have moved to different areas of our country in response to God's call to serve in new ways whilst others have taken on new roles in the life of our church, in their workplace or in the home. We are deeply grateful for all they have shared of themselves and given to God in their unique ways.



'...we are filled with thankfulness for the love that we have shared as part of this amazing, multi-generational family...

For Shahne and me the movement toward a different kind of life is now taking place as I come to retire after our last service on 27th June. Looking back over our time here we are filled with thankfulness for the love that we have shared as part of this amazing, multi-generational family; at no time has that been stronger than over this past year. It has been a huge privilege to lead this remarkable church and watch the way the Holy Spirit has poured out LIFE in all its fullness.

We have complete confidence that the Lord will guide Christ Church into the good things he has prepared, as we all keep our eyes fixed on the Great Shepherd of the sheep and place our trust day after day in Jesus, the source of all life and love.

Jo and Shahne Vickery

About Christ Church Downend

Christ Church Downend, Parish Office, 57 North Street, Downend, Bristol. BS16 5SG
T: 0117 908 9867 E: parishadmin@christchurchdownend.com
www.christchurchdownend.com

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

Churchwardens: Bryan Ashton and Maggie Nichols

PCC elected members from April 2020

Rosie Brydon, Julian Cox, Sally Green, David Owens, Eloise Phillips and Laura Powell

PCC Secretary: Caroline Plummer

Deanery Synod: Roger Cholmondeley and Richard Ward

Honorary Treasurer: Jamie Paddon

Committee structure:

The PCC has delegated responsibilities as follows: The Giving 4 Life team oversee the church's finances and the Wardens take responsibility for general building issues. Towards the end of 2020 a personnel sub group was established to ensure good practice in the recruitment and oversight of staff and other leaders in mission. Separate committees oversee the fabric and function of the parish halls. In addition the Ministry Heads team works with the Incumbent in setting and reviewing mission priorities and their effectiveness.

Other elected posts and office holders

Health and Safety Officers:
Churchwardens

Electoral Roll Officer: Elissa Wiltshire

Deputy Wardens (Church Centre Quakers Road): Mary Massey and Sally Green

Parish Safeguarding Officer:
Laura Powell

Safeguarding Administrator: Elissa Wiltshire

CAP Centre Manager: Leyla Fellows
CAP Debt Coaches: Rosie Brydon and Philip James

Parish Administrators: Elissa Wiltshire/ Maggie Nichols

Bookkeeper: Sally Coates (Gabrielle Foster appointed January 2021)

Christ Church Building Manager:
Maggie Nichols

Verger: Andy McNeill

Wholeness and pastoral care: Care Coordinators' team

Worship/Leadership Development:
Jo Vickery

Youth: Diane Paddon



If there is one thing
that has dominated
our lives over the
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Report from the PCC

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) held six meetings via Zoom during 2020/2021. At the start of each meeting, PCC members spent time in prayer, reflection and discussion. Our Parish Share pledge was set at £90,000, but due to the impact of coronavirus and a restructuring of our loan repayments, we agreed a reduced contribution for 2020 of £75,000 with the Diocese. The PCC has set our Parish share pledge for 2021 at £90,000 and are on track to meet this target.

Our general fund year end position improved overall largely thanks to a gift day in October and the impact of a legacy. By the end of 2021 we expect the outstanding loans for Building 4 Life to be £231,500.00, with scope for significant further reductions once the full impact of covid has been taken into account. The furlough scheme has reduced expenditure, and congregational giving has held up well, but both halls have suffered a significant loss of income.

Doing church differently: the PCC received regular updates as to how we were adapting our worshipping life as the pandemic took hold. Services went online as did many of our midweek groups and youth and children's activities. Risk assessments were put in place by the churchwardens as we returned to in-person services, whilst continuing to live stream.

In March Jo Vickery informed the PCC that now is the right time for his retirement after 19 years. We are very grateful for his and Shahne's ministry amongst us.

Two new sub groups of the PCC have been commissioned during the last 12 months:

Eco church

A newly formed group met in February 2021 led by Aidan Watson. The group are looking at an eco church award which has five key areas:

Worship and teaching, land, community, buildings and lifestyle.

The eco church group put forward five proposals to enable us to achieve the award and more importantly to become better stewards:

- The formation of a climate justice committee, with input into the leadership team.
- A professional energy survey on all church buildings.
- Repurposing of the church work parties.
- A climate justice Sunday annually.
- An updated eco policy to be written and agreed by the PCC.

Human resources

A personnel sub committee was set up to ensure that we look after everyone involved in the church's ministry in line with standards of good practice. This touches on recruitment, safeguarding and ongoing support. Rosie Brydon was nominated as chair of this group.

There were a number of key staff changes during the year or forthcoming:

Following an office restructure Miranda Mingay finished serving in the Parish Office as Administrative Assistant.

Helen Buick finished in her role as Children's ministry head in October, but continues to input into the children's ministry.

Gabrielle Foster has taken on the role of bookkeeper with Christ Church, and is currently in a handover period with Sally Coates.

Leyla Fellows is ending her role as CAP Centre Manager at the end of April and Rosie Brydon will be standing in until a fresh appointment is made.

A staff wage increase of 0.9% was agreed by the PCC with effect from 1 April 2021.

Safeguarding

We have a total of 105 church members who hold a DBS and 21 DBS applications have been processed since April 2020.

The PCC also received regular reports from ministry heads.

Caroline Plummer | PCC Secretary



Churchwardens

What a year we've had. None of us have experienced anything like it before and I felt very sad when we couldn't open for worship, but rejoiced when we were allowed.



By the time Bryan and I were re-elected as churchwardens we were already deep into lockdown. Bryan has had to shield, so has not been visible at church for quite some time.

Life as churchwarden has consisted mainly of preparing risk assessments for when we were able to open again and positioning chairs to ensure we kept everyone safe and stayed within the guidelines.

After the first lockdown, numbers were very steady. Thankfully we were able to hold Christmas services albeit in a very reduced form, but we still were able to have our candlelight services, which were well attended within the guidelines.

Since Christmas, once people had had their first vaccine, numbers have crept up and over the past couple of weeks, numbers have increased greatly. Quite a challenge now to fit everyone in safely, but great to see.

Our Easter services this year were tremendous, all four very powerful and very well attended.

I hope and pray that once we reach the end of June things can get back to some normality and we can increase our seating once more.

My thanks to the assistant wardens for their support when we've been open and especially to Colin Cooper for organising the rota and Andy Pound for all his support and help over the past couple of months.

What a pleasure it is has been to serve God in this way!

Maggie Nichols and Bryan Ashton | Churchwardens



Church structure

Vicar, PCC and

Children's ministry

Vacant

Liz Leeson, admin

- Crèche
- Sparklers
- Connect
- Connect+
- Primary schools
- Uniforms
- Events

Creative media

Anita Dobson

- Comms team
- Podcasts
- Social media
- Website

Discipleship

Anita Dobson

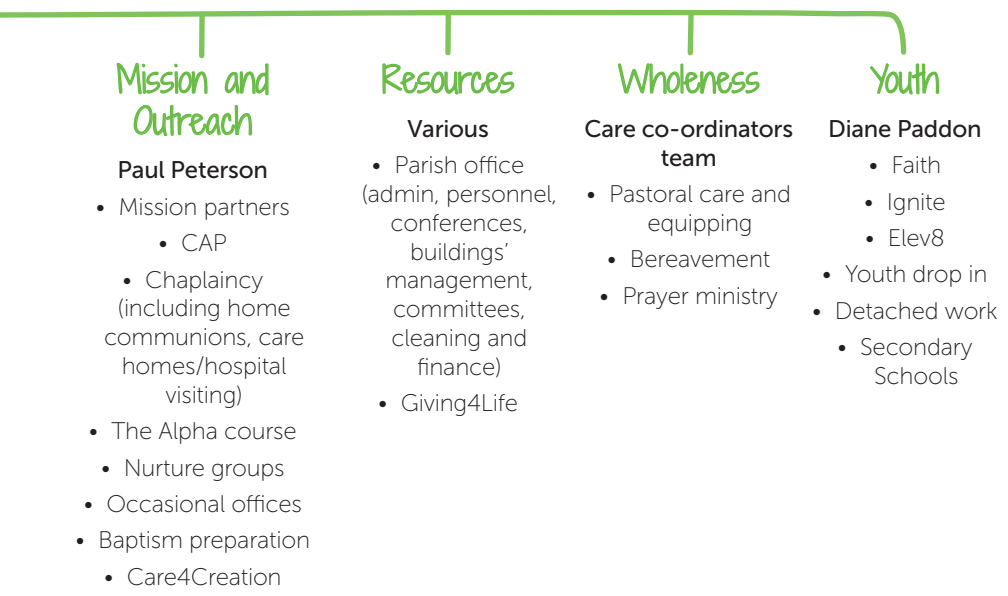
- Jigsaw
- Newcomers
- Life Groups
- Discipleship triplets/triads
- Mentoring
- Messy Church
- Mothers' Union
- Women's Ministry

Leadership development and worship

Jo Vickery

- Services
- Open Church
- Welcome team
- Creativity in worship
- Projection
- Sound
- Church school ethos

Churchwardens



Rooted in prayer

Ministry priorities 2020-21

Worship

O magnify the Lord with me, let us exalt his name together, Psalm 34; 3

In glorifying our Maker and Saviour we are doing what we were made for. Without worship our spirits become dry, and lacking in spiritual energy and vision. As we worship together as family, we encourage as well as challenge one another and over the past year, perhaps most of all, we are able to mourn and weep together. This has been for Shahne and me, a thing precious beyond words.

As you all know, as vicar I have felt very strongly called to make worship available to ALL in as many forms as we possibly could. I have been completely overwhelmed with the way so many of you have risen to this incredible challenge and we owe you a tremendous debt of gratitude. From the musicians and singers, the preachers and pray-ers and readers, the sound and projection teams, the sharers of testimony and stories from the many frontlines, and not least, to those who have dedicated countless hours to master the technology to make our worship accessible online. Perhaps most of all I want to pay tribute to Maggie whose organisation and constant presence has meant that we have been able to hold a service at Christ Church every week that we have been permitted to do so. Without Maggie this would have been almost impossible to do.

But of course this is only one part of our Christ Church family worship. Our children and youth worship has continued throughout. It has happened mainly online with Helen going super creative in her garden and Diane, Gary and the youth leadership team engaging a large and growing group of young disciples through zoom. While it has been impossible to have children's groups at the 10:30 service, Families@4 has been created meaning that families with young children can gather, initially online but now also live in church around tables, cafe style. Fresh leadership gifts have emerged and been nurtured as Aidan and Anita has taken forward this initiative with imagination and joy.



The festivals have been celebrated in all kinds of amazing and ingenious ways with Anita's idea, for example, of a Christmas Nativity Trail through Downend – the characters appearing in the shop windows where a QR code took the 'pilgrim' to a recording of the bible story and a carol sung by some of our children, all ending up in church and the opportunity to light a candle by the crib. Helen Owens once again inspired us as she led our small choir in Carols by Candlelight. Experience Easter Outside around the church yard was perhaps even more poignant

than ever this year as we dedicated ourselves afresh to the service of others at the Last Supper station and tied ribbons of Hope to the yew tree.

Having experienced the life-sapping restrictions of the past 12 months, perhaps we will never again take for granted the gift of worshipping together, magnifying the Lord who is worthy of our all our praise and bears all our pain.

Jo Vickery | Vicar

Care co-ordinators team

Purpose: To co-ordinate the response to pastoral needs within the church making use of existing structures and to extend these structures as necessary.



The team will affirm, encourage and build the culture of pastoral equipping and mutual care in every area of the church.

The team consists of Rev Jo Vickery, Francis Kirby, Liz Misselbrook, and Barbara Tooby. Rev Aidan Watson joined the group during the year. Jo chairs the meetings of the group which has met regularly during the year. Jo is very supportive of the group and is keen that we as a church, offer Christian love and support to all those in need both within the church and wider community.

Frances Kirby coordinates any requests that are made for help and will assess ways in which we are able to offer support.

Due to Covid-19, the past year has been a very difficult one for many with people unable to meet up with families and friends and clubs and support groups closed. Many people have faced uncertainty, bereavement, loneliness and isolation. It has been a great challenge trying to keep in touch with those in need without being able to visit. It is very difficult to evaluate the success of the support we offer but, during the year, the group has been active and continues to stand alongside those in need, offering pastoral support and encouragement mostly by telephone.

Many others within the church family have been involved too, shopping for those who are isolating, collecting prescriptions and going to the bank and post office. Thanks are due to this wonderful team who have worked so hard to help in so many ways.

The group is very aware of the many people who provide care and support on a personal level to so many. We are grateful also to all those who keep us informed of anyone who may be needing help and look forward to the time when we can visit people and offer face to face support.

Barbara Tooby | Care Co-ordinators Team

Children's ministry

Helen and Belinda led a wonderful team of leaders running online Sunday groups all through the first lockdown as well as visiting families with Monty and Jack. It was with sadness we said goodbye to

Helen Buick as head of Children's Ministry in the autumn. Belinda continues to help and hopes to mentor future children's leaders but has stepped back from such an involved role.



Liz Leeson stepped in to communicate weekly with families and oversee registers, risk assessments and records.

However, this didn't stop pioneering a new service before she left! Due to high demand, a change in staffing and parents of many families struggling to engage with morning services without children's groups, from September we reached our families through a new service called Families at 4pm – alternating live and on zoom which Aidan now heads up.



Anita and Helen still oversee Messy Church along with an excellent team of young leaders and adult helpers. Messy Church has run live and online as rules permitted, building relationships with a loyal group of families to a deeper level perhaps than in the old format.

Helen has continued to work with Nic Barnett from Pendennis Good News Church at Tuesday Move It Club when restrictions permit.

Aidan, Liz and Anita are supporting families and children's work until a more permanent solution is found.

Recently, Mike, Liz, Jamie, Helen, Nikola and Ineta have started leading a Connected Plus group online so that the oldest children get time to bond and learn together.



As with all our ministries we look forward to being reunited, and building again for the future. However, with some children's leaders moving on or stepping down this is a key ministry in the church that will need to be rebuilt in order to once more offer Children's groups for all ages.

Please pray for our children and for our families who are recovering and have had to balance home schooling and working and missed the support of grandparents, friends, support groups and church.

Aidan Watson | Curate

Youth ministry

An unexpected and severe pruning in youth ministry produced our most focused and relational year yet, where the youth community grew and flourished.



2020 Blessings:

- Meeting with the young people every single Wednesday and Sunday since the first lockdown, young people and youth team even zooming in from their holiday destinations!
- Meeting virtually with our amazing youth team of volunteers on Thursdays throughout the year in prayer and bible studies, described by Ian as 'The highlight of the week!'
- Many of our young people have continued to serve in church services and lead in an online Bristol-wide Youth Celebration.
- Luke (18) joined the youth team, leading on Wednesdays and Sundays, introducing engaging new games, and, together with Ellis, created a Minecraft Server. The mother of two of our six new members this year, emailed her thanks for the sense of community this provided.
- Continuing the Flourish Wellbeing Course at Downend School between lockdowns. One student shared, 'It helped me become more self-lovable and I have found the real me.'
- Angela, Eloise, Gary, Gill, Rich, and I were able to complete the Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing training, following Christ Church officially partnering with Kintsugi Hope in the summer. Twenty-five of our young people signed up to our Kintsugi Hope courses, and we are about to run a course for parents and youth team.
- The timely partnering with CAP just before the pandemic hit.
- A donation of £6,415.81 from Co-op to support youth work.
- There's so much more we could say, but over to the young people and their parents to share their 2020 reflections:



"All of the youth team are wonderful and it's great we have been able to continue". Reuben (11) had moved away, but thanks to Zoom we stayed connected!

'Amazing, God-centred, unwavering support for our young people throughout this difficult year.' Jacob's (14) mum.

"Diane, Gary and the youth team are a glowing example of God's love in action. They

consistently go the extra mile in caring for each young person. Whether it's delivering Easter eggs, Christmas cards or youth bibles - the youth team achieve a magical blend of faith and fun!" Rafi's (11) mum.

"It has been a really supportive and kind group to be in. I have loved the courses and bible studies over the weeks and it has been consistent all the way through the lockdowns; it has been the light of my week. I really enjoyed Flourish and Kintsugi Hope courses and they helped me to share feelings and hope with the loving, kind and friendly group. The leaders are always there for us and pray for us if we need it. They are always smiling and cheerful and they always have jokes and words of prayer and comfort up their sleeves." Eloise (12)

'I have really appreciated how much time and effort has gone in to the youth ministry and that it has been constant every week throughout the pandemic and has been a real blessing. Thank you.' Ruby's (13) mum

'It's been an eye-opening experience which I will remember forever. The courses I have taken part in have been extremely helpful with faith at the core. I have thoroughly enjoyed attending the zoom meetings and am very grateful for the non stop sessions.' Ruby (13)

Diane Paddon | Head of youth ministry

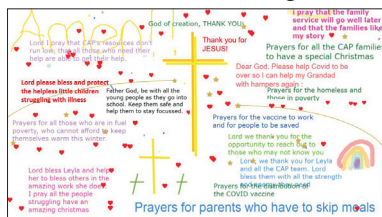
Discipleship

What does it mean to be Jesus's disciples in a time of pandemic? In God's strength we have been learning to adapt.

Most of our Life Groups have met online and report a deeper sense of encouragement. Those groups who have not been able to meet online have kept in touch through phone calls. A big thank you to all our Life Group leaders who have served faithfully. Life Groups of all shapes and sizes have been crucial in helping us to stick together and grow. If you don't yet belong to a group, call!

How have our frontlines (the places we spend most of our time with non-Christians) changed? Some vanished overnight in lockdown (temporarily, we hope.) Others have moved online. People have experienced furlough, redundancy, retirement, bereavement and isolation or a time of flourishing. We've all had to reassess how God is calling us to be fruitful in this time. Many have grown good relationships with neighbours.

Our Bread for Today series was a special blessing. What a wealth of spirituality we had to call upon from many people in the dark days of uncertainty. You can watch them again on YouTube.



Prayer

Diane set up our One Church One Day initiative. We pray for 24 hours every 1st Friday/ Saturday of the month. The bell tolls to remind the community we are praying for them, then we pray and praise together online to start the time. Prayer is our bedrock. I'm sure the Father knew that we needed to go deeper in prayer when he led Diane to set up this monthly oasis of prayer.



Belonging

We tried to connect with as many people as possible, making calls, texts, emails and notes, notably in the Mothering Sunday deliveries to all the women of Christ Church, (a huge thanks to the 38 people involved). When distanced walks and garden chats were allowed, many church members were spotted on the streets and parks of the parish enjoying fellowship on the move.

Podcasts

Aidan has led our great podcast series, a chance to go deeper into topics than we have time for on Sunday mornings. Highlights include looking at violence in the Old Testament with Rev Dr Helen Paynter. If you have a topic you would like to be covered in a future episode or you'd love to share your story, please get in touch!

Anita Dobson | Discipleship for All Ages

Open Church

Open Church met weekly on a Tuesday morning for refreshments followed by a time of interactive bible study and prayer. We had been getting about 20 people at our meetings but these were brought to an abrupt halt in March of last year by the current pandemic. The leaders sought to keep in touch with those who had attended either by phone or by email. A weekly email was sent out to all those for whom we had an email address, sharing encouragement, news and matters for prayer. We had hoped that meetings could resume after the summer but when it became evident that this would not be possible we began to meet weekly using Zoom. These began in November 2020 and have continued ever since.

We are currently linking our meetings with the Sunday morning sermon series. Numbers have increased online and we regularly get 15-20 people, including some who had not previously come to the meetings in the garden room. We enjoy our Zoom sessions but are greatly looking forward to the day when we can meet together again physically and share refreshments and conversation as well as bible study and prayer.

Chris Arnott, Peter Misselbrook, Diane Paddon and Geoff Payne

Mission and outreach



What does mission look like in the midst of a global pandemic? Our engagement with our mission partners has certainly looked different in the past 12 months. Travel restrictions have prevented face to face meetings with our overseas partners, so much of our support for them has been through prayer and finance. It's been great to have dedicated mission prayer slots in our monthly One Church One Day sessions, and our mission champions have been very creative in raising profile and fundraising - from face masks to chickens! All of our mission partners continue to greatly appreciate our ongoing support.

Locally the ministry of CAP has been at the centre of our community engagement, and as you'll see from Leyla's report there have been an abundance of opportunities to serve people in the area coping with the economic fallout from the pandemic. This expression of the local church in action, exercising compassion and engaging with real issues conveys the love of Christ in such a tangible way.

The tree of hope initiative in the build up to Easter provided an opportunity for the community to reflect and pray in an accessible way. Many people who might not have felt comfortable in a church service were able to tie a ribbon on the yew tree in the churchyard as an act of remembrance and prayer. The addition of flowers on Easter Sunday and beyond has been a powerful visual symbol of resurrection hope.

Modern technology has enabled us to run two small online Alpha courses in the last year - and plans are in place for an in-person Alpha in the near future. Zoom has also been the home of the adult wellbeing course and the Kintsugi Hope courses for youth. Further examples of the church engaging with real life with Jesus words always in view: 'I have come that they might have life, and life in all its fullness' John 10:10



And finally a reminder of God's call for us to 'Go, and make disciples' - Christ Church is a sending and equipping church - evidenced by many of our young adults serving as interns in churches and universities around the country, and in others such as Helen and David Owens, Esther and Nadeem Sardar, Dave and Kathy Prosser and Amy and Richard White moving on to new areas of service. They go with our blessing and prayers.

Paul Peterson | Head of mission and outreach ministry

Chaplaincy in the community



The Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell recently said, "Rebuilding after the pandemic might offer an opportunity to do things differently." (*Church Times* 5th March 2021)

I believe this describes Christ Church's relationship with local Care Homes and in the Communion ministry among us and in the Parish. During this last year we have been alongside in prayer, sharing the grief and lamenting the loss of so much, including some whom we had the privilege of sharing life and faith with.

Now is a new season; the distance enforced by Covid 19 restrictions is something the team wants to narrow, through reaching out to the homes and parishioners once again. We have been sending out cards and making phone calls; offering resources and supportive messages. As we emerge from lockdown there is a desire to serve the Parish once again in a variety of ways.

As some of you will know, my time in Ordination training is leading me on to a new church context to continue this training in preparation for Ordination in the Church of England. I will leave and take up a new position at the end of May 2021. I am truly thankful for the privilege of serving through the Chaplain role and for the ways God has ministered to others through me and the team; I am thankful for the joys and the challenges; I am thankful for the many people I have had the privilege of drawing alongside; the lives and stories that have touched so deeply.

I am delighted to say that Sally Grier has offered her time and skills to continue the coordination of the Communion team and the links into the Parish through this ministry.

I ask that you are faithful in prayer for Sally and all those who join with her in prayerfully discerning the 'next steps' in future to revitalise this ministry and mission. These include Ian Freestone, Norman Low, Pauline Pearce, Barbara Tooby, Val Henderson, Liz Misselbrook, Ruth McNeill.

With love and prayers

Kathy Prosser | Community Chaplain

Christians Against Poverty (CAP)



How a pandemic changed the landscape of CAP

We've been talking about COVID-19 all year. In that time we've coined some new phrases like social distancing, self-isolation and support bubbles. Some have been able to save more, or pay off that credit card, whereas others have struggled to get by on an 80% wage, or really felt the extra costs of being at home all the time.

In 2020 we've been challenged to get creative in serving our clients and find new ways of reaching out to others:

Client "Visits"

We've had to dramatically change the way we deliver our Debt Help service. CAP Head Office were swift to introduce a new telephone service, replacing face to face visits in accordance with Government guidelines. Whilst this has enabled us to continue offering our free debt help service, many of our vulnerable clients rely on the extra support that comes with an in-person service and have decided to wait until this resumes. Based on this, we're expecting 2021/22 to be an especially busy time.

CAP Schools Partnership Project

Thanks to an inspired brainwave from our Debt Coach, Rosie Brydon, we developed a new way of serving others during 2020. With many children unable to benefit from free school meals during school closures, we created a new 12 month food delivery service. Our marvellous CAP volunteers have been delivering a monthly supermarket shop to families referred to us by primary schools. It's been a wonderful way to build relationships with local schools and support families in a really practical way.

Looking to 2021

I've been involved with CAP as both a volunteer and a Centre Manager for almost five years now. As you might know, I'm moving on to a new job and wanted to say a heartfelt thank you to our wonderful team and congregation for all your support. I've put my all into furthering the mission of CAP and it's been a real honour to have served alongside you. I have a real feeling of optimism as both our nation and CAP journey out of lockdown and into a new future.



Leyla Fellows | CAP centre manager

Creative media

The need to communicate within the church family and to the wider community has never mattered more. Thanks to our wonderful team, this area of ministry has continued and we have reached into many homes and hearts. Simon has played a particularly key role uploading content and enabling our different platforms to connect so that people could receive encouragement and information and be able to respond.



We were made even more aware than before that a significant minority of our community are not online, so Simon set up the Dial a Sermon system to enable them to listen to recent preaching by phone. Regular hand delivered newsletters have kept people in the loop as much as possible: thanks to our delivery team. The office team have worked so hard to produce these.

Publicity: although there were few big events in our calendar, there is still Good News to share, so we've continued to place regular adverts and articles in *Downend Voice* and to put posters up at our three sites. Ian has brought to this ministry his heart for mission and the understanding of how others might be looking in at us, as well as his quirky humour. Mike has made sure our poster boards are up to date. Jenny kept us on track to make sure we met deadlines and produced suitable content.

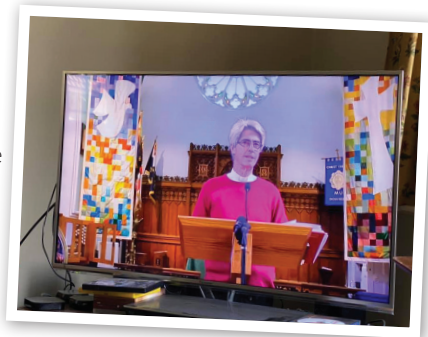
Our social media presence has continued to be active thanks to Jenny, Jonners, Simon and Eloise. Please engage with us through these platforms and share widely with your friends so that the good news of Jesus is spread abroad (sometimes literally!)

For those with an eye for numbers....

Since lockdown began in 2020 we have had over 47,000 views, for over 5,400 hours of viewing time, of our YouTube videos, including Sunday services, bread for todays, children's videos and some youth content.

By the end of a Sunday service we are averaging about 100 views (meaning that 40-60 households are clicking on the service but might just not be staying). However by the end of the week we are getting 200-300 views, so people are accessing the service at other times. Our Youtube channel has 254 subscribers who will get notified when new videos are shared.

On Facebook we have 904 'Likes' of our page. During April alone our posts have reached over



6,500 people with 1,010 people engaging with our posts. Our Facebook private group has over 250 members which is more of a safe and slightly private space for members of the church community to share things including prayer requests.

This ministry has a huge potential for reaching new church members into the future. We have such a strong online platform now that many people moving into the area, or thinking of exploring faith will easily be able to find us and see what we are like as a church before they even come to a service. Many thanks to Aidan and Simon for the stats.

Special thanks to Jenny who led the team until spring 2021 and to Jon for putting together this annual report.

Anita Dobson | Comms team leader

Christ Church schools

The Christ Church Infants school vision of 'A Caring Community, Courageously Learning, Inspired to live life to the full' has never been more relevant than in the past year when facing many enormous challenges, including managing online teaching during lockdowns while also teaching children of key workers in school, and then the safe return of all pupils to school.

We as Foundation Governors have been delighted to see how the well-established vision and values have been worked out in consistent attitudes of compassion, resilience and genuine care for all children as individuals. It has been wonderful to see how live Collective Worship continued throughout lockdowns, a major tool in bringing the school community together while so much has been fragmented and distanced.

We have welcomed a new Foundation Governor from another church, but with Jo's retirement and Belinda finishing after two four-year terms, we are actively looking for someone new to take up this fulfilling and purposeful role in the next few months.

Belinda Stowe

Christ Church Junior school meanwhile have risen to the challenges presented by the pandemic in line with its vision to 'Value, Inspire, Create and Engage our pupils, staff and community'. This has been no easy task, but under the leadership of Pippa Osborne and her staff team the school continues to flourish. Her deputy Susan Friend moved on to a headship at another school in October, with Alex Desmond stepping up into the deputy role.

As foundation governors it was affirming to see the school awarded the 'Church School Partnership award' from the Diocese which recognises the close links and relationships between Christ Church and the school. This was expressed in a very practical way through the CAP Schools project supporting many families with food parcels and a personal link with a member of the congregation.

We've been producing pre-recorded assemblies to supplement those offered by school staff and several classes from both the Junior and Infant schools were able to join us for Experience Easter Outside recently.

It was great to welcome Aidan Watson to the Foundation Governor team in 2020, to serve alongside Mike Bull and myself.

Paul Peterson | Associate Minister

Finance report



In January 2020, the PCC optimistically set a break-even General Fund budget for the 2020 year, but little did we know of the impending devastation the COVID-19 pandemic was going to bring. Just as many businesses suffered through reduced income with little reduction in outgoings, we were no different, and soon felt the impact of reduced plate and envelope donations and drastically reduced hall bookings, with limited opportunities to save costs. An early decision was taken by the PCC to furlough two members of staff, to take advantage of the Government's offer to cover 80% of their wages, with only the remaining 20% to come from Church funds, and streamline the office function, sadly resulting in the loss of one role. Plans were also made to collect envelope donations from members of our congregation.

As Christians we are taught to trust in God, and 2020 tested our resolve like no other. Through the immense generosity of our congregation, epitomised by the amazing £25,000 raised through the Gift Day in October, receipt of a legacy which was able to be used to offset some of our Parish Share contribution, plus some reductions in outgoings and careful management of our finances, God's grace shone through and we ended the year with a General Fund surplus of £24,000. This helped prop up the finances of both our halls which suffered greatly due to them not being able to take bookings during much of the year. It will also help repay some of our Building 4 Life debts next year.

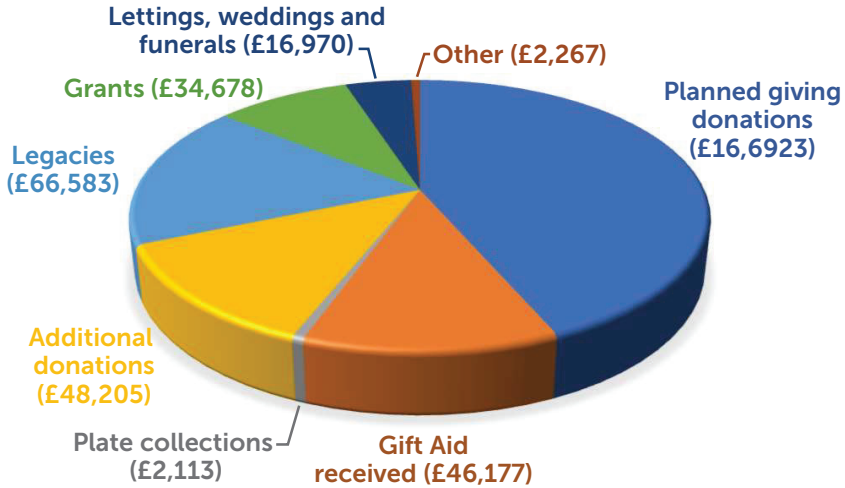
The recent Building 4 Life project has cost the Church approximately £1.4m with around £900,000 being funded by generous giving by members of our congregation. To supplement this, the Church took out a £100,000 loan from the Diocese, a £250,000 long-term interest free loan kindly made available by a member of our congregation, and a number of short-term, interest free loans to help us with cash flow as the project neared completion. During 2019 we were able to repay all but £30,000 of the short-term loans and pay £10,000 towards the Diocesan loan. Under the agreement for the £250,000 loan, we were due to repay £120,000 in 2020, so much of the spring and summer was spent exploring different commercial loan options. However, in the end, largely through receipt of the legacy and a decision to defer repayment of the Diocesan loan and the Diocese graciously agreeing to a reduction in our Parish Share commitment, we were able to make that repayment without incurring further debt. Praise the Lord! At the end of 2020, our B4L debts stood at £250,000 and plans are in place to repay these by 2027.

The finances of many churches across the country suffered greatly during 2020, and many are still suffering, but we have been truly blessed by the generosity of our congregation and the hard work and dedication of the team of people involved in the collection and banking of income, raising money through grants, taking bookings and collecting money from hirers of our buildings in the brief periods this was permissible, administering Gift Aid and legacies, maintaining accounts, setting budgets and financial strategy, and providing sound governance and scrutiny of our activities. Special thanks to our bookkeeper, Sally Coates, who is shortly moving on to pastures new, the office

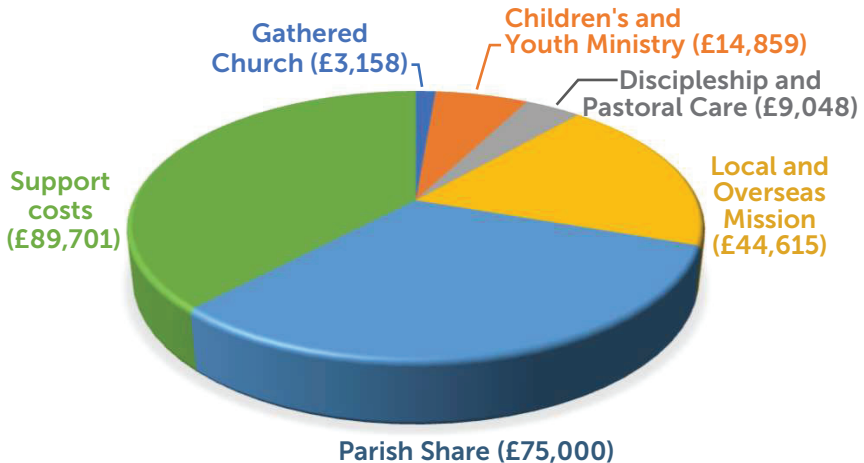
Income and expenditure

Income	£		Expenditure	£	
Planned giving donations	166,923	43%	Support costs	89,701	30%
Legacies	66,583	17%	Parish Share	75,000	25%
Additional donations	48,205	13%	Staffing costs	66,445	22%
Gift Aid received	46,177	12%	Local & Overseas Mission	44,615	15%
Grants	34,678	9%	Children's & Youth Ministry	14,859	5%
Lettings, weddings & funerals	16,970	4%	Discipleship & Pastoral Care	9,048	3%
Other	2,267	1%	Gathered Church	3,158	1%
Plate collections	2,113	1%			
Total	383,916		Total	302,826	

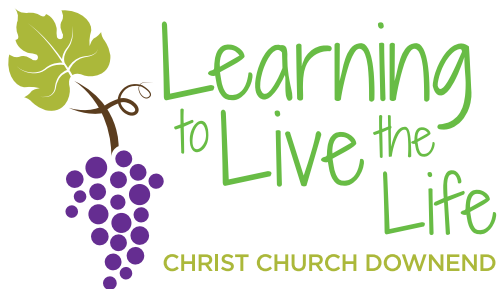
Sources of income



How we spent our income



Surplus of £81,090 carried forward in respective designated, restricted and unrestricted funds.



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