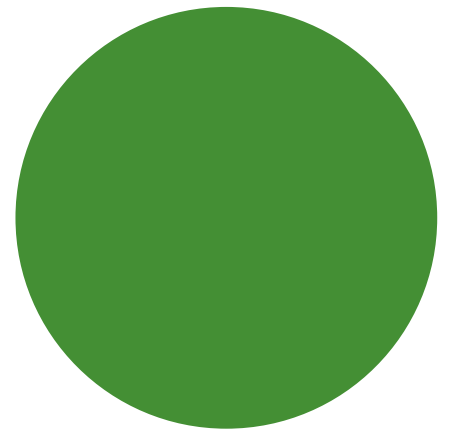
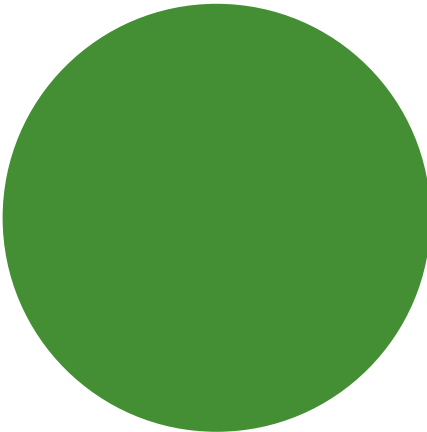
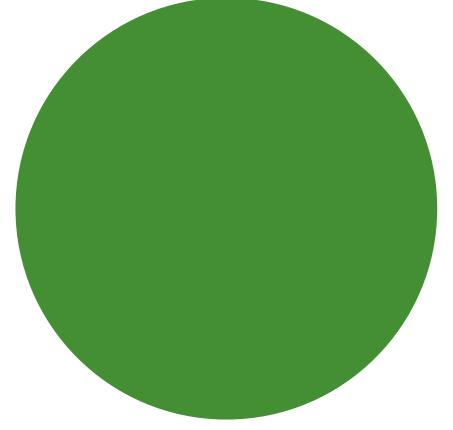
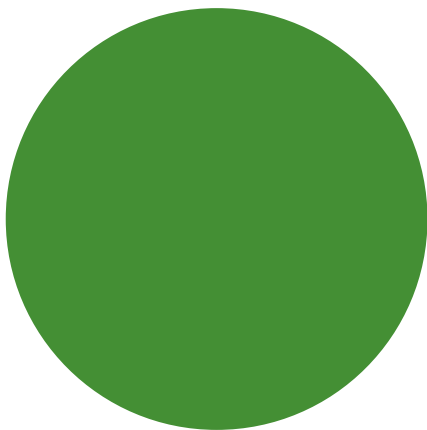
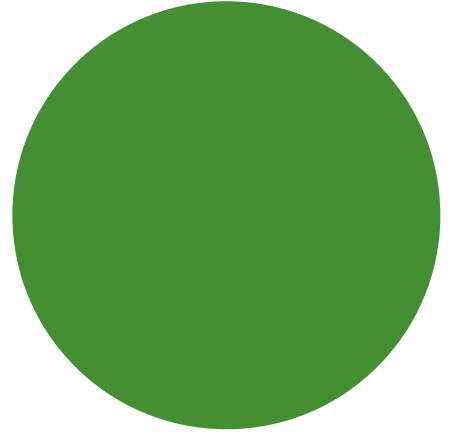
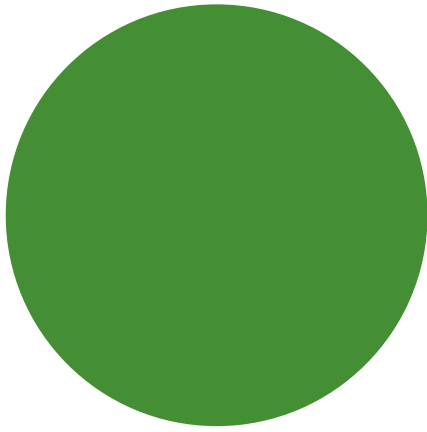


# Annual Report 2022

## Christ Church Downend







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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'.

Many thanks to Chris Dobson for providing the images.





‘Learning to  
live the life’

## Introduction

What a privilege to write this introduction as we reflect on another year of Christ Church life. It's been another year when the Covid pandemic has affected all of our lives, but the mission of God remains as vital as ever.

In some respects we're in a time of transition as we await the appointment of a new incumbent; but the pages which follow demonstrate that in no sense are we just treading water. The ministry heads team is hugely talented and passionate about serving God's purposes, and I'm thankful for the ways in which we've pulled together since Jo and Shahne's departure last June and continued to prayerfully lead Christ Church forward.

During the year we've seen some move on from our staff team and others take their place. Leyla Fellows and Sally Coates stepped down from CAP and bookkeeping roles respectively, and we're so grateful to them for their ministries, but it's been great to welcome Harriet Jolly, Rosie Brydon, Gabrielle Foster and Beth Mullings to the team. Alongside them so many of you have served often in unheralded ways – a big thank you!

I love the fact that Christ Church is an equipping and sending church – in the past 12 months we've seen the Prosser family move on as Kathy responded to God's call to ordination, Nadeem, Esther and family head down the M5 to Cornwall as Esther serves the church through her worship ministry, and many others move on to face new challenges elsewhere. At the root of our whole life disciple making vision is a desire to see people growing in faith and impacting others with the good news of Jesus – it must always be outward looking rather than self serving.

Before too long we'll be saying our goodbyes to Aidan and Cathie Watson as Aidan finishes his curacy and Cathie starts hers. We wish them and Reuben well as they move up to Derby in June, and thank them for the energy and wisdom they've shared with us in recent times.

The church of God must never stand still and when people move on or stand down from positions of responsibility there's a great opportunity for others to step out in faith into new areas of

ministry. It's been great to welcome new members to our church family in the last 12 months. All of us have a part to play however young or old, whatever our background and experience or our levels of confidence. As Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 12: 'Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.'

We play our part through our serving and giving, praying and loving so that others might know the saving love of Christ. Whether that's in the gathered church environment or on our frontlines day by day let's not shy away from stepping out in faith, 'for he who promised is faithful.'



**Rev Paul Peterson**  
Associate Minister

# About Christ Church Downend

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

## Clergy:

Rev Paul Peterson (associate minister and chair of PCC)  
Rev Aidan Watson (curate)  
Rev Chris Dobson (assistant minister)

**Churchwardens:** Bryan Ashton and Maggie Nichols

## PCC elected members from April 2021

Rosie Brydon  
Julian Cox  
Sally Green  
Adam Parfitt  
Eloise Phillips  
Andy Pound  
Laura Powell

## Clerk to the PCC:

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 churchwardens take responsibility for general building issues. A personnel sub group seeks 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:** Rosie Brydon

**Parish administrators:** Elissa Wiltshire

### Assistant parish administrators:

Maggie Nichols and Beth Mullings (appointed March 2022)

### Bookkeeper:

Gabrielle Foster

## Christ Church building manager:

Maggie Nichols

**Verger:** Andy McNeill

## Ministry heads (as at April 2022):

**Children:** Harriet Jolly (appointed as children's coordinator March 2022)

**Communications:** Anita Dobson

**Discipleship for all ages:** Anita Dobson

**Mission and outreach:** Paul Peterson

**Community chaplain:** Vacant

**Wholeness and pastoral care:** care coordinators' team

## Worship and leadership development:

Paul Peterson, Aidan Watson and

Anita Dobson

**Youth:** Diane Paddon and Gary Smart



# Report from the PCC

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) held six meetings via Zoom and face to face when government restrictions would allow, during 2021/2022. At the start of each meeting PCC members spent time in prayer, reflection and discussion. Following this a number of proposals were approved, including various items relating to vision, buildings, finances and staffing matters.

Our parish pledge for 2021 was set at £90,000.00.

Our Building 4 Life debts were closely monitored and further repayments totalling £38,500 made during the year.

During the pandemic, a regular agenda item was 'Doing Church Differently' as we responded to various government restrictions. The team showed great creativity and adaptability throughout.

## Buildings

The church wardens submitted regular reports and expenditure was agreed

on various items to ensure that our buildings were well looked after.

## Eco church

A newly formed group headed up by Aidan Watson is helping us move towards an eco church award.

## Safeguarding

Laura Powell the parish safeguarding officer provided regular safeguarding updates and organised relevant training for church members. She has also led our bid for a safeguarding award from the diocese. In the near future Laura is looking to stand down due to other commitments after five years in this role.

## Human resources

Rosie Brydon became CAP centre manager.

Harriet Jolly was appointed as children's coordinator for eight hours per week.

'It's  
great  
to see the  
schools back  
in Church  
'  
...

Beth Mullings was appointed as assistant parish administrator for 14 hours per week.

Bookkeeper hours were adjusted to reflect an increased workload.

Following Jo Vickery's retirement, a sub group of the PCC worked on the parish profile for the vicar's role which included consultation with the wider congregation. Adam Parfitt and Maggie Nichols were elected as our parish representatives and have played a full part in the interview processes to date.

A staff wage increase of 4.9% was recently agreed.

## Caroline Plummer

Clerk to the PCC

# Churchwardens

This year has been extremely busy although not necessarily in numbers but we seem to be having lots of events.

It's great to see the schools back in Church for their special services and Experience Easter is back too. Downend Folk Club are now using the Church building as their monthly venue, which is great news. We have also had a few concerts. Christmas services were mostly well attended and it was good we were able to welcome a great many folk from our community.

As far as the building is concerned we have had one or two issues. The small walls at the main doors had to be repaired and you will have noticed scaffold up for quite a long time at the east end. Initially this was erected to

repair the bell rope but whilst the scaffold was there a piece of stone fell from the bell tower but luckily onto the scaffold boards and not through the roof. On investigation it has been found there are quite a few loose stones which have to be replaced and a large crack needs repair inside the top of the tower. There is also work to be done on the north tower too.

Our quinquennial inspection has taken place although we have only just received the written report and we have not had time to digest its contents as yet, except we do have to have a structural engineer's report done in the light of problems with the towers.

We also conducted a triennial inspection with the area dean which ensures the silver etc can all be accounted



for and our records are accurate.

Numbers are increasing again now and we have been able to have chairs in rows again although fairly well distanced since Covid is still around.

Our thanks to the assistant wardens for their support and especially to Colin for organising the rota and Andy for all his support and help over the past year or so.

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

**Maggie Nichols and Bryan Ashton**  
Churchwardens



# Church structure



A visual portrayal of how the church's life and mission is organised. Leaders of the various ministries are accountable to the PCC through the incumbent or associate minister.

# Worship

Flexibility has been our watchword in 2021. Although various Covid restrictions have impacted our worshipping life together, they couldn't stop us worshipping the King of all creation. Whether online or in person we've raised our voices, prayed together, reflected on God's word and enjoyed fellowship with one another. Our team of leaders and preachers have been kept on their toes. Lots of last minute changes to rotas and hastily prepared sermons or recordings of sermons have been necessary, but everyone has responded with good grace and generosity. Our tech team have done a great job in ensuring we reach a wider audience through our live streaming.

Having said goodbye to Jo and Shahne last summer, it's been great to welcome Anne Louise Critchlow, Cathie Watson (on placement) and Ruth Spencer to our preaching team. We've explored themes around worship on our frontlines, seasonal series and most recently an overview of scripture rooted in Pete Hughes' book *All Things New*. A rich diet to feed on and equip us to live for Christ in our daily lives.

The music group for the 10.30am service has gradually been able to spread its wings again after the limitations imposed by the pandemic, and send out to other corners of the country several key team members (Amy and Richard to Blackburn Diocese; Esther and Nadeem to Truro Diocese and Helen and David to Chippenham.) In recent weeks we've seen a fresh energy in our worship as masks have been removed and we've been given our voices back.

We celebrate and enjoy the gifts of our younger team members, and we've welcomed some new members to the team. There is still plenty of scope if you enjoy singing or play an instrument, so please get in touch. We feel there is at least one person out there with a sense of rhythm who could quickly master the cajon box drum.

Our team of Celtic musicians has grown to four under the



experienced and gifted support of Helen and Kai and at Church Centre we're so grateful to Barbara Lauritson for her musical lead.

A massive thankyou to our tech team, sound operators, wardens and assistant wardens, coffee teams, chair movers and everyone who contributes to our gathered worshipping life at Church Centre and Christ Church.

**Paul Peterson and Anita Dobson**







'Over the last year, although it's been tough for many, our discipleship has deepened.'



## Discipleship

### Deeper roots and wider branches

Over the last year, although it's been tough for many, our discipleship has deepened.

### We have grown in prayer:

Diane has continued to lead our monthly One Church One Day 24 hours of prayer on the first Friday of each month, and we also held a week of 24/7 prayer in January which took place in homes and streets across the parish rather than in the building, in conjunction with four other churches in the area. We continue with weekly prayer times on Mondays at 9.15am and Wednesdays at 7am, as well as prayer triplets and all the prayer that individuals pour before the Lord. A prayer group has met throughout the time of vacancy, praying for the process of finding our new vicar. Our prayer link led by Mary Freestone gets emergency prayer requests out by email. Our Women's Prayer Breakfast was an oasis of peace in January.

### We have grown in Bible study and learning:

Our life groups have continued to bring life and hope to many through studying the Bible and applying it to our lives, from the youth Elev8 study groups (see youth ministry report) to a range of daytime and evening groups for adults. There has been a sense of wanting and needing to wrestle with Scripture, combined with the encouragement from being in a group. A huge thanks goes to all our life group leaders, especially to Diane Paddon who stepped down from Open Church leadership, Jackie and Richard Hill who stepped down from leading a home group.

### We've weathered many storms on our frontlines:

Many people have faced times of increasing pressure on work and family life, but also been able to resume a more active lifestyle again which means greater connection with others. Most working people are now back in offices at least part time. Leisure activities and

family reunions have been possible. On the other hand, those who are especially vulnerable have had to continue with shielding and the sense that everyone else is 'getting back to normal' without them. Faith has been tested but encouraged through Sunday worship and fellowship with others.



### We've welcomed new members:

It has been a joy to see and get to know new people who have joined us over the last year. We have managed a couple of newcomer events despite the pandemic. Each new arrival is a great gift to our community.

If you would like help to grow deeper roots and/or wider branches in your faith, eg through being part of a life group, please get in touch.

### Anita Dobson

Discipleship for all ages

# Youth ministry

The heart of youth ministry is expressed on our new team t-shirts, 'Fun, Family, Faith'.

**Fun** – living life to the full. As restrictions eased, online games were replaced with twelve weeks of games at Elev8 in Page Park, then in September, back to the youth hub.

**Family** – we're not an organisation or a club, but a loving, accepting, and safe family, together every Wednesday and Sunday throughout the year. Most people 'belong' before they 'believe'.

**Faith** – creating space to explore faith and develop personal relationships with God, even encouraging the prayer life of younger Church families by making creative prayer bags to use for the monthly One Church One Day 24 hours of prayer.

Inspiring Story Sundays and Serving Sundays continued throughout the pandemic. The youth got involved in running a fun family event for CAP clients. We held another Summer Super Serving Sunday, encouraging the whole Church to put faith in action and show God's love in practical ways by cleaning the railings of Page Park. It is so good for the Church to be visibly shining in the local community. Our youth ministry also had national impact when the BBC heard about Serving Sundays and asked if we could be filmed for Songs of Praise. Twenty of us had a fun day planting 15 trees in honour of the Queen's platinum jubilee.



My prayer was that of the many people who would see it, other churches and youth groups would also be inspired to express God's love in practical ways. Within hours of the episode being aired, a youth leader from Slough, Maidenhead and Windsor got in touch and later promoted Serving Sundays in his newsletter. The following weekend, on BBC Radio Bristol, I shared how Jesus had come, not to be served but to serve, and the presenter said that we were conquering the world with Serving Sundays. Prayer answered!

During the year we ran back-to-back wellbeing courses for students in Downend School, in what was once called the conference room and is now called the multi-faith prayer room. The feedback is always so positive. Praise God!

Abraham and Josh became young youth leaders, joining the volunteer youth team, and are a massive asset to the growing Thursday night Ignite outreach groups, which re-opened after the October half term. Luke, who graduated to youth leader, finally made it to HH orphanage India in his gap year, where he was teaching English and leading evening devotions.

In May we collected funds outside Co-op for India, and Co-op again chose our youth group as one of their charities for 2022.

The youth partnered with Downend Round Table (DRT) in collecting with Santa's sleigh. DRT made a generous donation to the youth group. People with a heart for youth ministry have also made donations to the youth group, enabling us to remain self-funded and not request a church budget.

We are so grateful for the Lord's continued blessing upon the youth ministry at Christ Church, enabling our young people to be a blessing to our church, the local community, nation, and wider world.

**Diane Paddon**  
Youth ministry head





# Children, families and schools' ministry

Children and families' ministry has probably been one of the most Covid affected areas of the church throughout the last two years due to the impossible nature of children and social distancing. During the summer of 2021 we were able to host our families at 4pm services every other Sunday, which were café church style services that had happened on Zoom through the winter months. As a church we were desperate for children's work to return in the 10.30am service which it did finally in September.

We have new members join the children's ministry team, and many return across the differing age groups once more and we are so grateful for all that they do. They have helped the children settle back into church, with many of them having not stepped foot in the building for over 18 months.

In light of team and venue limitations with Covid restrictions still in place we arranged our age groups as follows, creche (0-2) in the garden room, sparklers (3-5) in the parish hall, connected (5-8) and connected plus (8-11) all together in the infant school hall. Both Sparklers and the connected groups have focused on foundational Christian teaching through the last year, as part of reintroducing many to church.

Liz Leeson had been overseeing the ministry in a temporary coordinating role, with support from Aidan and Anita as well as other volunteers. After an appeal, very generous financial support from the congregation meant that we were able to advertise a 20 hours a week paid post starting in the autumn, however we were twice unsuccessful in appointing. In September Aidan took over as ministry head, with Liz still providing administrative support and

wisdom, and we are incredibly grateful for all she has done.

In the new year we readvertised a reduced role and we are delighted to have welcomed Harriet Jolly to our staff team as children's ministry coordinator. She began in mid-March and has the responsibility of recruiting, training and supporting our volunteer teams, being part of the Messy Church leadership and also looking to reach out to families who have moved more to the fringe of our church membership or who haven't been seen for a while.

Whilst again affected by Covid, our church school links remain strong. Aidan and Paul have conducted collective worship and services with both the Christ Church Infant (CCI) and Junior (CCJ) schools on Zoom and in person. Both schools, along with Stanbridge Primary and Bromley Heath Juniors took part in Experience Easter. It has been an incredibly difficult year for all schools, and the staff

at CCI and CCJ continue to face serious challenges due to the disruption of education as well as other pressures. As a church we continue to support both school leaderships, providing several foundation governors. Please continue to pray for our schools, in particular headteachers Anna Martin (CCI) and Pippa Osborne (CCJ).

**Rev Aidan Watson**  
Curate

'As a church we were desperate for children's work to return ...'





# Mission and outreach

At the heart of whole life disciple making vision is the idea that our primary mission fields are the places God has called us to spend the majority of our time – our frontlines. But alongside this there will always be some centrally organised initiatives to introduce people to the Christian faith. Alpha has been one of the main ways we've done this for many years. A small Alpha course took place in the youth hub in the autumn term and as you'll read elsewhere Youth Alpha has also helped some of our teenagers discover and go deeper in faith.

'Many of our global mission partners have faced significant challenges this year ...'

Messy Church has continued to meet monthly and whilst numbers attending has been badly affected by the Covid pandemic, Anita and her team have shown great creativity in engaging with families around the fringes of church life, and sharing the gospel with them. Open Church is also back meeting in person and offering a safe place for people to explore matters of faith in a welcoming environment.

As we worked on the parish profile in anticipation of a new vicar, one of the areas identified as a potential growth area was our engagement with the Bromley Heath area of the Parish. This time last year Anne Louise and Mark Critchlow started worshipping at the Church Centre and over recent months Anne Louise has shared her heart for work amongst the older generation in that area. There's all sorts of potential for growth and we're looking at organising a

Jubilee cream tea event and celebration service to kick start further activities.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) has been at the forefront of our mission life in 2021 as Rosie Brydon outlines in her report. We're so grateful for Leyla Fellows' work as centre manager up until the spring of last year, and for Rosie as she has picked up the baton and led the Centre in a challenging time for so many people in our communities.

Many of our global mission partners have faced significant challenges this year, but have shown great creativity and resilience in adapting the ways they operate. Our financial donations, prayer support and encouragement are greatly appreciated.

In Tanzania, Neema Crafts have found new markets for their goods as tourist numbers in Iringa have been decimated by the pandemic, and continue to transform the lives of the disabled artisans they employ. We must pray for Ben and Katy Ray as they look to move on to Arusha to establish a similar project later this year.

Jan and Richard have been unable to lead Mission Direct teams to Uganda, but have largely worked remotely to ensure that practical initiatives have continued apace and that key work in Kumi has been well funded and overseen.

Pastor Misa and his wife Ina continue to minister in Ustrsoia and have seen growth in their children's ministry this year. They've also celebrated the baptisms of new members and built good relationships in the local community. Events of recent weeks are causing concern for everyone in Moldova and churches are playing a key role in receiving and supporting refugees from Ukraine.

It's great that Luke Paddon has been able to spend a few weeks at the orphanage in India recently on a placement, supporting their ministry and learning from them. Prasant and his team show incredible faith and commitment in serving both the children and local church leaders.

Open Doors continues to serve persecuted Christians across the world and we're regularly reminded of the challenges our brothers and sisters face in living out their faith in the midst of great hostility. How easy it is to take all of our freedoms for granted.

Our hope and prayer is that further mission trips can be arranged in the near future and that our mission partnerships will be strengthened further as the world opens up again. We're really grateful to our mission champions for the ways in which they support and profile their projects on mission Sundays, through One Church One Day prayer times and via social media and one off events. How vital it is that we look outwards beyond the relative comforts of 21st century western life.

**Paul Peterson**  
Associate minister



# Christians Against Poverty (CAP) debt centre

## Client visits

We've seen increased demand for our CAP service and currently support 28 families and see three new clients each month.

It's been wonderful to resume face-to-face visits as this really helps build trusting and caring relationships with our clients.

Our amazing befrienders offer practical and moral support, sometimes in surprising ways, such as providing a secondhand car. If you're interested in finding out more about this role, I'd love to talk with you.

## Food parcels

Demand remains high for our food parcel service. Thanks so much for your generous donations and to our delivery team for making this possible. School holidays are tough for parents in debt, so to help with half term holidays, we've just delivered food parcels to 12 families referred from local schools.

## Other services

Our focus has returned to building one-to-one relationships with clients. And it's often the little things which make all the difference. Being treated to lunch and coffee whilst having a chat with their befriender means so much to our clients. Liz Parsons heads up our birthday team sending out cards and homemade cakes to clients on their special day.

With the help of our congregation and the Salvation Army, we delivered Christmas hampers and gifts to all our clients. One client told me that our hamper was all their family received at Christmas. It's these touching stories which keep our team inspired and motivated to continue God's work in the community.

## Building links with other churches

Our clients are scattered over quite a wide area and we'd love to help them to

find a home in a local church. To help achieve this, we're building links with several churches who can welcome our families with open arms and share God's love with them.

I can't thank you enough for supporting CAP – whether it be direct involvement with clients, praying, donating food or money, responding to requests on Facebook or delivering food parcels – our service is only possible because of your contribution. Thank you. You are such an encouragement and inspiration.

**Rosie Brydon**

CAP centre manager



# One Church One Day: monthly 24 hours of prayer

Our first One Church One Day (OCOD) took place at the start of the pandemic on Good Friday 10th April 2020. April 2022 marks two years of our participation in One Church One Day. Our hunger for prayer and growing desire to draw closer and go deeper with God, are consistently expressed in the monthly OCOD reflections and testimonies.

OCOD is Bristol churches united in prayer around a verse of scripture. Each church covers a different day of the month, forming a canopy of prayer over Bristol. Our day is the first Friday of each month, beginning at 7pm with an hour of Prayer and Praise Together on Zoom. Prayer and Praise Together is an uplifting time of Spirit filled worship, covering the church, the wider community, and the world in prayer. It's great to have our mission champions leading us in prayer for our mission partners each month, and

especially great to have Luke Paddon zooming in from our mission partners in India in March. The baton of prayer is then metaphorically passed between members of the church's praying family, each taking an hour, through to 7pm Saturday evening. Over sixty of us regularly take part.

Initially many expressed how they felt an hour in prayer would be a long time to fill, but having taken part, people testify how an hour in the Lord's presence flies by. Reflections show that people spend their hour with the Lord in a whole range of active, creative and meditative ways. Children, young people, and adults all join in, growing in faith, and in their relationships with God as they consciously spend time with him.

Though physically apart, many have testified to the sense of togetherness and encouragement experienced in this monthly 24 hours of prayer, and in the

sharing of reflections and testimonies that follow. James Gardner shared,

'For an ill-disciplined prayer like me, OCOD feels like parkrun. I can go and run 5km anytime I like, but going and running with several hundred other people on a Saturday morning is so much more fun and you end up running that bit better than if you were on your own.'

'The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.' Psalm 145:18. We amplify the power of prayer when we pray together; one church, one day, one God.

**Diane Paddon**

One Church One Day lead



## Care coordinators

**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 Aidan Watson, Francis Kirby, Liz Misselbrook, and Barbara Tooby. Rev Jo Vickery, who originally set up the team, retired in June 2021 and Rev Paul Peterson has taken his place. The group has met regularly during the year. Both Paul and Aidan are very supportive of the group and are keen, that, we as a church, offer Christian love and support to all those in need both within the church and in the wider community.

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

to offer support to those in need.

There are several church members who are now frail and unable to attend church services and they are very pleased to receive personal visits and telephone calls. Due to Covid and the strict hospital visiting rules, a church member has been regularly visiting someone with no immediate family who has been in hospital for several weeks. A member of the team sits with a friend's husband who has become quite frail while his wife is able to enjoy an occasional hour to herself outside the home.

Christ Church is a very caring community and the team appreciates all the care and support offered by other groups within the church such as Open Church, the bereavement group, Thursday morning communion, the home communion team, the Church Centre and the Mothers' Union and

for the large number of individuals who offer help and look after

many. We are also very grateful to all those individuals who keep the team informed of others who may need particular help, a phone call or visit.



### Barbara Tooby

Care coordinators' team

'... we as a Church, offer Christian love and support to all those in need'

## Communications

We've continued to be blessed by the gifts of our communications team, not least by Jon Tooby who has produced this annual report and who also did an amazing job creating our parish profile to seek the right person to be our new vicar.

### Communicating with each other:

Getting the balance right between the traditional methods of communicating (letters, leaflets and posters) and the digital ones (emails and social media) is always tricky in a community of all ages, but we have done our best, especially through the wonderful office team led by Elissa. We've tried to cut down the amount of printed paper leaflets we produce but still keep people in the loop. We know some find emails tiresome, but it really is the

most effective way to keep the largest number of people abreast of things so keep persevering with your inbox.

### Communicating with the community

Ian Browne's striking poster design for our noticeboards, and our presence in the *Downend Voice* magazine help to create an inviting and intriguing glimpse into our community. We are trying to aim to not to cram so much information onto these, preferring to direct people to the website where there's space to share all the details. Articles about what you are up to both in church-based activities and in the rest of your life are especially welcome, so if you want your group's activities, your family's life milestones, fundraising or other issues covered, please get in touch.

Nowhere was our profile more visible than in the fantastic Songs of Praise episode in January which features our young people planting trees for the Queens' Jubilee Tree Canopy. Our young people and leaders shone out with such faith and confidence. We've had increasingly fruitful contact with people through the website, answering queries, signposting people to useful resources and inviting them into our community. Huge thanks to Simon, Elissa, Aidan and Jon who work on the website, with Abraham also learning alongside the team.

### Anita Dobson

Communications coordinator



# Finance report

Due to the wonderful generosity of our congregation during the incredibly disruptive and uncertain first year of the Covid pandemic, the PCC were able to agree a surplus budget for the 2021 year of £15,819, with a view that this surplus would be used to either support our halls, both of which suffered significant income shortfalls in the various lockdown phases, or further reduce our Building 4 Life (B4L) debts.

The recent B4L project 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. At the start of the 2021 year total debts had been reduced to £250,000 and plans were agreed to repay these monies by 2027 at the latest, or sooner should we benefit from legacies and additional giving.

We were fortunate to have received a legacy in 2020 which we were able to put towards the 2021 Parish Share we pay to the Diocese which funds, amongst other things, the salaries of our clergy and the upkeep of their homes. This in turn meant we were able to pay off an additional £20,000 of the loan we took out from the

Diocese, reducing our total B4L loan debts to £211,500. Furthermore, our financial performance during 2021 was even better than we budgeted for with a General Fund surplus of circa £32,500. This, combined with the surplus achieved in 2020, will enable us to repay £10,000 of our short-term loans and make an additional £10,000 repayment towards the Diocese loan. It will also enable investment in better equipment to stream live services over the internet and meet some of the costs associated with repairs to the South Tower.

Yet again, we have been 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, facilitating the hire of our buildings, administering gift aid and legacies, maintaining accounts, setting budgets and financial strategy, and providing sound governance and scrutiny of our activities. Special thanks go to our former bookkeeper, Sally Coates, who finished with us earlier this year, and to Gabrielle Foster who has admirably replaced her, the office team, our planned giving secretary, Dave Tooby, and the other members of the Giving 4 Life team (Dave Green, Debra Turpin, Adam Parfitt, and Rev Paul Peterson).

**Jamie Paddon**

Treasurer and chair of Giving 4 Life

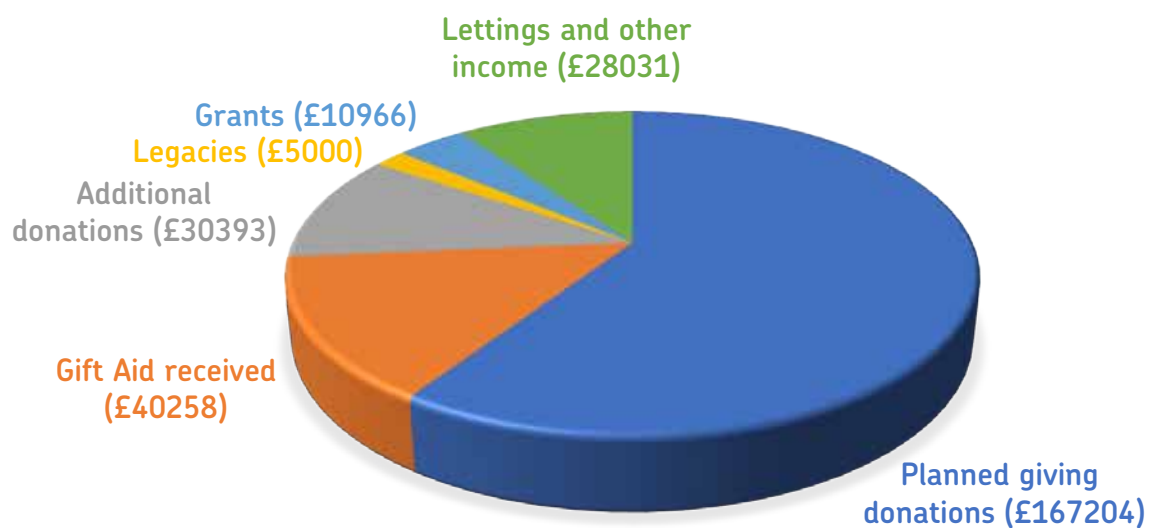


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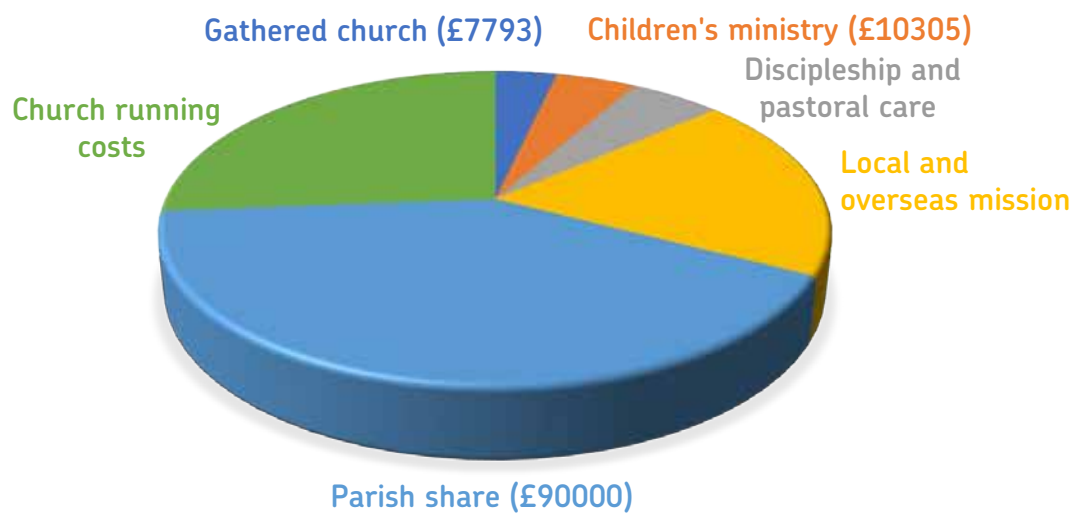
## Income and expenditure 2021

Income	£		Expenditure	£	
Planned giving donations	167,204	59%	Church running costs	57,518	21%
Legacies	5,000	2%	Parish share	90,000	32%
Additional donations	23,430	8%	Staffing costs	61,291	22%
Gift Aid received	40,258	14%	Local and overseas mission	42,048	15%
Grants	10,966	4%	Children's ministry	10,305	4%
Lettings and other income	26,872	10%	Discipleship and pastoral care	11,523	4%
Other	1,159	0%	Gathered church	7,793	3%
Plate collections	6,963	2%			
<b>Total</b>	<b>281,852</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>280,478</b>	

## Sources of income



## How we spent our income



Surplus of £1,374 carried forward in respective restricted and unrestricted funds.





**A version with larger print is available.  
Please contact the parish office.**



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