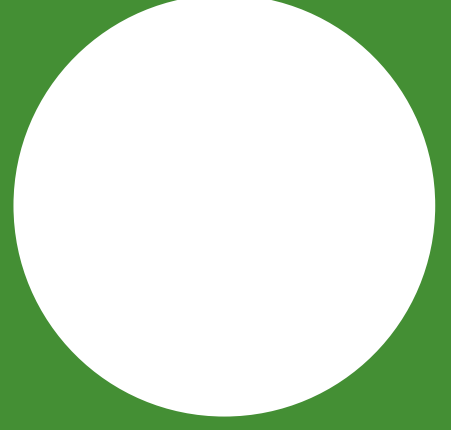
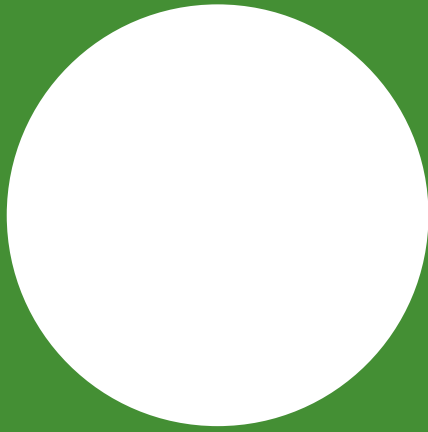


# Annual Report 2023





# Contents

Introduction	4
About Christ Church Downend	5
Parochial Church Council (PCC) and Churchwardens	6
Church structure	7
Worship	8
Discipleship	9
Mission and outreach	10
Work among older people and One Church One Day	11
Youth	12
Children	13
Care co-ordinators and Communications	14
Christian Against Poverty centre	15
Finance	16

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'.



# Introduction

This is what the Lord says, 'Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.' (Jeremiah 6:16).

I think this text can be helpful in framing what happens at the annual meeting. It is a time to stop and look. When you approach a crossroads, you stop and look; look around, survey the scene, take stock. See where we have come from before plotting the course forward. The annual report and meeting provide that opportunity to stop, look back and review the past year and give thanks to God for all that was good – recognising his faithfulness and provision in leading the church and its mission, whilst at the same time setting a course for the year ahead.

We are not called to walk the same ancient path to which Israel was called, but as a church we are called to walk in spirit and truth and to proclaim the faith afresh in each generation or as the Christ Church vision states, 'Learn to live the life of Jesus'.

It seems rather strange writing my report having only been at Christ Church for two months, but as I have talked with many people in that short time and heard stories of the past few years, I know we can all be thankful for God's leading and provision.

I am hugely thankful for the work and ministry of both Jo and Paul over a long period of time. I am aware of their faithfulness in proclaiming the truth of God's love, grace, mercy and forgiveness. I am thankful for their loving, godly leadership of the church and the foundations that they have established. I am thankful for Paul's leadership and the support of a very able team during the lengthy vacancy. I know how challenging that can be! We are in a strong place as a church community: people have returned and continue to return to Christ Church. Newcomers are arriving frequently at the church. Our Warm Spaces cafe has grown beyond what we could have asked or imagined. God is definitely on the move. As we look forward to this

next chapter in the life of Christ Church, I am excited to see where God will lead and what he will do as we continue to take forward the vision of 'Living the life of Jesus'.

Nothing feels more appropriate to sign-off with than with Ephesians 3:16 'Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.'

I continue to pray with you and for you that we would see God at work in this place in ways we have not yet dreamed of – for His glory and His Kingdom.

**Dan Watts**  
Vicar



'I am excited to see where God will lead and what he will do ...'



# 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 Dan Watts (Vicar)  
Rev Paul Peterson (Associate Minister and Chair of PCC)  
Rev Chris Dobson (Assistant Minister)  
Rev Anne Louise Critchlow  
Rev Philip Rowe

**Church Wardens:** Bryan Ashton and Maggie Nichols

## Lay Ministers:

Alison Rowe

## PCC Elected Members from

### April 2022

Richard Bacon  
Rosie Brydon  
Julian Cox  
Sally Green  
Adam Parfitt  
Andy Pound  
Laura Powell (reporting as Safeguarding Officer until March 2023)

## PCC Minutes Secretary:

Caroline Plummer

**Deanery Synod:** Roger Cholmondeley and Richard Ward

**Honorary Treasurer:** Jamie Paddon

## Committee Structure:

The Giving 4 Life team oversee the church's finances and the Wardens 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. A Halls Committee oversees 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:

Church Wardens

**Electoral Roll Officer:** Elissa Wiltshire

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

### Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Laura Green (Appointed 12 March 2023)

### Safeguarding Administrator:

Elissa Wiltshire

**CAP Centre Manager:** Rosie Brydon

**CAP Debt Coaches:** Mark Tanner and Sally Grier

**Parish Administrators:** Elissa Wiltshire

**Assistant Administrator:** Beth Mullins (appointed March 2022)

**Bookkeeper:** Gabrielle Foster

## Christ Church Building

**Manager:** Maggie Nichols

**Verger:** Andy McNeill

## Ministry Heads (as at April 2023):

**Children:** Harriet Jolly

**Communications:** Julia Watts

**Community Chaplain:**

Anne Louise Critchlow

**Discipleship for all ages:** Anita Dobson

**Mission/Outreach:** Paul Peterson

**Welcome:** Alison Rowe

**Wholeness and Pastoral Care:** Philip Rowe and Care Co-ordinators Team

**Worship/Leadership Development:**

Dan Watts

**Youth:** Diane Paddon and Gary Smart



# Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) held six meetings face to face during 2022/23. At the start of each meeting PCC members spent time in prayer, reflection and discussion. Following this a number of proposals were discussed and approved, including various items relating to vision, buildings, finances and staffing matters.

Our Parish Pledge for 2023 was set at £80,000, with a stated aspiration to increase this to £95,000 if finances allow.

Our Building 4 Life debts were closely monitored and further repayments totalling £43,500 made during the year.

## Buildings

The Church Wardens submitted regular detailed reports and expenditure was agreed on various items to ensure that our buildings were well looked after.

The Bell Tower is in need of urgent repair and it is hoped that work can commence shortly.

## Eco Church

James Gardner is now heading up this group and is helping us move towards a Silver 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. Laura has now stepped down as Parish Safeguarding Officer and Laura Green has taken on this role as at 12th March 2023.

## Human Resources

Reverend Dan Watts was licenced to Christ Church Downend on Tuesday 31st January 2023. He has been joined by his wife Julia.

Alison and Philip Rowe have now become part of our Leadership Team.

Philip has been re-licenced and Ali has been licenced to the deanery as an LLM for six months, with a

view to being licensed to Christ Church thereafter.

Anne Louise Critchlow began her voluntary role as a Chaplain under the Anna Chaplaincy Network on 1st June 2022.

Mark Critchlow was recognised as a Lay Assistant for Holy Communion.

Harriet Jolly's Children's Worker hours were increased to 16 per week from September 2022. This was for an initial two year contract.

A PCC Personnel sub committee was established during 2022. Pay increases for staff were approved, with all staff now being paid at least the 'Real Living Wage'.

## Caroline Plummer

Clerk to the PCC

# Churchwardens

What a blessing it is to be Churchwardens at Christ Church Downend!

God has blessed us as a Church Community, and brought out the very best in those who work and help in anyway. During the pandemic and interregnum we have been taught to be patient and pray. As we look back on the past twelve months we are so thankful for those who give of their time so freely, which in turn makes our Churchwarden jobs so much easier. From the constant chair moving (thank you Andy), to the clearing and upkeep of the churchyard, the painting, upkeep and maintenance of our church and buildings, the list is never ending.

You will all have seen the scaffolding that has been on the

church east towers for so long, but has now gone. There is still much work to be done to make the towers safe and restore them to their former glory, but this comes at a large cost. The estimate for new stronger scaffolding and repairs/replacement to the stonework is over £53k, we continue to pray for the funds required.

Other areas that need work are the stone and wooden floors in the church building which have taken the toll of so many visitors and events since the reopening. We continue to try and keep all of our church buildings in good safe order, offering a friendly welcome space to all who enter.

We couldn't finish without saying a big thank you to our assistant wardens for their wonderful support and help



over this challenging past year, we couldn't do it without you!

We all look forward with expectation to the next season working with our new Vicar Dan and his wife Julia, and seeing where God takes us.

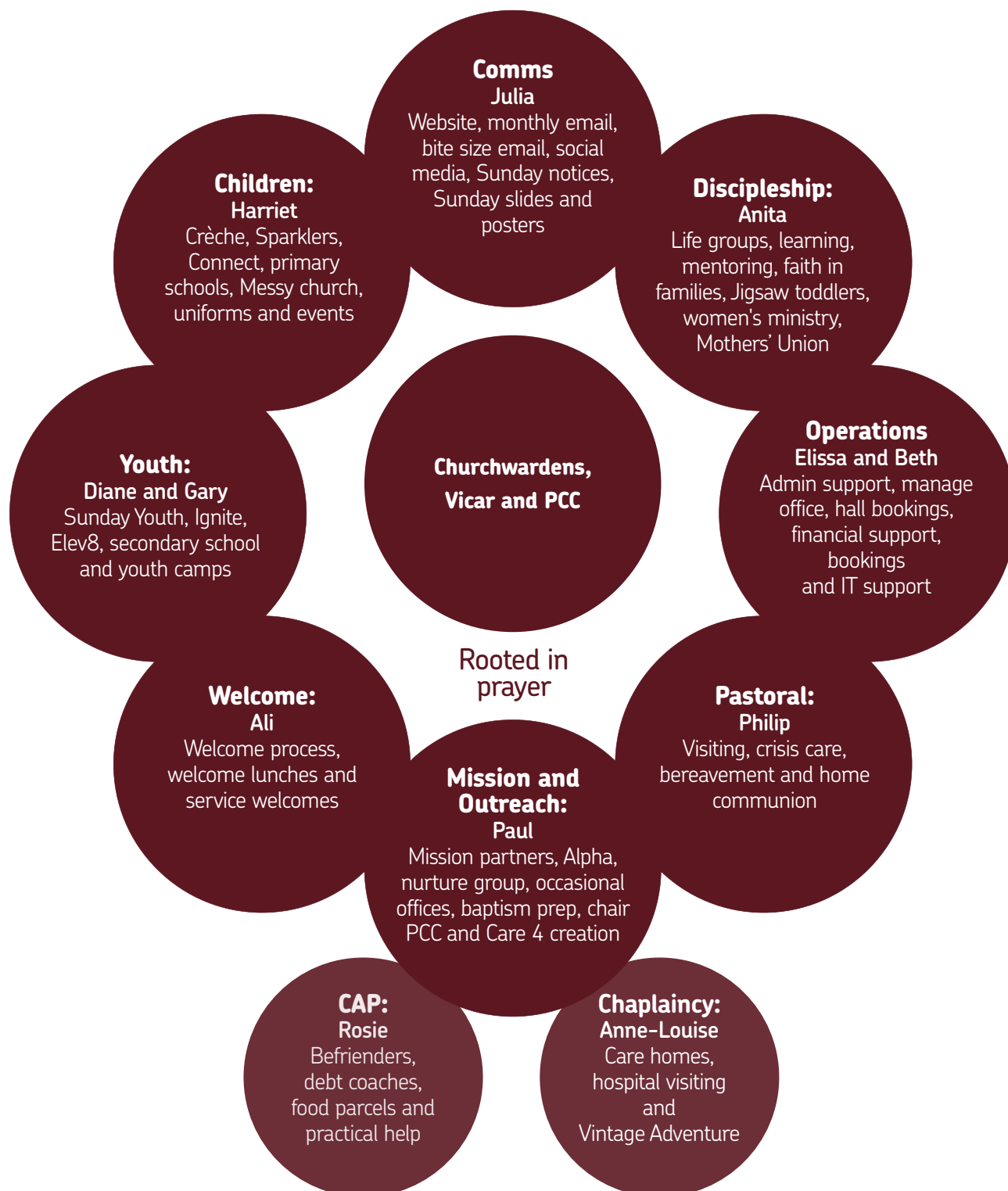
Many blessings to you all.

**Bryan Ashton and Maggie Nichols**  
Churchwardens



# Church structure

(as at 1st May 2023)



# Worship

If worship is our calling in life as followers of God, then when we get together to all do it at once, great things happen!

It has been wonderful to grow in confidence in worship over the last 12 months, as seating could be placed in rows again, as numbers have swelled, and as hope felt stronger despite the long vacancy.

New faces continue to join us every month, which is a real joy. Our special services at festival times were great celebrations. Our livestream is still reaching many people who cannot attend in person.

During the vacancy we heard from a variety of leaders and preachers as well as the regular team. Paul held the team together and made sure that we had every slot filled. But more than that, he made sure that we held on to hope and looked to God for our strength and guidance. We had to say farewell to Aidan and Cathie Watson in June 2022 as they moved to Derby for Cathie's curacy, but God is gracious and we welcomed Philip and Alison Rowe in August, as they retired from their parish in Almondsbury and have

now joined the team. Anne-Louise Critchlow has also been developing her ministry to the congregation at the Church Centre, as well as outreach and chaplaincy work to local care homes. Dan and Julia joined us at the end of January and have brought a sense of vision and spiritual refreshment to our worship times.

At Church Centre we've been so grateful for the music ministry of Barbara Lauritson, who has played the organ virtually every Sunday over the past 30 years. Barbara has recently had to stand down due to poor health, but we're so grateful to her and other musicians who serve and bless us week by week.

So many people play a vital part in making our worship services happen as smoothly and joyfully as they do. So many people share their time, their energy and their gifts in a wonderful way. Do get in touch if you would like to be involved.

We continue to try and make Sundays relevant for Monday morning.

We pray that you know God's refreshment when you get up on Monday, inspired by the message yesterday. We trust that contact with the family of God will keep you going if you're unsure of a big decision on Tuesday. We hope that one of Sunday's songs is still with you as an earworm when you're feeling stressed on Thursday.

Worship is a lifelong journey rather than an event, and the more we pause during the week to welcome the presence of God to wherever we are, and whatever we are doing, the more we will find blessing and be a blessing to others. Let's come with expectation whenever we worship, as thirsty, hungry souls looking for living water.

**Anita Dobson**



Barbara Lauritson







'We've welcomed many people into our community.'

## Discipleship

We have continued to learn together how to live life to the full. This means seeking to look outward. We want to grow more like Jesus so that we can share his love in a way that brings in God's kingdom, transforming people and situations.

In our gathered times on Sundays, Thursdays and in our Life Groups, we've aimed to equip each other to go out and be ambassadors for Jesus wherever God has placed us. We pray each month for individuals in different spheres of life and work, sometimes hearing from one of them in our This Time Tomorrow slot. The Growing on the Frontline course helped us to invite God's healing to free us for fruitfulness. In Life Groups we've shared the ups and downs of life but also the God

moments we've experienced and the opportunities we face on our frontlines. We revived the Reflections Group, which is a small group for those who need an oasis of stillness in busy lives or who prefer a contemplative rather than discussion-based approach to learning. Thank you to all our life group leaders, including Helen Buick who is stepping down due to moving away.

We've welcomed many new people into our community. We look forward to getting to know them better. Each person is part of the family, and if everyone plays their part in welcoming newcomers and sharing life with them, then all will flourish. Our families events with Messy church and Jigsaw continue bringing encouragement to church and non-church families.

Ruth McNeill led 18 months of prayer for a new vicar,



so it's fitting that we've increased our opportunities to pray together. Now you can come to any Morning Prayer 9.15 - 9.45 Monday to Wednesday. (Or to Zoom prayer on Wednesdays 7-7.30 am if you have to be at work or you are unable to come out.) We've also enjoyed some women's prayer breakfasts.

Thank you to all who wrote and read the 500 words for Lent: a time of blessing for many, and a sharing of gifts to build up the body.

**Anita Dobson**

# Mission and outreach

As I shared in a recent sermon, I was really struck by a description of people's response to Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Matthew 21:10 reads – 'When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?"'

How we long for those we interact with in our local communities to be asking the question of Jesus 'who is this?' and for our town and city to be a place where people are stirred by the reality of Jesus' love and mission.

Such a longing underpins all of our local outreach initiatives and wider mission support:

## Alpha

This spring's Alpha Course has attracted 16 guests including a few associated with Fishponds Baptist Church, and has been a place of real openness, fellowship and exploration. We've provided a full meal each week and enjoyed a morning exploring the work of the Holy Spirit at Emmaus House in Whitchurch. God has been strengthening faith and building confidence.

## Warm Space Cafe

Mindful of ever increasing energy prices, it was agreed in the autumn, that we would start a Warm Space event. South Gloucestershire Council awarded us a grant of £500 to begin this venture on Thursday mornings. Whilst planning was taking place, a lady called Liz Gray got in touch to see if she could bring The Music Train into Church during the daytime to provide live music for disabled people, who couldn't get to live music events in the evenings. We decided to combine the two ventures. After recruiting a team of volunteers and sorting out a menu we opened on a weekly basis in December with about 45 people attending culminating in 140

in March. **Music Train** come twice a month. We are hoping to start a Dementia Friendly morning as soon as some of us have been trained, probably at the end of May. Maggie has done a great job in leading this initiative and God has enabled it to prosper and meet real need in the local community.

## Eco group

This group have been working hard under the leadership of James Gardner to ensure that we are being good stewards of creation here at Christ Church. We're now on the verge of applying for a silver eco award which reflects progress in the categories of worship and teaching, buildings, land, community and global engagement and lifestyle. Churchyard working parties have played an important part in caring for the natural environment and the interactive harvest exhibition challenged us all to see the world through God's eyes.

## World Mission Partners

In 2022 we continued to partner with the Bristol North East CAP Centre (see Rosie's CAP report), Ben and Katy Ray in Tanzania, Haven Home India, Pastor Misa Hiorescu in Moldova (TEN), Richard and Jan Bacon's Ministry with Mission Direct in Kumi, Uganda, Open Doors and the Deanery Uganda Link. Regular prayer spots within 'One Church, One Day' and bi-monthly 'Mission Sundays' have kept the profile high, and built on the financial, prayer and practical support Christ Church provides.

In the autumn, the PCC agreed to extend links with these mission agencies for a further year until at least the end of 2023.

## Paul Peterson



## Work amongst older people

This year it's been good to concentrate on reaching out to the community around the Church Centre at Quaker's Road. We started with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Cream Tea last June with 100+ guests and we are now moving on to the King's Coronation Cream Tea in May, where we will also have a quiz, games and community

**'We have been given a very warm welcome by all of them ...'**

singing. From September 2022 we have hosted Vintage Adventure once a month, led by an able team of helpers. This is a gentle, warm, welcoming event for those who are isolated. It is faith based but aims to attract those who have not had contact with a church for a long time.

In September Mark and I started to regularly visit Avonmere Home, Woodland Court and Gwendoline House for a communion on a monthly basis, alongside two other homes in the BS5 area. We have been given a very warm welcome by all of them, with more people coming each month, including visitors and staff. Elderly people are hungry for spiritual food! At Christmas time we had the addition of 'vintage

singers' from our congregations and we hope to have the same mix at Easter

time. We are aiming to bring some of the residents into Vintage Adventure and also to welcome people to a Holiday at Home in late August, when there will be a mixture of interesting activities and an epilogue.

If you would like to join the team even on an occasional basis, please get in touch.

**Anne-Louise Critchlow**



## One Church One Day (OCOD)

We entered 2022 by extending OCOD 24 hrs of prayer to a week of prayer, inviting local churches to join in, and five churches united in prayer. Since Good Friday 2020, around fifty to sixty of us have gathered each month for this monthly rhythm of 24 hours of prayer, which is followed by an outpouring of powerful inspiring testimonies.

OCOD begins with an hour of Prayer and Praise Together on Zoom. Having Zoomed in from Uganda Jan wrote, 'It has been wonderful to join in most of the Friday evening Prayer and Praise. We have been truly blessed and are very grateful for these special times.'

The monthly OCOD verse and Mission Partner fuels our prayers, along with whoever and whatever the Holy Spirit places on our hearts. Great to hear of three generations of families praying together, and to hear appreciation from parents for the OCOD

Family Prayer Time held in the church building in October.

Frances shared, 'Over time I have really looked forward to my time of prayer for One Church One Day. I love that I take over from someone and someone takes over from me and I share a time with someone... the hour passes so quickly, and I feel so at peace when my prayers are over.'

Sonia shared, 'As always, a wonderful hour of prayer, I love it so much...to feel the wonderful closeness to my Heavenly Father.'

The many testimonies reveal how people are inspired in their hour of prayer through word, song, creation, activity (creative and seemingly mundane) and stillness. We've learned to pray differently, as Debbie said, 'having been encouraged by how others spend their slots praying.'

We were reminded by Ann of words from Brother Andrew who went to Glory in 2022,

Founder of one of our Mission Partners, Open Doors, 'Our prayers can go where we cannot... there are no borders, no prison walls, no doors that are closed to us when we pray.'

God's original plan for humanity was for us to walk and talk with him. Through One Church One Day, many of us are learning to do this together, and hungering for more, in a very natural, and yet supernatural way.

**Diane Paddon**





# Youth

Early January, our volunteer Youth Team met over fish and chips to reflect upon 2022 and plan for 2023. There were so many highlights to celebrate and give thanks for.

**‘There were so many highlights to celebrate and give thanks for.’**

**Here’s a tiny taste of the fruitfulness, for you to enjoy!**

- The outreach Ignite Youth Group’s growing sense of fun, family and faith. Great to see Sam join the amazing Young Leaders, and to see Youth from the Downend School Flourish Groups come to Ignite, bringing friends, and Youth from Ignite coming to the Elev8 Youth Home Group.

- The Student Support Centre Manager of Downend School emailed to express how valued Flourish Wellbeing Courses are. ‘The work you and your team do has been utterly amazing.’

- For several months Eloise cooked dinner for 20+ of us at Elev8 Home Groups, deepening that sense of family.

- Youth weekend – Angela, Ellis, Eloise, Luke, and Rich led inspiring teaching sessions. In their free time, the youth chose to gather together around the pool table, no phones out, just enjoying being family. I’ll never forget being woken at 6am by ‘Give me oil in my lamp keep me singing – Sing Hosannah!’ being sung at full gusto in the games room below my bedroom.

- The Noise, celebrated on the front cover of Downend Voice, showing God’s love for the community by rubbish-clearing in Britannia

Woods, holding a free cream tea with entertainment, and a free family fun afternoon with BBQ.

- Serving Sunday wetland work, and Super-Serving-Sunday with the whole church, also had great impact in the community.

- Over the summer holidays, Elev8 continued in Page Park, made extra special by invitations to Ruth’s and Frances’ homes. The Youth Team enjoyed a wonderful six-week Home Group over dinners.

- Very generous donations from the Co-op and other supporters enabled us to buy an Air-Hockey Table and to remain self-funding.

- The concert we organised for Haven Home raised £566, two jumble sales and Co-op events raised £1,615 for Ukraine and, alongside Peter Moore in memory of beloved youth leader Martin Brown, we exceeded capacity of the church building, in holding a concert and raising well over £6,000 for MND research. In doing so we introduced

Music Train to CCD and Mike (guitarist) said it was, ‘the best music event of my whole long life.’

- Having made a commitment in 2019, Ellis was baptised, a day before his 25th birthday.

**Diane Paddon**



# Children

It has been a year since starting in my role in children's ministry and it is such a joy to share Jesus's love with so many children. We have a wonderful team of volunteers helping across our different groups on a Sunday and throughout the week at Jigsaw, Messy Church and Bible Club and I really value the support and prayers of the church family.

It was really exciting to be able to start up Bible Club at Christ Church Infants this academic year, with about 25 children each week learning Bible stories and deepening their understanding of God. This is such a fun part of my week, the children (and myself!) both have lots of fun making the craft to go with the story we have just explored together.

The links with our church schools are such a vital part of our mission and service. We continue to lead assemblies and welcome the schools to Christ Church for festival services, members of the congregation serve as Foundation Governors, and we pray for the schools on a regular basis. Do pray for our school leaders and governors as they explore whether academisation is the right route forward.

In recent weeks we have seen an increase in the number of children at our Sunday morning children's groups. Wouldn't it be wonderful it

that continues to increase, and we can tell even more children that they are loved by God!

Some of my highlights during this year have been the 'Experience' events – both Easter and Harvest. Being able to invite so many children from local schools into church to tell them about God and encourage them to find out more has been wonderful. The children are always so keen to join in. My favourite part is always inviting the children to ask questions – it's wonderful to see how much they have taken in, and the interest they show.

I also found it really encouraging to see so many families attending Christmas Messy Church, Christingle, and the Crib service – families wanting to celebrate the real meaning of Christmas and worship Jesus.

Moving forward, there are several things I would really love to see happen, and value prayer for, but my top two would be:

- That our current children and families (including those who haven't been for a long time) will continue to form and strengthen friendships and that these

friendships increase confidence in sharing their Christian faith with those they meet.

- To share God's love with even more children in our community – by building and expanding relationships with local schools, and continuing to provide a fun, welcome environment for children to learn more.

**Harriet Jolly**





## Care Co-ordinators

Purpose: To co-ordinate the response to the 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.

‘visiting someone who is lonely and depressed, [or ...] bereaved.’

During the year, the team has comprised Rev Paul Peterson, Rev Aidan Watson (until June 2022), Francis Kirby, Liz Misselbrook, and Barbara Tooby. The group has met three times during the year. Paul has been 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 in the wider community.

As a Church we are very aware of members of our Church family who are housebound or who are, for various reasons, unable to come to Church either long term or for a short time only and need some support.

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

This support varies according to the circumstances and needs of those concerned. It is often actioned – maybe, by visiting someone who is lonely and depressed, relatives who have recently been bereaved, or organising help by providing a young family where there is a new baby with a meal, finding a member of the congregation who is

willing to offer someone a lift to church, for a member of the home communion team to take communion to them.

The group is very aware of the many people and groups within Christ Church who provide loving care and support on a personal basis to so many people, often unknown to the wider church community. Philip Rowe will shortly be taking over the co-ordination of our pastoral ministries and it is important that Philip or a member of the group is kept informed of anyone whose circumstances have recently changed and are in need of some loving care.

### Barbara Tooby and members of the Team



## Communications

Communication is vital as a community, so we continue to look for ways to communicate amongst ourselves as a church family, balancing online, physical and verbal communication as best we can.

Keep checking those emails; watch the pre-service slide notices; check out our colourful posters and our social media and website updates. Suggest improvements and corrections; offer your contributions!

As important (more so?) is our communication with the wider community. Do share social media posts so that your wider circle can see and respond. Try out creative ideas: whether you enjoy writing or creating visuals, it would be great to hear from you.

Our website is a vital part of what we share with the world, and it's currently being revamped by Jon Tooby and Simon Clark so we are looking forward to a fresh site that communicates

effectively the love of Christ, the mission of God in the world, our part in it and how people can connect with it.

We feel on reflection that the Parish Profile did its job admirably, bringing Dan and Julia Watts to Christ Church!

Julia Watts has taken on the role of leading us in our communications in the short term, as we look for the right person to fill this vital role.

### Anita Dobson Acting Head of Comms





# Christians Against Poverty centre

Our CAP Debt Centre has now been running for 15 years and as I sit down to write this report I have just had the joyful news that the first client I ever visited became debt free today!

Looking back on the past year there is so much to be grateful for; so much evidence of God's loving kindness and provision.

"Thank you,  
I feel so relieved  
knowing my debt is  
dealt with"

Currently we have 38 clients, have averaged 10 food parcel deliveries each month and have been able to provide one off much needed items for 12 families over the past year. We have had clients who have been so positively affected by our service that they have urged other family members to contact us to help them with their debts too.

While the news is filled with increases in the cost of living and people are under increasing pressure financially, God has increased our capacity at just the right time by calling

Sally and Mark to join our team and train as Debt Coaches. The training has been very demanding and time-consuming, but it is wonderful to have them join our team. Thanks to their work we are now able to take on four new clients every month.

At the moment we are delivering approximately four food parcels each week to clients and families referred to us by schools or other agencies. We continue to be amazed and humbled by people's willingness to contribute so generously to our Foodbank week after week. We have a fund available to provide one off payments for essential unexpected expenses and through this we have been able to buy among other things, a new microwave, a lounge carpet, a new mattress and emergency top ups for gas and electricity.

The response to our "Christmas hamper and presents" project was as generous and overwhelming as ever. 43 families received hampers and we provided presents for 34 adults and 38 children. I love the way this reflects the way our whole church family contribute to our CAP ministry at Christ Church; the children made crackers for the hampers, the Young People helped move loads of food between the hall and church, people from every congregation gave goods and

money, 16 people helped pack the hampers

and 35 were involved in the deliveries!

One of the most exciting ways we have seen God at work this year has been through the development of trusting and positive relationships between clients and our Debt Coach and Befriender teams. We have this amazing opportunity to take the love and grace of God into people's homes and we see them respond to being seen and heard and accepted. At the end of every appointment we always offer to pray for the client if they are comfortable for us to do so. I can't think of a single occasion where a client has refused that offer.

I will leave you with some comments from clients:

"This is so helpful for me and definitely helped sort us out till pay day"

"Thank you, I feel so relieved knowing my debt is dealt with"

"Yesterday lifted my spirit so much, just being able to speak freely – haven't done that for years and that changed my week".

Thank you everyone! I can't wait to see what God has in store for us over the coming months!

**Rosie Brydon**  
CAP Centre Manager



# Finance

The PCC agreed a surplus budget of £4k for the 2022 year. This budget enabled us to fund the salaries and expenses of our staff, provide for the upkeep of our buildings, and pay all our administration and running costs. Additionally, by tithing the giving income we received, we were able to provide nearly £16k to our mission partners to enable them to achieve great things in Jesus' name. We were also able to contribute £95k towards the Parish Share, used by the Diocese to fund clergy staffing and housing costs, provide training for parishes, ministers, and schools, and pay towards the administration costs of the Diocese.

'... we were able to provide nearly £16k to our mission partners ...'

The 2017 Church refurbishment cost us approximately £1.4m with around £900k coming from our generous congregation. To supplement this, the Church took out a £100k loan from the Diocese, a £250k long-term interest free loan, kindly made available by a member of our congregation, and some short-term, interest free loans to help us with cash flow as the project neared completion. However, God is good and by January 2022 we had reduced total loan debtors to £212k

and, partly due to a legacy we received this year, we were able to shrink our loan debts by a further £44k to £168k by the end of 2022, keeping us on track to repay all loans by our 2027 target.

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 financial activities. Special thanks go to Dave Tooby, who has handed over the Planned Giving Secretary role to Adrian Harding after many years of valiant service, the other members of the Giving 4 Life team (Dave Green, Debra Turpin, Adam Parfitt, and Rev. Paul Peterson), the office team, and our bookkeeper, Gabrielle Foster.

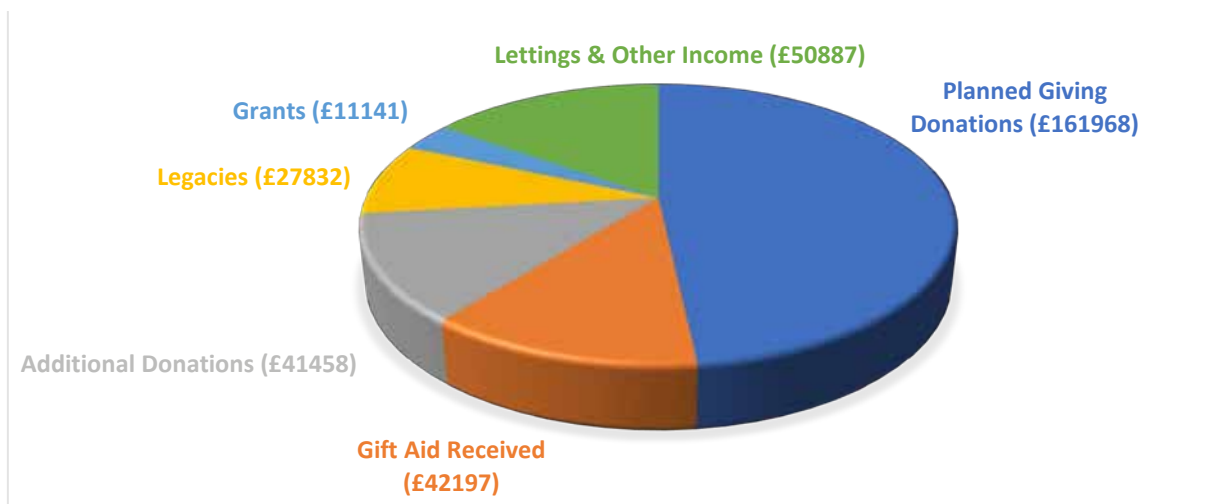
**Jamie Paddon**  
Treasurer and Chair of Giving 4 Life



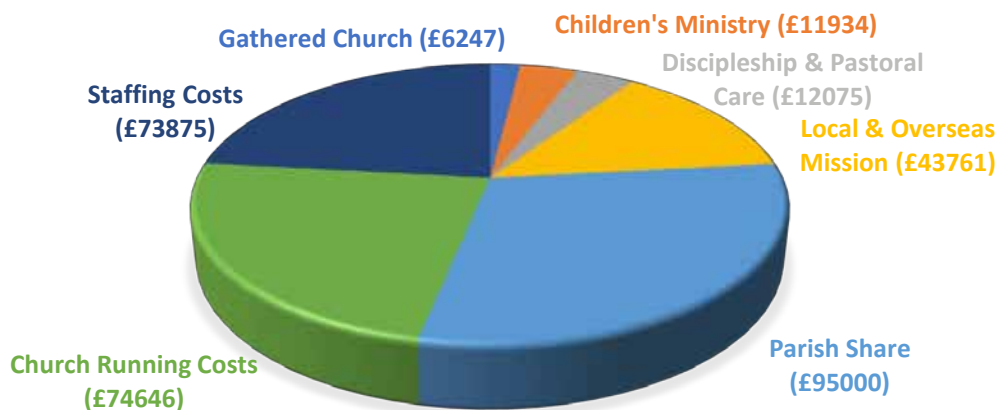
## Income and expenditure

Income	£		Expenditure	£	
Planned Giving Donations	161,968	48%	Church Running Costs	74,646	24%
Legacies	27,832	8%	Parish Share	95,000	30%
Additional Donations	29,745	9%	Staffing Costs	73,875	23%
Gift Aid Received	42,197	13%	Local & Overseas Mission	43,761	14%
Grants	11,141	3%	Children's Ministry	11,934	4%
Lettings & Other Income	46,967	14%	Discipleship & Pastoral Care	12,075	4%
Other	3,920	1%	Gathered Church	6,247	2%
Plate Collections	11,713	3%			
<b>Total</b>	<b>335,483</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>317,538</b>	

### Sources of income



### How we spent our income



Surplus of £17,945 carried forward in respective restricted and unrestricted funds.









0117 908 9867



[christchurchdownend.com](http://christchurchdownend.com)



[office@christchurchdownend.com](mailto:office@christchurchdownend.com)



[christchurchdownend](https://www.facebook.com/christchurchdownend)



[ChristChDownend](https://twitter.com/ChristChDownend)



[christchurchdownend](https://www.instagram.com/christchurchdownend)



Christ Church Downend