for

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

and

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Tuesday 22nd September 2020

8pm

Christ Church

Bedford

www.ccbedford.org.



ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Tuesday 22nd September 2020 at 8 pm

In accordance with the Notices fixed to the Notice Boards, the Meeting of Parishioners for the purpose of appointing Churchwardens, and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in Christ Church, Bedford, on Tuesday 22nd September 2020 at 8 pm.

Meeting of Parishioners

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies
- 2. Appointment of Churchwardens
- 3. Appointment of Assistant Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies
- 2. Minutes of last Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Meeting of Parishioners
- 3. Election of 4 lay representatives to the Deanery Synod for 3 years.
- 4. Election of 4 lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council for 3 years and 1 lay representative for one year
- 5. To receive a copy of the revised Electoral Roll
- 6. To consider the Trustees 2019 Report and Accounts of the Parochial Church Council
- 7. Election of an Independent Examiner for the current financial year
- 8. Election of Reader(s) to the Parochial Church Council
- 9. To consider Reports of: the Deanery Synod

the Halls Redevelopment Group

the Mission Action Plan Review

the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church,

various Committees and Activities of the Church,

- 10. Results of elections to Deanery Synod
- 11. Results of elections to the Parochial Church Council
- 12. Consideration of any other business of Parochial or general church interest
- 13. Vicar's Report
- 14. Closing Statements

RICHARD HIBBERT Vicar

CHRIST CHURCH BEDFORD

Minutes of the MEETING OF PARISHIONERS and of the ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING held on Tuesday 27 March 2019 at 8pm in the Church Chairman: The Rev. Canon Richard Hibbert

Meeting of Parishioners

1. Apologies

Pat Allison, Steve Ashton, Christine Babbington, Ken and Pauline Barber, John and Fiona Betteley, Susan Bradley, Mhairi Brown, Barbara Burbidge, Ian and Penny Cooper, Sarah Cottenden, Pat Davies, Jon and Jane Day, Lesley and Nigel Greenslade, Michael, Decclan and Aimee Guynn, Martin Hamilton, Sandra Holes, Amy Hutchinson, Sherilyn Leck, Richard Lindley, Dan and Lizzie Payton, Min-Min Peaker, Stanley Pullinger, Christine Snape, Steve Welsh and Claire Broughton Welsh, Simon and Jo Wigg and Chris Worrall.

2. Appointment of Churchwardens

Two nominations have been received: Kay Berrington and Andrew Turpie. There being no other nominations they were declared duly elected for the forthcoming year. Richard Hibbert thanked Andrew and Kay for their service and thanked their families for their support.

3. Appointment of Assistant Churchwardens

Andrew Turpie thanked the following who have served as assistant wardens during the year: -

Pauline Barber	Margaret Baron	Rachel Bennett	Fiona Betteley
Andrew Emmott	John Evans	Berty Jacob	Sandra Mahaffey
Sue Marshall	Pat Mathias	Sue Platt	Keith Priddin
Mike Seamarks	Mary Shaw	Margaret Tufnell	Lucy Waters
Steve Welsh	Janet Williams	Christine Worrall	

Andrew Emmott and Sue Platt are stepping down and Janet Williams sadly died in August. Janet served as warden on two occasions and served the church in so many ways.

Andrew Turpie proposed that Sarah Hibbert, Julia Lawrence, Margaret Ryan and Dorothy Summerfield be approved to join the list of Assistant Wardens and that the other 16 be reappointed. David Currie seconded the proposal and the list was approved unanimously. Richard Hibbert expressed his thanks to those who have served and continue to serve and to those willing to serve in this way.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies

Pat Allison, Steve Ashton, Christine Babbington, Ken and Pauline Barber, John and Fiona Betteley, Susan Bradley, Mhairi Brown, Barbara Burbidge, Ian and Penny Cooper, Sarah Cottenden, Pat Davies, Jon and Jane Day, Lesley and Nigel Greenslade, Michael, Decclan and Aimee Guynn, Martin Hamilton, Sandra Holes, Amy Hutchinson, Sherilyn Leck, Richard Lindley, Dan and Lizzie Payton, Min-Min Peaker, Stanley Pullinger, Christine Snape, Steve Welsh and Claire Broughton Welsh, Simon and Jo Wigg and Chris Worrall.

2. Minutes of last Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Meeting of Parishioners

The minutes of the 2018 APCM, to be found on pages 3 to 9 of the APCM booklet, were approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

3. Election of 1 lay representative to the Deanery Synod for 1 year

Min-Min Peaker has been elected to Diocesan Synod and so is automatically a member of Deanery Synod. There is therefore a vacancy for another Deanery Synod member from Christ Church. Steven Allin had been nominated and there being no other nominations was therefore declared duly elected.

4. Election of 4 lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council for 3 years

Four nominations have been received: Jon Day, Margaret Haywood, Wendy Pegg and Helen Ryan. These four were therefore declared duly elected to serve on PCC for three years.

5. To receive a copy of the new Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll Secretary, Tracey Emmott, explained that 282 people had applied to be on the Electoral Roll, of whom 24% live in the parish. Tracey thanked Pauline Grimley for collating the figures and then proposed that the roll be received. Gillian Lindley seconded the proposal and it was passed.

6. To consider the Trustees 2018 Report and Accounts of the Parochial Church Council

The Trustees Report is to be found on pages 10-20 of the APCM booklet. It was written by Pauline Grimley, Richard Lindley and Richard Hibbert to meet the requirements of the Charity Commission and is structured in their recommended format. It is necessary to show that we as a charity provide public benefit. It needs to be positive but to reflect the truth.

Ruth Janes, Treasurer, explained the key elements of the accounts, which are to be found on pages 21-37. This report is a legal requirement and our accounts have to be presented in a certain way. Richard Lindley, Chair of the Resourcing Impact Group, was thanked for producing the documentation in the required format, extracting the figures from our day to day accounts and for liaising with our Independent Examiner, Suzy Goodson. The accounts are also sent to the Diocesan Board of Finance.

Page 21 shows a deficit in our unrestricted funds of £201 for 2018. The PCC had passed a deficit budget of 32k in November 2017, so to end the year with such a small deficit is an answer to prayer. The halls look as though they have a huge deficit of over £1 million but this is money that had come in, in previous years but was spent in 2018. Our restricted funds at year-end include money for the halls fit out which has been earmarked but not yet spent.

Our general reserves show that we have enough to cover 2-3 months of expenditure. In addition, £100k of interest free loans have been obtained but they will have to be repaid. There has been a huge decrease in the amount of cash in hand as much has been converted into halls. Our income is itemised on page 34 (note 20). Most of our income comes from the congregation and much of what is given is eligible for Gift Aid. Rental income includes some from the church and then the halls from September. For things like social and youth events the money coming in is then spent on the event: we are not looking to generate a profit with events. More money came in than we expected and when our income increases, what we can give to others goes up (like our mission partners). One of the reasons our end of year deficit was so small was due to some one-off gifts and a spending freeze on non-essential expenditure. We are fully staffed which we want to continue; we want to pay our parish share in full, we want to maintain our halls, continue to serve the young and old, and provide fellowship, outreach, teaching etc. Paying our parish share benefits others not just ourselves e.g. smaller parishes. The PCC needs to consider our financial priorities and what we want to focus on.

The budget for 2019 was discussed by RIG in October and presented to PCC in November 2018. We are hoping for an increase in income of about £10k but expenditure is expected to be about £39k more than our anticipated income and so again a deficit budget has been set. We trust God as we have done in the past for his provision.

Ruth thanked Chris Worrall for her assistance counting and banking the cash and cheques each week, the wardens and assistant wardens for counting the collections at services, the treasurers of special events such as the seniors' holiday and the resourcing Impact Group. All of these people make her role of Treasurer easier.

There were a few questions and comments regarding the accounts.

- How is Parish Share calculated? The Diocese use a complicated formula, which includes things like the number on a church's electoral roll.
- Why don't the halls appear as an asset? The halls are built on consecrated ground, they are not a capital item and do not appear on our balance sheet.
- Is it wise to set a deficit budget? The PCC has often set a deficit budget in anticipation and prayer that our cost will be covered. We are aware that huge sums have been given towards the halls in the past 6 years. This year we need to pay off the balance on the halls. Our Independent Examiner has agreed to sign us off as a going concern for the next 12-months but this is on the understanding that we will hold a gift day this summer with the aim of raising the final sum of money. We also need to broaden our base of regular givers. There are many in our congregation who give very generously and others who are unable to support the church financially at the present time. We want to work with the congregation and encourage dialogue to see if more members can commit to regular giving.
- What has happened to the Irene Lamb Trust? This has now been closed and the money withdrawn and paid into the general fund, designated for halls fit-out. Some has been kept in reserve until we know exactly what is needed.
- What are the plans if the income doesn't increase? The PCC would have to make some tough decisions.
- Should the name of Irene Lamb be recorded somewhere to acknowledge her legacy to Christ Church? Her name is recorded on the board listing the Vicars and Wardens in the church porch.

Ruth Janes proposed that the accounts for 2018 be approved by the meeting. Lucy Waters seconded the proposal and they were passed unanimously.

Richard Hibbert thanked Ruth Janes on behalf of the meeting and the PCC and reminded everyone that she does all this voluntarily.

7. Election of an Independent Examiner for the current financial year

Ruth Janes proposed that we reappoint Suzy Goodson of Wright Connections Ltd as Independent Examiner or, if required by the charity commission, auditor for the 2019 accounts. Suzy is qualified to do either and she is very thorough, which ensures that we have robust accounts. David Gundry seconded the proposal and everyone was in favour of it.

8. Election of Sidespeople

Andrew Turpie expressed how grateful he and Kay are to the sidespeople who every Sunday help support the wardens and assistant wardens. He also thanked those on the welcome team at the 10am and 6.30pm services. Welcome is really important to help people to engage with and feel part of the church, not only when people first come through the door, but also after the service and in subsequent weeks.

The following served as sidespeople during the year: -

Ken BarberGermain and Melvin BrooksKatherine DaviesPenny GilhamCheryl GrintChristine HarrisonJill LeggatWendy PeggSheila SeamarksKen and Dorothy Summerfield

Katharine and Ian Brown Pauline and Vandon Grimley Bo and Cecile Laursen Margaret Ryan Jo Wigg

Ian and Katharine Brown are stepping down and Ken Summerfield is stepping down as a sidesperson, but will continue to serve as a welcomer. Margaret Ryan and Dorothy Summerfield have agreed to be Assistant Wardens; Phil Brandon, Julie Holmes and Gareth Wilcox are willing to join the team. Andrew Turpie proposed and Matthew Payton seconded that they and the rest of the sidespeople be reappointed for the coming year. These appointments were approved. Richard Hibbert added his thanks to those of Andrew.

9. Election of Reader(s) to the Parochial Church Council

The Church Representation rules permit the election of anyone who holds the Bishop's Licence as a Reader to the PCC. Christ Church has two licensed readers at the present time. Michael Bishop had indicated that he was willing and would like to serve as an ex-officio member of the PCC, and this was accepted. Margaret Tufnell has indicated that she wishes to serve elsewhere in the life of the church. Richard Hibbert thanked the Readers for their service.

10. To consider reports of: -

10.1 The Deanery Synod

This report is to be found on pages 17 & 18 of the APCM booklet. This report was received.

10.2 The Halls Redevelopment Group

This report is to be found on pages 38-39 of the APCM booklet. It was noted that on the whole people like the wood and the light and that Christ Church is now visible in the local community. Thanks were expressed to Laura Turpie as chair of the group, Steve Ashton as project manager and to all others who have been involved. The current room numbering is a bit haphazard – it came about due to the way in which the plans evolved. A decision will need to be taken as to whether we stay with numbers or name the rooms.

10.3 The Mission Action Plan Review

This report is to be found on page 15 of the APCM booklet. We now need to focus on how to integrate the new buildings with our plan.

10.4 The Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

This report was produced by the Buildings Impact Group on behalf of the wardens and it is to be found on pages 38-41 of the APCM Report. The Church Wardens are legally responsible for the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church. Our inspecting architect came in October and January, we expect to receive his formal report by the end of the month. We are aware of some small issues and things that will need dealing with. Thanks were expressed to Ken Palliser for his work in the garden and grounds of the church and Gilbert Williams for doing endless little jobs around the place.

10.5 Various Committees and Activities of the Church

These reports are to be found on pages 42-60 of the APCM report. Richard Hibbert commented on some of the reports and the future plans of some of the groups.

- Pauline Carter has recently been appointed Parish Safeguarding Officer and we are grateful to her for stepping into this role.
- The Outreach Impact Group are looking to run another Alpha course after Easter and a post Alpha group for those that have recently done an Alpha Course.
- Two of our mission partners, Hilary and Ruth, are urgently flying back to the UK as their father is ill.
- The Resourcing Impact Group have provided a useful summary of the situation in which we find ourselves this year.
- Charlie Eaton, the Early Years lead of Christ Church Pre-School has resigned and Paula Cox has been appointed from the beginning of the summer term. Christ Church is represented on the Pre-School Committee.

The reports were then received by the meeting.

11. Consideration of any other business of Parochial or general church interest

Simon Platt asked if consideration would be given to naming the rooms in the new halls after people who have contributed greatly to the life of Christ Church e.g. Janet Williams.

12. Vicar's Report

Last winter we were struggling with the cold and it seems that our journey of rebuilding the halls was never going to end. Partial handover from the builders took place on 7th September with our formal opening on 23rd September. On 1st February the new building was finally signed over to us. We have much to be thankful for and our building has been shortlisted for the 2018 Local Authority Building Control Regional Awards for Best Commercial Building - recognition for our architects and builders and for the congregation, holding firm in faith to bring about our vision. We can all be thankful for the way the halls are being used to serve many people.

It has not been an easy year; it has been hard to keep going financially and to keep calm. Moving into the new halls has not been easy for some groups, especially dealing with the defects. It has been hard to focus on mission and evangelism with so many distractions, but we have continued to see signs of God's favour. For example, Lunch Club now regularly feeds 60 and some of them come to Food for Thought before lunch and all hear the epilogue; the people who come get to hear about God. Families are coming to events too; we have pioneered Open the Book holiday clubs. We also have community engagement, new hirers with new ministries are taking place in our halls. We are no longer "Which church and where?" Many more now know Christ Church as the church with the new buildings. All this is only possible with your support, dedication, generosity and patience. For this the staff team are all very grateful. Richard Hibbert then thanked all the different members of the staff team for their contribution to the life of the church.

Three key areas for consideration in 2019-20 are a/ The next generation: we do have children and young people and young families but we want to build this, numerically and for those who already come, going deeper. It might be that the COACH (Creating Opportunities and Casting Hope) programme that Beth Bradley is running in Nottingham is something we could implement here. b/ Sustainable ministry: this is a priority; we recognise that we just about broke even in 2018 but we need to cover our expenditure and broaden our base of regular donors. c/ Sustainable meetings: thank you for all those who serve in so many different ways in God's mission and ministry; can we create more opportunities to make Christ known, by restricting meetings?

Everything we do must be undergirded by prayer; we never pray enough. For the rest of 2019 we are going to hold Prayer Emphasis days on the 28th of each month. We can all pray, rejoicing in God's blessing and seeking His favour for our future.

15. Closing Statements

Kay Berrington thanked everyone with their support over what has been quite a year. People worked hard to make sure church life continued, when we didn't have any halls. The wardens are particularly grateful for those who made sure that the halls were fitted out and ready for use in 2 days. God has answered our prayers: we had to trust Him and now we must keep trusting in Him and seek His will as to how we use the halls. We have to trust that God has it all in hand. Many activities have continued to flourish and we are blessed with people who volunteer and serve in many ways. It is great to have new members joining the church.

Kay expressed thanks to the staff team, thanked Richard for his vision, tenacity, strategic thinking, excellent teaching and leadership and thanked God for Sarah and Emily as they support Richard. We trust in God's sovereignty for the coming year.

The meeting closed with prayer at 9.45 pm.



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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 FOR

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE

ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF

CHRIST CHURCH BEDFORD ("Christ Church")

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1134785

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Report of Trustees

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2019. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published in October 2019.

Aims and purposes

The primary responsibility of Christ Church Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, Reverend Canon Richard Hibbert, in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church and halls complex of Christ Church, Bedford.

The mission statement of the PCC is 'To enable everyone to become maturing followers of Christ, who experience and live out God's love daily in every part of their lives'.

The vision of the PCC is therefore to be a Church: -

G enerous	in faith
R eal	about ourselves
A ccepting	of all
C ompassionate	to our community
E ncouraging	all who come

Our priorities for 2019 were: -

- 1. Loving people intentionally towards salvation
- 2. Balancing the message of abundant life and costly discipleship
- 3. Developing a collective identity as a congregation

Objectives and activities

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living within and outside in the parish.
- Mission and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church and complex at 140 Dudley Street. The PCC also had responsibility for the upkeep of 161 Dudley Street.

The main objectives of the PCC for 2019 were: -

- 1. Equipping people for intentional living rooted in Jesus.
- 2. Continuing a long-term presence on Devon Park with Christ Church seen as an essential part of the Devon Park community.
- 3. Walking with Castle Newnham children and their families through thick and thin from age 3-16, especially through the ministries of the youth minister, AJ Wade and the Children's Minister, Becky Guynn and other church members.
- 4. Continuing our active partnerships with Bedford churches.
- 5. Complete fund raising and finalise furnishing of the new halls as a welcoming space for our community and a welcome into the church family and faith a new halls complex.
- 6. Proactively develop Fresh Expressions of Church initiatives to reach out to those for whom new ways of worship will assist them to be part of a worshipping community within the life of Christ Church.

In order to achieve our objectives the PCC has: -

- 1. Received the Certificate of Completion 1st February 2019 for the new church halls.
- 2. Finalised the fundraising for the new church halls. These halls are a delight to the community and church, increasingly used by hirers (19 main hirers and 53 one-offs in 2019) and approx. footfall of 1100/week.
- 3. Introduced a more contemporary style evening service designed to particularly touch our teens, students and those in their twenties, seeing some growth and praying for more.
- 4. Approved and submitted plans to the Bishop of St Albans to prepare and admit children to Communion before confirmation.
- 5. Reviewed our staffing provision: agreed new job descriptions for present 'administry' staff, appointed a new part-time site manager from October and increased the number of hours for cleaning (10 hours/week to 15 hours/week).
- 6. Deepened our involvement and support of Castle Newnham School with Open the Book, lunchtime values clubs, assemblies (Easter Experience: 500 children attended/Christmas Experience 390 children attended) and a newly formed Christian Union.
- 7. Reviewed our youth and children's roles, in the light of Becky Guynn's departure, and agreed to appoint a 0.6 role Children's Minister (with the desire to make the role full-time as soon as finances permit) to lead and coordinate our pre-school and primary ministry.
- 8. Renewed our Sunday morning children's ministry with Daring Disciples, open to from 0 to 8 years of age, and fully supported by our parents as innovative and interactive for their children.
- 9. Extended our presence on the Devon Park estate, sensed increased awareness by residents of Christ Church as their parish church, promoted Carols in the Orchard (attendance 100 people) and Apples in the Orchard (moved into the new church halls due to rain and more popular than expected with 200 people).
- 10. Reviewed relocating the curate's house to Devon Park but PCC not willing to downgrade the quality of the property or take on mortgage debt to finance an equivalence. This desire will be reviewed when the present curate, Revd John Bell, completes his curacy (no later than September 2022).
- 11. Evaluated our church and community communications for our website and social media and made steps to move towards an outside sourced solution.
- 12. Promoted good stewardship amongst all electoral roll members to improve our general income, seeing an increase of approx. £15,000pa in donations
- 13. Begun the process of creating a new Mission Action Plan for presentation to APCM 2020.

Role of Volunteers

Many of our activities are supported by a large number of volunteers, without whom we would not be able to operate. Good examples from 2019 include:

- ✓ Lunch Club 70 attendees, served by 17 volunteers, fortnightly
- ✓ Foodbank 439 parcels (for 823 people) given in 2019, served by 20 volunteers
- ✓ Morning Out 35+ parents/carers and 40+ pre-school children, served by 13 volunteers, weekly in term time
- ✓ Youth work 25 young people attending, served by 12 volunteers per week
- ✓ Open the Book holiday clubs (6) an average of 17 children attended, served by 8 volunteers
- ✓ Holiday @ Home 60 attendees, served by 12 volunteers for three days in August
- ✓ Messy Church 35 attendees, served by 10 volunteers, monthly
- ✓ Prayer Ministry 16 volunteers
- ✓ Cake bakers 12 volunteers
- ✓ AV/PA team 15 volunteers
- ✓ Flower Arranging Team 11 volunteers
- ✓ Impact Group Members (8 groups) 65 volunteers
- ✓ Grounds and Site maintenance 4 volunteers

It is impossible to quantify in financial terms the contribution made by these and many other volunteers, but it is considerable and without which the PCC would not be able to fulfil its charitable objectives.

We would like to thank all the many volunteers, who work so hard to make this church the lively and vibrant community that it is. In particular, we want to thank the Churchwardens, Kay Berrington and Andrew Turpie who have worked so tirelessly on our behalf during 2019.

Achievements and performance

Worship and prayer

All are welcome to attend our regular services at 8.30am, 10am and 6.30pm on Sundays and 10am on Wednesdays.

At present, there are 308 names on the Church Electoral Roll, 234 of whom are not resident within the parish. 31 names were added during the year and 5 were removed either through death or because they moved away from the parish. The average weekly attendance, counted during October, was 253, but this number increased at festivals.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at life's milestones: 7 baptisms, 2 confirmations, 6 funerals and services of thanksgiving. Regretfully, no weddings were officiated here in 2019.

Deanery Synod

We have 5 Deanery Synod elected representatives and 2 Diocesan Synod representatives, offering an important link between our parish and the wider Church of England. At each Deanery Synod meeting, there is a primary focus of discussion, and the opportunity to hear of the work of the wider church: General Synod, Diocesan Synod, Diocesan Board of Finance and Deanery Standing Committee.

In 2019 at the 4 Deanery Synods, the primary discussion for the churches' ministry and mission were:

- February: Bedfordshire Police Community Cohesion Team, who invited Synod members to greater involvement in Bedfordshire Police policies and procedures.

- May: Scripture Union Central Region Team Leader, highlighting how Synod members can better reach out to the 95% of children who are not in church, and IMPACT, sharing their specific school focussed work across Bedford.
- September: Deanery Mission Action Plan (MAP) review, enabling Synod members to reflect and engage their own parish MAP with similar vision and goals.
- December: Archdeacon of Bedford, Venerable Dave Middlebrook, spoke of his ministry, faith journey and faith challenges, prompting Synod members to seek similar opportunities on their own faith journey.

Pastoral care

The ordained staff, the Home Communion assistants (3 hold the Bishop's license) and the pastoral visiting team (10 volunteers) visited the housebound, elderly, struggling and those in hospital, both church members and from the community.

Our parish magazine is published bi-monthly and a new editor was appointed, enabling 5 editions in 2019. It creates a pastoral, spiritual and information link amongst church members, hall users and our local community.

Mission and evangelism

Helping others is a demonstration of our faith, whether practical, emotional or spiritual.

The Mission Impact Group channels support and news between our Mission Partners, scattered across Africa, the Middle East and Europe, and encourages prayer for them.

The Outreach Impact Group runs regular evening and daytime Alpha Courses (4 courses in 2019), a video based series that explains the basics of the Christian faith and the work of Jesus Christ to those living in the community. It is a privilege to see 21 people attend this year, some new to the Christian faith and others renewing their faith. The Grow Group (15 attendees) is a new initiative to extend and deepen Christian faith and understanding.

Ecumenical relationships

We delight in our ecumenical links to other local churches across Bedford and benefit from HOPE Bedfordshire. We actively supported the town-centre open-air Good Friday Witness, attended by over 1000 people. We worked with Three Rivers Church to deliver Christmas flyers to every home in the parish.

Financial review

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £337,480, with £180,044 from standing orders and £48,081 was from Gift Aid. Restricted donations of £102,676 were received for the halls redevelopment. Further details are shown in the annual financial statements.

£329,497 was spent from unrestricted funds to provide the Christian ministry from Christ Church, including the contribution to the diocesan parish share of £133,445 which largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy.

Net movement in funds was an increase of £104,646 during the year, and the total reserves increased to £140,184.

The principal source of donations are the church members. The PCC takes its environmental, social and ethical duties seriously, ensuring that such inform the ministry of Christ Church.

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain adequate funds to ensure the smooth financial running of the church, and ensure that unexpected expenditure can be met as and when required. Total funds held at the year end amounted to £140,184.

The balance on the general reserves at the year end was £100,395 which is considered adequate. Of this amount £91,460 is available without the sale of fixed assets. Total unrestricted funds (including the general fund) amounted to £134,716 with £34,321 representing amounts raised in respect of a previous house purchase.

The purpose of any restricted fund is noted in the financial statements. Restricted funds are in respect of specific projects and or schemes and include amounts raised for the proposed Hall Redevelopment Project (HRP).

Financial risks

Total restricted funds amounted to a surplus of £5,469, being a surplus on general restricted funds of £9,534 offset by a deficit on the Hall Redevelopment Project (£4,065), even though the build has now been completed. The working capital shortfall is being covered by £100,000 of interest free loans from members of the congregation taken out in late 2018 of which £80,000 has been repaid by 31 December 2019, and the remaining amount is due for repayment on 31 December 2023. As at 31 December 2019 further amounts had been pledged over the following 3 years which is expected to completely cover the deficit. In the event that the pledges are not received, the PCC are satisfied that sufficient funds are available from general funds to cover the deficit.

The cash reserves of the church, including restricted funds but excluding hall redevelopment funds totalled £97,320 as at 31 December 2019. The budget for 2020 was approved by the PCC showing a small surplus.

Plans for future periods

The PCC has begun a major review of its Mission Action Plan, delighting in the successful achievements for the last MAP. The PCC's new priorities and objectives are:

Priorities and Objectives

- 1. Making new disciples
 - a. Offer enquirers courses (e.g. Alpha, Grow, Parenting etc) 3 times per year so that at least 10 people come to faith in each year
 - b. Members intentionally praying for 5 friends/relatives to come to faith
 - c. Intentionally offer invitations to friends/relatives to enquiry course or Sunday worship
- 2. Deepening our faith
 - a. Promote active membership of weekly Home Groups, who create their own goal for next 12 months for a ministry area
 - b. Ministries (Men, Women, Seniors, Children and Youth etc) to create clear goal to fulfil the priority 'Going deeper into God'
 - c. At least fortnightly, promote personal testimony stories to encourage maturing followers of Christ (whole life discipleship)
- 3. Transforming our community
 - a. Increase involvement and presence at Castle Newnham School (e.g. minimum 1 x Governor, provide Open the Book, support and nurture CU, offer lunch clubs, etc)
 - b. Start Christians Against Poverty Debt Counselling service

- c. Establish and promote annually a new sustainability initiative across Devon Park and Castle Road
- 4. Creating a greater and more visible social media presence
 - a. Train 2-3 church members in the next 12 months in delivery of Social Media posts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc)
 - b. Ensure regularly weekly flow of news and events via Social Media
 - c. Change over the next 12 months physical outdoor signage

Risk management

The PCC is aware of its risk management duties and has affirmed a number of policies, including the Notes of Guidance for PCC meetings and PCC responsibilities and Safeguarding. During the year a conflicts of interest policy and a safe use of images policy was adopted and the PCC agreed the delegation of serious incident reporting to the charity commission. These risks are regularly reviewed and systems and procedures have been put in place to manage these risks. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

All our trustees and youth and children's leaders are DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checked, as are those whose volunteering brings them into contact with vulnerable adults. Our fire risk assessment, policies and fire safety equipment are kept up to date. There is a food management and recording system in place and at our most recent Environmental Health Inspection in October 2018 we were awarded grade 5, the highest possible. The PCC approved a privacy policy and our data holding procedures were evaluated and amended where necessary to meet the General Data Protection Regulation 2018.

Structure, governance and management

Christ Church is a corporate body established by the Church of England, and it is part of the deanery of Bedford and the Diocese of St Albans.

The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At Christ Church the membership of the PCC consists of the licensed clergy, churchwardens, one of the Readers, members of Diocesan and Deanery Synods and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

New PCC members/trustees are usually offered informal induction through reading a copy of *The PCC Member's Essential Guide*, and a copy of the PCC Notes of Guidance. In April a special meeting was held to induct trustees newly elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The full PCC met 6 times during 2019 with an average level of attendance of 75%. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of impact groups, each one dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These groups, which include communications, mission, buildings, outreach, resourcing, fellowship, and young people, are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with reports of their meetings, decisions and recommendations being received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

Standing Committee: This committee is required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

Buildings Impact Group: This group is responsible for the management and development of Christ Church PCC's buildings and infrastructure.

Communications Impact Group: This group is responsible for oversight of both external and internal communications, including our physical and online presence.

Fellowship Impact Group: This group is responsible for the planning, resourcing and delivery of events focused on the development of fellowship within Christ Church.

Mission Impact Group: This group is responsible for caring, praying and practically supporting our Mission Partners and Organisations and encouraging vocations and support to mission at home and overseas.

Outreach Impact Group: This group is responsible for the planning, resourcing, coordination and delivery of all pre-evangelistic, evangelistic and early discipleship support at Christ Church.

Resourcing Impact Group: This group is responsible for the financing of Christ Church and the prudent management of its financial resources.

Worship Impact Group: This group is responsible for the planning, resourcing, coordination and delivery of all corporate worship at Christ Church.

Young People's Impact Group: The Young People's Impact Group is responsible for supporting the Youth Minister and the Children's Minister in developing and implementing a strategy for young people's and family work at Christ Church, which directly contributes to the achievement of Christ Church's mission.

Administrative information

Christ Church is situated at 140 Dudley Street, Bedford. It is part of the Diocese of St Albans within the Church of England. The correspondence address is 140 Dudley Street Bedford MK40 3SX. Registered charity number 1134785 under the name the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Christ Church Bedford. It is also known as Christ Church Bedford, PCC or Christ Church.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2019 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex-Officio Members:

	Incumbent	The Revd Canon Richard Hibbert	Chairman
	Curate	The Revd John Bell	(from 30 June 2019)
	Wardens	Mrs Kay Berrington Mr Andrew Turpie	
	Reader	Mr Michael Bishop	
	Diocesan Synod	Mr Christopher Burrows Mrs Min-Min Peaker	
	Deanery Synod	Mr Steven Allin Ms Rachel Bennett Mr John Betteley Mr Keith Priddin Mr AJ Wade	(from 27 March 2019)
Electe	d Members:		
		Mr Simon Berrington Mrs Mhairi Brown	

	Mrs Margaret Cottenden Dr Jon Day Mrs Tracey Emmott	
	Mrs Margaret Haywood	
	Mrs Ruth Janes	Treasurer
	Mrs Laura Jewell	
	Mr Daniel Payton	(until 27 March 2019)
	Miss Wendy Pegg	(from 27 March 2019)
	Ms Helen Ryan	
	Mrs Sue Templeman	
	Mr Graham Thomson	(until 27 March 2019)
	Mr Steve Welsh	
(PCC Secretary)	Mrs Pauline Grimley	(not a PCC member)

Bank:

CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner:

Suzanne Goodson BSc FCA Wright Connections Limited Registered Auditors Bedford I-Lab Priory Business Park Stannard Way Bedford MK44 3RZ

Day-to-day management of the charity is delegated to the incumbent: -

Incumbent: The Revd Canon Richard Hibbert Christ Church Vicarage 115 Denmark Street Bedford MK40 3TJ

Approved by the PCC on 5 March 2020 and signed on their behalf:

Revd Canon Richard Hibbert (PCC Chairman)

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of Christ Church Bedford

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2019 which are set out on pages 11 to 24

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Suzanne Goodson BSc FCA Institute of Chartered Accountants England & Wales Wright Connections Limited Bedford I-Lab Stannard Way Bedford MK44 3RZ

Date:

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Including Income and Expenditure account)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	HRP Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 31.12.19 £	Total Funds 31.12.18 £
INCOME FROM						
Donations and Legacies	4	254,439	102,676	7,125	364,240	653,458
Charitable activities	5	77,999	5,000	3,655	86,653	117,520
Other trading activities		5,039	0	0	5,039	5,487
Investments	6	3	0	0	3	151
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		337,480	107,676	10,779	455,935	776,616
EXPENDITURE ON						
Charitable activities	7	329,497	4,377	17,412	351,286	1,892,397
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		329,497	4,377	17,412	351,286	1,892,397
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		7,983	103,299	(6,633)	104,648	(1,115,781)
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0	0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		7,983	103,299	(6,633)	104,648	(1,115,781)
Reconciliation of funds Total funds brought forward	19	126,733	(107,364)	16,167	35,536	1,151,317
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWA	RD at					
31 st DECEMBER 2019	19	134,716	(4,065)	9,534	140,184	35,536

All income and expenditure is derived from continuing activities

BALANCE SHEET at 31st December 2019

	<u>Note</u>	31.12	2.19	31.12	2.18
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS Tangible fixed assets	12		98,935		105,664
	12		00,000		100,001
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	13	18,671		18,695	
Cash at bank and in hand		171,959		162,548	
		190,630		181,242	
CURRENT LIABILITIES Creditors due within one year	14	-73,702		-115,691	
creators due within one year	17	-13,102		-115,031	
NET CURRENT ASSETS		-	116,928	_	65,551
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			215,863		171,215
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE					
AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR	15		-75,679		-135,679
AITER MORE THAN ONE TEAR	10		-13,013		-135,075
NET ASSETS		-	140,184	-	35,536
		=	<u> </u>	=	· · · ·
FUNDS	19				
Unrestricted funds			134,716		126,733
Restricted funds			9,534		16,167
Hall Redevelopment Project		-	-4,065	-	-107,364
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		=	140,184	=	35,536
Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 5 M	arch 2020				
and signed on its behalf by:	2020				
	.				
Revd. Canon Richard Hibbert	Chairman				

Mrs Ruth Janes

Hon. Treasurer

The notes on the following pages form part of these accounts

Charity registration number 1134785

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Note	31.12.19	31.12.18
Cash flow from operating activities Cash generated from activities	3	93,587	(1,017,630)
Cash flow from investing activities			
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets Interest received	-	0 3	0 151
Net cash flow from investing activities	-	3	151
Cash flow from financing activities			
Receipts/(repayment) from issue/(repayment) c Interest paid	of long term loans	(80,000) (4,177)	100,000 (3,907)
Net cash flow from financing activities	-	(84,177)	96,093
Net increase/decrease in cash and cash equ	iivalents	9,412	(921,386)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1.1.19		162,548	1,083,934
Cash and cash equivalents at 31.12.19	-	171,960	162,548
Cash and cash equivalents consists of cash at bank and in hand	-	171,960	162,548

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) General information

Christ Church, a registered charity in the United Kingdom is a corporate body established by the Church of England, and it is part of the deanery of Bedford and the Diocese of St Albans. Its trustees are all members of the Parochial Church Council and they operate under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The address of the registered office is given in the charity administrative information on page 9 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities can be found in The Trustees Report on pages 2 to 9.

b) Basis of preparing the financial statements

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years prescribed.

c) Income recognition

Voluntary income and capital sources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Collections are recognised when made. For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. Pledged amounts are only recognised on receipt of the funds.

Income tax recoverable on gift aid scheme donations is recognised in the period the income is received. Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of the entitlement and the likely amount due.

Donated facilities and donated professional services are recognised in income at their fair value when their economic benefit is probable, it can be measured reliably and the charity has control over the item. Fair value is determined on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity. For example, the amount the charity would be willing to pay in the open market for such facilities and services. A corresponding amount is recognised in expenditure.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102).

Where practicable, gifts in kind donated for distribution to the beneficiaries of the charity are included in stock and donations in the financial statements upon receipt. If it is impracticable to assess the fair value at receipt or if the costs to undertake such a valuation outweigh any benefits, then the fair value is recognised as a component of donations when it is distributed and an equivalent amount recognised as charitable expenditure.

Other trading activities

Other trading activities represent feed in tariffs from solar panels, and are recognised on entitlement.

Other ordinary income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is accounted for when earned. Fees due to the PCC for weddings, funerals, etc. are accounted for on an event by event basis.

d) Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Costs directly related to the work of the church

The Diocesan parish share is accounted for when payable and any amount unpaid at 31st December is included as a creditor in the Balance Sheet. Grants and donations are accounted for at the earlier of payment or formal approval by the PCC. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year-end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

e) Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church property

Consecrated and beneficial property is excluded from the financial statements by s. 10(2) of the Charities Act 2011.

No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers these to be inalienable property.

All expenditure on consecrated and beneficial property and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off in the year incurred. This includes all expenditure incurred to date in respect of the Hall Redevelopment Project, including the build costs, since the build is occurring on consecrated ground, and as such cannot be capitalised.

Other land and buildings

Other land and buildings held on behalf of the PCC for its own purposes are valued at cost. No depreciation is charged on such properties since it is considered that the estimated residual value of the properties is in excess of the purchase price. Any expenditure on maintenance or improvement is written off in the year incurred.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment purchased within the accounting period is capitalised on the balance sheet. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off in the year in which the asset is acquired.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset in a systematic basis over its expected useful life. Depreciation rates used are as follows: -

Furniture and solar panels – 10% per annum (estimated useful life 10 years), Equipment – 33.33% (estimated useful life 3 years)

f) Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

g) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

The purpose of any restricted fund is noted in the financial statements. Restricted funds include amounts raised for the Hall Redevelopment Project (HRP).

The financial statements include transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe an affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

h) Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

i) Bank and Cash

Bank and Cash include short-term deposits which include cash held on deposit either with the General Board of Finance of the Church of England or at CAF Bank.

j) Loans

Loans and borrowings are initially recognised at the transaction price including transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, less impairment. If an arrangement constitutes a finance transaction it is measured at present value.

k) Concessionary loans

Concessionary loans include those payable to third parties which are interest free and are made to advance charitable purposes. Where the loan is repayable on demand within one year, the loan is measured at cost, less impairment. Where the loan is repayable more than one year, the loan is initially measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, less impairment.

k) Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within 1 year

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December in respect of fees, rents or other income are included as debtors at transactional values less any provision for amounts that may prove to be uncollectible. Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

I) Judgements

No judgements (apart from those involving estimates) have been made in the process of applying the above accounting policies.

2 Year ended 31 December 2018 Comparatives

	Unrestricted Funds £	HRP Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 31.12.18 £
INCOME FROM				
Donations and Legacies Charitable activities Other trading activities Gain on sale of 145 Dudley Street Investments	265,943 55,480 5,487 151 0	317,876 58,000 0 0 0	69,639 4,040 0 0 0	653,458 117,520 5,487 151 0
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	327,061	375,876	73,679	776,616
EXPENDITURE ON				
Charitable activities	327,262	1,503,406	61,728	1,892,397
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	327,262	1,503,406	61,728	1,892,397
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(201)	(1,127,530)	11,951	(1,115,781)
Transfers between funds	(345,451)	345,451	0	0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(345,652)	(782,079)	11,951	(1,115,781)
Reconciliation of funds Total funds brought forward	472,386	674,715	4,216	1,151,317
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD at				
31 st DECEMBER 2018	126,733	(107,364)	16,167	35,536

All income and expenditure is derived from continuing activities

3 Reconciliation of net expenditure for year to net cash flow from operating activities

			31.12.19	31.12.18
	Net expenditure for year		£ 104,648	£ (1,115,781)
	Interest receivable Interest payable Depreciation of tangible fixed assets Loss on disposal of fixed assets Decrease (increase) in debtors Increase (decrease) in creditors		(3) 4,177 6,729 0 24 (21,989)	(151) 3,907 8,347 3,180 2,867 80,000
	Net cash flow from operating activities	6	93,587	(1,017,630)
4	Income from Donations and Legacies		31.12.19 £ 334,622	31.12.18 £ 546,939
	Legacies Other Donations		0 29,618	0 106,519
			364,240	653,458
5	Income from charitable activities			
5			31.12.19 £	31.12.18 £
	Rental income Grants		35,163 5,000	18,002 58,000
	Events and activities Fees		45,538 952	40,635 883
6	Income from investments		<u>86,653</u> 31.12.19	<u> 117,520 </u> 31.12.18
			£	£
	Deposit interest		3_	151
7	Charitable Activities Costs	Direct costs £	Donations £	Total £
	Church Activities	311,372	39,914	351,286
	See note 21 for further details			
8	Support/ Governance costs			
			31.12.19 £	31.12.18 £
	Independent Examiner's remuneration		~ 1,800	2,314
9	Net income for the period is stated after	er charging		
			31.12.19 £	31.12.18 £
	Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		£ 6,729	£ 8,347

10 Trustees and key management personnel remuneration and expenses

Two trustees received £22,680 for church work during the year (2018 - £nil)

In 2019 and 2018 the incumbent and the curate were remunerated by way of a stipend by a related party, being the Diocese of St Albans who are responsible for setting the level of remuneration. As is standard practice in the Church of England the clergy were provided with housing by the Diocese (incumbent) and PCC (curate).

Five trustees, including incumbent and curate, were reimbursed \pounds 7,459 during the year (2018 - \pounds 5,729). This was for travel, hospitality, books and expenditure on behalf of the church.

11 Staff Costs

	31.12.19	31.12.18
	£	£
Wages and salaries	70,807	68,132
Social security costs	1,293	1,817
Defined contribution pension costs	3,292	3,179
	75,392	73,128
The average monthly number of employees durin	g the year was as follows:	

	2019	2018
Youth Minister and Children's Minister	2	2
Other (all part-time)	5_	3
	7_	5

No employees received remuneration in excess of £60,000

12 Fixed Assets

	Freehold Property	old Property Equipment	
COST	£	£	£
At 1 January 2019	90,000	82,066	172,066
Additions	0	0	0
Disposals	0	0	0
At 31 December 2019	90,000	82,066	172,066
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 January 2019	0	66,402	66,402
Charge for the year	0	6,729	6,729
Disposals	0	0	0
At 31 December 2019	0	73,131	73,131
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2019	90,000	8,935	98,935
At 31 December 2018	90,000	15,664	105,664

Note: The property held at 31 December 2019 consists of 161 Dudley Street, Bedford, which is subject to an equity sharing loan from the Church Commissioners (see loan note for further details).

13 Debtors: amounts falling due within 1 year	31.12.19	31.12.18
	£	£
Other debtors	18,671	18,695
	18,671	18,695

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	31.12.19	31.12.18
	£	£
HRG creditors	59,838	84,151
HRG - interest free loan from members of congregation	0	20,000
Other creditors	13,864	11,540
	73,702	115,691

Members of the congregation have given interest free loans, repayable over five years to 31 December 2023. £80,000 was repaid during 2019.

15 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	31.12.19	31.12.18
	£	£
HRG - interest free loan from members of congregation	20,000	80,000
Other creditors	55,679	55,679
	75,679	135,679

The PCC has a loan of £55,679 from the Church Commissioners which was taken out to assist with the purchase of 161 Dudley Street (the Curate's House) This is an interest only value linked loan representing 62% of the original value of the property. It is repayable on sale of the property together with a 62% share in any increase in value since acquisition. There are no plans to sell 161 Dudley Street

16 Monies raised for others

During the year the following monies were collected for external organisations

	31.12.19	31.12.18
Kings Arms (Christmas appeal 2017)	0	380
Diocese of Egypt (Christmas appeal 2018)	356	1,484
Home of Hope toilets (Christmas appeal 2019)	1,398	0
Bishops Harvest appeal	1,356	923
Ordinand training	424	265
Bike n Hike	884	1,620
Other	1,432	0
	5,850	4,672

A total of £1,398 was held as at 31 December 2019 (2018 - £1,484)

17 Financial commitments

The PCC had committed a total of $\pounds 2.5m$ to the hall redevelopment project (31 December 2018 - $\pounds 2.5m$). As at 31 December 2019 a total of $\pounds 2.46m$ had been spent, and no further amounts committed.

18 Related parties

The Diocese of St Albans is a related party by way of the constitution Details of receipts from related parties are found in note 20 Details of payments to related parties are found in notes 21 and 22

19 Fund reconciliation - 2019

Unrestricted funds

	Balance at				Balance at
	At 1.1.19	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	31.12.19
	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	92,412	337,480	(329,497)	0	100,395
Unrestricted house reserve - 161 Dudley Street	34,321			0	34,321
	126,733	337,480	(329,497)	0	134,716

Restricted funds

	Balance at At 1.1.19 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31.12.19 £
Vicar's discretionary fund Hall fit out	1,363 11,963	3,831 89	(4,119) (6,563)		1,075 5,489
Other Holiday at Home	263 2,578	3,205 3,655	(3,468) (3,262)		(0) 2,970
Total restricted excluding HRP	16,167	10,779	(17,412)	0	9,534
HRP funds	(107,364)	107,676	(4,377)		(4,065)
	(91,197)	118,455	(21,789)	0	5,469

	Unrestricted funds 31.12.1 9 £	Restricted funds 31.12.19 £	HRP funds 31.12.19 £	Total 31.12.19 £
Fixed assets	98,935			98,935
Cash and current investments	87,787	9,534	74,638	171,959
Other current assets	17,537		1,134	18,671
Creditors: amounts due in less than one year	-13,864		-59,838	-73,702
Creditors: amounts due in more than one year	-55,679		-20,000	-75,679
	134,716	9,534	-4,065	140,184

20 INCOME

INCOME	Unrestricted Funds	HRP Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 31.12.19	Total Funds 31.12.18
	£	£	£	£	£
Income from Donations and Legaci					
Standing orders & Envelope Scheme	180,044	102,676		282,720	441,488
Legacies	0			0	0
Basket Collections	3,821			3,821	4,127
Income tax reclaimed	48,081			48,081	101,323
Other donations	22,493		7,125	29,618	106,519
	254,439	102,676	7,125	364,240	653,458
Note - included above are the followir	ig amounts giver	n by trustee	S		
Unrestricted				26,675	17,493
HRG				9,950	27,775
Restricted				0	49,473
Total			-	36,625	94,741
Income from charitable activities					
Rental income	35,163			35,163	18,002
Social & Youth Events	29,177			29,177	20,905
Grants	0	5,000		5,000	58,000
Morning Out receipts	1,454			1,454	1,150
Lunch Club Receipts	4,986			4,986	3,651
Holiday at Home	0		3,655	3,655	4,040
Fees	952			952	883
Sundry receipts	6,267			6,267	10,889
Malawi	0				

Note: Included in sundry income is an amount of £3,000 received from the Diocese of St Albans.

77,999

Income from other trading activities					
Income from solar panels	5,039			5,039	5,487
	5,039	0	0	5,039	5,487
Income from investment					
Deposit interest	3	0	0	3	151
	3	0	0	3	151
TOTAL INCOME	337,480	107,676	10,779	455,935	776,616

5,000

3,655

86,653

117,520

21	Resources spent	Unrestricted HRP Restricted		Restricted	Total Funds	Total Funds
		Funds	Fund s	Funds	31.12.19	31.12.18
		£	£	£	£	£
G	rants					
	Mission and charitable giving	32,335		3,460	35,795	48,244
	Other donations	0		4,119	4,119	2,949
		32,335	0	7,579	39,914	51,193
D	irectly relating to Church Ministry					
	Parish share - payment to a related party	133,445			133,445	128,705
	Clergy & staff expenses	4,373			4,373	3,528
	Housing costs	1,190			1,190	2,336
	Services including music	5,568			5,568	4,573
	Telephones	2,448			2,448	2,956
	Books	299			299	85
	Explorers, Holiday Club & Youth Work	4,873			4,873	5,414
	Training	1,147			1,147	1,182
	Morning Out	877			877	942
	Lunch Club	3,377			3,377	2,898
	Holiday at Home			3,262	3,262	2,432
	Outreach (including social events)	26,622			26,622	22,538
	Sundries	2,630			2,630	3,023
	Interest payable	4,177			4,177	3,907
		191,027	0	3,262	194,289	184,520
	hurch management and					
ac	dministration	F 077			F 077	40.400
	Heat and light	5,677			5,677	10,102
		2,796			2,796	2,948
	Cleaning Materials	3,159			3,159	2,380
	Church and property maintenance	5,542		0.574	5,542	29,639
	Equipment - not capitalised	543	4 077	6,571	7,114	860
	Hall Redevelopment	75 200	4,377		4,377	1,520,761
	Salaries and wages	75,392			75,392	73,128
	Printing, postage and stationery	3,237			3,237	2,825
	Other	1,261			1,261	200
	Loss on disposal of fixed assets	6 700			0	3,180
	Depreciation	6,729			6,729	8,347
		104,335	4,377	6,571	115,283	1,654,370
S	upport/Governance Costs	1,800			1,800	2,314
тот	AL RESOURCES SPENT	329,497	4,377	17,412	351,286	1,892,397

22	DETAILS OF MISSION AND CHARITABLE GIVING			Total	Total
		General	Restricted	31.12.19	31.12.18
	OVERSEAS				
	Rob & Ruth S - Middle East	9,500	0	9,500	10,500
	SIM (supporting the Deneufchâtel's)	6,000	0	6,000	5,950
	Gayet (work in Belgium)	6,015	0	6,015	7,000
	Specific work in Middle East	750	0	750	000,7
	Malawi - Home of Hope	500	0	500	0
	Specific sponsorship	0	980	980	0
	Egypt EDA	500	0	500	0
	Samuti - interfaith helpers	625	0	625	0
	Neno Macadamia trust	125	0	125	500
	Other	0	0	0	1,459
	Malawi Orphan fund	0	611	611	600
	Uganda - faith mission	0	0	0	9,105
		04.045	4 504	05 000	05 444
		24,015	1,591	25,606	35,114
	HOME				
	Bedford Area Schools Christian Support Trust	4,520	0	4,520	4,500
	Kings Arms Project - Bedford	500	0	500	500
	COACH including Beth Bradley (nee Day)	1,500	0	1,500	1,000
	Specific sponsorship	0	0	0	600
	Bedford Street Angels	50	0	50	50
	Youth Inspired	0	0	0	600
	International Justice Mission	125	0	125	0
	Just Love	500	0	500	0
	Friends for Life	0	0	0	25
	Barnabas Fund	625	0	625	500
	Bedford Foodbank	500	0	500	500
	Friends of Home of Hope - supporting teens 2019 trip	0	0	0	1,500
	Other specific giving	0	1,869	1,869	3,355
		8,320	1,869	10,189	13,130
	Total mission	32,335	3,460	35,795	48,244
	OTHER				
	Discretionary donations	0	4,119	4,119	2,949
		0	4,119	4,119	2,949
		32,335	7,579	39,914	51,193

TOTAL MISSION GIVING

Note: Mission giving was set at 10% of General Gifts in 2019 (2018: 14%) Additional mission giving was made in December 2019 increasing the percentage to 13% given

ANNUAL REPORT: EXPLANATORY NOTES



This document (excluding the Vicar's Report) was written for an APCM planned to be held on Tuesday 24th March 2020: the words were finished and were being proof-read and pictures added when the UK government announced restrictions on many things, including meetings. Please take this into consideration when reading this report. Next year's report will contain information of the many changes to our ministry that took place from March 2020. The accounts were approved by the Parochial Church Council in order to be submitted to the Charity Commission, in May. The Electoral Roll revision had to take place again prior to the rearranged Annual Meeting and the updated report follows.

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

At present, there are 305 names on the Church Electoral Roll, 231 of whom are not resident within the parish. 35 names were added during the year and 10 were removed either through death, because they moved away from the parish or at their request.

CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT ON THE FABRIC, GOODS, AND ORNAMENTS OF CHRIST CHURCH BEDFORD AND BUILDINGS IMPACT GROUP REPORT

Membership: Richard Hibbert (Vicar), Fanie Lessing, Martin Hamilton (sec), Pat Davies, Vandon Grimley (Site Manager), John Betteley, Andrew Turpie (Churchwarden), Rachel Bennett (Chair) and James Roe.

Dawn Hire's job description changed during last year so she is now no longer serving on BIG. We are grateful to Dawn for what she contributed. We are now blessed to have Vandon as our Site Manager. He draws others in to help carry out the many routine as well as new tasks that need to be done on our church site.

We have had a busy and productive year with a goodly number of tasks, both large and small being achieved.

2019/20 Routine Activities/General Maintenance: BIG is responsible for carrying out all routine maintenance and statutory related tasks to do with the Christ Church buildings and grounds e.g. electrical inspections, organ tuning and lightning conductor checks, through to ensuring we are adhering to Health and Safety legislation.

BIG has a Priorities Planning document which assists us in identifying and costing of the long-term work/tasks. We know many will need doing in the main church and grounds during the next five or so years with some tasks relating to the Quinquennial Inspection (QI) report.

Archdeacon's Inspection: The inspection took place on 5 September 2019 and was carried out by Archdeacon Dave Middlebrook who was accompanied by Kay Berrington and Andrew Turpie (Church Wardens). The report shows no significant concerns.

Inspection comments about Routine & Legal matters

- Registers are in good order.
- The Terrier & Inventory and Log Book are in order.
- Test certificates for electrical installations etc. all present in the Log Book.
- The Certificate of Employer's Liability Insurance is displayed in the church porch.
- Copyright licenses cover all necessary needs and are current.
- The parish MAP is in progress towards its goals.

- PCC employees have written contracts of employment.

- The exterior remains well maintained with the grounds around the church being well maintained and welcoming to the community.

- The interior of the Church was clean, neat, tidy and welcoming.

Quinquennial Inspection: We received the completed report in 2019. There are no new, significant issues and the general overview of the report is that everything looks good both in the main church, new halls and church grounds with all areas being well maintained. We monitor matters such as cracks, drafts, leaks etc. and seek advice to ensure we complete tasks that need attention. BIG takes suitable action to ensure jobs are carried out within the required time span. These tasks are within BIG's Annual Maintenance Plan.

Ecclesiastical Insurers: We work to ensure that all aspects within our insurance policy are in good order.

Additional BIG matters:

- Gardens: We now have a Ground Force Team who work together ensuring our external grounds are kept in order: thank you Ken Palliser, Robert Clark, Steve Lawrence and Paul Holmes. Funds will be needed at some point to address various jobs that need attention e.g. Pruning trees, raising the lawns to be in line with the pathways. Meanwhile the gardens will be maintained,

keeping the layout simple but neat and tidy.

Additional storage space: BIG has been working with Laura Turpie (Halls Fit Out) to help us increase our storage spaces. We are still looking at ways to increase our storage areas and BIG is considering how best to provide this for ease of access by church groups as well as the regular hirers of the church halls/rooms.
The PV panels continue to provide a source of income for us.

- Lower Store Room, formerly the boiler room: The completion of the new sink area is still to be carried out.



- The Halls Redevelopment Group, along with BIG are continuing with a few final snagging tasks. We are grateful to Steve Ashton, Laura Turpie and Jude Hamilton for their continued help during the transition period: thank you!

Policies: BIG is tasked with making sure the following polices are maintained:

- Food Environmental Health: Thank you to Margaret Ryan, our Kitchen coordinator, who ensures we are kept up to speed with kitchen Health and Safety and management issues.

- PAT testing: Thank you to John Betteley for arranging this.

- H&S matters e.g. Risk Assessments, Fire/Emergency Evacuation Policy and Procedures. Amanda Janes continues to give her time and expertise to help us ensure we have all things in place. In the autumn we had our first Emergency Evacuation practice during a Sunday 10.00 service. It went well but Amanda was able to advise us of aspects we need to amend before we have our next practice.

All policies are held in the church office as well as electronically.

In conclusion:

BIG is only able to complete the tasks on our remit because of the many servant hearted people who give of their free time and energy to help us complete the skilled and unskilled jobs needing to be done in the church/halls/grounds/curate's house. A huge thanks goes to you all!

Our desire and prayer is that our buildings continue to be used for the extension of God's kingdom. What a privilege and joy to have such a site that we can share with the local and wider community. It is indeed exciting to see who the Lord brings through our doors. We have much to praise God for and we continue to trust Him for what is yet to come.

Andrew Turpie and Kay Berrington, Churchwardens; Rachel Bennett, Chair of Buildings Impact Group

- The Safeguarding team have met 6 weekly throughout the 12 months to monitor, organise and pre-empt safeguarding issues at Christ Church. They have worked well as a team and addressed all the issues raised and required.

- New Safeguarding Policy ratified by PCC in May 2019 and new Workers 31:8 Pocket Guides purchased for volunteers.

- Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks using the ebulk system at 31:8. Checks now 100% up to date since successful team working over the last 12 months to ensure that all persons working in recognised roles with both vulnerable adults and children have the required DBS checks in place.

- The Hub. We have a lovely, modern usable space which can be used for activities by the church family and hired out to enquirers at a small cost. On occasions this creates busy days of multiple bookings and ones which have required addressing in terms of Safeguarding. The Hub is a welcoming space to rest, seek company and shelter from the rain on occasion. With minimal reception volunteer support a few hours per week this means that children being dropped off at Preschool, elderly persons at lunch club and individuals attending foodbank are all present at the same time. With an open-door policy in our community we need to maintain a vigilance for the safety all our users.

Home Group Leaders. All home group leaders are now required by the Diocese to attend face to face C2 training. This is a new requirement and one which the church is required to address over the next few months by attending the C2 training locally or by Christ Church hosting C2 training. No dates have yet been fixed but there are dates available locally, which will be sent out to all home group leaders to choose from.
Safeguarding Month in January 2020 went well raising the profile of Safeguarding as a responsibility of everyone in the church and an encouragement to many to complete their online C0 and C1 to inform their roles which they currently undertake. This is an ongoing training which does need to be repeated every 3 years and so the team will be monitoring and encouraging individuals to complete this.

Pauline Carter, Parish Safeguarding Lead

OUTREACH IMPACT GROUP REPORT

Membership: Richard Hibbert, Helen & Andrew Russell, Penny Gilham, Sue Templeman, Steven Allin, Sarah Walker (secretary), Kay Berrington, Pat Mathias, Margaret Baron, Judy Miller, Daniel Gicharu and John Bell.



The Outreach Impact Group (OIG) has continued throughout the year to reach out to the community to offer opportunities to come into contact with Christ Church, to explore questions about faith and build new relationships. This has been done though a Family Fun

Day in the summer that offered an afternoon tea, bouncy castle, children's activities and conversation in the church grounds. Apples in the Orchard was moved to the church halls due to bad weather, much fun was had by all as activities took place in the hall including the bouncy castle, face painting and colouring. The Bedford Town Band played to accompany the activities.

Carols in the Orchard took place in Devon Park bringing everyone, congregation and parish, together. This was an event to provide the real meaning behind Christmas, while also sharing music and mulled wine. To offer the opportunity or increase understanding in the Christian faith there have been termly evening Alpha groups and 3 daytime Alpha



courses over the year. The Grow group, which started in 2019 as a follow-on group from Alpha, has continued to thrive and offers further in-depth exploration Course for both new and established Christians. 'Food for Thought', the pre-lunch club group that started in 2019, continues to offer seniors the chance to discuss everyday issues using Table Talk material and have conversations about Jesus. OIG would like to thank everyone who has helped at any of the events over the year.

Sarah Walker, Member of Outreach Impact Group

MISSION IMPACT GROUP REPORT

Membership: Steve Gardner (chair), Sidney Miller, Gillian Lindley, Jon Day, Rosemary Phillips, Duncan Mountford and Mary Shaw.

Lizzie Payton, Sue Fearon and Graham Thomson also served during 2019 and Tracey Emmott and Edward Tufnell have resigned from the group in 2020.



The purpose of MIG is to wisely allocate the generous 14% of general church giving to Mission and Christian Charities, with at least 86% going to Mission. We also try to keep an open communication between our Mission Partners and church membership through visits, videos, messages and encourage support through prayer. This year we have sought to use the new Hub TV facilities to give regular updates on how Christ Church supports mission. In the UK we financially support Impact, who provide Christian input into local schools, and Beth Bradley who works with COACH in Nottingham.

We, in conjunction with other Churches, support three overseas Mission Partners; Rob & Ruth witnessing in the Middle East, YP & Jude Gayet supporting church plants and young people in Belgium, and Marc & Hilary Deneufchâtel who have been working in Benin, West Africa for twelve years.

This past year has seen the fruition of Hilary's work, with a small team translating the Old Testament into the Monkolé language. A fund-raising lunch held in January raised a wonderful sum of £2,860 to go towards the bible's publication costs.

This year we allocated £500 to a youth mission project. Representatives of the Barnabas Fund, the Samuti Bee Project, Mission for Justice and the Neno Macademia Trust talked to Christ Church children, advocating their projects and the value of charitable giving.



Steve Gardner, Chair of Mission Impact Group

YOUNG PEOPLE'S IMPACT GROUP REPORT

The Impact Group consists of 6 members: AJ Wade (Youth Minister), Jess Walker (Trainee Youth Worker), John Bell, Debs Tisi, Martin Hamilton, Gillian Lindley. Mhairi Brown, Becky Guynn and Margaret Cottenden stepped down during the past 12 months. Mhairi Brown has stepped down as Chair of YPIG and AJ Wade is the current Chair.

YPIG meets every other month with a focus on growing our young people's work in our church and local community. It serves all those between 0-21 years.

The team's desire is that the children and young people we meet experience God's love and saving grace for them. Prayer is an important part of what we do here in order to seek God's vision for the young people of Christ church.

Children's Ministry Report

Currently now we still do not have a Children's Minister in post, so the children's ministry is overseen by YPIG and the groups are run by significant volunteers.

<u>Daring Disciples</u> started back in September 2019 and continues to flourish. We have a great team of helpers who have mostly attended the DD training session. We recently had a helper meeting to discuss how we can continue to develop to meet the needs of the children as the group gets bigger. We now often have 20 plus children from the age of birth - 8 years old which is really encouraging. It is wonderful to see the older children paired with our youngest members, helping them sign the actions to the songs and take part in the active story telling.

Over the next month we will be looking at the last of Jesus' life. We will be familiarising the children with the stories as well introducing them to acts of worship like waving palm branches and foot washing in meaningful ways.

Here are some of comments from a number of our children: -

- At Daring Disciples, we worship God
- Daring Disciples is joyful and fun.
- Daring Disciples is fun
- At Daring Disciples, we play and pray.
- Daring Disciples is really fun, and I enjoy going to it.



The <u>Passport</u> group takes children from Year 4 (8) up to Year 6 (11). During their time with us they cover the Passport challenges where the children study a range of essential knowledge areas (such as Who is God, Who is Jesus, Who is the Holy Spirit) through a range of interactive teaching and are then challenged to describe and explain these topics in their own words. Last September Passport group was delighted to welcome 3 new leaders, Amanda Ottaviani, Julia Lawrence and Rachel Bennett and has typically doubled in size since last year having up to 12 children each week. Each week we also have one of the parents as a helper which we trust helps to build church family relationships. An innovation this year is the film club which carries on after the teaching session. It is a joy to meet in Room 5 and have Rooms 2 and 3 downstairs as a breakout space for games. We are very blessed.

<u>Messy Church</u> runs on the 3rd Friday per month from 3.30-5.30pm. Our numbers vary between 15 and 50 children (mainly primary school age) along with parents and guardians with Messy Christmas proving very popular. If you are free on Friday afternoons do come and joins us.

<u>Time for Tea</u> is a tea and activity afternoon that happens each half-term (with the exception of Christmas) for families who have a child with a disability. Here is a comment from someone who attends "We all look forward to coming. There are so few places where both of our children can come and have fun."





<u>Open The Book Holiday Club</u> During the past year we have run several successful holiday clubs during the school holidays. These are usually one-day holiday clubs but during the summer holidays we ran a three-day one too.

During our three-day summer one we looked at the Noah's Ark story and on one of the days we took the children down to Russell Park to measure out the size that the real Ark would have been. We were all amazed at how long but narrow it would have been.
The children then made their own cardboard Ark but luckily it was much more scaled down than the size of the real one.

The children that attend are a mix of children from local schools, the local area and 'Christ Church' children. We have between 16 and 22 children attending each time.



Youth Ministry Report

J Team is a relaxed group that typically meets three Sunday mornings a month. We look at a wide range of topics that allow young people to share their thoughts and opinions while pointing them to Jesus and the difference he makes in their lives.



Connect is our drop-in youth group that runs Friday night from 7:15 pm until 9pm. The purpose of this group is to reach out to young people and connect them to the church and form friendships. Connect is where young people can come along and forget for a moment the stress of everyday life. Connect is a place where young people can just have fun while forming an identity.

Rooted is a group for school years 10 to 13 and has been designed to be a place where our young people discuss hot topics and feel able to ask tough questions. The meeting includes some time to socialise but the majority of the session is a

discussion about the chosen topic. This helps young people to cope with issues that they will come across in daily life as well as equipping them for their own spiritual journey.

Ignite is a weekly group designed for school years 7-9. It consists of active games, colouring and snacks! We discuss lighter questions, simply because the audience is younger. It follows a similar pattern to Rooted, in the fact that it is based around discussion and asking questions that the young people wouldn't necessarily get to explore elsewhere.



Bedford Hope Youth is a youth event for young people from across Bedford. It consists of games, a time of worship, a talk and pizza. It helps young people to meet other young people form Kings Arms, Three Rivers Church, Bromham Baptist and other churches across the town.

We have been getting more involved St Thomas More School as well Castle Newnham North site. We have been able to help run Christian Unions,

worship groups and other various activities. Also, we have been able to do Easter and Christmas RE lessons.

AJ Wade, Chair of Young People's Impact Group



WORSHIP IMPACT GROUP REPORT

Current members:- Ruth Rawes, Dominic Carter, Matt Jewell, Alex Mnatzaganian, Andrew Maltby, David Currie, Simon Platt, Min Min Peaker, **Carolyn Barnes**

Working together, our aim is to enable heartfelt worship and facilitate sung worship which has freshness, familiarity and quality. We would like to thank all those who have served in the music, AV and sound teams for their commitment week in week out to our regular

30

Sunday services. We are also grateful to those who serve as organists for the early Sunday morning and mid week services. Thank you to everyone who took part in the evening Carol Service and to Ruth Rawes and Alex Mnatzaganian for leading the choir and band. Thank you also to Simon Platt and all those who helped to complete the work on the drum booth and to Simon for organising a very informative and helpful day of sound training.

Carolyn Barnes, Chair Worship Impact Group

COMMUNICATION IMPACT GROUP REPORT

Current members: - John Bell, Sue Templeman, Paul Templeman, AJ Wade, Chris Burrows, Hannah Hibbert, Simon Berrington (Chair) Kathryn Hughes (Vicar's PA)



The Group that relaunched in 2019 have met regularly and delivered some key changes. The Church now has a new website which is mobile friendly and uses a template design from Church Insight. This provides a modern design which meets the expected design and content suggested by the Digital team from the Church of England.

The next key change was to begin using a selection of functions from Church Suite. This modular Church administration system is used widely by churches large and small.

We have introduced a new on-line Directory where church members have control of the data held and its use. A new rota system has been rolled out across the church to include all rotas. Using Church Suite gives us the benefits of integration and the ability to view rotas on mobiles (via an app) and other devices.

2020 will see us continue to learn from and embed the changes across the Church.

The church has started to use social media on a more regular basis and will develop this area of communication further in order to both inform church members and reach out to the local community.

Simon Berrington, Chair of Communications Impact Group

FELLOWSHIP IMPACT GROUP REPORT

Current Members: Rachel Bennett (Chair), Sue Fearon, Sarah Hibbert, Wendy Pegg, Jill Leggat, Nesta Major, Claire Broughton Welsh. We are pleased to welcome two new members Hannah Hibbert and Kirsty Pirrie

Events organised during the year: Talent Show Tear Fund Quiz Hymn and Christmas Sing-a-longs Monthly Sunday Walks Newcomers Welcome Teas Beach trip to Hunstanton (on the windiest day ever!)

We are pleased that these were well attended and provided an opportunity have some fun and to get to know others better. At a recent meeting it was decided that FIG would hand over the running of some wellestablished events (walks, newcomers' teas and sing-alongs) to other groups. This would enable FIG to concentrate on providing some more key events to continue to give a good balance of fellowship, friendship



and fun to all parts of our church family. This ties in with FIG's terms of reference. Thanks to everyone who have joined in with these events and for your support over the year.

Nesta Major Member of Fellowship Impact Group

RESOURCING IMPACT GROUP REPORT

<u>Members</u>: Richard Hibbert, John Bell, Ruth Janes, Ian Brown, Keith Priddin, Mike Seamarks and Richard Lindley

RIG's remit is to consider how to resource the work of the church. The work covers the finances of the church, but RIG also seeks to ensure best value for contracts with suppliers, and other areas where resources can be better used. RIG also has responsibility for the financial aspects of the Hall Redevelopment. RIG also seeks to encourage the members of the Church to think about giving (time, talents and treasure), and to be responsible stewards of all that God has given us, both as individuals and corporately.

Ruth Janes has continued as Treasurer for the year. The role continues to be extremely demanding, and takes many hours each week to complete. The church should be under no illusion as to how much work this entails.

2019 was probably the most challenging year that I can remember finance wise. We were faced with the twin challenge of a very large budget deficit, which showed no signs of reducing in the early months of the year, as well as having to raise the final sum for the HRG. Whilst the final gift day for HRG gave us all the pledges needed to complete the Halls, RIG had to make the very painful recommendation to PCC to reduce the amount given to mission in order to put the church finances in a sustainable position. It was great to report that giving increased in the latter half of the year, and also with the children's minister role sadly not being filled, further amounts could be given to mission such that by year end just under 13% had been given.

For the first time in many years the 2020 budget showed break even – but with mission giving having been reduced again. Please pray that further funds will be received so that mission giving can again increase to 14%.

Some of RIG's roles are routine, but nonetheless very important tasks, examples being reviewing accounts and setting budgets. For 2020 we are already looking at other ways in which the resources of the church and congregation can be used – why buy something when others may be happy to lend it to you - watch this space! Above all we want to support the Church in using our resources for God's glory.

Richard Lindley, Chair Resourcing Impact Group

CHRIST CHURCH PRE-SCHOOL REPORT

We were very sorry that, after 16 years as the Pre-school Administrator, Clare moved on to a new and exciting role for her. She was a key member of the team who provided vital support in the running of everything related to Pre-school. Her warmth and dedication to the role were appreciated by all who met her. I, Kat, took over in February and, as anyone who knew Clare would expect, she provided me with detailed instructions and a well maintained set up. She is certainly a hard act to follow. I am slowly getting up to speed with everything to do with the Pre-school community.

The other big change to staffing was that our new Early Years Leader, Paula, started in April 2019. She had an amazing team to help get her settled into the role and she has quickly become a great leader to the Preschool. She is great at balancing the needs of the whole Pre-school and ensures that the children are given the best experience possible.

The other staff continue to demonstrate an enthusiasm and dedication to the Pre-school. They always have the children at the forefront of everything and have made all the recent transitions as smooth as possible. As always, places are in demand and once again we are very nearly full. We have 49 children on the register currently and a growing list of families looking to start their children in September 2020!

Thanks, as always, to our Committee members for their help during the year and to all at Christ Church for your continued support of pre-school.

Kat Allender, Administrator

HOME GROUPS REPORT

Our Home Groups are flourishing. We have fourteen active home groups at present plus a monthly 20s to 30s group, and a further two groups starting up after Easter. More people continue to sign up to our Home Groups, wanting to take part in bible study, fellowship, and prayer support. Most Home Groups meet weekly on a Tuesday or Wednesday, with groups in the daytime and in the evening.

Bible studies often revolve around the sermon series from our Sunday morning services and are a great opportunity to go deeper into the passages used. During Lent, many of our Home Groups decide to study together in church with our fantastic Lent Course and going deeper into God together.

In January we held a Home Group Leaders Social (see photo), which proved very popular, mixing food, wine and fellowship. This enabled us to thank our leaders for all the time they devote to their groups, as well as giving them the opportunity to catch up and chat socially with other leaders. We are looking



forward to running a workshop(s) hopefully later in the year to encourage our leaders in the running of their groups.

Our Home Groups strive to be both welcoming and inclusive, as they seek God's will, claim His promises and live out their Christian faith, supporting each other along the way. They continue to be an important part of the glue holding a large church community together.

Pictures of our current Home Group Leaders are now available in the Hub and if you are interested in joining a Home Group or indeed see yourself as a Home Group Leader then please give one of us a call.

John Bell and Pauline Barber, Home Group Coordinators

CHRIST CHURCH HALLS REPORT

It has been wonderful to witness the steady growth in the use of the downstairs halls and 1st floor meeting rooms over the past year.

Regular Church run groups are all enjoying using the new facilities. These include the knitters, some home groups, various children's and young people's groups as well as activities run for those who are more senior. These include Go4Gold, lunch club & TC&C (Tea, cake and Chat).

In addition to the Churches own groups, we have been thrilled to welcome a variety of clubs and organisations who now hire the halls and rooms on a regular or semi-regular basis (19). These include several charities, community groups and commercial organisations.

The activities the hirers provide include counselling, pre-school, Brownies, line dancing, Pilates, juggling, language classes, maths and English tuition.



There are a number of charities who offer specific support. As examples of these, one helps young people to develop and use independent living skills. Another teaches English to refugees and one of the others offers family support.



There are organisations who offer entertainment for children. Some use puppets and storytelling. There are dance and performance sessions. There is even a company who hire roughly every 6 weeks who lay down 500 feet of train track in the halls and provide over 100 different trains and carriages for children to play with.

We have been able to provide a venue for 'one off' events such as after funeral refreshments, meetings, birthday parties, anniversary celebrations, Christmas events, concerts etc.

Dawn Hire, Centre Bookings Administrator

PASTORAL CARE REPORT

People in the congregation at Christ Church volunteer to become pastoral workers for others. This can be in various ways, some will find walking difficult and so transport is offered, others are not able to leave their house and can be visited at home for chat or communion. Others may need to recuperate after illness /hospital/accident and a volunteer will take a home-made meal. Every six months pastoral workers are invited to a team chat and tea to catch up on what is being done and who else might need help.

Pat Mathias, Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

HOSPITAL SERVICES TEAM REPORT

The church family at Christ Church has been involved with the service held at Bedford Hospital Trust for over 7 years now. As a team of 5 or 6 (out of a whole team of 14) we support the hospital chapel service on the 4th Sunday of each month with prior allocated roles for the morning. These roles vary from leading the service, delivering a 5 min talk, leading prayers, reading a bible verse or managing the iPod for the preloaded music for the service. We gather on a Sunday at 10am to pray for the day, telephone around the wards, compile a list of patients who would like to attend the service from the wards that day and then head out with any wheelchairs needed to escort and bring patients to the chapel for the 30 min service at 11am. We often meet patients who we know, some of whom are under a lot of stress and worry dealing

with ill health and difficult diagnoses. The service is short and then we retire to the Swannery with the patients to have a complementary hot drink and a chat with the patients and the team.

It's a great morning and a privilege to be a Christian witness within our local community amongst many who are feeling unwell, overwhelmed and missing their homes and the company of their loved ones.

Pauline Carter

LADIES' MINISTRIES

Ladies' Late Breakfasts



Our Saturday 10.30-11.45am LLBs continue to be popular, buzzy, friendly events with numbers over 80 now coming to enjoy a continental breakfast & interesting talk (Suggested donation of £2.00). We alternate speakers, having some guests from outside the church & others who agree to share their faith stories from within CCB. Crafts, cards &, sometimes, books are on sale, quite often to raise money for charity, &

each lady attending is given a scripture verse chosen by our guest speaker(s).

Invitations to future events are also on the tables to encourage attendance, often with a sign-up sheet for those who wish to commit on the day. There is a very welcoming atmosphere & ladies from outside our church, including visitors who are not Christians come, quite regularly, to these non-threatening events.



Ladies' Socials

Ladies socials are held on the first Thursday of every other month, alternating with the Saturday LLBs. We meet in "Papillon", Castle Road, for most of these where cakes with coffee/tea can be enjoyed along with



the lively conversations that go on. Last August, with a lighter, warmer evening we ventured into Bedford Park for a social get-together at "The Pavilion Cafe" - Lovely to include a walk & also have a choice of alcoholic or soft beverages & savoury options as well as sweet.

This year "The Pavilion Cafe" has been booked for visits in June & August 7.00-9.00pm. Here it is easier to spread out & mingle in the peaceful surrounds of the park.

Sue Templeman

Ladies' Weekend Away

The Garden House Hotel in Stamford was the setting for last year's Ladies' Weekend Away. The venue is ideally situated to enable day visitors to join the ladies who were staying over. Our speakers were Claire Broughton-Welsh who encouraged us to draw near to the fire into the presence of Jesus and Jude Hamilton who challenged us to be more open and honest when sharing with each other.

We were blessed with lovely sunny weather which enabled us to have Compline in the hotel garden one evening as well as being able to explore the local area on Saturday afternoon with our free time. Fellowship was also shared



over a meal at the local Pizza Hut in the evening as well as joining the local congregation at St George's on Sunday morning.

One lady commented after the weekend "spending time with some 'lovely, blessed Christian ladies' and hearing words of inspiration by the speakers" which beautifully summed up our wonderful and blessed weekend in Stamford.

For the LWA 2020 we are returning to Stamford on the 26th June when our speaker will be Jennie Cappleman. Ladies of all ages very welcome!

Lesley Greenslade

MEN'S MINISTRIES REPORT

Men's Breakfast

Men's breakfast continues to run each month from 9:00 to 10:30am. The normal pattern is to have breakfast and chat up to approximately 10:00am and then break away for a discussion about a topic relevant to men in Christ Church. Topics covered recently have included:-

- Guilt and shame. How to be reconciled to God
- Prayer how can we develop our prayer life
- Putting Christ back into Christmas

Numbers vary from 14 to 20 men on a Saturday morning once a month. This is a valuable time to build up friendships, develop support networks and encourage one another.



Men's Socials

Various men's socials have been organized with visits to the rugby, pub nights and also a curry night. Other events are planned for the rest of the year. Attendance numbers vary and suggestions for new social evenings are always welcome.



18s to 30s GROUP PHOTO

Laura Jewell

PINS AND NEEDLES GROUP REPORT

Our group continues to meet on Wednesday afternoons during term time, and often during the holidays as well. In the autumn we decided to change our name. Although it is true that most of us are working on a knitting project, we also have some who are experts at crochet and it occurred to us that anyone working on something which could be done sitting in a chair would be welcome to join us. Our main focus is friendship and chat, with our 'hobby' giving us the reason to meet together with much of the 'work' actually done at home.

This year we completed a nativity set for Trish Horwood for her schools' work and also made an angel and donkey to complete a set for a church member. We have continued to make garments, hats and scarves, and blankets for various charities and some have been busy making purple poppies for a display in this year's British Legion Shop in town. This is a result of Lesley wearing her knitted red poppy in the shop last year. Apparently about 500 will be needed for the display so, thankfully, we are not the only people making them. Though Lesley does seem to have made the majority. Another ongoing project is making baby blankets to be given to the parents at an infant baptism. This is a symbol of the fact that the child is wrapped in God's love.

Whatever your craft using Pins or Needles, or if you like to learn to knit or crochet, we would love you to join us.

Barbara Burbidge



Pat Mathias

GO 4 GOLD REPORT

Go 4 Gold meets on the fourth Friday of the month in the afternoon from 2.00 to 4.00 with a break for tea and cake. We have had very interesting speakers from May 2019. This was when Ian Cooper told us about his interest in radios. Following topics included a lovely tour of embankment flower beds; an afternoon to hear about work with the homeless. We had an interesting date with vicar Richard and Dad's Army just before Christmas. February saw a very interesting talk and slide show and talk by Richard Lindley on a visit to India to see their daughter. Do join us and get to know others who come and what our new programme will include.

TEA, CAKE AND CHAT REPORT

On the second Friday of the month from 2 to 3.30pm there is tea, cake and chat for a social get together. This can include a topic which someone would like to discuss, giving everyone a chance to join in. We welcome anyone who would like to come.

Pat Mathias

LUNCH CLUB REPORT

Steady as She Goes! Now that we are well and truly settled in and used to all the new facilities including the use of the new Kitchen's equipment, this last year has been a challenge and an encouragement. The encouragement comes with now a steady number of circa 70 guests at most Lunch Clubs and a reward in hearing from them that they enjoy the company and the food! Once again, the Christmas Lunch Club meal

was a major event where the whole team (30 wonderful folk) came together to cater for 110 people. A memorable occasion. On reflection we now feel we are at our optimum number for whom we can cater at both the regular Lunch Club meetings and the Christmas event.

We would like to pay particular thanks to Gilbert Williams and Germain Brookes who have stepped down from the team during this last year. Bless and thank you both. As always, I want to give thanks to all the Lunch Club "Staff" who give so generously of their time and talent. Also I am so grateful to Pauline in the Office for her considerable help in much of the admin side, to the "Gavellers" and "Speakers" as well as those kind folk who after the meal has finished, help to put the tables and chairs away. Thank you.

This will be the final APCM Lunch Club report that we shall be making in that David (who helps with the Lunch Club "admin") and I will be "retiring" at the end of the forthcoming summer term. I shall however still be available to be part of the team in the future. I am delighted that Kay Berrington and Penny Gilham are taking on the roles from us.

And finally, but most importantly, I am grateful to God who has given us the pleasure of sitting round a table together and enjoying the wonderful food that He has and continues to provide.



Sue Gundry

COACH HOLIDAY

The annual church coach holiday went to Thornleigh Hotel, Grange-over-Sands. The food was excellent and the weather wonderful. The holiday makers appreciated the care taken with communication and planning as well as the thought for the day and the time for reflection in the evening. The first evening they met up with the Boulter family and heard about their life and work in Lancashire. The trips out each day were varied and included trips on MS Gondola and the Ravenglass Railway and visits to the Laurel and Hardy Museum and the Ruskin Museum. There was also plenty of time to talk to the other travellers and get to know them better and to enjoy the fantastic Lake District scenery.



Tony Somervell

HOLIDAY AT HOME



In 2019, we had an average of 50 elderly people, for each of the 3 days of the event. We met at Christ Church and enjoyed being able to use the facilities in the new halls for the first time. The days in Bedford saw a varied programme with speakers, live music and an opportunity to have a go at various crafts. The coach outing this year was in two parts. Firstly, there was a trip on the Leighton

Buzzard Railway. This industrial narrowgauge railway was built 100 years ago to

transport sand from the quarries to the mainline, but for the past 50 years has conveyed tourists using steam trains. After lunch at the Moore Place Hotel in Aspley Guise the coach conveyed everyone to Milton Keynes Museum. Here there was an opportunity to meet Milton Keynes' original concrete cows and reminisce in the many different rooms and galleries.



Wendy Pegg

SHRINKING THE FOOTPRINT REPORT

'Shrinking the Footprint' is the brand the Church of England has adopted for its initiative to encourage churches to be more environmentally sensitive. It's been a fallow year for CCB in terms of new initiatives. In response to the Bishop of St Alban's request for each church to report on their **environmental impact**, Pat Davies has agreed to provide an assessment and is collecting information at present.

Our current church building challenges include **the loss of heat** through doors which are open to the outside (both the entrance to the church and the automatic door to the main halls)

We continue to conduct regular **button travel surveys** to promote environmentally-considerate ways of travel to church. Our survey in 2019 shows that consistently 60% of us travel to church by car and 60-70% of cars are parked in the Castle Newnham school car park or church car park. Our travel priorities continue to be:

- Come on foot/bike
- Park off road in Castle Newnham / church car park

It's good for neighbour relations, health and the environment!

It may surprise you to learn that possibly the most significant impact we could have as a congregation is to seriously engage with **Carbon Damage Mitigation** to mitigate in part the effects of our own household and

travel carbon footprint. We have an easy way of doing this via the Neno Macadamia Trust which has a carbon cost calculator on its website and an easy method of buying CDMCs (Carbon Damage Mitigation Certificates). Given our personal links with NMT through Will Rawes, Geoff Taylor and Andrew Emmott it's a highly relational and grounded way of partially mitigating our footprint as a congregation of 'church scattered'.

Do you have a passion for the environment? Could you take a lead on recycling or some other initiative? Step forward, the floor is yours! Sustainable transport Fair trade Campaigning Water conservation Renewable energy

Whatever your passion for the environment...

...it has a home in CCB's Shrinking the Footprint Contact Jude Hamilton for more information

Jude Hamilton



Mission Action Plan Form

August 2019 onwards



Name of Church	Christ Church Bedford			
Website	www.ccbedford.org			
Contact Name	Andrew Turpie			
Position	Church Warden			
Contact email address	andrewturpie@hotmail.com			
This MAP was uploaded to the website on	2020			

to the website on	
Our MAP will be	2022
reviewed next	

What progress are you celebrating since your previous MAP?

- Completion of halls paid for! Halls: beacon in community, variety in bookings, sense of God's presence
- ✓ Several accepting call to ministry
- ✓ Movement into Devon Park and more school ministry
- ✓ Searching in Grow Group
- ✓ Strong Home Group emphasis
- ✓ Support for mission home and abroad
- ✓ Remaining generous
- ✓ Growth in the evening service
- ✓ Growth in ministry to seniors
- ✓ Warmth in our welcome and provision of a place of refuge
- ✓ More 20s and 30s (than three years ago)
- ✓ Authenticity of leaders
- ✓ Growth of giving to Foodbank and concern and help for people who are struggling
- ✓ Daring Disciples started and growing in numbers of families
- ✓ Opportunities for invitation

How far did we meet our previous priorities? 1 star = Not \rightarrow 10 stars = Done



What is the vision for your Church?

To enable everyone to be maturing followers of Christ, who experience and live our God's love in every part of their lives.

What are the core values for your Church?

G enerous

R eal

A ccepting

C ompassionate

E ncouraging

PRIORITY ONE

Making New Disciples

Transforming Communities

Fulfilling this strand of the Diocesan vision: *Living God's Love*

Going deeper into God

to God Making New Disciples

SMART Goals to achieve your Prime Priority

Offer enquirers courses (e.g Alpha, Grow, Parenting etc) 3 times per year so that at least 10 people come to faith in each year.

Members intentionally praying for 5 friends/relatives to come to faith.

Intentionally offer invitations to friends/relatives to enquiry course or Sunday worship.

PRIORITY TWO	

Deepening our faith

Fulfilling this strand of the Diocesan vision: Living God's Love

 Going deeper into God
 Making New Disciples
 Transforming Communities

SMART Goals to achieve this priority

Promote active membership of weekly Home Groups, who create their own goal for the next 12 months for a ministry area.

Ministries (Men, Women, Seniors, Children and Youth etc) to create clear goals to fulfil the priority 'Going deeper into God'.

At least fortnightly, promote personal testimony stories to encourage maturing followers of Christ (whole life discipleship).

PRIORITY THREE

Transforming our community

Fulfilling this strand of the Diocesan vision: *Living God's Love*

Going deeper into God

Making New Disciples

Transforming Communities

SMART Goals to achieve this priority

Increase involvement and presence at Castle Newnham School (e.g. minimum 1 x Governor, provide Open the Book, support and nurture CU, offer lunch clubs, etc).

Start Christians Against Poverty Debt Counselling service.

Establish and promote annually a new sustainability initiative across

DevonPark and Castle Road.

PRIORITY FOUR

Visible Social Media

Fulfilling this strand of the Diocesan vision: *Living God's Love*

Going deeper into God

Making New Disciples

Transforming Communities

SMART Goals to achieve this priority

Train 2-3 church members in the next 12 months in delivery of Social Media posts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)

Ensure regularly weekly flow of news and events via Social Media.

Change over the next 12 months physical outdoor signage.

How are your priorities and action goals going to be resourced?

Volunteer review needed to ensure all interested can be involved.

Need to appoint Children's Minister.

Promote generous stewardship of time, talent and treasure whilst being aware of time poor church members.

Would you like any support from the Diocesan Office?					
Building & Grants	Flourishing Churches – Church Growth	Flourishing Churches – Stewardship & Giving	Reaching New People	Youth & Children	
Resource and mentor Children's Minister and Youth Minister					

VICARS REPORT APCM 2020

2019 does seem a long time ago. We will now know it as "before Covid-19", a way of life that in quite a number of ways has disappeared forever – similar to that before 1914 and 1939. Huge office complexes, busy High Streets, packed commuter trains and cash in your pocket are probably never going to return.

Working from home, on-line shopping, reduced commuting and the cashless society will be the new normal. This provides us with great opportunities – I throw out some daft ideas:

- 1) those who work from home what about creating a networking lunchtime in our Wi-Fi enabled halls and rooms
- 2) on-line deliveries what about being a drop-off centre, stored for collection that evening
- 3) fewer journeys what about more community sponsored gatherings for those commuting less
- 4) on-line banking and transactions for giving to church, and hiring our halls

In our changing world, our Gospel is unchanging: we still know that Jesus brings forgiveness of sins, peace and joy in heart and mind, and eternal life for all who believe in Him.

In our changing world, we are still the church full of GRACE – see p.4 of Trustees' Report:

- G enerous in faith
- R eal about ourselves
- A ccepting of all
- C ompassionate to our community
- E ncouraging all who come

We have been generous: financially completing the Halls funding in 2019, and balancing our general accounts, and sharing our wonderful faith through Alpha and so on.

We have been real: growing deeper friendships across the congregation, increasing our number of home groups and attendees.

We have been accepting: welcoming an increasingly diverse worshipping community – I love the richness of the breadth of people that gather at Christ Church to worship.

We have been compassionate: Foodbank collecting and donating is truly impressive, as well as Rapid Response Freezer meals and the Vicar's Discretionary Fund.

We have been encouraging: discipling and enriching faith in many with whom we've come in contact.

That has been backed up by achieving a number of our objectives – see p.5 of Trustees' Report.

Partnerships – we have been blessed by our growing links with Castle Newnham School, supporting the school's aims and objectives as Governors, Open the Book participants, lunchtime clubs and Easter/Christmas Experience (interactive RE lesson). We are blessed by the many non-church hall hirers we see week by week, extending them friendship and a real sense of God's love.

Presence – our completed halls (snagging was still not completed by December 2019) are much remarked upon and a new landmark in our town. Devon Park residents really appreciate

the community provision we have brought. Our social media presence – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram – has been slowly growing.

Practice: I am really proud of our growing children's ministry through Daring Disciples, Passports, Messy Church, Morning Out, and so on – Becky Guynn has been a wonderful leader of children's ministry in church, in the school and across our community. She left us for IMPACT, the local Christian schools work – their undoubted gain is our genuine loss.

I'm also really proud of our seniors' ministry. We reach an ever greater number of older persons through Lunch Club, Go 4 Gold, Holiday at Home and our annual 5 day break – 2019 was Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria.

People: none of what is achieved here happens without God's people stepping forward to serve, love and bless one another and our local community. You have given of your time, skills and spiritual gifts in an extraordinary way – thank you to you who have served openly and directly as much as those who have served quietly and indirectly. I think I know what you have done for our Lord. He for sure does and looks upon you his faithful with delight.

Not every one of us has the time, even with the willingness, and so I also thank you for your generosity. Just before our last APCM, March 2019, our independent examiner was pressing us very hard on where would the money come from to make her believe we would be a going concern for the next 12 months. Humanly speaking, we faced an impossible mountain of expectation: another £100,000 to raise for the halls which God provided through you, and a large deficit expected on our general account, which became a small deficit thanks to some members' amazing generosity and a painful brake on all possible expenditure. I am in awe of what God has given to us through you his people.

And lastly I am truly grateful to our staff team: Becky with us till summer 2019, John with us since summer 2019, AJ ably assisted by Jess, Pauline, Dawn, Kathryn, Vandon and our cleaning team of Richard, Wendy and Pat. Their dedication and commitment to serving this church, its members and our local community goes without saying. I thank them for their support and hard work. Do remember to thank them when you come across them, and support their ministry practically as you are able, and in prayer always.

As 2019 ended, little did any of us know what we faced. Life indeed will never be the same again. But our church as a light in the darkness, a place where people can meet Jesus, is still with us. We will meet again in the building, in worship and prayer, welcome and care.

The PCC spent the end of 2019 and early 2020 drafting a revised Mission Action Plan, which we looked forward to bringing to you at our March APCM. I bring it now. It has a simplicity and clarity of purpose – see p.8 of the Trustees' Report:

- Making new disciples
- Deepening our faith
- Transforming our community
- Creating a greater and more visible social media presence

These aims you will find on our new 'picture' in the church porch, a reminder to me and you of why we gather, and of what we will do as we scatter to our homes, workplaces and communities.

There is much work to do. I'm keen to explore how we make live streaming of our services a sure way you can catch up and share our worshipping life – so easy for you to invite your family and friends to visit a moving service. It's going to be costly, so let's be aware of that,

but it's going to broaden our reach and I pray draw in visitors to be part of our worshipping family.

I'm also keen to explore how we can reach Generation Y more. So many of our friends and family under 40 have little or no knowledge of Jesus, nor even interest in him. Our present offerings don't seem to connect well. Let's explore how a new worshipping community can provide a fresh context they would find helpful to explore the story and promises of Jesus. It'll be leaving our comfort zone, but then the church has been doing that for 2000 years.

Finally, I'm keen to serve other churches. God has blessed us greatly, but let's not keep that blessing to ourselves. Imagine that we worked with a local church which looked for a spiritual and missional bump start – we pray, we send out a small team, we bless that church with growth in numbers and discipleship. We've done it with Biddenham. We're doing it with Pavenham. We're exploring it with St John's Bedford.

There is much here to take forward. Doesn't it excite you to be part of God's great work through Christ Church? I am truly grateful for your encouragement and prayer. Our greatest gift to Christ Church is to make next year one of greater daily prayer for the work of our Lord in and through this church and his people.