

CHRIST CHURCH

YEAR BOOK - 2024

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VICAR'S REPORT

I find myself writing this report on Palm Sunday, trying to find the words to encapsulate the past year. I'm sure there's a deeper connection to be made, but as I reflect on Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, I'm reminded that life and ministry are often a mixture of joy and sorrow.

Firstly, I'd like to personally thank every volunteer who gives their time and energy to the life of the church.

This past year has brought much joy.

The BFWP has seen the church continue to nurture and grow beautiful friendships within the community. The ESOL classes have been a blessing to all involved, culminating in a wonderfully funny play performed by some of the students at Christmas.

Our church has continued to strengthen its relationships with the local schools. It has also been a delight to welcome new faces, and some returning ones, to Christ Church. Our Christmas services were particularly joyful, full of life and celebration.

There's a real sense that God is preparing the church for an exciting new chapter. Adrian has joined us as curate and is flourishing in his ministry, and we are thrilled to welcome back the wonderful Diane as Associate Minister.

Yet, amidst the joy, this the church has also faced difficulties.

The recent loss of Lynne Bone has been deeply felt. This is why I find myself writing this report in place of Rev. Pete. Lynne was an extraordinary woman, and her faith has inspired so many.

I know Rev. Pete is proud to be your Priest-in-Charge and of everything that has taken place over the past year. I know he is also moved by all the love, generosity, and support this church has shown him and his family in difficult times.

Personally, I consider this love to be what I am most proud of. I have witnessed Christ Church come alongside the rest of the benefice *and be the church*, a family journeying together through both joy and sorrow, in love and support.

What a foundation to build upon as we look to where God may be leading us in the year ahead.

Thank you all.

God Bless.

Rev. Ian

Author: Revd Ian Sweeney

CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT

It is a privilege to continue to serve as Church Wardens at Christ Church and this report begins with our sincere thanks to all who minister amongst us and support us in so many ways. The role of Church Warden is wide-ranging yet lightened considerably because of the amazing work of our PCC members and Treasurer, Rebecca (our superb Benefice Administrator), those who lead services, work so hard to make Christ Church the awesome family that it is.

We would like to recognise and appreciate Pete's vision, enthusiasm and wisdom that bring such a rich blessing to us and to the community. We deeply mourn Lynne's passing and wish to honour her life and ministry amongst us. Ian has continued as a Curate and we wish to thank him for all he brings to us. In the summer of 2024, Adrian was ordained Deacon and is with us as a non-Stipendary Curate alongside his full-time employment. Malcolm continues as a retired priest with the Bishop's 'Permission to Officiate' and Diane has joined us as an Associate Minister with a particular focus on Eden Park. As Christ Church, we are the body of Christ in this place and give thanks for the riches of his grace offered to us.

There is always so much we would love to do to bless and support the folks around us. Resources, in terms of both money and time, continue to present challenges. We are very appreciative to those who give generously of their time and talents and, of course, to those able to give financially to Christ Church. As a parish within the Benefice that includes St Mary's with the Church of The Good Shepherd, we are unable to meet our financial responsibility to what is called our 'Parish Share'. It has been agreed with the Deanery and Diocese for a few years now that we commit to and pay only a portion of what we should. This places an extra burden on other churches within the deanery. We do ask that we all prayerfully commit to considering whether our giving might be able to be increased for the coming year. We fully understand, though, that this might not be a possibility for some of our church members. Simon Wainscot is our church 'Gift Aid' secretary and is happy to chat, in confidence, to anyone who is interested to find out about how to make their giving more tax efficient. As a church we claim tax back from the government. This increases our income by 25% so is worth doing whenever possible.

Our prayer is that we continue to build on all that has been achieved and grow further to make this next year one that will be full of blessings and examples of the movement of the Holy Spirit amongst us.

Authors: Mr Simon Wade and Canon Linda Wainscot

CHURCH WARDENS

Christ Church Brownsover

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 31 Dec 2024

Christchurch Accounts examination 2024

Having examined the accounts I can say that the comprehensive documentation and multitude of analysis sheets once again demonstrate the skills of Malcolm Garratt.

Each transaction meets the high audit standards.

There has been a clean year-start and year-end with no outstanding discrepancies.

I have rigorously checked a variety of transactions for accuracy and they all passed with flying colours.

The £10 underpaid by the funeral directors should be written off I feel.

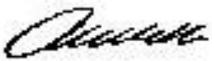
All deposit accounts have been kept meticulously and transferred as appropriate out of redundant funds.

I am delighted to see that overall the church's funds have increased despite a £4,000 budget deficit. Well done all!

I am pleased to say that the examination has been a great success.

This year's will be my last examination and I hope to move on.

Well done again.



Alan Webb, Examiner.

Introduction

This has been a very encouraging year. If you look at the Income and Endowments section, you will see we have had an increase in every area. This has resulted in the overall increase in funds instead of the predicted deficit.

Restricted and designated funds relate to grants and donations for specific things such as Administrator salary and the English Class

Notes to the Accounts 2024

1. The Administrator Salary Grant for 2025 was received in 2024.
2. A funeral fee, paid in the correct amount to the diocese, was received £10 short from the funeral director. I recommend this is now written off.
3. The Christingle Service collection of £23.45 was received in 2024 and paid into the bank in 2025.
4. The amount of £361 was transferred from a redundant designated fund to the general fund on the agreement of the PCC.
5. A small excess of Income (£1279) was achieved compared to a small deficit (£1446) last year despite a budget prediction of a £4000 deficit.
6. The apparent cash deficit occurs, principally, because cash received in Dec 2023 was banked in Jan 2024.

Statement of Financial Activities

| | Unrestricted funds | Designated funds | Restricted funds | Endowment funds | Total funds | Prior year total funds |
|---|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Income and endowments from: | | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | £23,220 | £2,545 | — | — | £25,765 | £22,553 |
| Income from charitable activities | £825 | — | — | — | £825 | £138 |
| Other trading activities | £9,551 | — | — | — | £9,551 | £8,202 |
| Investments | £450 | — | — | — | £450 | £185 |
| Other income | £2,059 | £5,208 | £2,000 | — | £9,267 | £386 |
| Total income | £36,106 | £7,753 | £2,000 | — | £45,859 | £31,465 |
| Expenditure on: | | | | | | |
| Raising funds | £623 | — | — | — | £623 | £539 |
| Expenditure on charitable activities | £34,203 | £5,423 | £2,038 | — | £41,664 | £32,504 |
| Total expenditure | £34,826 | £5,423 | £2,038 | — | £42,287 | £33,043 |
| Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer | £1,279 | £2,329 | (£38) | — | £3,571 | (£1,578) |
| Transfers | | | | | | |
| Gross transfers between funds – in | £361 | — | — | — | £361 | £35 |
| Gross transfers between funds – out | — | (£361) | — | — | (£361) | (£35) |
| Other recognised gains / losses | | | | | | |
| Net movement in funds | £1,640 | £1,968 | (£38) | — | £3,571 | (£1,578) |
| Total funds brought forward | £18,829 | — | — | — | £18,829 | £20,407 |
| Total funds carried forward | £20,470 | £1,968 | (£38) | — | £22,400 | £18,829 |
| Represented by | | | | | | |
| Unrestricted | | | | | | |
| General fund | £20,470 | — | — | — | £20,470 | £18,829 |
| Designated | | | | | | |
| ADMINISTRATOR GRANT | — | £1,889 | — | — | £1,889 | — |
| Teddy Bears | — | £78 | — | — | £78 | — |
| Restricted | | | | | | |
| Language Training Grant | — | — | (£38) | — | (£38) | — |

Balance sheet

| | Total funds | Prior year funds |
|--|----------------|------------------|
| Current assets | | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | £22,414 | £19,273 |
| | £22,414 | £19,273 |
| Liabilities | | |
| Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year | £13 | £444 |
| | £13 | £444 |
| Net current assets less current liabilities | £22,400 | £18,829 |
| Total assets less current liabilities | £22,400 | £18,829 |
| Total net assets less liabilities | £22,400 | £18,829 |
| Represented by | | |
| Unrestricted | | |
| General fund | £20,470 | £18,829 |
| Designated | | |
| ADMINISTRATOR GRANT | £1,889 | — |
| Feed My Sheep | — | — |
| Teddy Bears | £78 | — |
| Restricted | | |
| Language Training Grant | (£38) | — |
| Funds of the church | £22,400 | £18,829 |

Statement of assets and liabilities

| | This year | Last year |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Cash at bank and in hand | | |
| Bank current account | | |
| ADMINISTRATOR GRANT (Designated) - | £1,889 | — |
| Language Training Grant (Restricted) - | (£38) | — |
| Teddy Bears (Designated) - | (£86) | — |
| General fund (Unrestricted) - | £5,635 | £12,297 |
| Agency collection (Restricted) - | (£10) | £444 |
| | £7,390 | £12,741 |
| Bank deposit account | | |
| General fund (Unrestricted) - | £1,032 | — |
| | £1,032 | — |
| CCLA (CBF) deposit account | | |
| General fund (Unrestricted) - | £14,201 | £6,783 |
| | £14,201 | £6,783 |
| Cash in hand | | |
| Teddy Bears (Designated) - | £165 | — |
| General fund (Unrestricted) - | (£399) | (£251) |
| Agency collection (Restricted) - | £23 | — |
| | (£210) | (£251) |
| Total for Cash at bank and in hand | £22,414 | £19,273 |
| Agency accounts | | |
| Agency collections | | |
| Agency collection (Restricted) - | (£13) | (£444) |
| Total for Agency accounts | (£13) | (£444) |
| Grand total | £22,400 | £18,829 |

Fund movement by type

| | Opening | Incoming | Outgoing | Transfers | Gains/losses | Journals | Closing |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|----------|----------------|
| ADM - ADMINISTRATOR GRANT | | | | | | | |
| Designated | — | £7,587 | £5,336 | (£361) | — | — | £1,889 |
| Sub-total for ADM | — | £7,587 | £5,336 | (£361) | — | — | £1,889 |
| FMS - Feed My Sheep | | | | | | | |
| Designated | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sub-total for FMS | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| LTG - Language Training Gr | | | | | | | |
| Restricted | — | £2,000 | £2,038 | — | — | — | (£38) |
| Sub-total for LTG | — | £2,000 | £2,038 | — | — | — | (£38) |
| Teddies - Teddy Bears | | | | | | | |
| Designated | — | £165 | £86 | — | — | — | £78 |
| Sub-total for Teddies | — | £165 | £86 | — | — | — | £78 |
| General - General fund | | | | | | | |
| Unrestricted | £18,829 | £36,106 | £34,826 | £361 | — | — | £20,470 |
| Sub-total for General | £18,829 | £36,106 | £34,826 | £361 | — | — | £20,470 |
| Grand total | £18,829 | £45,859 | £42,287 | — | — | — | £22,400 |

Analysis of income and expenditure

| | Unrestricted | Designated | Restricted | Endowment | Total This year | Total Last year |
|--|----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|--------------------|--------------------|
| INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS | | | | | | |
| <i>Donations and legacies</i> | | | | | | |
| Gift Aid – Bank | £12,911 | — | — | — | £12,911 | £12,708 |
| Gift Aid – Envelopes | £2,954 | — | — | — | £2,954 | £1,591 |
| Loose plate collections | £1,626 | — | — | — | £1,626 | £1,089 |
| One-off Gift Aid gifts | £138 | — | — | — | £138 | £88 |
| Sundry Donations | £2,142 | £2,545 | — | — | £4,687 | £1,717 |
| Tax recoverable on Gift Aid | £3,447 | — | — | — | £3,447 | £5,357 |
| Total | £23,220 | £2,545 | — | — | £25,765 | £22,553 |
| <i>Income from charitable activities</i> | | | | | | |
| Fees for weddings and funerals | £825 | — | — | — | £825 | £138 |
| Total | £825 | — | — | — | £825 | £138 |
| <i>Other trading activities</i> | | | | | | |
| Table Top Sales | — | — | — | — | — | £98 |
| Church hall lettings - fund raising | £9,551 | — | — | — | £9,551 | £8,104 |
| Total | £9,551 | — | — | — | £9,551 | £8,202 |
| <i>Investments</i> | | | | | | |
| Bank and building society interest | £450 | — | — | — | £450 | £185 |
| Total | £450 | — | — | — | £450 | £185 |
| <i>Other income</i> | | | | | | |
| Other Ordinary Incoming Resources | £2,059 | £5,208 | £2,000 | — | £9,267 | £386 |
| Total | £2,059 | £5,208 | £2,000 | — | £9,267 | £386 |
| INCOME TOTAL | £36,106 | £7,753 | £2,000 | — | £45,859 | £31,465 |

EXPENDITURE

Raising funds

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|---|---|---|------|------|
| Costs of stewardship campaign | — | — | — | — | — | £79 |
| Costs of Social Events | £623 | — | — | — | £623 | £459 |
| Total | £623 | — | — | — | £623 | £539 |

Expenditure on charitable activities

| | | | | | | |
|--|---------|--------|--------|---|---------|----------|
| Giving - relief and development agencies | — | — | — | — | — | £119 |
| Special Collections | — | — | — | — | — | £100 |
| Home mission | — | — | £680 | — | £680 | £132 |
| Diocesan and LEP quota | £14,400 | — | — | — | £14,400 | £14,956 |
| Organist Honorarium | £1,200 | — | — | — | £1,200 | £1,200 |
| Cleaner Wages | £3,418 | — | — | — | £3,418 | £2,650 |
| Teddy Bears Wages | £1,375 | — | — | — | £1,375 | £1,487 |
| Working expenses of incumbent etc | £1,683 | — | — | — | £1,683 | £1,574 |
| Community Outreach | £409 | £86 | £1,358 | — | £1,854 | — |
| Church running – insurance | £876 | — | — | — | £876 | £842 |
| Church maintenance | £2,381 | — | — | — | £2,381 | £1,185 |
| Cleaning | £428 | — | — | — | £428 | £636 |
| Upkeep of services | £788 | — | — | — | £788 | £579 |
| Administration | £2,028 | £5,336 | — | — | £7,365 | £240 |
| Church Running Broadband | £376 | — | — | — | £376 | £458 |
| Church running Utilities | £4,837 | — | — | — | £4,837 | £6,342 |
| Total | £34,203 | £5,423 | £2,038 | — | £41,664 | £32,504 |
| EXPENDITURE TOTAL | £34,826 | £5,423 | £2,038 | — | £42,287 | £33,043 |
| GRAND TOTAL | £1,279 | £2,329 | (£38) | — | £3,571 | (£1,578) |

This report dated: 17 Feb 2025

Authors: Revd Malcolm Garratt & Brian Clare

FABRIC REPORT

The highlight of the year must be the long overdue replacement of the cross on top of the Lantern in April. Also, in that month we had a second hob fitted in the kitchen. This was donated by Howdens and fitted by our friendly local tradesmen.

During June the chairs were steam cleaned, although with heavy use some of them have become dirty again.

A problem with overflowing cisterns in the gent's toilets was solved by fitting push buttons in place of the handles.

Over a year ago we started looking for a grant towards replacing the flooring in the Octagon, Foyer and Kitchen. After submitting an Expression of Interest and then a final bid we have been successful, subject to some final documents.



Author: Brian Clare

RUGBY DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

July 2024 – December 2024

The Deanery Synod meets three times per year.

Overview

This report summarises the key events, discussions, and developments across the Rugby Deanery Synod meetings from July 2024 to December 2024, encompassing the third and fourth meetings of the 25th Synod session.

Third Meeting – Tuesday 16 July 2024

Venue: St Peter’s Church, Grandborough

Keynote Speaker: Bishop Ruth Worsley

Bishop Ruth delivered an uplifting address focusing on *Children & Angels in the Church*. She encouraged Synod members to reflect on who had inspired their faith, which led to several heartfelt testimonies. Emphasising the importance of taking the Church to the community — especially to children — she urged that young people must be given a voice within Church life.

Following a break with the usual excellent refreshments, +Ruth answered a range of questions from members of the Synod.

Fourth Meeting – Tuesday 26 November 2024

Venue: St Mark’s Church, Bilton

Keynote Speaker: Revd April Gold (Diocesan Director of Education and Curate at Hillmorton)

Revd April provided an update on developments within Diocesan Schools, notably the partnership between the DBS and **iSingPOP**, led for the Diocese by Emma Kenyon. She proposed a summer-term event at Harris School for Church of England primary schools within the Deanery, to support children as they transition to secondary education. A statistical summary and an iSingPOP flier were circulated separately.

Deanery Trends Report – Steve Gold

Steve Gold presented trends from 2012–2024:

- **Sunday attendance:** ↓ 40%
- **Worshipping communities:** ↓ 20%
- **Regular givers:** ↓ 40%
- **Giving (real terms):** ↓ approximately 40%, due to the impact of inflation

Parish reserves are declining, and diocesan subsidies are increasing annually. This trend may become critical unless action is taken, particularly given that the Deanery had previously returned a surplus prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Author: Kerry Finch

SAFEGUARDING ASSURANCES

This year there has been a national conversation regarding safeguarding within the church and Christ Church continues to follow the safeguarding policy of Coventry Diocese. In particular, we have focused on ensuring that our policies have been reviewed and updated where required and user groups are aware of them. We have ensured that safeguarding information and procedures are displayed prominently in the building and is easily accessible for all users of the building. Two DBS checks have been updated for church activities. Should you have any questions/concerns you can speak to the Parish Safeguarding Officer, who at present is Hermione Noyce (safeguardchristchurch@beneficebcn.org.uk 07454541107)

Author: Hermione Noyce
 Safeguarding Officer

MISSION AND MINISTRY TEAM – DISCIPLESHIP REPORT

The Wednesday evening bible study group has continued to meet over Zoom throughout 2024. This is a special time of the week where a small group learn more about the bible as we study the passages from the previous Sunday's service together. Each week is a time of blessing as we encourage each other and become more familiar with such a wonderful book. Our different experiences and backgrounds have allowed us to discuss issues together to gain more understanding of the bible and practical applications of the teachings. It has been inspiring to see people's faith grow. Using Zoom enables people to meet on occasions where they have not been well or mobile enough to journey to church and avoids inclement weather as well as saving on fuel! The ends of the sessions come much too quickly. It is good to be part of a group of our Christian family who can support each other through the challenges of life and share the joys too.

Once a month we meet for prayer instead of bible study and are able to pray for those on the prayer chain, others we know of in need of prayer, our church congregations and wider issues. We are also encouraged as we share how good God has been to us in answering our prayer, sometimes in ways we would not have expected!

The benefice prayer chain continues to be a source of help and encouragement as we circulate requests for prayer via text and email for any prayer requests received. It has also been helpful to circulate updates to the prayer requests with answers to prayer. There are no 'rules' restricting who and what we pray for – if somebody or a situation is in need of prayer, then we can circulate it. God is never too busy to hear us. Sometimes we feel that we cannot participate in things because of other commitments or health issues, but we can always pray, and it is a blessing to be part of that support. Any requests for prayer should be directed to Sharon or Ruth, and if you would like to join in praying for others in this way please let Ruth know.

We also have opportunities to be part of a larger church family. A few of us were able to join the annual March of Witness on Good Friday in the town centre. It is an opportunity to meet with other Christians, some of whom have previously worshipped at Christ Church, while not being scared to show that we are Christians and that Good Friday is not just another Bank Holiday. Many people in this country today will be unaware of the significance of the day but might be encouraged to find out why there is a large crowd of people assembled. The march always ends with hot cross buns at St Andrews, so a chance to catch up with old friends and make new ones as well.

It is good to join with more of the worldwide church family. At midnight on New Year's Eve, we were encouraged to be part of a worldwide prayer for peace which circulated round the globe. People were asked to pray at midnight, but as not everybody wants to stay awake for midnight, earlier would be OK as it would be midnight somewhere in the world! This is an annual event which we can be part of.

Another annual event which we can participate in is organised by Premier Christian Radio and United Christian Broadcasters on a Sunday each January. People are encouraged to pray the Lord's Prayer at noon, so this is something we can do, either by ourselves or together after the morning service and coffee. There is something powerful about being part of something large.

As disciples of Christ, it is important that we continue to grow in our faith. Bible study and prayer are an important part of this. If you are not already involved in the regular bible study group and would like to be participate at some other time of the week, please let Ruth know as we are hoping to facilitate this. Previous expressions of interest did not materialise as there were not enough people with the same availability to form new groups, but as our church family is growing, this might now be possible. The group who currently meet find that this is a really valuable time of the week and look forward to the sessions so it would be good for others to experience this for themselves.

Author: Ruth David

February 2025

MISSION AND MINISTRY TEAM – WORSHIPING GOD REPORT

Two of the memorable highlights of this year have been an increased number of men coming to the Men's Monthly Breakfast and the participation of the language students performing at the Carol Service.

We very sadly lost two precious members of the Men's breakfast group and we miss Mel and Malcolm for their friendship and contribution to this monthly get together. The group has grown in number and has about 30% of men who do not attend regular Church services. We see this very much as an important way of breaking down barriers. At each session we discuss a topic and each man has one minute to speak, these topics have included 'Where is God when it hurts' 'Which political party would Jesus have voted for at the last general election' and 'How can someone have Faith when things look bleak'.

The topics seem to engage people's attention and always end up trying to explain where God, Christ and the Holy Spirit fit into our everyday lives.

The food we eat is donated and people are asked that if God has given them a little extra, would they kindly share some of that with the work of the Church.

I would especially like to thank Pete for his cookery skills and all the guys who volunteer to wash up.

One of the most moving scenes we have seen in Church happened at the Carol Service where members of the group learning English as a foreign language acted out a modern take on the Christmas Story and then one of their daughters played and sang a popular Chinese song. But what elevated this for me was when her microphone was not working well she was joined by her Father and Uncle who sang with her, and isn't this a great metaphor for our Heavenly Father stepping into this world to save us?

Author: Simon Wade

MISSION AND MINISTRY TEAM – TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES REPORT

This year we have continued the good work with a lot of community events happening, and a few changes. with a real feeling that the Spirit is at work in the community. Most of these have their separate reports,

Continuing events are Brownsover Family Winter Project and Monday Lunch Club, Men's Breakfast, Ladies Craft, Teddy Bears, Meet & Eat, Art Group.

We did not manage to get the Men's Chippie night running; Elmer no longer visits Brownsover; and Rainbows and Brownies moved to the Community Centre.

However, we started Elmer's Friends at the church to support the young families from Whernside in particular, and a Conversational English Course to help Migrants from Hong Kong. This was supported by WCC Migrant Communities Grant Fund, and most of you will remember the brilliant Nativity Play and Carols sung in Cantonese.

The Brownsover Winter project ran on just 2 nights per week this year. The numbers were lower than last year and tailed off a bit after Christmas. Still, we helped a total of 13 families, served nearly 800 meals and at Christmas delivered 47 hampers to families and elderly people.

Little Squirrels and MoveltOrLoselt have hired the Church to provide services to the community.

Looking at we have done got me thinking about the teams of dedicated volunteers who have cooked, served and washed up for Brownsover Winter Project, Brownsover Family Lunch Club, Men's Breakfast and Meet & Eat etc: collected, bagged up and delivered Christmas Hampers, served refreshments and chatted to students at the ESOL classes, met and helped families at Teddy Bears and Friends of Elmer. Volunteers come from the wider community as well as the church and we have created great teams that make things happen. I've been asked by some BFWP volunteers if we can organise a get together event in the summer. Because of the support we give to the local community it may be time consuming, but not difficult to find grants to finance our outreach, but it would not be possible with the volunteers to run them.

Outside of the church the Brownsover Buddy Club is still running at the Children's Centre, and as few people know about it, I've added a brief report

We have had a varied clientele lately. A young person dropped by for support with their personal statement for the University, a mature student needing support to learn how to sign on to virtual lessons with the University, a citizen with support with divorce application, a client whom we had helped to extend their leave to stay - now is needing support with finding work, a family needing support in grief as they needed to know the procedures to follow to repatriate a loved one back to their home country, a query from a migrant worker on matters relating to health subsidies for migrants, an client who we have been supporting for years needing support with applying to work, food vouchers, resolving her gas card issues and applying to Severn Trent Foundation for support with bills and so on.

One of our clients passed away last month. She had received support from Buddy Club for over 15 years since.

It is good to know that we continue to make a difference to people's lives through the Buddy Club - thanks to the support we receive from the church and BCA.

Author: Brian Clare

THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE REPORT

Thursday Communion services continue to run at 10.30am weekly, except for the fifth Thursday in the month, and our small but caring group is so grateful to Pete, Ian and Malcolm for making this possible. Do come along and join us - we would be delighted to see you.

Author: Avril Arundel

PRISON MINISTRY REPORT

Prison ministry is still a very large part of my life and I am extremely grateful for all the prayers which support this work and which make such a difference.

I have tutored two Sycamore Tree courses this year and am in the middle of a two-year appointment on the Prison Fellowship (PF) Board of Trustees, representing volunteers. I continue to sit on the PF bible study editorial group and we prepare weekly bible studies for every prison in the country plus over 600 other people who have asked to receive them. I usually write one a month and have learnt so much from this and from the other members of the group. I also continue to write a monthly prayer sheet for the men at Onley. Our weekly face-to-face bible study group continues to go well with an average of 10-12 men attending each week and I also help with the Communion Service on the first Sunday of the month. Both national and local PF prayer groups meet monthly on Zoom as all the work that PF undertakes is based on prayer. The national Prayer Line, which PF organises, continues to be very popular with men and women throughout the country. They ring in with prayer requests which are then distributed to many volunteers who pray for them.

Thank you again for all your prayers for prison ministry. If anyone is interested in taking part in any aspect of this work, please don't hesitate to have a word with me.

Author: Avril Arundel

TEDDY BEARS REPORT

Once again 2024 was a very successful year for all at Teddy Bears. Our numbers in January were as usual growing and we were lucky enough to have children still coming to a session even though they were now attending Nurseries in the local area. It is always a joy to see these older children grow in confidence and start to help the younger ones.

We have tried to keep to our numbers to no more than 25 children a session, but sometimes we have gone over. I simply find it very difficult to say no to parents, I am aware if too many are in it may become a Safeguarding /Health & Safety issue. However, I am of the opinion that to turn someone away could also become an issue, it may be the one time they have managed to get themselves out of the door.

We have as usual had planning in place which enables us to ensure we do different things each Wednesday. We have completed lots of different types of painting using brushes, rollers, hands and even Wellington boots.

Our Messy table is always surrounded with inquiring minds, not every child actually joins in but it all becomes an experience for them all. We have made playdough, gloop, slime and various other sensory and tactile mixtures.

We had a wonderful beach party at the end of the summer term, lots of inflatables, water play and sand.

Following the news that children were struggling to find dentists and having to go to hospital to have rotten teeth removed, we felt we needed to do some fun things around teeth and cleaning them. We had very large teeth made from milk cartons and the children had to clean them with real tooth brushes. We were very lucky to have tooth brushes, toothpaste and a variety of colouring and activities to give away to all our families. This was due to one of our Mums having access to the Dental Hygiene Charity.

We were also lucky to have a visit from the Fire Brigade, which both Mums and the children found really exciting.

We look forward to another busy, but enjoyable year, my last year at Teddy Bears. x

MEET AND EAT REPORT

Meet & Eat continues to run through all school holidays. It has a core group of families who have attended since the very beginning, these children are now teenagers! Something we need to give some serious thought about - how do we continue to support and interact with pre-teens and teenagers in Brownsover in a positive way?

We continue to offer crafts, games in a safe and secure place, with food and information. This group have made a network of friends and a support network that continues away from Meet & Eat.

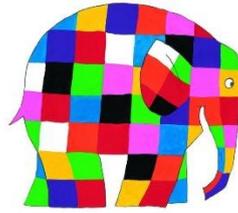
The long school summer holidays are always the busiest with numbers reaching between 30-35 children plus their accompanying adults. It always feels very chaotic to begin with, but everyone seems to enjoy themselves with lots of fun and games and conversations going on all the time.

We advertise using Facebook pages and hope we reach all the different parts of Brownsover. We are lucky to receive financial support from Brownsover Community Association. We do now have a donations pot at the sign in station which always has money in it.

I would like to say a big thank you to the volunteers without whom we could not continue. It is to be noted our group of families are excellent at tidying up!

Author: Liz Hopkin

ELMER'S FRIENDS REPORT



Elmer's Friends originated from when we were able to use the Elmer campervan based at Newbold.

When we had our split from the Methodist circuit and Lynne was accepted for training, the use of Elmer the campervan became somewhat limited. However, we decided that we still wanted to support the largest group of families in some other way. The families decided on being known as Elmer's Friends. This group lives predominately in Whernside although anyone is welcome.

Elmer's Friends would be supported by grants from the Brownsover Community Association and be running once a month at church from 3.30pm until 5.00pm.

We began in October 2024 and were very pleased to see all our usual 6 families and 15 children. They are a great group of people who need a safe space to meet and chat together.

As the children have grown up and moved to different schools, Elmer's Friends has become a lovely place to catch up with friends.

We continue to offer some sort of craft activity each month for the children, which have ranged from Fireworks and the reason we have them, to Christmas cards, to beautifully coloured sun catchers to take home.

Parents have the opportunity to both spend some quality time with their children and then have time for a cuppa and a biscuit.

If at all possible, we would like to continue with Elmer's Friends with the support of both Church and the Brownsover Community Association. This would then allow us to continue the work with the community that Lynne was so good at.

Author: Liz Hopkin

BF LUNCH CLUB REPORT

The BF lunch club is in its second year, and continues to support older people in the community, as well as people who might feel isolated and need company. The lunch club is growing and we regularly see up to 30 friends (and sometimes more!) each week. People attend from all over Rugby, including from Brownsover, Clifton and Newton.

The lunch club meets every Monday, during term time, from 11 am - 1 pm and costs £3 per person. The first hour is dedicated to playing games, chatting and drinking plenty of tea or coffee. The group share Grace and then eat lunch together, followed by a game of bingo. Lunch is a two-course meal, with a main and dessert. We typically offer one option with a salad and a heavier option such as a casserole or pasta. The dessert is usually a choice between a hot or cold option and we also have fruit for anyone that wants a lighter dessert.

A group of volunteers run the lunch club and cook different meals each week; the volunteer team has grown and three main chefs take turns leading in the kitchen. The volunteers who cook have completed food hygiene training. We recently had a food hygiene inspection by the Rugby Borough Council and received a 5 star rating! The lunch club is self-sustaining and non-profit, we make donations to Christ Church when there is a surplus of money.

The lunch club is growing in popularity and we often hear how much people enjoy attending and appreciate what we do. The atmosphere is welcoming and fun, everyone is kind and inclusive, there is a clear sense of community! We hope that the club continues to grow and we are always open to anyone wanting to volunteer with us, especially as we see more and more people attend each week.

Author: Blaire Brooker

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The PCC met a total of 5 times during 2024.

Notable events from 2024 include the Consecration of Christ Church in June and the introduction of Digital Giving.

We are grateful for those PCC members who completed their terms and those who continue to serve.

Personally, I would like to thank Avril Arundel for diligently recording the minutes of the PCC minutes.

Author: Rebecca Rumsey (Honorary PCC Secretary)

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

Every six years we are required to construct a completely new electoral roll, this year being one of those years. For the first time, this was done completely electronically. Although this proved challenging for some devices, a simple solution was found by enabling forms to be completed at church – thanks to Sharon’s support for this, and it was also useful for people who had just not got round to completing the application at home.

A designated email address was set up meaning that the process was more eco-friendly and efficient and enabled for future years. There is now no need to send forms to any personal email address, no storage of any hard copies or electronic forms on personal computers, and the information was easily copied and pasted, rather than being laboriously typed out with the risk of errors, onto the electoral roll.

Total number on electoral roll as of 27th April 2025: 40

Resident in the parish: 29

Non-resident in the parish: 9

Membership of another denomination: 2

These numbers however, do not truly reflect the size of our worshipping community as some people did not complete an electoral roll application before the deadline and some are not eligible to. It has been encouraging to welcome new members this year, but we have lost some previous members who have moved away or are not well enough to apply, resulting in a similarly sized roll to last year despite weekly attendance appearing to increase. Of those who have moved away, some are still in contact with our church family through remaining on the prayer chain, receiving the newsletter and or attending Zoom bible study even if they are worshipping elsewhere.

Author: Ruth David, Electoral Roll Officer

May 2025