

***** INVITATION *****

to our bring and share lunch on Vision Sunday/Annual Meeting

on 24th April

from 12.30pm at Northcourt Road.



Christ Church
Abingdon

Being Disciples, Making Disciples

Annual General Meeting

Sunday 24th April 2016

CONTENTS

	Page
Letter from Keith	
Wardens' Report	1
Long Furlong Annual Report for 2015	3
Worship (Northcourt Road)	4
Worship (Long Furlong)	5
Sunday Driving Rota	5
Children's Work	5
Children's Work at Long Furlong	6
Youth Ministry	7
MWM	8
51 Fellowship	9
Adult Discipleship	9
Pastoral Ministry	10
Alpha	11
Baptisms, Thanksgivings and Confirmations	11
Family Life Ministry	12
LINK	12
Prime Time	13
Prime Time Holiday	14
The Father's Table	14
The Barns Café	15
The Church Office	16
Buildings Committee	17
Safeguarding	18
Health & Safety	18
Mission Support Group	19
The Church in Abingdon	20
Electoral Roll	21
Church Council	21
Financial Report	22
Annual Meeting 26 th April 2015	23
Church Statistics	26



Dear friends

I'm inspired by the description of the early church in Acts 2. Verse 42 tells us *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.* The result of their commitment to Jesus was a church characterised by a loving unity, heartfelt worship, the local community impacted, and people being saved (v46-47). That's the sort of church I want to be part of!

As you read and pray through the following reports, I trust that you can see something of that same presence of God reflected in our life together at Christ Church – Northcourt Road and Long Furlong. I hope like me you are thankful to be drawn into what God is doing among us. This is His church, and it's His work.

Admittedly though, it has been a challenging year from a leadership perspective, with Tim being away much of the year and Jit's move to a new parish. It has stretched us, but God has constantly provided. It has given more people the opportunity to get involved with their God-given gifts; we've been constantly challenged to trust in the Lord and his timing and purposes; and we've been getting on with our calling to be disciples and make disciples.

But isn't that what we see in Acts 2:42-47? God's church at that particular moment in history doesn't seem to have great projects or strategic plans being implemented! But they are being faithful to the Great Commission to make disciples, as they experience the outworking of the ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. May we know more and more of that!

So my grateful thanks to everyone who is engaged in our calling as a church to be disciples and make disciples. And particular thanks to the wardens, staff team and all who have worked so hard and been incredibly supportive and prayerful during the year. As the Bible says, *Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain* (1 Cor15:58)

With my love in the Lord Jesus

Keith

Associate Vicar

Christ Church Abingdon
Long Furlong and Northcourt Road
w. www.longfurlongchurch.org.uk and www.cca.uk.net e. office@cca.uk.net t. 01235 539172
North Abingdon PCC Registered Charity Number 1153844

WARDENS' REPORT 2015

BEING DISCIPLES

Sermon series in the past year have included the lessons in the character of Jesus from Luke's Gospel; lessons for life from Colossians, titles of Jesus, and the Kingdom of God. At Northcourt Road there is a regular pattern of 3 or 4 services every Sunday. Long Furlong has a regular morning service, but began an extra monthly service in the autumn, called Wellspring, which meets monthly and is held in a more contemplative style.

We are blessed in our Sunday services to have a number of gifted church members who lead services, lead the music and preach. It is a particular blessing that a number of young people are involved in the music and are encouraged to lead services. Behind the scenes, many more church members are involved in welcoming people, serving refreshments, sound and projection, setting up and clearing away (Long Furlong) and driving people to church (Northcourt Road).

Prayer is central to our life as a church. There is a regular time of contemplative prayer called "Meeting God in Silence" and monthly "Hungry for God" worship evenings, in addition to an intercessors group. Long Furlong has also held varied termly Prayer Events. Intercession is offered to anyone who wants it during communion services at Northcourt Road and at the end of all services at Long Furlong.

Many adults are involved in a midweek life group: these are places of belonging, learning together from God's word, fellowship and prayer. Inspire (18-30s) has continued to build discipleship for 18-30 year olds, meeting regularly for fellowship, worship and discussion of a range of topics of Christian discipleship.

As ever New Wine was an opportunity to gather as a whole church from both sites and all 5 regular services - with over 130 attending this year. This gives the opportunity to become a different kind of community for a week of worship, workshops, prayer, and socializing – all as part of God's family.

MWM activities for retired men has flourished over the year - deepening fellowship, friendship and support over meals, walks, visits and discussions - developing an honest and refreshing discipleship. Our "51 Fellowship" seniors group also has many members with a focus on offering love and friendship and helping each one to come to know Jesus as their personal Saviour at regular times of fellowship and worship.

In addition to the natural personal support offered by members of the fellowship to each other, Pastoral Care Teams (visiting newcomers, pastoral prayer, prayer ministry, Care Home, bereavement support and Intercessory prayer) have provided a backbone structure of additional support.

MAKING DISCIPLES

Alpha continues to be a key way we reach out to those with a spiritual hunger to come to know God. Once again the launch in January was popular, with the speaker this time being the Zimbabwean cricketer Henry Olonga. It was followed by Alpha groups being held weekly where people could explore the essentials of Christian faith and come to their own commitment to Christ. Many thanks must go to the serving team, those who prepared meals, and the table leaders who led discussion and sought to encourage those on their tables.

The children's work has continued to flourish under Heather Hughes' leadership, with Anne Taylor leading at Long Furlong. Despite some comings and goings of leaders, there are 98 people involved in this work over both sites! The children have been involved in biblical teaching, worship and fun and 140 children attended the August holiday club with the theme of "Explorers". Members of the Children's team lead assemblies in several primary schools, and hold week-long Prayer Spaces events.

The Youth ministry continues to flourish under Matt Luscombe and Emma Bogue's leadership – growing in following Christ through bible teaching, worship and fellowship, the annual trips to Soul Survivor and New Wine, as well as mission into their communities. In addition to the groups which meet during the Sunday services at both sites, Genesis (for 11-14s on Thursday evenings), RAW (for girls) and Space (for older teenagers on Sunday evenings) provide important spaces for learning, fun, worship and growth. The Genesis and Space weekends away have again been significant for our teenagers' journey in faith. Matt Luscombe and other members of the Desire network have

enjoyed opportunities in most of the secondary schools in Abingdon, leading assemblies, teaching classes, holding lunch clubs, creating prayer spaces and hosting visits to Church.

Support for parents is an important area of outreach. LINK (Northcourt Road) meets weekly for parents and carers of babies and toddlers to share the journey of parenting together whilst the little ones enjoy a play, a snack and a singsong. Singing circle (Long Furlong) for pre-school children and their carers also meets weekly. In addition there are a number of support networks - "Home for Good" for those involved in foster care and adoption, "Shift" (which we host) for parents with children with additional needs and "Food Ministry" to provide support at times of crisis.

Prime Time's ministry to those over 50 continues to grow, with involvement in Alpha, Life Groups and Bible study Groups, as well as socials, walks and table tennis afternoons. The Prime Time Holiday in Weston-super-Mare in July attracted 48 guests, and the popular PT Activity Week in August drew over 200 attendees, many of them not members of the Church. Friendly Cuppa at Long Furlong provides a monthly space for members of the local community to meet, enjoy a drink and games and make friends.

There are five missional communities which aim to reach people beyond the church: Workout, Fragile Earth, Outnumbered, Connect, Art and Soul. In April the Art and Soul group organized an exhibition of paintings by the Christian artist Paul Hobbs, drawing visits from many local schools and other groups as well as from members of the public. Outnumbered once again ran a "Parenting Teenagers" course, this time in the Barns at Northcourt Road.

In Advent, members of Christ Church and other churches took over the community shop in the town centre for a week, turning it into a reflective space for anyone to visit. While they were there a murder occurred in a nearby shop and the reflective space became a place of refuge for shoppers and then a place where people came to reflect on what had happened.

The Barns Café continued to grow and flourish and has become the setting for a wide range of community groups to meet – from origami to crosswords to a book club. Over 50 volunteers led by Sarah and Hannah offer a warm welcome and serve wonderful food and drink (with a 5* food safety rating), and the café is often full. The pop-up arts evening for 20s and 30s Resonate has become increasingly popular and enjoys a loyal following, with 4 events during the year featuring a range of artists.

The Father's Table comprises a range of projects in and for the community - often working with those on the edge of society. The hope is that through these projects people would be drawn closer to the Father but also simply that we go out and serve people in the community. The Abingdon Emergency Foodbank is based at Northcourt Road and provides emergency food for people in real need; a group visits Huntercombe Prison and holds monthly services there; several of our members are involved in Archway which ministers to those hurt by loneliness; Street Pastors (organised by the Church in Abingdon) are out in the town centre every Saturday night and also have prayer pastors praying for our town; Fishy Music provides resources for Primary Schools.

Our connection with and support of the Church in Abingdon includes shared events (Alpha launch, Easter Procession, Fun in the Park, Bereavement Service, Prayer Spaces in our Primary Schools) and support of a number of projects (the Desire Youth Network, the Abingdon Bridge, Street Pastors, 35 Ock Street, Archway), and is a key witness of the unity we enjoy in Christ.

Staffing

The staff team led by Tim Davis has, as always, seen changes during the year. A review of our administration led to an ending in July of the part-time administration roles filled by Mary Hipsley and Stuart Twinn, and Andy Walker was appointed full-time Facilities Administrator in August. In August Jayne Purbrick stepped down from her role as church cleaner, after 8 years' service, and Stuart Twinn was appointed to succeed her. The parish continued to fund Jit Patel as an Associate Minister until the end of September when he was appointed as Associate Vicar to St Jude's Southsea. Following concerns over the security of our buildings, in December Simon Powdrill was appointed to the new post of Church Security Officer. We offer our thanks, as ever, both to those whose roles with us ended this year and to those who have faithfully continued to serve behind the scenes, notably Christine Talbot our office administrator and Mark Chapman and Naomi Challis our cleaning staff who keep the premises clean and welcoming to regular users and visitors. The staff team meets weekly for prayer and discussion and has at various points in the year taken time out together, all of which is important in building the team. Rev Tim Davis took a 3-month sabbatical in February, March and April and then visited 2 church Mission Partners in East Asia in May. He also

attended the IFES (International Fellowship of Evangelical Students) World Congress in July at the invitation of IFES General Secretary (Daniel Bourdagné) who is a member of the church. Subsequent to this, Tim has been physically and emotionally unwell and has been medically signed-off from work. The departure of Rev Jit Patel, and the absence of Tim Davis has put additional strain on Associate Vicar, Keith Dunnett, and the other staff and officers. We are delighted at the recent temporary appointment of Rev Kath Cooke to work alongside Keith and the rest of the team.

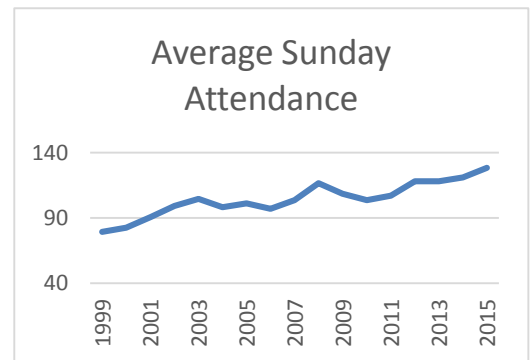
We want to give our sincere thanks to God for all He is doing among and through us, and to thank our staff team, the leaders and members of our ministries, those who preach and lead services, our cleaning staff, the network of volunteers who help as unsung heroes in so many ways and the members and officers of the PCC for their dedicated service.

Philip Bingham and Roland Knight

LONG FURLONG ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015

The Long Furlong congregation “came of age” this September, having been meeting weekly for 21 years. We’re constantly mindful this is the work of God, by his Spirit, within this local expression of the body of Christ. And we’re encouraged! People keep joining - drawn by the sense of belonging to a friendly all age church family, by the way all are welcomed and encouraged to grow and participate as disciples of Jesus, and by the biblical teaching and joyful worship.

During 2015 we’ve seen around 18 people join, and 7 stopping (including the sad death of John Crocker, two youth going to university, and some youth choosing to focus on attending Space) Around 200 people now associate with LF, and Sunday attendance has grown to 128 on average (see the graph). People join through a wide variety of reasons, some have moved into the locality, some have joined as a result of outreach events, and a few have transferring from other local churches.



One of the issues exercising the prayers and discussions in the Leadership Team has been how to cope with growth. We were concerned that we are sometimes close to the seating capacity of the school hall, and we’re concerned about people being “missed” as the church grows larger, and the tendency for some people to come less often. Graham Robinson and his team have done an excellent job maximising the numbers we can squeeze in. But in September we launched a new experimental monthly service called “Wellspring”, which meets parallel to the main congregation in the school staff room, offering a more contemplative flavour of worship. Numbers have hovered around 12-13, and we’re hoping by moving the start time to 10am we may see numbers rise further.

Another significant event in 2015 was the Long Furlong day away in July, called “The Great Escape.” 130 people gathered in the Millennium Hall in Horton-cum-Studley for the whole Sunday. We had two all age worship sessions, a choice of workshops (Journeying with God, a Wildlife Walk, Debating Dome, Café Corner, and children’s groups), a games afternoon, pastries on arrival, a bring and share lunch (actually more of a banquet!) and a cream tea. A massive thanks to Julie Kemp Harper, Andrew Turner and the team for organising this. The feedback was really encouraging – in particular people really valued the sense of having time to be together as God’s people. Sunday themes this year have had a New Testament focus, the first part of the year in Luke’s Gospel, “Looking to Jesus”; the Spring and early summer looking at Jesus as Saviour; the summer all age worships on Changed Lives in Acts; and the Autumn series on the King and Kingdom in Matthews Gospel. We’ve supplemented these with three Big Issue Sundays, looking at the “hot potatoes” of Gender and Identity, Suffering, and being Equipped to Serve in our workplaces and other front lines. We’ve welcomed visiting speakers from Northcourt Road, and also Paul Hobbs (artist), the Warners (mission partners) and Francis Omondi (from Kenya).

We’re keen to emphasise that when Jesus calls us to be his disciples, that’s a 24/7 calling. We aim to help church members relate the faith in God we celebrate on a Sunday to the everyday lives they are called to during the week. We work hard to weave this into the teaching and prayers. And we also have regularly had the popular “This Time

Tomorrow” interviews where we hear from a church member about their normal work or an aspect of ministry, and how their faith in Jesus impacts what they do.

Prayer has continued to be our bedrock; each service is preceded by a time of prayer, we ensure intercession is built into every service, offer prayer ministry after each service, and encourage prayer in mid-week groups. We also met three times midweek as a church for a Prayer Gathering, using a variety of prayer styles including Prayer Stations, Ignatian Prayer, and a faster moving varied mix of prayer (which is very popular!).

We place a high value on participation, seeking to release the gifts the Lord has given each church member. With Keith being increasingly stretched across both Christ Church sites during Tim’s sabbatical and ongoing sick leave, it’s been a great opportunity for the church to be the Body of Christ serving together. About a year ago we reckoned that about 90% of regularly attending adults serve on one or more teams in church. So a huge thanks to all those involved. One visible sign of this is the growing numbers who we ask to lead or preach on Sundays – 26 different people in 2015, plus youth! Another visible sign has been the growing number of children who jump up to the front each week and help lead the children’s action song. Particularly moving is knowing that those children include some who are being fostered or adopted by families in the church.

Several church members are involved in the outreach to the estate, with the weekly Singing Circle for parents, carers and under 5’s, the monthly Friendly Cuppa, leaflet delivery, and serving on the Community Association and in the school. We’re very thankful to the school for their hospitality, and wish the Head Zaheer Ahmed all God’s blessings as he moves to a new position at Easter. We’re looking forward to praying for and supporting the new Head Teacher, Carol Dunne, as she picks up the reins during the summer term.

We’ve enjoyed some great socials during the year too: a Bring and Share lunch (Jan), Pancake Party (Feb) Curry Nights (March and April), Day Away (July), BBQ (Aug), Garden Party (Sept).

Looking into 2016, we continue with the uncertainty of Tim Davis being signed off work and the impact that has on Keith and the leadership of Long Furlong; we’re looking to build on and review the Wellspring service; and we need to build a pastoral care team.

As I finish this report, let’s remind ourselves of the prophetic word given over Christ Church Long Furlong many years ago: *“They are the shoot I have planted, the work of my hands, for the display of my splendour”* – Isaiah 60:21. We thank God for his faithfulness over the years. To Him be the Glory!

Keith Dunnett, and the Long Furlong Leadership Team (Keith, Diana Bingham, Julie Kemp Harper, David Lever, Anne Taylor, Del Walker, and Stu Wilson)

WORSHIP (Northcourt Road)

“Worship starts with seeing You, our hearts respond to Your revelation” (Matt Redman)

At the heart of the music ministry here at Christ Church is a desire to see God’s people released into true praise and worship of our Father God and Jesus our Saviour. In our Sunday services, we seek through the Holy Spirit to create an environment where we can encounter God and respond to Him with heartfelt worship. One practical way in which we do this is to maintain a music group folder of 100 songs, which we refresh every year to ensure that what we sing reflects our beliefs and direction as a church. As worship leaders, we also keep listening to God during times of sung worship to discern what direction He would like us to take; this may involve something quite different from what we planned during rehearsal!

We continue to be blessed by having many people willing to give their time to the music ministry here. There are 59 members in total: 38 musicians (including 8 worship leaders), 13 sound people, and 12 projector operators. We have been delighted to welcome 4 new musicians this year: Dominic Finch, Lekai and Olivia Lee, and Clare Woodall. We praise God for each of them.

We were very much saddened by the death of Maggie New in January. She will be sorely missed for many reasons, one of which being her remarkable faithfulness to her church ministry, missing no more than a handful of 9:30 and 6:30 services in over 15 years as OHP/projector operator. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

As well as Sunday services, the music group engages in various other activities. The Space Band (14-18 year olds) meets monthly on Tuesday evenings under the supervision of Matt Luscombe and myself. We continue to be encouraged by the monthly Hungry For God evenings, a chance to soak in God's presence and come close to him through worship. Finally, many thanks to all who were involved in the music (particularly the choir) for the Carol Service last December.

As ever, we'd greatly appreciate all your prayers for this ministry.

Ed Wiles, Worship Coordinator

WORSHIP (Long Furlong)

Once again at Long Furlong this year we have had the joy of being led in worship by some of our youth, and seeing them grow in their leading. And once again we saw some of them move on to University, leaving places to be filled by others starting to develop their experience. This year the departure of Joanna and Christy meant that we only had enough leaders for 3 teams for the autumn term. As a result everyone was a little busier than usual, but all continued to give and bless each other with generous support. Now Jessica has taken on leading a team, and Caleb has started playing so we have been able to go back to 4 teams and we'll look forward to seeing them develop too. It has been great to see more participation from the younger children, with some of them enthusiastically joining their leaders up front for the action songs, in turn encouraging some of the adults to use their bodies more in worship. As ever the church's musical worship has been enabled by our dedicated sound and laptop teams, and new members have joined those too.

Richard Kemp-Harper

SUNDAY DRIVING ROTA

This service is offered to members of the 11.15 Sunday Congregation at Northcourt Road who have difficulty travelling to church from their home. This year we have had 3 cars picking up 1, 2, or 3 passengers each Sunday, with most drivers taking one slot in the rota per month. During the year, long-term Sunday driving passengers, John and Mary Moore moved away to Bristol, but their places have been taken by two new passengers. So, there are always changes, but the service stays the same! With thanks from all the passengers to all the drivers. Much appreciated.

Roland Knight, Sunday Driving Coordinator

CHILDREN'S WORK

Overview

It's such a blessing to be part of the children's ministry at Christ Church. We've a team of just under 100 leaders, including many 11-17 year olds working with 160 children on Sunday mornings across both sites. The over-arching title for all the work going on across both sites is 'Christ Church Kids' and you may have seen people wearing the azure t-shirts around! A massive thanks for your support and prayers across the year and a special thanks to our volunteers of all ages who work alongside our 0-11s.

Sunday Groups

Northcourt Road

This time last year we started looking at how to best use the site on a Sunday morning bearing in mind the sizes of the groups and their facility needs. Alongside this was a desire to seek God's vision for the groups for this season. I

felt that God was asking us to go deeper in worship and deeper in outreach. This meant making some changes to the Sunday group names and structures and looking at how our teaching can reflect this vision.

Our vision is: 'To be a fun, safe, welcoming space, where children can come and discover the God who loves them, Jesus who died for them and the Holy Spirit who walks with them. Where faith can be ignited and taken deeper. Where children can form supportive friendships, ask questions and can be equipped to live as witnessing lights in their everyday lives.'

The 3 & 4 year olds were struggling for space in the Corner Suite and the number of under 3s was low so we merged the 2 groups and moved them into the Hall and Lounge. This created a bigger group with much more space and access to better facilities. The group enjoys meeting in the Hall for freeplay and then moves into the Lounge for snack, singing, stories and prayer. In September the group was given the new name of 'Sparks'.

For the 5-11s this meant making the Barn our permanent home. As of September the group was re-named 'Ignite' in order to reflect our new vision. We meet together for 40 minutes and then most weeks split down into age groups. 'Shine' for Reception and Year 1, 'Glow' for years 2-4 and 'Blaze' for years 5 & 6.

Long Furlong

Every month I go and join the Long Furlong kids team. It's great fun and such a family feel. It was great to be part of the Long Furlong Away Day during 2015 too, with activities for all ages. A huge thanks to Anne Taylor, who oversees the day-to-day running of the groups on that site, for her leadership. Please read her report for further details.

Seasonal Events

Sleepover

In the Spring Term we had the Year 4, 5 & 6 sleepover. With 21 children from across both sites we spent the day exploring who Jesus is. The children enjoyed all the different activities across the day but especially enjoyed the Wide Game where we pretended to be Bible smugglers trying not to get caught taking Bibles into other countries! We also appreciated the opportunity to go over to the Barn before bed time and meet the artist Paul Hobbs and enjoy his art work.

Light Party

We had an amazing Light Party again with children of all ages with their families on 31 October. We enjoyed eating together and worshipping together. A special highlight was when families gathered together and made a lighthouse out of a kit with an LED light in it. As we worshipped we turned off the lights and held our lighthouses up as a prayer that God would use us as lights shining in our community.

Holiday Club

Our summer Holiday Club was called 'Explorers' and looked at the Good Book Company Material 'Epic Explorers', based on the Christianity Explored course. We had 134 children and 95 leaders. We had a great week and saw God moving in great ways. It was amazing to see teenage leaders praying alongside children in the prayer tent, to see our crèche children joining in the worship at the back of church, our children with additional needs feeling safe and included and to see all of the team and children taking home witness bracelets. The most exciting moment of the week was when we shared the gospel message with the children and 25 children made a first time commitment to follow Jesus.

At the end of the week we enjoyed the BBQ & Barn dance on the field at the back of church. There was such a great sense of community and celebration.

Heather Hughes

CHILDREN'S WORK AT LONG FURLONG

The children's groups are collectively known as GodzKidz and they meet in 3 groups after the first 20 minutes of the church service on Sunday mornings.

The groups are:

Crèche/Bubbles, which has 11 pre-school children. The rota and syllabus are sorted by Chloe Wilson and they use Scripture Union material. They meet in the nursery area at Long Furlong School

Splash, which has about 14 children from reception to year 2 and meet in the Community Centre.

X-Stream, which has about 12 children from year 3 to 5 and meet in the Community Centre.

Splash and X-Stream use material from Urban Saints.

Year 6 children attend Lazars.

We have 3 children with additional needs. One of these children requires 1:1 support. We also have some children who are fostered.

Before the groups start, all children are together for about 5 minutes to take the collection and pray. Since September 2015 we have been collecting for toilet twinning via Tearfund.

Most Sundays, the children are in their groups, but they also have Kidzgames or Kidzworship up to twice a term, when Splash and X-Stream play games together in the Community Centre. Bubbles remain in the nursery area for this session. When we have Holy Communion in Church, the children return to church in time to celebrate Communion together. During All Age Worship, all children are in Church with their families.

The children sometimes present their work to everyone in Church. They also have various social events such as a night hike.

Anne Taylor took over the role of children's work co-ordinator at Long Furlong on 1st January 2014 and is supported by Keith Dunnett, Associate Vicar and Heather Hughes, full time Children's Minister at Christ Church.

Anne Taylor

YOUTH MINISTRY

Space (14-18s)

Youth ministry constantly changes and this year proved to be no different. The generations change and we said 'goodbye' to a group who have gone to University or to gap years and seen a whole new group come up from below.

Emma Bogue has been working as the parish assistant alongside me for a couple of years now and has grown in maturity, stature and gifting. In September this year, as I took on running the Alpha course, Emma took on running Space. Immediately we noticed the difference with sofas, mood-lighting and a freshness of ideas and faith from someone new!

Back in the Spring term we spent a whole term looking at Sex and Relationships which proved to have some very valuable discussions. Our Good Friday sleepover did not include sleeping over this year (I'm getting old) but we listened and waited at the gospel and the Lord met with us.

In the summer term we worried about our exams, looked at Ephesians, celebrated with those being confirmed and led an evening service. We thought we would go for a theme of 'festival' for our service and the atmosphere proved to be great. Many were touched by what we shared from the story of Jesus raising Lazarus and we went home rejoicing.

The summer is always a highlight, with involvement in New Wine, Soul Survivor and Holiday Club. My personal favourite was one I woke up one morning at Soul Survivor to find a small number of young people at various places around the campsite with their Bibles open having an early morning read. Many of our young people take a key role in our children's ministry and, as always, were brilliant at Holiday Club.

In the autumn term we went through the Alpha material. Our weekend away was great with teaching given by Tim Boxer from Devon on the Holy Spirit. We all left greatly encouraged.

One of the great things about 2015 is the work that Emma has been doing with the girls group RAW. RAW meets once a month and is an opportunity for the girls in Space to hear about what God has to say about the issues that affect girls in our culture. It has proved to be a great help to many of the girls in Space. 4-Filled continue to meet twice monthly, although the numbers were much smaller this year. Space band has struggled a little this year.

Thank you to Emma Bogué, Sam Luscombe, Gareth Cook, Terry O'Neill, Mike Reading, Sarah Pearmain, Rob Buckingham, Tania Russell, Derek Walker, Caroline Peskett, Naomi Lake and Logan Walker for the blessing you have been to the Space crew

Genesis (11-14s)

Genesis is made up of three different groups, Genesis, Pathfinders and Lazars. Genesis meets on a Thursday night, while Pathfinders and Lazars meet on Sunday mornings at Northcourt Road and Long Furlong respectively. Lazars is a group that is for those aged 10-13 and so is slightly different in its make-up.

The year of Genesis always starts with the weekend away. Tim Boxer from Devon came to speak and it was great to see all that God was up to that weekend, even though we were slightly smaller in number than usual. We started the year by looking at the book of Genesis across Pathfinders, Lazars and the Thursday night group. In the summer term we looked at Jesus' parables on a Thursday night, and the Ten Commandments in our Sunday morning groups. In the autumn term we looked at the Big Questions on a Thursday night and at Jesus on a Sunday morning.

We continue to try new things in our groups, as each new generation goes through. In Pathfinders we still eat bacon and enjoy leading morning services twice a year. Lazars brings great variety with a young people with a great variety of needs. Credit to Long Furlong members for holding them together with such love and grace. Genesis is our most consistent group with a core group of 25 every week.

We took another group to New Wine this summer and saw some of them make commitments to Christ and continue to get to know each other better.

A massive thank you to Emma Bogué, Beth Palmer, Claire Naylor, Nicola Cook, Dal Warburton, Julie Kemp-Harper, Andy Walker, Richard and Clare Woodall, Rob Berry, Dave Millgate, Bethany Dunnett, Briony Slater and Sarah Pearmain for your commitment and prayer.

Youth ministry

In 2015 the Desire team continued to work in all the schools in Abingdon. We had a very successful week of activity in Larkmead School, with the NOMAD team from Youth For Christ (YFC) planting their football cage in the middle of the school playground. We also had the STANCE team from YFC join us and they proved a great hit. Many members of the Desire team were involved in different ways taking R.E. lessons and assemblies. We were very well received by the pupils and the school. Please continue to pray that the Lord would open the door for our message and that the young people of Abingdon would hear and respond to the good news of Jesus.

Emma and I also had the privilege of being involved in the chapel week at St Helen and St Katharine's School. It was great to talk about Jesus and to have many significant conversations. Please continue to pray for Katie Windle the chaplain, who does great work there.

At the beginning of the year I linked up with a group of break dancers who have been renting our buildings on a Friday night to run a series of workshops for the community. At the end of the course the barn was full of parents watching a show prepared by the kids who went to the group. Most of these had never been inside a church before.

In the Autumn term we ran an evening for parents called 'Sticky Faith' put on in partnership with the 'Outnumbered' missional community and the Centre for Youth Ministry in Oxford.

A big thank you to the teams of people who have helped me out at New Wine and Soul Survivor and at weekends away and all kinds of prayers and support.

Matt Luscombe, Youth Pastor

MWM

MWM continues to provide an opportunity for men in, and on the fringe, of the church to meet together monthly to get to know each other better, to have fun and share fellowship. This year we have met in each other's houses to share our favourite books, to recount personal experiences of people and events who have influenced our lives, had

play readings, and shared nostalgically humorous records and tapes of yesteryear. We have discussed together international trends, and suffering. We enjoyed conducted tours of Paul Hobbs Art Week at the church, of the Oxford Museum for the History of Science, of The Oxford Centre for Mission Studies, and on a day trip to London to visit Lambeth Palace. We had a good morning at Harwell playing croquet, and a wet afternoon at The Parks not seeing the T20 cricket (again!). And we have enjoyed many pub lunches together! Typically we would have about a dozen attending the activities, though for the Lambeth Palace visit we had about 25 (including seven wives). We have also started developing a visiting rota for isolated and lonely men in the fellowship, and are seeking to be alert, to keeping an eye out for each other to see how we can best meet each other's needs. Overall, an encouraging, enjoyable, and stimulating year.

Brian Woolnough (pp MWM planning group of RH, MC, NW, JS, RR, HP and BW)

51 FELLOWSHIP

Early last summer, both our leader Joy Batty, and husband Chris, our treasurer, began a long period of ill health resulting in them standing down from their roles. We had been sharing the leadership in recent years. Wonderfully they are now back attending our meetings regularly.

This is a shared ministry and I am privileged to be leading such a loving and caring group. I am supported and encouraged by the other Committee members, all the many helpers, and the faithful love and prayers of so many. We all feel blessed to be part of this ministry. We are grateful to Andy and Stuart who now set up the room for us, to Ernie and Alison preparing two lunches each term and all the different speakers who bring God's word to us.

We have around 80 members, which includes several now housebound, or in care, that we keep in touch with, pray for or visit. We have on average 40 – 50 attending our meetings (as at times, with our age group, appointments and ill health will inevitably prevent some coming). Alternate weeks we have "Prayer Fellowship", sharing, planning and praying for those in special need.

Our constant prayer is that everyone who comes will feel welcome, accepted, loved and cared for and will respond to God's love for them and grow in faith.

Doreen Cooper

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Overview

The church in Acts met in each other's homes, eating together, praising God, and seeing other saved (Acts 2:46-47). Small midweek discipleship groups continue to be a core part of Christ Church, meeting in homes and also on site at Northcourt Road.

About 330 adults meet in 29 life groups (five linked to Long Furlong) and 5 missional communities. Two new groups started during the year, balanced by two others coming to a natural end. The groups are a vital element in fulfilling the church's vision to be disciples and make disciples, offering teaching, support in the development of our faith, accountability, prayer, pastoral care, and encouragement in mission.

During Lent all adults across all congregations were also invited to use John Pritchard's book "The Journey" as a core resource in daily devotions. This theme was picked up on Ash Wednesday, and the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services.

Life Groups

Our life groups meet on a variety of evenings (Monday to Thursday) and also day times - catering for a wide range of ages, life circumstances and stages in our faith journey, so there's plenty of choice! Life group leaders choose material appropriate for their groups during the spring and summer terms, and all groups follow central material in the autumn. This autumn we explored the King and Kingdom theme from the Sunday service teaching series, drawing on a Scripture Union Life Builder Series "The Kingdom of God" supplemented with other resources such as DVDs of John Wimber's teaching on the kingdom of God.

We meet three times a year as life group leaders, for encouragement, inspiration and support. We've interviewed the leaders of different life groups, looked at creative ways of leading bible studies, discussed the issues around groups reaching capacity verses multiplying, explored the joint autumn material, and in November we welcomed Kate Poyton, a Cognitive Behaviour Therapist, who helped us consider how we could best support group members struggling with depression.

Keith oversees the life groups at Northcourt Road, and Andrew Turner oversees the groups at Long Furlong.

Missional Communities and Networks

Missional Communities gather to help us grow as disciples, worshipping, gathering around scripture, praying, and seeking to serve others demonstrating the Kingdom of God.

Outnumbered (for parents of teenagers) meet three times a month, and as part of their outreach ran a Parenting Teenagers Course in April and May, and a Sticky Faith evening with the youth team in the Autumn. It's been encouraging to see a small number of people from these events going on to Alpha and other nurture groups.

Workout (helping Christians apply their faith in their workplace) meet once a term for lunch and prayer, and in between in prayer triplets. In October we welcomed Paul Valler from the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity to speak at the services at Northcourt Road about being equipped as Christians on our frontlines including our work places. Charles Hipsley and Workout hosted a lunchtime meeting on "Your Job, God's Work." Workout also lead a workplace themed service at Long Furlong on the same day.

Fragile Earth (seeking to engage people in caring for God's creation) met monthly on Sundays, alternating between prayer, Bible study exploring contemporary climate change and environmental issues, and getting out into nature. The latter has included a riverside litter pick in February, and hosted a wildlife walk at the Long Furlong Day Away. We are temporarily not meeting but hope to move forward later in 2016.

Connect continues to explore how the group could connect 20-30s. Several group members are attending a Pioneer Ministry course hosted by CMS as part of this.

Art & Soul – hosted the Paul Hobbs Art Week in the Barn from 8-14 March, where 700 people, adults and children, came through. About 10% of these visited the exhibition more than once.

The "Home for Good" Network is a network of foster carers, adopters and those who would like to involved in other ways. It offers support and encouragement to existing carers and adopters as well as promoting an awareness of the opportunities to foster and adopt to others. They stay in touch via email to share prayer requests, news and queries, enjoy family get togethers and evening meetings. Over 20 families are involved in the network, including a wide range of professionals involved in the 'care system'

Keith Dunnett

PASTORAL REPORT

Pastoral ministry at CC continues to be in good heart. Most of the ongoing supportive connections are made through Life Groups and other groups, such as Link, 51 Fellowship, Prime Time and MWM – the group for older men. At times, however, it is helpful to have another person to come alongside who is not part of the immediate network, but rather comes on behalf of the wider church.

The **Visitors** (led by Pauline Croucher) have a particular gifting and passion for hospitality. In the name of Christ and on behalf of the church, they visit those in hospital, the bereaved and the newcomer, offering prayerful friendship and connection. Members of a group, led by Katrina Hancock, provide meals for a time for those with young babies or folk just out of hospital after an operation. The visiting team also support the recently bereaved; a ministry that is further developing with the **Footprints** group, now in its 2nd year, where friendships are slowly continuing to grow. The programme, as well as time to chat, includes at different times a fun item, talk about aspects of being bereaved and something more overtly Christian.

Members of the **Pastoral Prayer Ministry** team (led by Christine Bell) are gifted in listening, discernment and prayer. They are available to listen and pray with people through many different and difficult situations they may be facing, when it helpful to share confidentially with someone who is outside of the immediate friendship group. They offer healing listening and prayer; a space to engage with God, usually over a period of a few weeks.

The **Prayer Ministry** team (led by Michael Litt) have particular gifting in prayer, words of knowledge and Spirit-led discernment. Members of this team are available during Holy Communion services on Sundays. Their ministry is confidential. It is a one-off conversation and prayer in response to the Spirit's guidance, without knowing too many of the details. It is so encouraging to have new people joining the team and exciting to see greater levels of healing recently.

Undergirding the pastoral ministry at CC is the team of **Intercessors** (led by Richard Howard and Jeremy Starling). This is a small group of people who commit themselves to pray for the pastoral needs of the church. They pray confidentially, anonymously – often not even knowing exactly who they are praying for. All of the teams, mentioned in this report, are sustained by prayer. Please pray for us all, and if you have a passion for any aspect of pastoral ministry, do get in touch with the team leaders or myself.

Ros Steel, Co-ordinator of Pastoral Care

ALPHA

We ran the Alpha Course again in 2015. The launch event was at the Spice Valley Restaurant, held jointly with other churches in Abingdon. Guest speaker Henry Olonga captivated the audience with his life story. He was part of the Zimbabwean international cricket team, before having to flee for his life after criticising the Mugabe regime. He gave a powerful witness to the way faith in Jesus Christ has shaped his life and his actions.

We give great thanks to the Lord for the Alpha course at Christ Church which followed the launch, with 4 table discussion groups in the Barns. We're aware of people being drawn onto Alpha through a range of avenues, including personal friendships and personal witness, marriage preparation, 1:1 Uncover seeker Bible studies, links through groups such as Singing Circle, and community outreach events. We saw several commitments to Christ, and new faith being nurtured. Much thanks must go to both the practical team who work tirelessly to setup and cater for the course, and the table leaders who are tireless in their prayers and love towards those on their tables.

We offered two Alpha follow-on evenings, and a new life group – "Jars of Clay" subsequently formed at Long Furlong for people who were on Alpha. This has continued into 2016 and drawn in more people – the faith of new believers is a powerful witness to their family and friends. Guests coming off Alpha helped to make the confirmation service in May with Bishop Henry one of the largest in recent years, with 19 people either be baptised/ confirmed/ renewing their confirmation vows.

A huge thanks to Jit Patel for his work with Alpha in 2015. In 2016 Matt and Sam Luscombe have taken on this mantle. But is the same Lord at work, whose desire is that all should hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and that all should be saved.

Keith Dunnett

BAPTISMS, THANKSGIVINGS AND CONFIRMATIONS

Jesus welcomed little children. It's our privilege and joy to support families asking Christ Church for baptisms, dedications and thanksgivings for their children. Some families are already church members, and other enquiries come from the parish. Most of the services take place at Northcourt Road as part of an All Age Services or, in the case of Thanksgivings in a separate service in the afternoon. Members of Long Furlong generally opt to have baptisms and thanksgivings as part of the service at Long Furlong. During the majority of 2015 this ministry was led by Jit Patel, and included preparation evenings with family less familiar with the gospel, exploring the person and work of Jesus. Some have done Alpha as a result, whilst others have gone to groups such as Link though this. With Jit moving on to Southsea, Keith Dunnett is currently overseeing this ministry, and we are in the process of building

a baptism preparation team from church members. We're trialling offering a six session baptism preparation using the Uncover material running parallel to the 9:30 service.

We also had the joy of offering baptism by full immersion, confirmation, and affirmation of baptismal faith to 19 candidates in an evening service in May, with Bishop Henry leading the packed service. This was such a clear testimony to God being at work by his Spirit among us, leading youth and adults to a personal faith and trust in Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

Keith Dunnett

FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

We continue to build a family life ministry at Christ Church, with the aim of supporting families at church and in the community, whatever stage they are at, and whatever shape of family they are. Over the year we:

- ran the popular five session **Parenting Teenagers** course in the spring, hosted by Outnumbered in the Barns;
- had a **Marriage Preparation Course** over 5 evenings in the Spring for two couples plus individual couple time completing the FOCCUS inventory, led by Bill and Rosemary Buchan
- held a one night **"Sticky Faith"** evening in the Autumn for parents of teenagers, exploring how we can help our teenagers discover a faith in Christ that "sticks" as they head into adulthood; this was hosted jointly by Outnumbered and our Youth Team, and the speaker was Dr Sam Richards from Oxford Youth Works.
- had a **Family Life Prayer Meeting** in the Autumn in the Barns;
- raised awareness of other events supporting family life, such as the Care for the Family **"Mum's the Word"** event in October at the Kings Centre in Oxford – several ladies from CCA attended this
- worked on plans for another **Marriage Course** starting January 2016
- saw the **Home for Good** network for parents adopting and fostering children flourishing (see Adult Discipleship report)
- the **Food Ministry** based at Long Furlong offered much support to families at particular moments of stress and need
- supported many families in the community through the **Emergency Food Bank**
- the **Link and Singing Circle** parent/carer and toddler groups continue to be popular
- ran a small **parenting course** for parents of young children in Long Furlong

Looking ahead, we trust these ministries will continue. We are aware we need to offer some input for parents with infant and junior aged children at Northcourt Road and in the community; and we are also aware that it might be helpful to offer something for those working through separation and divorce.

Keith Dunnett

LINK

"I just wanted to say a big thank you for all you do to make Link what it is. I have been to my fair share of baby and toddler groups over the past year and I am yet to find another as friendly and welcoming as Link (or with such a great selection of snacks!) I really appreciate how there is always someone ready to chat, listen, be a shoulder to cry on and pray. May God bless you richly as you serve him in this way."

I don't think I could possibly sum up better the reason we do what we do at Link. Our group for parents and carers of pre-schoolers and their children has continued to thrive this year, regularly welcoming 30-40 families each week. It's a place to build community, share the joys and the challenges of parenting, and provide a safe environment for little ones to play and socialise, practically demonstrating the love and care of Jesus. Jill Ward leads a very popular singing slot each week, where as well as traditional nursery rhymes we sing together about God's love for each of us – one little girl who attends Link calls it: "Jesus' Love Is ..."

In the past year, we have enjoyed a pancake party and summer picnic, got our glad rags out for photographer Emily, ran an Advent themed craft day with the help of Beth Palmer, and celebrated Easter, harvest and Christmas with a short story-time, singing time and prayer activity in the church.

A number of us also attended Care for the Family's "Mum's the Word" event in Oxford last year – and enjoyed an evening of encouragement and inspiration together. Please pray for us as we consider how we might build on this experience to continue to support and equip parents of young families.

We continue to be blessed with a committed and enthusiastic team – my thanks to Viv, Stephanie, Jean, Jill, Gill, Sharine, Marion, Eva, Tina, Alison and Jason for your faithful service week on week – for all that toy moving, cupboard sorting, coffee brewing, snack preparing, song singing, praying and encouraging you do in Jesus' name – I am so grateful for each of you! My special thanks too to Carol Debling, who stepped down from serving on the team after many years last year – we have all been blessed by her wisdom, encouragement and prayerfulness - and, Carol, you will always be Cheese Chopper-in-Chief!

As ever, we are always on the look-out for further help on a Wednesday morning – whether that's some extra pairs of hands to help with setting up and packing down toys at the beginning and end of a session, or just a few more people who could come along, enjoy a cuppa, and help to welcome and encourage the parents and carers who attend. If you're interested in joining us, please do contact me – I'd love to hear from you!

Sam Luscombe

PRIME TIME

One week in August is devoted to Prime Time at Christ Church, Abingdon. It is held for the people in the N Abingdon community as well as our own Church family at a time when older people can find themselves on their own and other organisations close down. Over 230 people were involved in the week and everyday was very busy with talks, crafts, energetic activities. Coffee and lunch are provided and in the afternoon five or six trips are on offer to choose from. Many people who are not involved with the Church come to the week and we hope they experience the love of God from many volunteers. It is a wonderful lively week of activities and friendship. On the Monday a group went to the Watermill Theatre to see Oliver.

Each day had a "Thought for the Day" and this year our Vicar interviewed four different people about their faith journey. Prime Time is not a one man band, it has a committee of eleven people all taking different areas to lead e.g. coffee, lunch, room arrangements, A/V, car parking and health and safety, they are wonderful and PT would not exist without them. Our thanks go to David Wadham, Rosemary Maund and Ann Makepeace who have now stood down from committee but have worked so hard.

Although I am the organiser and prepare the programme, Eileen was the administrator managing the applications and typing up the programme for me etc., this was a great help. Each committee member has a team under them for the week to run smoothly and to share the workload. Six teenagers greatly enhanced the atmosphere by their smiling welcome and lovely serving attitude all week. There was also a Pastoral team of seven who look around for any needs and those on their own. The whole week ended with a Pig Roast dinner where 150 sat down to eat together with some entertainment.

A highlight was the follow up course called Encounters with Jesus to which up to 40 plus people came. Each week Michael Green spoke for 10 minutes which was followed by group discussion.

Roland and Jean Knight led a very happy Prime Time holiday for 40 people at Weston Super Mare for 5 days; this is so valuable as many would not get a holiday without it.

We follow Prime Time up with walks from April to November, Coffee, Cake and Chat monthly, Table Tennis, Cream Teas, and A Christmas Special to which we invite the Summer Prime Timers as well as Church people. Sadly we lost Richard Mason last summer who was a keen supporter of P.Time but thank you Alyson who has continued to run the Table Tennis. We will also miss John Crocker who faithfully took photos for us, organised croquet, T Tennis and the PT holiday for many years.

We would recommend that other Churches try to run something similar even if on a smaller scale as we do not want to fill our Prime Time with people from other Churches and we have reached our limit with size of rooms and space. We would be happy to give ideas to help and encourage others to give this a go as we are trying to reach the people of N Abingdon.

Maggie Snowball

PRIME TIME HOLIDAY

On Monday 29th June, 48 members of the Prime Time age group (over 50) left Christ Church by coach for the Lauriston Hotel on the Weston-super-Mare seafront. During our 4 day holiday, we enjoyed a visit to a Butterfly Centre, a tour around Wells Cathedral, a visit to Cheddar Gorge and Caves, and some time at the Slimbridge Wildfowl Centre. The Lauriston Hotel is run by Vision Hotels Ltd, a specialist group that provides facilities for the visually challenged, and we found that their facilities and welcome matched all the needs of our group as well. We discovered the hotel after several months of searching for a suitable venue in Bournemouth, Portsmouth, Isle of Wight, and elsewhere. Having found such a good and suitable hotel, we plan to return to The Lauriston in 2017, after a holiday in Cumbria in 2016. After several years of a Monday - Friday format, in 2016 and 2017 we will experiment with a more relaxing 7-day Monday - Monday format.

The annual PT Holidays are designed to provide a holiday for those who may not be able to get away on their own, often due to mobility or other issues. We aim to provide a good time, good teaching and good fellowship, and pray for good weather in a seaside location. The morning "Thought for the Day" and evening "Epilogues" at Weston were given by Barry Shepherd, and were much appreciated both by regular church-goers and those from the wider community.

Since the holiday we have been sorry to say farewell to two of our number. Jean Mears died in November and John Crocker died just before Christmas. Both will be missed when we go to Cumbria.

Many thanks from all the holiday makers go to the organising committee - Roland and Jean Knight, Doreen Cooper, Sara Morrow, Dorothy Warner and David Higgs.

THE FATHER'S TABLE

The Father's Table encompasses a range of projects in and for the community through which we hope to share the love of Jesus in practical ways.

The Abingdon Emergency Foodbank

The Foodbank continues to provide emergency food parcels to local people who find themselves in a time of crisis. This has been another year marked by generosity and abundance. Generous donations from our community which means that our storeroom is always full. Volunteers who are generous with their time arriving to give additional support just when needed, caring for one another, and responding to our clients with a huge generosity of spirit as well as much patience and good humour. We never know quite who we're going to meet and each week continue to have between 10 and 15 referrals. God's plan is unfolding each time we open our doors!

Hilary Beale and Sarah Fry

The Prison Ministry

The prison ministry is now well established at H M P Huntercombe. The group goes in regularly on the last Sunday of each month where we lead a service for 30-40 foreign nationals. We truly are now a church for all nations. Our Christmas carol service was multi lingual with the men contributing in many different languages. Trevor and Karina go in for both services every Sunday and Trevor teaches guitar to a small group. The nature of the prison is such that the men come and go very quickly. This means we are often saying a sad goodbye but a rejoicing for them as

they go to a new start! The presence of God in the chapel is overwhelming. Every week we are truly blessed as we minister to a hurting congregation. God is good. All the time, God is good.

Trevor and Karina Stevens

Archway

Loneliness has featured in newspaper articles, TV documentaries, radio interviews and even John Lewis Christmas advertising. It is good that this important issue has a higher public profile and that locally Archway has been part of raising awareness through radio interviews, You Tube Video, That's Oxford TV slot, and in partnership with the Oxford Diocese, a Justice Forum and publication on "Loneliness; Accident or Injustice?" Our face to face work, bringing relief from the pain of loneliness continues with 225 people regularly accessing Archway's Services, be it our Social Groups, Befriending & Buddying Service, outings or events. In the past year we have seen attendance at our call in café increase by 34% and referral rates to our Befriending service have doubled. Giving an hour a fortnight to volunteer as a befriender or two hours a fortnight to volunteer as a driver or social group helper, makes a huge difference to someone's week. Visit www.archwayfoundation.org and click on the Volunteer tab to apply on line or contact 01865 790552 for a hard copy application. Our monthly prayer meetings have been a source of real encouragement as we witness God's guidance, give thanks for His provision for 34 years and trust Him for the future.

Sheila Furlong, Director

Street Pastors

The Street Pastor teams, supported by the Prayer Pastors care for the night-time community in Abingdon each Saturday night into the early hours of Sunday morning.

Relations with the police, pub staff, and the public are still excellent and we are often approached to be told how much we're appreciated. While we still regularly meet people who don't recognise us, we are increasingly a well-known part of the Saturday-night landscape in town and people frequently seek us out for help in situations where they would previously have had to involve the police or emergency services.

We are always on the lookout for new Street Pastors and Prayer Pastors and if anyone would like to go out for the night to see what we do, please contact me.

David Hancock

Fishy Music

Fishy Music has just completed its latest project: "When a Child Dies", an 18-track CD and 50-page book designed as a resource for teachers. The audio tracks include well-loved songs and hymns, prayers, Bible readings and stories, supported by a book of ideas, lesson plans and classroom projects. As the music world is rapidly moving away from CDs to digital downloads, we are making the whole resource available for free through our website, iTunes and as an Amazon eBook. Stayed tuned for the launch date coming soon!

Trevor Stevens

The Abingdon Bridge (TAB)

During the year we have been in conversation with all the local secondary and independent schools and we shall be organising a networking event for school counsellors. What is significant is the increase in the number of young people who are on the verge of depression, stress and anxiety. We know from experience that if our qualified and experienced counsellors can see these young people fairly quickly (usually within two weeks) it is possible to work alongside them in order to resolve their issues. If they are not supported, the problem is likely to only get worse. It has been helpful to use the Corner Suite at Christ Church for some of this work.

TAB continues to be supported by the Church in Abingdon as well as by local churches, businesses and individuals. Your prayers for the vulnerable young people in the area who are supported by TAB are appreciated.

If you know someone who might need the support of The Abingdon Bridge, either email or telephone and leave a message. It might just transform their life. www.theabingdonbridge.org.uk

Chris Bryan

THE BARNS CAFÉ

Our vision is for the café “to be a welcoming place that is a pleasure to come to, which demonstrates the love and values of Jesus and succeeds as a business”. It brings us so much joy to serve the community and be a part of helping this to happen. We see how God enables it to be a reality on a daily basis.



The café is open Tuesday-Friday 9am-4:30pm and Saturdays 10am-3pm with a superb team (which includes an average number of 50 volunteers) from within the church. We have been welcoming a whole range of customers from local workmen who pop in for takeaway coffees to business people who come in to “work from home”, mums badgered by their little ones to visit to whole families having quality time together, older people who come in for some company to college students. A lot of the volunteers say one of their favourite aspects of serving at The Barns is getting to know our different regular customers each week. Most days we meet someone new and it an absolute joy to see them return to introduce a friend!

Every few months we all gather as a whole team to eat together, worship, seek God’s will and pray for the community, the café and each other. On a daily basis, the morning team pray together, committing that day to the Lord and inviting the Holy Spirit in to the café. We know we are carrying His peace and every week we see how God has his hand in all the details, giving us all we need and enabling us to show His love and care in a practical way. Some people talk about the peacefulness, some talk about how they feel comfortable there and for some it’s a sanctuary away from the busyness of life. God has breathed his life into the café and people are experiencing this when they come in.

It is great to see our community building activities continue to flourish.

- Needles and Natter- A range of needlecrafts etc. every Thursday
- Origami Sessions- Japanese paper folding. 2nd and 4th Wednesdays
- Quilting Questions - Quilting and Patchwork projects 3rd Tuesdays
- All Aboard - Board games club, twice a month Saturdays
- Coffee & Crosswords - Scrabble Club aimed at anyone aged 50+. 2nd and 4th Tuesdays
- Book Club - Every 3rd Wednesday afternoon.

You can find out more about our activities programme on our website www.thebarnscafe.co.uk

In 2015 we tried out a few random acts of kindness as a creative way to share God’s love with the community. For Valentines weekend we set up a table outside the café with decorated jars of ‘Free Flowers for Loved Ones’ for people to pick up and pass on and we did the same thing with ‘Free Flowers for someone you appreciate’ on Mothering Sunday weekend. Before Christmas, a large number of the café team spent the evening handcrafting Christmas tree decorations which we then gave away outside the café as gifts for people to hang on their Christmas trees. People were so touched by these acts and they had a big impact on our social media too. We are planning to do these again in 2016 and are always looking for other ways we can share God’s love and kindness with the community.

Sales were better than we budgeted and were over £100,000. We have been able to repay all our debts to the PCC from the setting up of the café. Although we don’t yet have the final figures for the year end, we have also paid £13,000 to the PCC. We are now paying VAT on sales but have not put up prices again since the last price increase at the end of 2014 so do not expect such a healthy profit this year.

Find us on [facebook.com/barnscafe](https://www.facebook.com/barnscafe) or follow us on twitter @thebarnscafe if you’d like to keep up with what’s going on!

Sarah Grange, Café Manager

THE CHURCH OFFICE

The church office is often the first port of call for visitors and newcomers to the church. It is the central point for making arrangements for weddings, baptisms and funerals; for facilitating room bookings, and repairs and maintenance of the church premises and property; for preparing the weekly newsletters and service sheets; for dealing with enquiries and telephone calls, and for solving the miscellany of issues that arise.

At the beginning of 2015 the church office was staffed by three people. Christine Talbot is the full-time Church Administrator and Vicar's PA. Mary Hipsley and Stuart Twinn were the part-time facilities administrators. Following a review of the admin staffing structure it was decided to appoint a full-time administrative assistant working to a much wider job specification. From 1st August 2015 Andrew Walker has been ably fulfilling this role as Facilities Administrator.

Grateful thanks go to Mark Chapman and Stuart Twinn our cleaning staff who keep the premises clean and welcoming to regular users and visitors.

Christine Talbot

BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

The buildings committee comprises Andrew Turner, David Wadham, Chris Fox, David Hancock and the Facilities administrator (Stuart Twinn at the beginning of the year and Andrew Walker at the end). This oversees the NCR site, 33 Mattock Way, 34 Geoffrey Barbour Road to review the condition of sites, set priorities over a rolling five year plan of works and recommend budgets to the Wardens and Treasurer for adoption by the PCC.

A log is kept of all maintenance and repair tasks resulting from Quinquennial inspections, those reported to the Facilities Administrator by users, cleaners or observed during periodic inspections. This had initially been set up and administered by David Hancock, but latterly handed over to Andrew Walker. These are prioritised by the committee (who meet three times a year, or by e-mail) and allocated as appropriate to volunteers or contractors, for which normally three competitive quotes are obtained. Annual inspections are carried out of the two houses. Buildings reports have been now been made a standard agenda item at PCC meetings.

Regular maintenance tasks are posted on a Google Diary as a means of prompting inclusion in the monthly schedule including servicing of the church/property boilers and annual PAT testing of electrical appliances.

The buildings available over the site are varied and we seek to maximise the use of rooms, both for regular and occasional individual and community groups, as well as church groups. The premises are a valuable community asset and rental charges, when appropriate, help offset the costs of routine maintenance utilities. Mary Hipsley acted as contact points for hirers at the beginning of the year, handing over to Andrew Walker in August.

In addition to a myriad of electrical, plumbing and woodworking repairs and decoration, the more significant tasks undertaken on the Church site include:

- Replacement of quartz-halogen lights with energy efficient Compact fluorescent or LED units in both new Barns and Tithe Barn.
- Installation of pipe/valve insulation in the Barn 3 plant room.
- Remarking the car-park lines with fused thermoplastic.
- Erection of bins screens and replacement of the block wall with wooden fencing and a new gate.
- Refurbishment of upper room support pillars (due to reinforcement bar corrosion)
- Decoration of Northcourt Road Frontage of Barn 3.
- Installation of air conditioning in the Barns Café kitchen.
- Replacement windows at 34 GBR and 33 MW
- Installation of a disabled WC alarm
- Installation of door closers to retain heat around site.
- Replacement of Detect by Pyrotec as the alarm maintenance company

- Installation of new bathroom in 33 MW and significant maintenance of house and garden including new carpets, a washing machine and a water meter.
- Installation of evacuation muster notices around NCR site
- Installation and repositioning of smoke detectors to recommended locations.
- Installation of defibrillator by the lounge.

Many thanks are particularly due to the members of the committee, Roland Knight and John Shore as well as many other volunteers for their valued contributions. Given the scale and age of the site, we would really appreciate those with electrical, plumbing, carpentry, decorating and general DIY skills to offer these to support this essential work. Please contact Andrew Walker in the first instance.

Works anticipated during 2016 will include external Oak varnish refurbishment (part paid by Butler Wilding), rehanging of entrance doors and installation of internal fire doors, possible replacement of the roof between the hall and church, refurbishment of toilets, external refurbishment of woodwork facing Northcourt Farm, the cricket pitch and the Lounge, and internal lounge refurbishment. It should be noted that the lounge/upper room has only an anticipated remaining 10 year life.

Long Furlong

Long Furlong Primary School continues to be used as an established place of worship every Sunday. In addition, we are able to use the school for additional courses or events on weekdays. The children's work, Godzkidz, takes place in the nearby Community Centre. Whilst we are freed from the responsibilities of property maintenance, a heavier burden falls on the teams of volunteers needed to ensure that both buildings are prepared and cleared for each service and event.

Our thanks go to Graham Robinson and Geoff Palmer for their significant contribution to maintaining the smooth operation of our equipment and sustaining a good working relationship with the school management.

Andrew Turner

SAFEGUARDING

The church policy is that everyone taking a regular part in our children's and youth work, at all levels, should be subject to our "Safe Recruitment" procedures. This comes in two parts - a church-based part and an external part, using the government Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The aim is that all the children committed to our care each week will be kept safe, and that the adults will be protected by safe policies.

During the year a total of 32 new volunteers were processed using these procedures, in order to take up a variety of roles in Link, the Children's ministry, and the Youth Ministry of the Church at both sites. In the same period, 25 individuals had their DBS checks renewed after either 5 or 10 years, in accordance with Diocesan policy.

At this moment, a total of 191 individuals have valid DBS clearances across both sites, but not all are currently active in children's or youth work. Of these, about 60 attended a Safeguarding training session given by Val Challis on 8th June, and another training session is planned for 2016.

During the year it has been necessary to investigate a few safeguarding questions, but no major curative actions have needed to be taken.

Our "Guidelines for Working with Children and Young People at Christ Church" document (WWCYP version 3e) is currently being revised following suggestions made by the Church Council during its meeting on 23rd November 2015. A new document, containing Guidelines for the use of Social Media in our Youth work is being honed prior to approval by the PCC.

Roland Knight, Parish Safeguarding Representative

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Northcourt Road Site Risk Assessment and Health, Safety and Welfare Plan were signed off at the January 2015 PCC meeting.

Health and Safety reports have been now been made a standard agenda item at PCC meetings.

A Fire Risk Re-assessment carried out on 28th January 2015 by Mike Crosbie, Andrew Turner, Mike Reading and Chris Rowe. Significant work is required to bring the site up to the statutory level. In the light of this, Graham Turner and Caroline Tilling of the Oxfordshire Fire Service made an independent inspection on 15/5/15 to confirm what work is essential. We are received their report on 11/6/15. This was reviewed by Mike Crosbie and Andrew Turner together with our own inspection and recommended remedial work priorities for budgeting and planning purposes by the Buildings Committee over the next 12 months. Where work could be carried out by volunteers or staff, these have been started and quotes for more major changes obtained for actioning in early 2016.

Ten accidents/near misses were reported using the Accident Books – one at Long Furlong, six at Northcourt Road and three in the Barns Café. Of those resulting to personal harm, two were faints, two trips, two impacts, one fall and two scalds. Paramedics were summoned for the faints and first aid administered for six of the other incidents. In all circumstances which could have been avoided, a greater awareness is required of those using the site of potential hazards and of carers supervising children.

A risk assessment tool and guidance is available and should be used during the planning of any event or activity. Chris Rowe is the Health & Safety Coordinator, who acts as a focal point at Northcourt Road for H&S concerns and also to undertake fortnightly periodic “walk-rounds” with the Facilities Administrator (Andrew Walker since August 2015) to review how safely we are using the site.

Andrew Turner

MISSION SUPPORT GROUP

The MSG is a sub-committee of the Church Council, tasked with managing the church’s mission involvement. Responsibilities include:

- promoting mission activity beyond the borders of Abingdon
- creating greater awareness of the world church
- ensuring prayer and financial support for selected mission partners.
- encouragement of members of the church to participate in short-term mission
- setting a budget and distributing funds allocated by the PCC**

** The MSG budget for 2015 was £61,000 (about 15% of church income). Over 90% was used for the regular monthly support of our ten Mission Partners; the rest was used to support a variety of short-term mission projects**

Significant events during the year were -

- 1) the completion of the **Deg Bible Translation** in Ghana, and the printing of Bibles in South Korea. Christ Church has played a significant part in the project through our support for Pat Herbert during the last 43+ years.
- 2) the adoption of **2 new mission partners**. Sarah Green is on the staff of IFES in Dubai, and Suzy and Chris Wilson are in preparation with CMS for a new ministry in Ethiopia training pastors to lead the large churches made up of refugees from South Sudan. Further details are on the Mission Section of the church website.
- 3) the speaker at our annual mission weekend was **Matthew Frost**, CEO of Tearfund. A meeting on the Saturday evening of the Mission Weekend consisting of testimonies from members of the church who are currently involved in mission activities, either locally or overseas, was inspirational.
- 4) Matthew Frost also came in February and gave his valuable input to a consultation between the Church Council, the Mission Support Group, and others with a passion for mission, coming together for ongoing discussions about possible ideas for changing the way in which the church undertakes its support for mission.

5) Several short-term mission projects were sponsored, including a pastoral visit by our Vicar, Tim Davis, to two of our mission partners at the end of his sabbatical.

6) At the end of the year, Roland Knight stood down as chair of the MSG in order to concentrate on new responsibilities as Church Warden. His place is being taken by Jim Barker.

Roland Knight

THE CHURCH IN ABINGDON (CiA)

The CiA is a group of 14 churches who work together to proclaim the Gospel and encourage neighbourly care; to pray for unity and yet to value the spiritual traditions of all the churches; to share the ordained ministry and Holy Communion according to the disciplines of each denomination.

The CiA supports a wide range of groups and projects across the town:

35 Ock Street acts as a hospitality centre for the community and meeting rooms for local groups, such as Back to 35 and Archway.

The Abingdon Bridge works with young people.

Abingdon Street Pastors help people out late on Saturday night in Abingdon town centre.

The Christian Aid group organise many activities including the house-to-house collection in Christian Aid Week.

The weekly Christian Forum column.

The Church Twinning group build links between the churches of our twin towns.

The DESIRE network work in secondary schools through lunch clubs, assemblies and lessons.

Experience Easter, organised by Trinity Learning enables children to explore the Easter story through reflective activities.

Prayer Spaces these have now been held in five primary schools in Abingdon, and for the first time one was held in a secondary school.

The first 'reflective space' was held in the town centre before Christmas.

Abingdon Emergency Foodbank for families in need.

What the churches have worked on together over the past year:

January 2015:

*Christian Aid had its New Year's Day walk.

*The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was marked by The Annual Quiz, A United Service at Christ Church and Midday Prayers took place each day at St Nicolas' Church.

*The Alpha Launch took place with an after-dinner talk from Henry Olonga, former international cricketer. Following this, Alpha courses started in three of the CiA member churches.

February 2015:

CiA Lent Lectures took place at All Saints.

March 2015:

*The Women's World Day of Prayer at All Saints Methodist Church.

*Easter Experience took place at Trinity Church, and many schools brought along children to help them understand more of what Easter means to Christians.

April 2015:

*A 'shoe cleaning' event was held on Maundy Thursday in the Market Place.

*Good Friday, there was a procession of witness through the town followed by a service in St Nicolas Church.

*Election hustings were organised by the CiA, involving all the main parties standing at the May Election.

May 2015:

Christian Aid week. Events included a service at Abingdon Baptist Church, as well as the door-to-door collection.

June 2015:

*Various churches worked together to represent the CiA at the Fun in the Park event.

*Christian Aid held a summer concert at Trinity Church, while a garden party took place to raise money for Abingdon Passion Play 2016.

October 2015:

- *Michaelmas fair service in town.
- *Church Twinning organised a visit to Schongau, Germany.

November 2015:

- *The Annual Bereavement Service was held at St Edmund’s Church.
- *Several activities were hosted at St Nicolas as part of the Abingdon Extravaganza.
- *Sarah Fry stepped down from her role as the CiA rep for Christ Church and Sandra Pike has now taken on this task. Many thanks to Sarah for all her hard work.

December 2015:

- *Christian Aid organised carol singing at the pre-Christmas Farmers’ Market.
- *The prayer space team organised a reflective space in the community shop in town. A tragic stabbing in Abingdon prompted the team to make space for people to pray for the victim, his family and the town. Street Pastors were also called on by the police to patrol the precinct.

January 2016:

- *The launch of the Alpha course with a talk from ex-policeman Simon Pinchbeck.
- *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ending with the CiA Annual United Service in St Edmunds

February 2016:

CiA AGM

Sandra Pike

**ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT AT 9th APRIL 2016
FOR THE PARISH OF NORTH ABINGDON**

During the last year there were a total of 35 additions and 8 deletions to the 2015 roll of 531, giving a new roll of 558.

Worship Centre	Total Roll	Additions	Deletions	Change
Northcourt Road	403	25	4	+21
Long Furlong	134	10	1	+9
Peachcroft	21	0	3	-3
Totals	558	35	8	+27

Chris Fox, Electoral Roll Officer for the Parish of North Abingdon

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

The main purpose of the PCC is to support the Vicar in the running of the church with advice on matters of policy and strategic direction. Its members are trustees and so responsible for governance, ensuring good financial management and compliance with legal requirements. The operational running of the church is largely delegated to the staff team and business matters to the Standing Committee. PCC meetings include time for reflecting on God’s word and prayer for the life of the church. The Council met 6 times during the year. Regular reports are received from sub-groups (Buildings, Finance, a new HR group and Mission Support).

- In January, the PCC main items were an update on the Church finances and the mission support group’s report. In this meeting the council also approved the setting up of the Human Resources Sub-group to develop Human Resources within Christ Church – specifically to facilitate the employment process of additional administrative support; review terms and conditions of employment and develop an appropriate staff appraisal system. Chris Bryan was appointed as chair of this sub-group.

- In March, the PCC approved the Annual Report and Accounts for 2014 and the PCC thanked Jenny for her continued work as treasurer until the AGM in April 2015. The meeting also considered a mission action plan looking to what areas of growth and the potential areas for mission development. Finally The council recorded its thanks to all retiring members Jenny Corps, Chris Fox (Secretary), Kath Edwards, Andy Harper, Roland Knight, David Lever, Andrew Turner (Warden), David Ward.
- In May, we welcomed new members (Andy Dent (Secretary), Sue Gibbins, Janice Gordon, Rosemary Green, Andrew Kitchener, Lizzie Shipman) who were given an induction into the workings of the PCC and how it fits within the structure of the Church of England. Philip Bingham was elected as a new warden. The council elected the Standing Committee (Vicar, Associate Vicar, wardens, deputy wardens and treasurer) and reviewed Jit's situation which led to the call to church members for extra support for Jit's remaining months at Christ Church.
- In June, Anne Taylor, the Licensed Lay Reader Representative was welcomed to PCC and the focus of the meeting was to listen to the Lord about "what next".
- In September, the café legal documents were approved and as Jit had now left we approved the renovation of the curate's house and discussed options for its use whilst vacant (it is now privately rented). Mike Reading also stood down as warden due to starting ordination training (Roland Knight was elected as the new warden at a special parishioners' meeting on the 11th Oct 2015).
- In November, the PCC received reports on the financial forecast for 2015 and proposed budget for 2016 from Mark Stavers. Jim Barker took over from Roland as chair of the Mission Support Group and two new mission partners were accepted. Various documents were also discussed relating to how consent is given to children's and youth activities and the use of social media.

Andy Dent, PCC Secretary

FINANCE REPORT

2015 Accounts

I am pleased to report that once again we have met the budget for the last year. Last year saw the start of us 'catching up' on repairs to our buildings by using some of our reserves (in plain English we used some of our savings to do some long-overdue repairs to our buildings). This year that work will continue but this year we have a balanced budget – we are expecting to get as much income as the amount we plan to spend.

Unrestricted income in 2015 was £505,000 of which £433,000 came, under God, from the regular, planned giving by members and the Gift Aid that can be reclaimed on these donations.

Unrestricted expenditure totalled £540,000. The majority of unrestricted expenditure relates to Parish Share, staff salaries and Mission Support grants. Unrestricted expenditure also includes £45,000 of depreciation.

Overall, the accounts show a deficit of £35,000 of unrestricted funds. This was budgeted for by the PCC as a deliberate attempt to catch up on building work that had been put off for several years. Future years' budgets are intended to "break even".

A total of £23,000 was donated for restricted purposes. £10,000 of this is for future refurbishment of the Barns and the exact use of these funds will be considered by the PCC in due course.

Our formal accounts are independently examined by a firm of Abingdon-based auditors and have been approved by the PCC. They will be available for church members to examine before the annual church meeting.

Finance Team

April 2015 saw Jenny Corps stand down as our treasurer and let me reiterate my thanks to her for her faithful service. I've taken over as treasurer but am helped by a very capable team of Andy Lowe (Utilities and general matters), Gill Privett (Gift Aid and Payroll), Christine Talbot (Payments and Book-keeping), Mike Warner (Pensions and Legacies) and Neil Weston (Banking and general matters). Let me reassure you that all information on giving is kept confidential to the relevant members of the finance team and is not shared with anyone else.

Thank you

Thank you for your continued financial support for the work at Christ Church. Please do continue to pray for the finances – give thanks for God’s faithful provision; pray for wisdom and good stewardship; and pray for every member of the church that He would release in us a spirit of joyful and generous giving – through money, time and use of gifts.

Mark Stavers, Treasurer
(01235) 203825 or treasurer@cca.uk.net

ANNUAL MEETING 26th APRIL 2015

Introduction

The AGM was being held as part of the services during the day i.e. 9.30am, 11.15am and 6.30pm at the Northcourt Road site and the 10am service at Long Furlong School.

An attendance log of parishioners and Electoral Roll Members was available at each service with people asked to sign in as a formal record of attendance. There was also a bring share lunch at 12.30 at Northcourt Road with a question and answer session with the clergy & church wardens. (Tim Davis was not in attendance due to being on sabbatical)

Election of Church Wardens

Thank you to Andrew Turner who is standing down after 6 years of service as Church Warden.

There were 2 vacancies for Church Warden and 2 candidates: Mike Reading and Philip Bingham. They were both formally elected by acclaim.

Deanery Representative Election

Jenny Corps was standing down having moved to St Aldate’s Oxford leaving a vacancy. Mark Stavers had been nominated for this vacancy and was formally elected by acclaim.

PCC Elections

The membership of the PCC is as follows:

Clergy – 4

Church Wardens – 2

Deanery Synod Reps – 7

Lay members – 15

Licensed Lay Ministers representative – 1 (David Lever is standing down from this position to be replaced by a nominee from the LLM group.

With the election of Philip Bingham as church warden (currently a member of the PCC) and with the people standing down after reaching the end of their terms of service mean there are 6 spaces for Lay members of the PCC.

8 candidates for these 6 positions had been nominated. Ballot papers were issued at each service to allow members of the electoral roll to vote for the 6 candidates of their choice. Ballot papers from all services were collected and counted (by Andrew Turner, Mike Reading and Jit Patel) and the candidates selected will be announced at the services on 3rd May 2015.

The following people were duly elected to serve on the PCC:

Andy Dent, Sue Gibbins, Janice Gordon, Rosemary Green, Andrew Kitchener, Lizzie Shipman

258 Electoral Roll members signed in

250 voted

51 non-roll members attended

The Church Wardens thanked everyone who had served and continue to serve on the PCC.

Electoral Roll Information

Summary of the numbers of church members on the electoral roll are as follows:

	Northcourt Road	Long Furlong	Peachcroft	Parish Total	Christ Church Total
2014	361	114	24	499	475
2015	384	123	24	531	507

Additions = 32

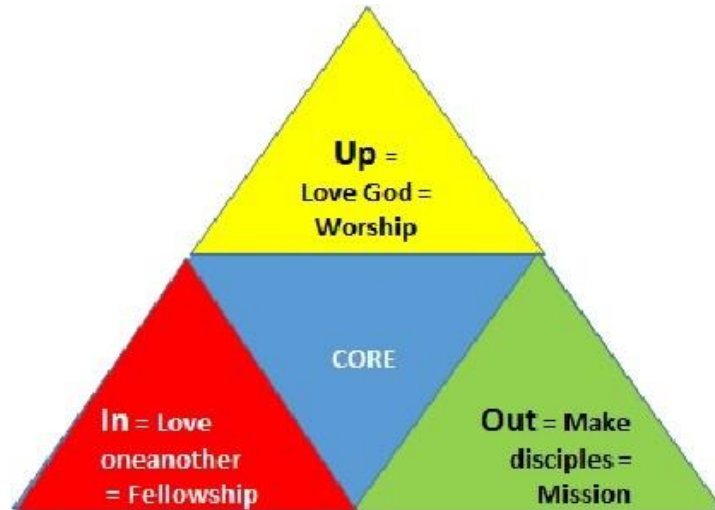
Deletions = 22

Net change = +10 (2 at Northcourt Road & 8 at Long Furlong)

Thanks to Spencer White for his service in administering the electoral roll.

Annual Report

A document containing reports from all areas of the churches ministry in the last year had been produced structured around the model:



This was available from the church website and also in hard copy format. A copy will be submitted to the charity commissioners. The church wardens thanked the clergy - Tim, Keith and Jit for their leadership over the last year and all members of the congregation for their service to the church in all areas of ministry.

Financial Report

Presented by Jenny Corps, outgoing treasurer.

Jenny said it was good to be back and reflected on how God had been faithful to the needs of the church which had been demonstrated over her 6 years as treasurer. A document detailing the financial reports had been produced for review. The accounts covered the period January to December 2014. The reports detailed 3 funds:

1. Unrestricted fund – main fund used for day to day expenditure
2. Restricted fund – giving which had been provided for specific areas
3. Project Fund – For the barn purchase and restoration

Unrestricted Fund

In 2014 the church had appointed Heather Hughes as the fulltime children's worker increasing the staff team but God had provided. A summary of 2014 was:

Income = £431,000 + 5% on 2013

Of which Room Booking = £17,000

Expenditure = £423,000 (mainly on Parish Share, Staff Bill and Mission Support 15%)

This overall gave a surplus of £8,000

The Barns Cafe has returned £5,000 from its operation in 2014 which is being held to cover replacement of equipment when it is required in the future.

Barns Project Fund

The formal accounts show a transfer of assets from the Project Fund to the Unrestricted Fund following completion of the project. All final invoices for the Barns Project have been paid. The loans have been repaid. In 2014 £7,000

was given as a tithe with a further final tithe of £6,000 which has just been distributed in 2015. In total, £2.3 million was raised for the purchase and refurbishment of the dairy yard.

Restricted Fund

The accounts show that £15,000 came into the fund and was then spent. (Fund is used to facilitate booking events during the year)

Jenny thanked God for his provision financially to the church. She also thanked Christine Talbot and Gill Privett for their help with financial administration.

Formal Acceptance of the Accounts

At Long Furlong account acceptance proposed by Jeremy Fry; seconded Tricia Lever PASSED unanimously. At Northcourt Road acceptance was proposed by Andrew Turner, seconded by Roland Knight. PASSED unanimously.

Appointment of Wenn Townsend as auditors: Proposed Sheila Furlong; seconded Penny Smith. PASSED unanimously. At Northcourt Road, acceptance was proposed by Richard Howard, seconded by Pete Edwards. PASSED unanimously.

The Church Wardens thanked Jenny for her service as Church Warden and Treasurer over the last 6 years.

Sermon & Thanks – Keith Dunnett

Theme: Alignment for Life (Matthew 6:19-24 & 25-33)

Keith thanked those who have served on the PCC over the past year, and those who offered themselves for election. He particularly thanked Jenny Corps and Andrew Turner for their faithful work as treasurer and warden over the last 6 years, and their faith in Christ and love for His people.

Keith talked about small changes in direction the Lord might be calling us as a church and as individuals to make, so that we remain aligned with the purposes of the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is the reign and rule of God over all aspects of our lives. The PCC had identified five signs of the Kingdom in our life at Christ Church during 2014 – things to give great thanks to God for. We explored Jesus' teaching in Matthew 6 in regard to things that can knock us off course. Keith spoke about the sense that we are entering a new season as a church where we grow in our outward focus. He spoke of "one degree" changes we could make to keep focused on the kingdom of God - first as a church (engaging even more with our community and workplaces, being more confident in evangelism, and helping people grow as 24/7 disciples) - and second as individuals (in our devotional life, family life, workplace and leisure time).

Question & Answer Session at bring and share lunch (Northcourt Road Hall).

Following questions were asked and the response from the clergy / church wardens as follows:

1. When did Christ Church become the North Abingdon PCC? On 1st August 2013. This has provided benefits in reduced meetings to attend and has also improved links with the Peachcroft Christian Centre. Regular contact is also maintained with other churches in Abingdon.
2. If and when the housing development happens in North Abingdon will Christ Church have any input into creating a facility that could be used for worship? The proposed development would actually lie within Sunningwell, Radley and North Abingdon parishes. Initial contact has been made with the Vale of the White Horse District Council and this is also a topic for discussion by the Abingdon Deanery Synod.
3. Are there plans for further development of the barns? There are potential plans drawn but no active project is planned currently.
4. Is there any possibility for the role of caretaker? We have a clergy team and a staff team. We have been reviewing the administration / support team roles and we are currently advertising for an Administrative Assistant. We are actively investigating the potential for a caretaker as part of these developments.
5. Concerning the use of Barn 2 for events is it possible to install a proper kitchen to support its use? Plans were drawn up to provide a kitchen to cater for events in what is currently used as the prayer room. Also the provision of additional toilets. However, the decision was made that these facilities should not be included in the Barns Project scope, just completed. It is hoped at a future date to include these additional facilities.
6. Comment : The vision from David Price (minister) from 40 years ago when the dairy yard was a working dairy and delivery trucks would create so much noise that preaching had to stop whilst the vehicle reversed(!) was for a community resource. Potentially including some form of sheltered accommodation. Can this be considered in any future plans? The church will be consulted over any future projects.
7. Any update from Tim Davis on sabbatical? Tim visited the office a few weeks previously. He was very enthusiastic following his experience in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. He is now travelling again and due back at the end of May.

8. Comment: After reading the reports in the Annual Report Document I am so proud to be a part of a church which is doing so much good work.
9. How is the Barns Cafe doing against its financial target to break even? Cafe is funding all its costs and has returned a profit of £5,000 to the church to cover future replacement of equipment. It's been so successful, it's actually too small
10. The Q&A session ended with an open prayer to give thanks for the church leaders and for the vision for the future.

Chris Fox, PCC Secretary

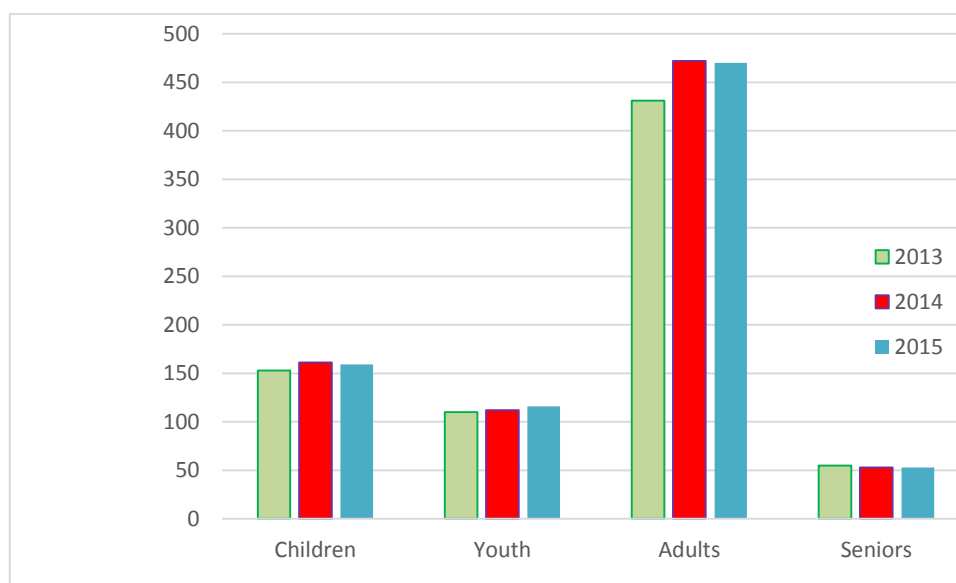
CHURCH STATISTICS

Each year, we are asked by the Diocesan authorities to provide statistics of the life of the church to help them build an overall picture of the health of the Church of England on a local and national basis.

Worshipping community

Age range	2013	2014	2015
Children (0-10)	153	161	159
Young people (11 – 17)	110	112	116
Adults (18-69)	431	472	470
Seniors (over 70)	55	53	53
TOTAL	749	798	798

Our worshipping community is estimated to be just under 800, with a no change to last year. Typically, 34.5% are aged under 18.



There has been a slight growth in youth matching a slight decrease in adults. As seen in the electoral roll section we have 507 “signed up” members over 16. Analysis of the comings and goings show a small number coming to faith and returning to Church (3% of total worshipping community), with more leaving Christ Church than joining (-4.5% +3% = -1.5%). However, it is always sad to see some slipping away (0.4%).

Reason	Joiners	
	Under 18	Over 18
First time	11	4
Moved area	5	13
Moved church within area	3	4
Returned to Church	7	6
Total	26	23

Reason	Leavers	
	Under 18	Over 18
Death	1	3
Moved away	14	7
Moved to another local church	3	9
Left Church	7	3
Total	27	22

Festivals

Festival	Communicants	Worshippers
Easter Day	361	752
Christmas Eve/Day	178	1409

Special Christmas and Advent Events/services

Activity	TOTAL	Adults	Children
Civic and school	213	130	83
Christingles	775	550	225

Christmas can be seen to be an important time of the year when we are able to touch a significant fraction of the community with the Gospel.

October count

Date	Services	Adults	Children
4 th	5	388	132
11 th	4	416	130
18 th	5	377	139
25 th *	4	351	57

* Half-term

This a snap-shot of the “normal” church attendance. On a typical Sunday at our various services at both sites 366 adults and 115 children come to worship – 70% of the adult worshipping community and 42% of the children.

School assemblies

As part of our ministry to young people, Matt, Heather and the assembly’s team have been able to visit schools on average once a month.

Offices

Age →	0-1	1-4	>13
Baptism	3	3	2
Thanksgiving	1		

Office	Church	Crematorium
Marriages	1	
Funerals	4	4

Andrew Walker