

christ church  **spington**

ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15



THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

will take place on Sunday 19th April 2015 after lunch in the church hall

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Apologies
2. Minutes and matters arising
3. Election of Churchwardens
4. Appointment of Deputy Wardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes and matters arising
2. Electoral Roll report
3. Secretary's report on the work of the PCC (to include amendments to Accounting Standards and Standing Orders)
4. Annual report 2014-15
5. Elections
 - Deanery Synod representatives
 - PCC representatives
 - Sidespeople
6. Appointments
 - Welcomers
7. Treasurer's report and appointment of Auditor
8. Reports from organisations 2014-15 (on screen) – and any questions about ministry areas
9. Report on Unity Church
10. Report from Children's Minister
10. Report from Youth Minister
11. Report from Vicar.
12. Closing Prayer.

Secretary's Report on the proceedings of the PCC

The PCC had a busy and productive year.

Our meeting in May was primarily concerned with administration; the PCC reaffirmed the Equal Opportunities Policy together with the safeguarding policies for Children and Vulnerable adults.

In June we received detailed updates from the Youth and Childrens' ministries and agreed to seek an Oasis student to assist Andrena with the youth ministry.

September was busy, we had various fabric matters including a review of the work required by the quinquennial inspection and we gratefully acknowledged Ed Abernally and the Reverend Dozie Monemie starting with Christ Church. We discussed the Kondoia trip and reviewed the proposed Mission Support Fund allocations.

October was very HR related, the PCC unanimously agreed to extend Jo Gavin's contract, they agreed to the proposal re annual staff pay increments, discussed Lone Working Policies and saw the DBS (vulnerable adults) post move from Jennie Warrington to Anne Springer. The Hall usage and hire rates were discussed and the new charges agreed for 2015 and finally the new Young Adults Group within Orpington was discussed.

November was mainly budget (2015) related, with discussions also taking place on expanding the Creche area and supporting Tear Fund in their Ebola appeal.

February, our last meeting of the year was a busy one, with a major report back to the PCC from the team investigating the Church Lighting, the Treasurer took the PCC through the Annual financial statement for the Church, we agreed a few

minor amendments to the accounting standards to go forward to the APCM, discussed the APCM and also the Church of Unity.

All our meetings were well attended by the PCC and very ably chaired by either our Vicar or our vice-chairman (Dave Humphries), discussions were fun but business like and the PCC tried to remain prayerful throughout.

As the secretary to the PCC I give thanks for the people who give up their time and join us for the PCC and pray that the 2015-2016 PCC will contain more such wonderful people.

Bill Belsham

PCC secretary 2014-5

Hall Bookings and Centre Management

The past year has seen several changes with respect to regular hirers.

There has been some stability through the bookings of the Link Stroke Club, 4Israel, Orpington Photographic Society, Kentish Opera and Street dance classes and several hirers have extended their sessions. Slimming World has moved to a Friday morning (so they can still be tempted by the Café breakfasts) and added a new class, while Theatre Skills Academy have opened a new class on Friday afternoons.

New hirers include two pilates classes, both baby and toddler soft play groups, and special needs training.

Church groups continue to thrive, especially Tea & Toys, where a waiting list has been introduced, and GIFT (Growing in Faith Together, a home group which meets at church) where numbers have doubled over the last few months. The Network Course is to be run in March.

It is amazing to see so many sections of the local community having regular contact with our church.

A television has been installed in the Café area to promote Sunday services, church groups and special events, especially while the Café is open.

Plans are underway for a new lighting system and an expansion for the Creche, and several water leaks have been fixed or stemmed until further repair work can be done.

GIVE THANKS!

- For the new hire groups that have started recently, and for a positive working relationship with them,
- For all the extra work Jim has been able to do on maintenance and the resultant lower maintenance costs.

PRAY FOR:

- The right balance between church and external groups using the premises,
- Jim's fear of heights as he works on several maintenance jobs around the church including the pulley system in the chancel.

Liesel Stanbridge

Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod representatives are Rev Jay Colwill, Rev Dozie Moneme, Eric Owen and Anne Springer.

There have been 2 Deanery Synod meetings since the last report, which took place in October 2014 and February 2015. There was also a Quiet Day which took place in June 2014.

October 15th 2014 at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Cudham

This was the first meeting since the appointment of the new Area Dean, Rev John Tranter of St Martin's Chelsfield. Much of the meeting consisted of a representative from each parish giving a short "Parish Picture" so that the new Area Dean could gain an insight into the diverse nature of the parishes and their work.

The General Synod report focused on the progress of legislation concerning Women Bishops.

The report from the Diocesan Synod representative concerned the October meeting when Bishop James was to report on financial issues and his visitation to parishes.

February 5th 2015 at All Saints, Pratts Bottom

The Vicar Rev Canon Penny Avann spoke about the parish and its strong community links. There are also close links with the neighbouring parishes and with Green St Green Baptist Church. Last year there was a very successful Pentecost Party on the village green, with over 300 attending.

The report from the General Synod, and the discussion which ensued, mainly concerned the issue of clergy numbers. It has been estimated that there will be a need for 7400 clergy by 2021,

but only 6000 will be available. This has serious implications for the future.

The Diocesan Synod report dealt with the new system of “offerings/donations” which replaced the parish share. This year was seen as one of transition and there would be ongoing reviews.

Notices were given concerning a number of events including Bishop Given's visit to Christ Church, a Vocations Day at Christ Church on February 28th and the Hustings meeting at Orpington Baptist Church on April 19th.

There will be a Deanery visitation by Bishop Brian between June 28th and July 5th and it is likely that he will lead the Deanery Quiet Day on July 4th.

There is a need for a Webmaster for the Deanery site.

There then followed a review in Parish groups of the Deanery Mission Action Plan.

GIVE THANKS!

- For productive meetings and a good sense of fellowship,
- For the success of the legislation concerning Women Bishops,
- For the past leadership of the Deanery by Rev Jay Colwill.

PRAY FOR:

- The need for more vocations,
- For wisdom in financial matters,
- That Churches will reach out effectively to their communities.

Anne Springer

Wardens' Report

When we wrote our report this time last year, we highlighted that on arrival in role we were not too familiar with what was expected. Given that we are well into our tour of duty now, it is perhaps useful to take a step back and consider what the role is about.

Turning to that font of all knowledge – Wikipedia – a Church Warden is *'expected to lead the parishioners by setting a good example, encouraging unity and peace'*.

Whether we stand out as such beacons of virtue is perhaps open to question, but having all had several years' experience now, it is undoubtedly true that the role has been one that we have all found hugely rewarding and also (perhaps to our slight surprise) one that we have enjoyed.

This is due primarily to all of you. Whilst we hope that people do feel able to approach us if they need help, the sheer commitment and cheerful support of so many members of the congregation in all aspects of church life has made our life very much easier.

The time is fast approaching when there will be 'opportunities' for those who would be interested in taking on the Warden role. Without wishing to turn this into a sales pitch, it is a position that we would all recommend as a way to be involved in many facets of church life, whilst also affording the opportunity to develop relationships with many of those in our community.

We continue to be thankful to God for the working relationships that we have valued with each other over recent years, and that we have been able to share duties and responsibilities fairly.

We pray that others will come forward as opportunities to serve in this way present themselves, and find the role as interesting and fulfilling as we have.

Finally, a huge thanks to all of you. I think it is fair to say that we all had some reservations when we took on the role – fear of the unknown really! Those fears were unfounded, and we have all felt God's presence throughout our time in this ministry, and in getting to know so many of you much better than perhaps would have been the case otherwise.

Thank you all again and God bless,

Andy, Dave and Len

Annual Accounts 2014

Summary version

The electoral roll is updated annually and comprises 234 members, an increase of 9 since last year. The breakdown is:

Male = 88, Female = 146;
Resident in parish = 117, Resident outside parish = 117.

The average weekly attendance during October (when the annual count is done for the Diocese) was 166 adults aged 16 or over and 41 young people aged under 16 (2013: 160 & 49).

Income

Total receipts for the General Fund were £224,513 and are detailed in the Financial Statements. The proportion of donations that are gift aided was higher than in 2013 – 85% of General Fund donations when taken together with the tax recoverable, compared with 84% in 2013. The income from the hire of the hall was higher than in 2013 at £25,579 compared with £20,032 for the previous year, but income from the café was lower at £20,462 (£21,593 in 2013) although the surplus of income over expenditure at 12% was almost the same as in 2013 (13%).

The planned giving by envelopes and standing orders to the General Fund rose by 1% to £106,444 (£130,071 with the tax recoverable; £127,562 in 2013). We are very grateful to those who give in this way as it enables the church to set a realistic budget. One-off, irregular donations were, however, down considerable giving a 10% deduction year on year, in donor income. In Advent a special offertory was held where £16,413 was given to the General Fund. At the same time commitments to new or increased standing orders were received from several

people, which should assist Church finances in 2015. No legacies were received in 2014.

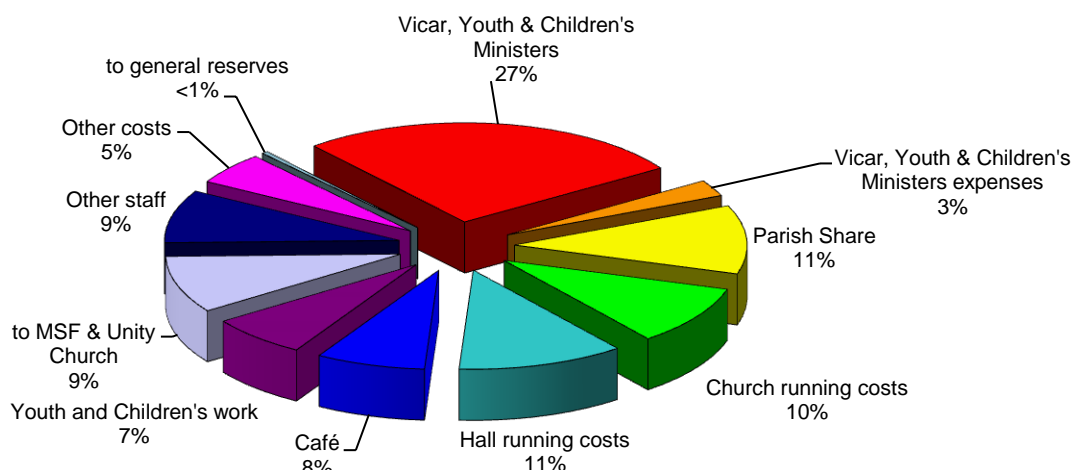
The General Fund - Year Ended 31st December 2014

| 2013 | | 2014 | |
|---------------|--|---------------|--------|
| £ | <u>Income</u> | £ | |
| | <u>Donor Income</u> | | |
| 110,587 | Gift Aid | 99,429 | |
| 28,952 | Tax Receivable | 26,032 | |
| 26,321 | Non-Gift Aid | 22,283 | |
| 9,317 | Open Plate | 9,587 | |
| 1,227 | Small Donations Scheme | 1,298 | |
| <hr/> 176,404 | | <hr/> 158,629 | -10% |
| | <u>Other Voluntary Income</u> | | |
| 29,167 | Legacies | - | |
| <hr/> 29,167 | | <hr/> - | |
| | <u>Other Incoming Resources</u> | | |
| 502 | Magazines | 509 | |
| 4,881 | Fees | 2,892 | |
| 22,032 | Hall Lettings | 25,579 | |
| 21,593 | Café | 20,462 | |
| 275 | Bookstall | 187 | |
| 7,272 | Children/Youth | 7,769 | |
| 132 | Evangelism/Education | 3,564 | |
| 1,963 | Miscellaneous | 2,981 | |
| <hr/> 58,650 | | <hr/> 63,943 | |
| 2,235 | Investment Income | 1,941 | |
| <hr/> 266,456 | <u>Total Incoming Resources</u> | <hr/> 224,513 | -15.7% |

The General Fund - Year Ended 31st December 2014

| 2013 | | 2014 |
|----------------|--|----------------|
| £ | <u>Expenditure</u> | £ |
| 40,113 | Ministry Costs | 40,730 |
| 23,644 | Youth Minister | 17,966 |
| 12,122 | Children's Minister | 12,847 |
| 3,167 | Children's Administrator | 3,358 |
| 5,856 | Hall Bookings Administrator | 5,986 |
| | Support Services | |
| 6,923 | Administrator | 8,590 |
| - | Caretaker | 6,310 |
| 20,400 | Parish Share | 27,000 |
| 9,939 | Church | 9,630 |
| 19,330 | Hall and Grounds | 19,754 |
| 19,080 | Café | 18,191 |
| 267 | Bookstall | 235 |
| 2,685 | Evangelism/Education | 5,439 |
| 20,114 | Children/Youth | 13,133 |
| 1,380 | Depreciation | 1,985 |
| 3,598 | Other Parish Costs | 3,852 |
| 1,042 | Independent Examiner | 1,096 |
| <hr/> | | <hr/> |
| 189,660 | <u>Total Expenditure</u> | 196,103 +3.4% |
| 76,796 | <u>NET SURPLUS/<LOSS></u> | 28,411 |
| <u>-53,170</u> | Transfers, CRF + MSF | <u>-27,439</u> |
| 23,626 | Net movement in fund | 972 |

General Fund expenditure in 2014



The net result for the general fund for the year was an excess of receipts over payments of £28,411; of this £16,300 was transferred to the Mission Support Fund, £5,000 to the Church Repair Fund and £6,139 to the Mission Fund for Unity Church. After adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balance carried forward at 31st December for the General Fund was £174,145; up £972 on the previous year.

Kondoa

As our links with the Diocese of Kondoa grow, the church is keen to raise funds to support the Bible school and other projects there. In 2014, a sponsored walk raised some £2,566. In total we were able to send £8,000 to Kondoa, with more planned for 2015.

Fund totals at 31st December 2014

| Unrestricted Funds | | | Restricted Funds | | Total |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| General Fund | Church Repair Fund | Above & Beyond Fund | Specific | Missionary Support Fund | |
| 174,145 | 61,962 | 4,944 | 5,290 | (13) | 246,329 |

CHRIST CHURCH ORPINGTON - YEAR ENDED 31st December 2014

| Missionary Expenditure - Restricted Fund | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|------------|---------------|
| 2013 | | Specific | MSF | TOTALS |
| | <u>General</u> | | | |
| 2,121 | CPAS | 504 | 1,480 | 1,984 |
| 579 | Crosslinks | 579 | | 579 |
| 1,947 | LCM | 968 | 1,480 | 2,448 |
| 1,694 | CMS | 219 | 1,480 | 1,699 |
| 177 | Interserve | 182 | - | 182 |
| 116 | The Children's Society | - | - | - |
| 6,634 | | 2,452 | 4,440 | 6,892 |
| | <u>Support Agencies & Education</u> | | | |
| 100 | Churches Together in Orpington | 100 | 100 | 200 |
| 100 | Street Pastors (CTiO) | | 100 | 100 |
| 674 | Barnabas Fund | 557 | - | 557 |
| 1,475 | Release International | - | 1,480 | 1,480 |
| 2,014 | Missionary Aviation Fellowship | - | 1,480 | 1,480 |
| 4,278 | Mission Direct | - | - | - |
| 3,569 | Spinnaker | 2,107 | 1,480 | 3,587 |
| 1,706 | Tearfund | 1,205 | 1,480 | 2,685 |
| 1,107 | Child Evangelism Fellowship of Britain | - | - | - |
| 22,971 | Unity Church, Ramsden | 6,264 | | 6,284 |
| | Rochester Diocese for Zimbabwe, Tanzania & Estonia | 520 | - | 520 |
| 11,008 | Rochester Diocese for Kondoa, Tanzania | 8,000 | 1,480 | 9,480 |
| | To support trip to Kondoa in 2015 | 250 | - | 250 |
| 2,909 | Medical aid for Uganda | - | - | - |
| | Oxford Centre for training, research, advocacy & dialogue | - | - | - |
| 579 | Orpington Foodbank | 666 | - | 666 |
| | Macmillan | 149 | - | 149 |
| 389 | Church Army | 210 | - | 210 |
| 52,879 | | 20,028 | 7,600 | 27,628 |
| | <u>Personnel</u> | | | |
| 1,851 | Isobel Murphy (WBT) | 2,587 | - | 2,587 |
| 1,255 | Jim & Katie Whitear (YWAM) | 317 | 1,070 | 1,387 |
| 1,230 | Nick & Helen Smith (AWM) | 234 | 1,070 | 1,304 |
| 4,882 | Viktor & Ester Petrenko | 542 | 1,070 | 1,612 |
| - | Peter & Veronique Moodie (Paris) | - | 1,070 | 1,070 |
| 9,218 | | 3,680 | 4,280 | 6,890 |
| 68,731 | TOTAL | 26,159 | 16,320 | 42,479 |

In addition, £739.78 was raised by a door-to-door collection by Christ Church members in support of Christian Aid.

We hope this summary version of the 2014 annual accounts is helpful. A full version will be available at the APCM.

Mission Support Fund 2014

£16,320 available:

Sent to mission agencies

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Spinnaker | £1,480 |
| Church Pastoral Aid Society | £1,480 |
| London City Mission | £1,480 |
| CMS (Lima) | £1,480 |
| Tearfund | £1,480 |
| Release International | £1,480 |
| Missionary Aviation Fellowship | £1,480 |
| Rochester Diocese | £1,480 |
| | Sub-total £11,840 |

Where possible and desirable we specified particular projects to be beneficiaries of these agencies' sums. For example Tearfund's Sagoal project in Nepal, LCM's Day Centre for the Homeless at Waterloo, two SAMS projects in Lima shanty towns and Rochester Diocese's fund for work in Kondo, Tanzania. We sent the full amounts to the General Funds of the other agencies - CPAS, Release International, MAF and Spinnaker.

Sent to mission partners, usually former members of our fellowship, were then each awarded 2/3 of the agency figure.

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------|---|
| Nick and Helen Smith | £1,070 | Arab World Ministries, The Gulf |
| Jim and Katie Whitear | £1,070 | Youth With A Mission, Hamburg, Germany |
| Victor and Ester Petrenko | £1,070 | Riga International Bible Institute, Latvia |
| Peter & Veronique Moodie | £1,070 | Paris |
| | | Sub-total £4,280 |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Churches Together in Orpington | £100 |
| Street Pastors | £100 |

Grand Total **£16,320**

Unity Church

It has been another exciting year, during which the Lord has continued to bless us in many ways. Writing this report has opened our eyes to how much is happening.

We have seen a gradual increase in the size of the congregation, and we now average about 40 adults at our Sunday morning service. Many of them contribute to our worship during open times of prayer and testimonies, and we are keen to see the gifts of the Holy Spirit manifested more often. Now that Jenny Warrington has joined us, we have three regular worship leaders at Unity, but it is still a joy to welcome Melanie Bailey from Christ Church, with her own unique gifts, to lead us from time to time. We have a small and dedicated music group, which varies in size from 3 to about 7. One instrumentalist we are still short of is a drummer. Some of us are also involved in children's work, which can put a strain on resources. We have learned a lot from two training sessions with Gareth Wales from Hope Church in Biggin Hill.

Fellowship is key in encouraging each other in our walk with the Lord. We still have two home groups, both of which are now quite full. Two midweek adult groups, 50+ and Knit and Natter, have provided links with people outside the regular congregation, which provides an excellent way of encouraging people to join our Alpha groups. Men Utd meets on the first Friday of each month. Every second month, we share and pray together, while the other months are social occasions which friends and neighbours are invited to.

Most months, we have a chance to eat together in a bring and share meal, either in the church or at two or three homes. In February, we celebrated the diverse nature of our congregation in a service bringing together songs, dance and stories from different parts of the world and followed by a multi-cultural meal.

Young people's work has continued to grow. Sunday Club is now just for children up to year 5, with older children going to our Step Up group. Sunday Club now sees 10 -15 children, some of them very lively, which can be a challenge in our small cabin. Step Up has a regular attendance of 6, meeting in our new cabin. One Sunday a month, they are asked to serve the congregation during the service in way which includes helping lead music, doing readings and helping with the crèche. On Wednesday afternoons, about 15 children aged 10-16 meet at Pulse for a variety of activities. We have discontinued our Mother and Toddler group due to lack of demand.

Messy Church saw a gradual decline in numbers during 2014, and we have been praying about whether we should look for another way of reaching out to people on the estate. However, we had 31 guests in February, so it is likely that we will continue, as it is such a good way of engaging with families in the area.

We are in the process of seeking referrals for both our Befriending and Mentoring projects. We have distributed Befriending leaflets to a local GP surgery, pharmacy and the Saxon Centre. We have written to a local school offering mentoring, but are still waiting their response.

We have run three Alpha courses, with small numbers attending each, but with very positive responses from those attending.

Please pray for us as we seek to grow together in our faith and engage with the community on the Ramsden Estate. And please drop in at one of our 11:00 am Sunday services. We love to see our friends at Christ Church in our congregation and it reminds us that we have not left our old church – we have been sent as part of a partnership.

Our love to you all,
Peter and Lynn Price

Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry Vision

The vision for Children's Ministry is **Sowing seeds, growing together and changing lives.** We have the wonderful opportunity of helping children to know Jesus and to grow together in faith. We can change and enrich their lives by encouraging them to have a loving relationship with God. Jesus said "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

I am pleased to report that Children's Ministry has been doing well, there has been a number of changes, volunteers have stepped down and through God's grace new people have stepped forward. Liesel has stepped down from the Children's Ministry administration and Tracy van Rooyen has now taken on this role. We are extremely grateful for all the hardwork Liesel has done for the Ministry and very blessed to have Tracy. Lots of our little ones have progressed through Crèche and are now in Climbers. Last year we had 14 children leave Explorers for Pathfinders.

Prayer requests for Children's Ministry:

- Please pray that the children continue to grow and develop their faith and we are able to show them God's love.
- Please pray that volunteers are willing to step forward to share their gifts and support these ministries.
- Please pray that we are able to reach out to people living locally and build a bridge to the Church encouraging families and children to become part of our worshipping community.

At **Tea & Toys** it has been another very successful and busy year with our new registration system and waiting list working

well. Paula and her team have been doing a fantastic job welcoming families and ensuring an engaging environment for the little ones. We thank God that we are seeing some of these families in church, as well as coming along to Mini Movers and our Families Together events. Please also pray that our families would see God's love in all that we do and say.

The children have great fun with the Elevate dancers at **Mini Movers** on a Friday afternoon at CCO, playing games, singing and dancing, as well as getting involved in a Bible story through movement. A small team (myself, Maureen, Katie & Anna) have been running a Mini Movers session with the dancers for preschoolers and their parents/carers. This has been proving really popular. Please thank God for this opportunity to build relationships and pray that these families enjoy their time with us and learn more about Him.

Crèche continues to flourish under the leadership of Louise Callow, providing a fantastic introduction to church for our 0-3 year olds. Our dedicated crèche team continue to faithfully care for the children, allowing them to explore through play, and story time in a nurturing environment. We are hoping to develop our Crèche to incorporate more craft and songs and utilize the Quiet Area. However this space will need to be more secure for the little ones and therefore please pray that we are able to find the best solution for this.

This year in **Climbers and Explorers** we have been teaching the children about following Jesus, being part of God's Kingdom and having a relationship with Jesus our King.

The **Climbers** team led by Caroline Rous continues to provide quality teaching and fun activities for our children. This year we sadly said goodbye to Steph and Paula who after many years of brilliant service decided to step down and Elmare who has left us for South Africa. She has enjoyed her time with us and plans

to use her experience gained to set up a Sunday School in her home town. I would like to thank all of them for their work in Climbers. We have also welcomed Kaego Machie, and Amanda Belsham who are leading and teaching, joining them will be Kate Sing'ombe and Karen Chiltern. We are blessed to have them, please pray that this new team continues to grow in strength.

Explorers are blessed to have a fantastic team of dedicated teachers, craft leaders and helpers. We have been encouraging the children to donate some of their hard earned pocket money to buy a chicken through Christian Aid to help a family in a poor country. I am pleased to say that this has been achieved and we are hoping to raise money for a cow next. We have been highlighting the importance of prayer in our small groups and going forward I want to develop this further with prayer bags. We have been looking at ways we can be more boy friendly, we are blessed to have a male leader & teacher, Andy Howard, as a good role model and both Jay and Dozie have agreed to visit us. Please pray for the team and the children that together we can continue to grow closer to God and work to build His kingdom.

Outburst. Sharon Russio leads the monthly Outburst sessions on the first Sunday of every month. We've said goodbye to Allan, Alex and Sarah and welcome Dave and Lyall to the team. Our vision for Outburst is for the children to develop a personal relationship with Jesus and to understand that He is our friend as well as our Saviour.

MegaMakers Holiday Club & Holiday Club Reunion were fabulous. We had the opportunity to tell of the children how high, wide and deep God's love is for them. We had a fantastic Mega machine created by the young people where you deposited small things and they came out bigger as all things are possible with God! It was wonderful to see so many families returning for Holiday Club Reunion for breakfast, crafts and a special reunion service!

This September we are planning another **Little Acorns...Mighty Oaks** for volunteers working with the 0-5yr olds either in toddler groups, Crèche or Sunday schools across Orpington. As well as practical sessions on Storytelling, Worship and Engaging Dads we will be offering new topics on Partnering with Parents and Working with children with additional needs. This will be an opportunity to share ideas and experiences. We also hope to offer material on Mini Movers (written by Caroline Bailey) and showcase our puppets to help inspire others to get involved in these wonderful ministries.

Families Together – Sean the lost Sheep

Last summer we had a fabulous Families Together morning with Sean the lost sheep, it was lovely to see families on a Saturday morning enjoying breakfast and crafts and then hearing all about how Jesus looks after every one of his sheep. We will be following the Families Together format on Mothering Sunday and we hope to welcome families from our wider community, please pray that hearts are open to receive God.

Christingle & Families Together at Christmas. We were really blessed to have a dedicated team of volunteers working with and supporting the children in a wonderful Christingle presentation. At Christmas the children told the congregation how Jesus was God's gift to the world. On the morning of our rehearsal we had a lovely time with families having breakfast making crafts, assembling Christingle bags and playing games together. The Christingle presentation started with a modern day drama about a Christmas gift that took the children back in time to the nativity and baby Jesus the most important gift of all. Then bible characters gave their testimonies about Jesus asking how could they possibly thank Him for the gifts he had given them. The children sang, danced and acted, they were amazing, we were all so proud.

Big Breakfast Goes Fishing & Moving on Up (for Year 5&6) have been some fabulous events I have worked on with a small team from CTiO. It has been a privilege to work with other children's workers across Orpington and we have had some great events for the children from our different churches. At BB goes Fishing Sara Askham organized a fabulous puppet performance to Doug Horley's Lovely Jubbly, the children were out of their seats!

Spinnaker Schools Work. I have been visiting The Highway leading Christian assemblies and providing Christian lessons for Years 2 & 3. Caroline Rous has also been visiting Hillside and Chelsfield providing assemblies. We also had a wonderful visit from Years 1 & 4 where the children learnt about the parable of the Two Builders and that the church is all about the people. It is so important that we have these opportunities as today so many children are growing up in families that do not attend church and this is their only chance to learn about Jesus. CCO were privileged to host the prayer meeting for Spinnaker and we prayed for each school in our area and lit a candle for them on a map of Orpington.

This is a prayer that Louise Callow wrote for Crèche last year but I feel it is applicable for the whole of Children's Ministry, I hope she doesn't mind:

Dear Lord, We thank you for our Children's Ministry and give thanks to all those who help to care for the children. We give praise for all the children in our care. Please keep them safe and assist them to grow and build strong foundations in your name. Please continue to guide us in making the children's time as fulfilling as possible and for our team to work as effectively as possible for your glory. Amen.

Please continue to pray for us throughout the year ahead as your prayers are an invaluable support to our work.

Jo Gavin, Children's Minister

Youth Ministry

It is wonderful to be writing this report 18 months into my ministry at Christ Church, and having achieved so much in that short space of time. I still feel very blessed to work and worship alongside the young people and congregation of Christ Church.

We have 18 young people on the Pathfinders (aged 11-14) register and since September we have studied The Ten Commandments and Christian Basics. As well as helping with the Holiday Club last summer, Pathfinders read prayers at the Christingle service and acted as stewards, handing out the Christingle kits. We are hoping to do an “Apprenticeship” scheme; a chance to work in 5 areas of the Church, for those who will be moving up to the Juice age-group. In January we took 13 young people to Downe Scout Camp for a weekend and we looked at Genesis 1 and 2 and the theme of Creation. Although it was winter we spent a lot of time outdoors doing activities like bush craft, orienteering, backwards cooking and a trip on a zip wire! We asked the congregation to pray for sleep, for good weather and good behaviour – and praise him, we got all 3!

We have 15 young people on the Juice (aged 14-18) register. In the autumn term we led an evening service including worship by “Jamming with Jesus”, our youth band, and we welcomed a visitor from Tear Fund to speak with us. The Juice group also served well during the “café style church” service in November 2014. We also did confirmation preparation during our sessions and 7 young people were confirmed by Bishop Michael in November. It was a blessing to be involved in their preparation, knowing that they were making a personal commitment to our Lord, and this was such a great witness to their peers. We are planning our Juice weekend for 3rd – 5th July, at Ross Wood Scout Campsite, Canterbury.

Last August Jenny and Chris Warrington and I went to a CPAS Venture Camp in North Wales where we had 16 young people and enjoyed time for activities, craft, and expeditions, as well as daily worship, prayer and small group bible study. We are hoping to take a group from Christ Church this summer!

After October half term we re-launched our Friday after school “Drop-in” for those in Years 7&8 – we call it ReD. We start off each session with games indoor and outdoor, but part way through we gather together for a story, and then we split into small P.O.D. groups (often single sex) and have fellowship over food and speak about the story that we have heard, and with a link to a bible story. We started off with a 4 week pilot, and deemed this a success, and will continue this format while it works! We have a similar group on a Saturday evening for those in Yr 9+, and this is followed by “Base”, a time for games, sports and conversation.

“Jamming with Jesus” are our youth band, led by Sharon Russo with Jenny Warrington. As well as performing at the Holiday Club and reunion service, Juice led evening service and Christingle Service, they sometimes perform at Outburst, and will be playing on Mothering Sunday.

Ed and I help the committed team who run Friday Night @ the BASE - a small, special youth group for young people who find large or noisy group activities difficult to cope with. As well as adult volunteers, we work alongside ‘Mentors’, and I am hoping that we will encourage more young people from Juice to come along on a Friday Night to befriend and encourage the Friday Night members. Ed and I are working hard to invite young people from this group to attend other Christ Church activities and events in the hope that we will be more inclusive and the families will feel a part of what we do here.

I have been involved with Jay in the planning and managing a new ministry aimed specifically at those aged 18-30. This idea has been shaped into a group called “Grounded” and we currently meet on the second Sunday of the month, 4.30-5.30pm at Mystic Brew on Orpington High Street. I continue to be a part of “Fusion”; the youth team of CTiO, and I lead class Worship and run a lunch-time club at Bishop Justus School for those in Years 7&8. I am also a College Pastor and go along to Bromley College (Orpington Campus) and speak with students and staff there. I work well alongside Jo Gavin and the Children’s Ministry team, and as a member of the wider Church leadership team. I am equally nervous and excited about my impending mission trip to Kondoia to visit the Bible College with Jay, Alan Goddard and Brian Ko in March.

This year I have been blessed to work alongside Ed, who is undertaking a Graduate Diploma in Youth Ministry at Oasis College. Ed has worked with me and the young people since September 2014 and has been a welcome addition; assisting me with planning and leading sessions, accompanying me on visits to schools and other trips and learning while doing the role so that he will be ready for his own ministry in September. As well as Ed, the youth ministry team includes a number of volunteers from the congregation and some parents. I am very grateful to all the volunteers – thank you for supporting me and the young people of Christ Church; we would not be able to run our groups without you. As well as support during sessions I also have people who pray for me and the groups, and I am equally grateful for the spiritual and emotional support.

In January, Ed and I attended SoulNet, a Youth Leaders Retreat at Centre Parcs, Sherwood Forest. This was a well needed chance to spend some quiet time thanking God for all the gifts that he has given us.

GIVE THANKS!

- For a successful confirmation service,
- For the young people who come each week and for their gifts and talents,
- For the volunteers that we currently have, for their support and care.

PRAY FOR:

- Ed as he seeks employment full-time in youth ministry for the Autumn term and for us as we consider taking on a new youth work student,
- Additional volunteers at each group (Friday – 4.30-6pm), alternate Saturdays (6-7.30pm/7.30-8pm), Sunday 10.30-12/8-9.30pm),
- The youth ministry at Christ Church; for the young people and for the leaders; that God is at the centre of all we do.

Andrena Palmer, Youth Minister
Ed Abernbethy, Youth Worker

Curate's Report

My curacy in Christ church which began in September 2014 has been both exciting and challenging.

It was a real pleasure to start my training by getting to know the congregation. This happened through visits to various house groups, visits to members in their homes and leadership group meetings. Such meetings were helpful both to me and the people I visited since it provided a platform for us to share our faith, cultural differences and much more.

So far my work in Christ church has been multifaceted. It involves leading Sunday worship, assisting with funerals, preaching, attending diocesan training, visitations, helping with school assemblies, preaching in other churches and everything in-between.

I would like to give thanks to God for providing this variety of ministry areas during my curacy here as it has given me lots of enlightenment of the people's culture and the spiritual atmosphere here in England.

This has indeed shaped the direction of my prayers for the nation as well as giving me the tools to know how to reach the people. I would also like to give God praise for the support my family and I have received from the Christ Church family so far. May His name alone be praised.

Before I conclude my report, I won't hesitate to covet your prayers. I would appreciate your asking the Lord to continually give me insight on how to break through cultural barriers and bring the wholesome word of God to His people here in England. I would also appreciate your prayers for me to be strengthened in this ministry of grace. May the Lord bless you richly as you uphold his servant in prayers, in Jesus name I pray.

Rev Dozie Moneme

Vicar's Report

I am soon to enter my 12th year at Christ Church! Time has flown, and I'm so grateful for another exciting and Spirit-filled year. The year has been shaped by our 75th anniversary and its theme: "Living Stones". Thanks to the hard work of members of our church leadership team¹, we have been able to mark the year with a wide variety of projects and celebrations. I hope that there has genuinely been 'something for everyone'. Only last night, I was meeting with the leadership team members and planning the celebration at the end of our year- in June.

During this year, I have stepped down from being Area Dean of Orpington, and this role has been taken up by the Rector of Chelsfield. I have continued to serve the diocese in my role as Assistant Missioner in the Mission and Community Engagement Team. In that capacity, I help parishes and deaneries look at how they might more fully engage in God's mission and build bridges in to their community. From time to time, I have held training events here at Christ Church and have been helped by loyal church workers who have served the visiting parishioners by their hospitality. I continue to serve on the Diocesan Synod and attend Saturday meetings which hope to shape diocesan strategy.

This year has also seen the opportunity to welcome Rev'd Dozie and Nnenna (not forgetting Chimdi) Moneme to our community. God opened this door of opportunity for us to have a curate once again and the PCC were very supportive in exploring it with me. As I'm sure you will agree, Rev'd Dozie and his family have been a great blessing.

¹ The Leadership Team is made up of people who have team leadership responsibilities in pastoral care, evangelism, worship, creative arts, prayer, discipleship, youth and children's ministries. In addition wardens and curates can also participate.

This year has also see the continued growth of Unity Church Ramsden (find out more by reading their article) and also “Grounded” at Mystic Brew Cafe (our new, ecumenical 18- 30’s work.). There have been significant steps of faith which, by God’s grace are bearing fruit.

Birthdays are times when we can look back but also look forward. Being a graduate in social economic history, I’ve always taken an interest in the written history, the oral history and the visible history of the churches that I have been part. They can teach us a lot about who we are, and where we have come from. So, this year has afforded us all a chance to honour the past. Yet, birthdays are also an opportunity to look forward to the future. This is something that we should also do. Our culture and society are rapidly changing. The way in which we need to reach out to our community is very different now than it was 10 years ago, let alone, 75 years ago. I expect that the rate of change will increase, not decrease. So, although the message of the gospel does not change from generation to generation, the medium through which it is communicated needs to. At the AGM, I may share some initial thoughts about how Christ Church can share the good news of Jesus in the next five years.

Anniversaries are not time to ‘rest upon our laurels’, but rather reminders of the past that spur us to new love and good works. In each generation, in each era, we are called to present Christ to the nation. In each generation, we are called to make disciples, to grow the church and to see Christ honoured through our worship. Let us commit ourselves to make the sacrifices necessary to see this happen.

It just leaves me to thank those of you who have tirelessly pray for, and work for God’s kingdom at Christ Church. Most especially I would express my thanks to my family.

GIVE THANKS!

- for the year of celebration events and the way that they have connected with our community,
- for the arrival of Rev'd Dozie and family to minister with us,
- for the commitment of the church to mission, ministry and pastoral care.

PRAY FOR:

- God's inspiration that we might innovate and adapt for mission today,
- more people to be raised up by God for varied ministries
- that we would grow in readiness to verbally share our faith with others.

Jay Colwill