

Leader's Report - Ashley

I would have to say that the overriding memory of 2016 for me will be one of illness. The year began with the brilliant Burns night, and the sadness of Barbara Jackson's funeral, swiftly followed by the AGM, the day after which I travelled to South Carolina in the USA to gather with other church leaders associated with St Mary's Bryanston Square.

You may remember that, having separated from Trinity Cheltenham in 2015, we decided to seek an ongoing connection with St Mary's Bryanston Square in London for support and advice (www.stmaryslondon.com). Quietly we became an official 'friend of St Mary's' church. It was a wonderful time of shared wisdom and worship in the presence of God's Spirit. I returned refreshed and full of inspiration only to immediately go down with a leg infection that saw me in and out of hospital outpatients for the best part of five months, and left me virtually confined to our apartment at Spring Harvest. Then, as if that wasn't enough, I was hit by a mild heart attack at the very end of July. After two angioplasties and a whole heap of pills I spent the second half of the year recovering and now, having just had my six month checks, I can say that all is finally normal and I feel better than I have for a couple of years.

In truth the brunt of the year of illness was borne by Alex and the family and it will take quite a while to give back to them all that they lost last year. However, out of the illnesses I was given a gift (or several gifts). The gift has been the development of an amazing team of leaders at CNC that now surround me and support me. There are too many to name here but I know that thanks to them, both I and the church are in a good place.

I now have a Leader's Support Group (LSG) who meet with me every month to help me make good decisions in leading the church. The LSG is Rob Atkin, Frank Booth, Sue Brown and Lyndsay Wyrer, along with Jo Pestell. In addition I meet fortnightly with the 'staff team' which consists of anyone (paid or volunteer) who has oversight of an area of the church's life and ministry. The Vision Team has continued to work with me in listening for God's direction for the church going forward and have been an inspiring group to be part of. In addition the trustees have worked tirelessly to carry much of the leadership load whilst I was recovering.

Given my illness, it would be fair to say that the year has been one of consolidation. Our second Family Fun Day was a brilliant, with around 500 people through the variety of stands, stalls and activities. We know that this will continue to be a core event in our calendar and a massive thanks must go to all who took part and particularly Angus Johnson who once again oversaw the project.

We have found the Hatherley and Reddings Cricket Ground to be a great venue for our bigger gatherings and we have enjoyed church lunches, a Vision Sunday, Wassail and our first Christmas Eve scratch nativity (which we will do again next year). We also returned to the Lido for another baptism service, which was wonderful to be a part of and will not be the last.

We had our first Life Course and again did carols at the Spa Club. We had our first Shoebox Sunday with an enormous response (thank you all) and another wonderful Christingle service. Our lack of venue meant we chose not to have a Christmas Day service but hold a Christmas Eve one instead and the sense from many of you was that this was a good thing which we are likely to do again this year (the cricket club have already asked us back).

In this coming year we sense that the connection to the Spa Club is something we should build on by developing a new network volunteering with them. We also want to look at how we can make our services and meetings more accessible to those with learning difficulties and/or physical disabilities.

The move to the sixth form centre is still bedding in but we hope to develop our use of that building and find ways of increasing our visibility. We are still considering buying an ex-library bus as a means of moving equipment in and out on a Sunday as well as providing a kind of mobile church room for other initiatives.

We will be doing the Fun day again and hope to move it from strength to strength, and we are looking to hold a course on science and faith which may even lead to a new network for those interested in this area. We will also be looking at how we are structured as a church in terms of how the trustees, vision team, LSG and staff relate to each other. This may seem like a dry exercise but actually is about putting in place a system of

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governance and decision making that is able to cope with a growing church going forward. Already we are aware that under the new structure much of the role of the Vision Team will come under the Trustees and so this will be the last year that they will meet. The Vision Team has been one of my favourite groups to work with and has inspired and challenged me, and shaped the life of CNC immensely. It is a testament to their humble hearts that they have been happy to see their group disbanded in order to make space for new things.

2016 was the first year for a while where we have had a significant surplus financially and I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to our running costs. CNC gets no money from the Church of England (or any other organisation) and is completely funded by donations from its members. It is your generosity that makes everything we do possible. Ironically, there is something a little worrying about leading a church that has a budget surplus - God doesn't give money for nothing. Whilst it's true that this coming year will see a big jump in our running costs (the new venue is a little under £4,000 a year more expensive), I would suggest that having money in the bank may mean we are not yet doing all that God has planned for us. We still intend to employ a new church administrator, and if the bus happens we will have significant running costs but the big challenge is to move more of our budget into outreach. Money in the bank means God is up to something and we must be ready to move when he reveals his plans to us.

Bless you all and thank you for all you contribute to CNC. It is a privilege to lead this church and a blessing to know you and work with you as my church family.

Ashley

Trustees - Angus Johnson

The Trustees have met formally six times during 2016. At the start of the year we were pleased to welcome John Robinson and Rob Atkin, and thank Dick Tallents who stepped down after having faithfully served as a trustee for over ten years. Sue Brown, Chris Hughes (Treasurer), Angus Johnson (interim Chairman for the year) and Neil Plant have along with John and Rob had a full work load. Ashley and Jo have participated in the meetings. On behalf of the church I would like to record a BIG thankyou to each of them for taking on the responsibility and engaging wholeheartedly with the work at hand. The work is often not visible and involves sometimes dealing with some complex issues.

The Trustees have focused their efforts as follows:

- Treasurer and Insurance - Chris
- Staff handbook and other documents – Angus and Rob
- Event Risk Management Oversight – Neil
- Safeguarding and staff matters – Sue
- Medical and staff matters – John
- Engagement with the South Cheltenham Council – John and Rob
- Representatives at the inaugural BMO Visitor's Meeting (November 2016) – Rob and Sue

This has been a year of implementing new arrangements as part of the transition from working closely with Trinity, including using their employment services, to being a part of the South Cheltenham Team which has included the direct employment of staff, changing contracts and producing a staff handbook – thankfully the Diocese Handbook was a good starting place.

There have been a number of proposals, such as the mobile classroom and a new organisational model, that have been discussed, and guidance given from the trustees along with perspective.

My own term of office comes to an end. It has been quite a journey. Not long after joining CNC (Glenfall) in 1998, it was discovered I had been Chair of the Trustees at our previous Church. And so I was invited to the

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Church Council to present my thoughts on being a Charity. Glenfall soon became a charity, and a few years later I became its Chair and was also asked to be Chair of the Church Council during the two leadership vacancies. I would like to record my massive appreciation to everyone who has prayed and practically supported me and the Trustees over the years. It has been hugely encouraging. Thank you.

Vision Group - Frank Booth

The Vision Team is all about 'blue sky thinking' – listening to God, looking ahead, being creative and thinking 'outside the box'. While it can assess spiritual priorities and recommend ways ahead, final decision making belongs to the trustees.

For 2016 the team members were Angus Johnson, Sue Fisher, Susie Tallents, Veronika Needs, Fiona Brown and Frank Booth, plus Ashley and Lyndsay as staff; Jo Pestell joined the group from September; Angus, Frank and Sue Fisher will step down at the 2017 AGM.

Over the year the team met a number of times, including an Away Day which covered a wide-ranging and imaginative review of all aspects of church life, and re-evaluating our vision in terms of the BMO and our current location at Bournside.

Among other things we thought about:

- who we are and what we want to be
- how we grow
- our staffing structure
- youth and children's work, a youth work bus
- evaluating our networks
- Family Fun Day
- our ways of doing evangelism and social action
- running the Life Course
- move of venue
- planning for the Church Away Day in Oct 2017 (a very big 'Thank-you' especially to Fiona Brown)
- and of course, buying into the new Diocesan Vision '**Life**'

Looking ahead the team will try to listen to God, and discuss anything and everything that relates to CNC church life.

Prayer - Ashley

We started the year once again with a 24:7 week of prayer at the URC church. This involved a creative space with a central map, lego, play-dough, scrabble tiles and duplo (amongst other things). Our youth had an overnight in the prayer-space and many CNC members were able to set aside time during the week. We also added a second week of prayer during Holy Week (between Palm Sunday and Easter), with a prayer labyrinth as well as a range of prayer stations considering themes around the Easter narrative.

We continue to hold regular weekly prayer meetings on Tuesday and Saturday mornings and these regular gatherings are the engine room for all that God does with and through us as a church. A big thank you to everyone who has organised or attended these important meetings.

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In addition to our monthly Sunday evening prayer meeting, Boilerhouse, is continuing to be a source of God speaking to us. Up to twenty people attend this meeting each month and it has allowed us to really pray into various issues in the church's life.

Our PrayerNet email system continues to work well, with around sixty people committed to confidentially praying in response to requests. A small but dedicated group meet regularly at Bournside before the Sunday morning service to pray and listen for what God might be up to that day. They would be very happy to see more join them.

Frank and Grace Booth have overseen prayer-ministry at CNC for the last few years and done an exceptional job of maintaining rotas and watching over our prayer for people at the end of the services. It has been an immense blessing to have them in this post but Frank and Grace have sensed that it is now time to step back from this role. A huge thank you Frank and Grace for all you have given in this area. Over the next few months we will be looking at who might take on this leadership role. We will also be looking to do some training in prayer-ministry and in the prophetic later in the year.

Worship - Dave and Sarah Meade

We'd like to say a huge thank you to the whole team for their continued hard work, commitment and support. The PA and words teams do such a brilliant and important job. We are blessed with so many musicians, and have been excited to see so many of our young people being so involved and getting excited by the worship life of the church. We also say a big thank you to the parents of our younger musicians for supporting them and getting them to church on time!

We are enjoying the change to the new hall – the excellent acoustics along with daylight seem to have had a lifting effect on our worship. We are working through some of the technical challenges with the new set-up, particularly the challenging acoustics in the coffee area when we hold all age services.

Our regular monthly practices have continued to be encouraging times of worship. We enjoy trying out and developing new songs and arrangements and find our times of prayer to be encouraging and supportive.

We enjoyed a return visit from Sue Perks (singing teacher) for a well-attended singing workshop. We saw benefits during the evening and are looking forward to inviting her back again this year.

The provision of a second PA box, currently stored and transported by Martin, has been a great blessing to us as it means we can have some Sundays off with no moving equipment around before and afterwards – thank you!

Leading worship is a great privilege that we all enjoy. We want to continue to develop our skills both musically and spiritually so we can worship and lead worship in spirit and truth. This is our ongoing plan for this year and beyond.

Mission & Community: Outreach (Hospitality and Evangelism)

Family Fun Day - Angus Johnson

Saturday 25h June 2016 saw the second Warden Hill Family Fun Day, attended by a few hundred people.

Ahead of the event publicity was achieved primarily through 5000 leaflets being delivered, and supplemented by posters, internet, local newspaper, local radio and the St Philip & St James (Up Hatherley) Parish magazine.

Due to the weather this year's event was moved to the contingency site of St Christopher's Church – this proved to be the right call as there was an intense shower minutes before the event started. The rest of the afternoon saw a few light showers. The St Christopher's location worked well - two halls, church worship

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area and outside the car park and grassed area. We were pleased to welcome Alex Chalk, MP for Cheltenham, who mingled and spent time talking with people....often discussing the week's Brexit vote.

The event was led by CNC and supported by a number of other organisations:

- The Church In Warden Hill provided St Christopher's and URC buildings and other resources, as well as bell ringing, garden club displays and refreshments stalls
- Emmanuel church – inside and outside craft activities
- St Peter's, and St Philip and St James' (Leckhampton) churches - Badge Making and books about the Queen's faith
- Youth For Christ – opening prayer and pastoral support
- X:Site – Promotion for X:Site event and parachute games
- Gloucestershire Fire Brigade - a Fire Engine with crew
- Lakeside Takeaway - hot dog and burger stall
- Mr Whippy - ice-cream van
- The Parish Council who provided the Warden Hill Play Area
- The Borough Council provided expertise, assurance and advice

CNC also staffed stalls in bracelet making, face painting, paper craft, bouncy castle, cake decorating, prayer activities, first aid and central co-ordination.

Overall there were 70+ volunteers, as well as the professionals. Everyone worked together and rose to the challenge of the new site to provide an afternoon that was appreciated by participants. We received lots of positive and enthusiastic feedback.

Very many thanks to all the volunteers – you created a memorable afternoon. A special word of thanks to Colin Brown for taking the lead on many of the practical organisational activities.

Life course - Ashley

In October and November we ran the Life Course, a completely rewritten outreach course over six weeks. It took place at the Wheatsheaf Pub in Leckhampton which had the bonus of some excellent food. The course began by looking at big picture ideas about the meaning of life and then considered how a Christian worldview might approach these. We had somewhere between a dozen and twenty people attend each week and this allowed us to develop a more discussion based format than the usual Alpha structure. We currently plan to run the course again, with a few tweaks, after Easter. Huge thanks to all who came along and made it work so well.

Adventures with Vicars & Scientists - Ashley

One of the ongoing questions we have had at CNC is, "Why are there so many science bods at this church?". With this in mind, and given the fact that God has given us another in Jo Pestell, we have been looking at running a new three week course on faith and science. It has been created by the Faraday Institute and involves discussion around video clips from Alister McGrath, John Polkinghorne, Professor Peter Harrison, David Wilkinson, Katherine Blundell and Deborah Haarsma (amongst others). These are all high end scientists, astrophysicists, molecular biologists, theoretical physicists. This may in turn lead to a new Network group for people exploring the conversation between science and faith.

Mission & Community: Care (Social Action, Mercy Mission)

Street Pastors - Dave Hatten

This year has again been a good one for our involvement with the Street Pastors.

We have 3 Street Pastors, Anne Green, Melanie Martin and Dick Tallents, and one Prayer Pastor, Sian Richards, and Prayer Coordinator Dave Hatten.

One encouraging time and highlight was Street Pastor Sunday on November 6th when Anne spoke at CNC about her experience as a Street Pastor having just been on duty the night before. Dick Tallents also spoke at Emanuel Church Leckhampton where they do not have a Street Pastor. There will be another Street Pastor Sunday this year on October 8th. Also the next Commissioning Service for newly trained Street Pastors will be on December 2nd.

All this is really encouraging for a Church of our size.

There is always a need for more Street Pastors and Prayer Pastors, so if you want to know more about becoming a Street Pastor or Prayer Pastor please let one of us know. Also if you are free in the day and want to pray, the Street Pastors prayer meeting happens every second Tuesday in the month at St Matthew's Church at 10.30 am. Thank you to all who support this work by action, encouragement and prayer, and again to Ashley for being so supportive.

CCP (Foodbank) - Sheila & Angus Johnson

The food bank collection has continued to operate over the last year. Donations have been passed on to Cheltenham Community Project and Hamper Scamper.

The Food Bank box is out near the drinks and notices most weeks.

For larger donations, please consider dropping it off directly at the CCP offices in Royal Well. It is possible to stop a car very close to the entrance.

Thank you to all who have donated and Russell who has kindly looked after the food bank box and its contents on several weeks when we have been away.

Mission & Community: Campaigning (Peace & Justice)

Aid for refugees - Ashley

The church leadership have been working in 2016 with the South Cheltenham Team of Churches to take responsibility for a refugee family coming to Cheltenham. This will be a big commitment costing around £10,000 across two years (shared by the churches involved) and involves a commitment to support the family in housing, engaging with the UK institutions, finding work, schools and helping with language issues. We do not know who the family will be yet, but they are likely to come with a range of difficulties, from physical disabilities to mental health issues. An organising team has been created and currently Mike Hutchinson has kindly agreed to be our liaison on this group. On March 19th the churches are looking to launch a fund-raising drive to establish the financial base for this project.

We must also mention the incredible work of Marksteen Adamson on his award winning Stations project that many of us saw at Spring Harvest last year. It was incredibly powerful and continues to have far-reaching effects. Due to a generous donation from a church member CNC was able to buy a copy of the exhibition boards and these have already been used in several locations.

Children & Youth

Creche, Pebbles, Boulder Gang - Michelle Niblett

CNC Kids looks after children aged 0 – 11 and is overseen by Michelle. Lindsey Power now oversees Rock and Next Gen for our 11 – 18 year olds.

In numbers

Creche (0-4 year olds): 5 children, 7 team – co-ordinated by Sarah Meade

Pebbles (4 – 7 year olds): 6 children, 7 team – co-ordinated by Sue Fisher

Boulder Gang (7 – 11 year olds): 4 children, 3 team – co-ordinated by Fiona Brown

We have seen a lot of stability this year, with groups being fairly constant with most children attending most weeks. We continue to use Urban Saints 'Energize' material which provides lots of creative ideas for teaching activities. Those on team usually lead/help once a month, regularly enough to get to know the children but not too often to be burdensome. I am immensely grateful for the dedicated, enthusiastic team and particularly for the group co-ordinators who plan a programme for the year and ensure that someone is there each week to lead the group.

We have enjoyed moving in to the new rooms and are grateful that they are not as cold as the main hall!!! We now have enough space for each group to have its own room with no need to share.

X-site

We continue to support this Scripture Union event for 7 – 11 year olds held 5 times a year at C3. Many folk from CNC help, including our teenagers, and it enables the children that go to engage with a wider variety of Christian children from Cheltenham, many of whom they will find in CUs when they move up to Secondary School. Children also find it easy to invite friends along.

Prayer Requests

- More children!! Boulder Gang is a particularly small group and it would be good for the children in it to have more people to enable games and activities to run better. Currently we only have 1 leader per week for this group – if it grows as we hope then we would want to recruit 3 helpers
- For children to make friendships and establish strong roots in the Christian faith that will last a lifetime

Rock, Next Gen - Lindsey Power

Rock (11-14yrs)

Rock has seen numbers averaging at 10 members. The group has been led on Sundays by Chris Pleasant, Catherine Walker and Reid Derby, initially with Louissa, our YFC worker, helping. Louissa is now leading with support from the Rock team.

We use the Youth for Christ resources which are a great tool for building sessions tailored for the group.

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Next Gen (14-18yrs)

Next Gen has seen numbers averaging at 6 on a Sunday. Lindsey currently leads this group and is also using Youth for Christ resources. On the third Sunday of the month they have 'Cappuccino Church', with Jeremy Niblett leading this session, for a time of topical Christian discussion, aided by a bacon butty!

Midweek sessions

Rock has been meeting with Next Gen on the first Wednesday evening of each month. This will change in March as it's difficult to host, feed and teach the two groups together. The average numbers for these Wednesday evenings are 17+ youth currently meeting in Ashley's home with Lindsey leading sessions.

Next Gen also meet at Lindsey's house on the 3rd Wednesday evening of the month. In recent sessions we have had visiting speakers from CNC who have told their 'career stories'. These evenings have been an encouraging time when Next Gen members learn how God has guided people through their careers.

In September, the youth went away to the Youlbury Scout Centre for a weekend of spud guns, camp fires, worship and teaching. We have had great responses to the weekend and hope to plan a similar trip for 2018.

We have also been bowling, laser tagging x2, and tubing.

Both the weekend away and the socials have been a great opportunity to invite friends. We have seen around 6 friends join in regularly with socials and the weekend away. Great outreach!

Coming up

- From March, Next Gen will no longer be meeting with Rock midweek unless it's a social. Ashley and Jo will be leading a separate course to prepare and equip the older youth in their transition to university, focusing on apologetics
- We have an exciting evening planned in March where Mission Aviation Fellowship will be coming to tell us about their projects. We are opening this evening up to other local youth groups
- Louissa is planning some baking and film sessions for the younger female members of Rock. Yum!
- Lots of youth are going to Spring Harvest and they are all looking forward to having time together

X:Site – Ashley

X:site continues to be one of our key initiatives and we began our third year of running it in the autumn. We see between 25 and 50 children each time and draw them from more than a dozen different churches (and no churches), as well as a broad range of different schools. Lindsey Power worked with Adam Legge to also hold an X:site 'Light Party' at the end of October.

The main churches involved in making the events happen are CNC and C3, although we also have volunteers from the South Cheltenham Team. Sadly, Joy Derby (our administrator and one of our founding team) had to step down in the summer due to heavy work commitments and we will be losing Adam Legge from our team after April as he takes up a new job in Worcestershire. Both of these have been immense in taking X:site from vision to an established reality and we want to say a huge thankyou to them both.

We are keen to make sure X:site continues and C3 (who host it) have stated their commitment to it, but if this is to happen we will need to draw in more volunteers from other churches and find someone to replace Adam on the core team. X:site is a phenomenal resource, making the Gospel accessible to kids, strengthening their faith and building a community of young believers across the schools. The truth is that X:site would not happen without the enthusiasm of CNC members (who make up the majority of the team) and I can't thank them all enough for their incredible commitment.

Pastoral Care

Discipleship, Pastoral Care and Family – Jo

During the year we have welcomed new people and said goodbye to some friends, including holding the funeral of long-time member of CNC, Barbara Jackson, in January.

It was a delight to celebrate the renewal of baptismal vows with Veronika, Amelia and Zac at the lido in September.

Around 75% of the church are involved in 6 small groups that meet 2 or 3 times a month. Each group has its own approach with some focussing on a place to share life at a deeper level, some on prayer and worship, and some on studying the Bible and other resources together. A small pastoral team in the church also helps coordinate both support for members of the church and times of celebration.

We also encourage church members to initiate network groups based around their passions and gifts. Networks come and go, they operate for a season, sometimes briefly and sometimes for much longer. Current active networks are:

- Tuesday and Saturday Prayer Networks
- Between the Lines – Bi-monthly bookclub, lively conversation with wine and nibbles
- Kings Kraits – Monthly craft night, come along with portable crafts and take time to chat
- Old Farts Fitness Club (OFFC) – weekly fitness group for ‘gentlemen of a certain age’, also involves a lot of curry
- Meeple – every 6 weeks or so, geeky board games evening with plenty of snacks and chat
- Exhale – day time bible study group for parents with young children
- Just for Starters – a twice monthly group for those new to the faith or wanting to look again at the basics. Informal and discussion based

Many church members are also involved with a range of charitable work, notably several commit one night a month to Street Pastors. Several are involved in Open the Book groups in local schools, and others with work with vulnerable families across Cheltenham.

During the year we surveyed the church membership and were encouraged that some of the strengths of CNC continue to be its friendly, informal and welcoming nature. The church is viewed as a safe place for doubts and questions to be expressed. The survey also identified a desire to grow in mission, and that is a key focus for 2017.

Social - Ashley

CNC's heart is to be a community committed to fellowship together. Alongside this we are committed to creating opportunities for church members to invite their friends and neighbours into our community. We have found that socials are a key place for that to happen. The Burns Night has gone from strength to strength and is now the first date in the diary each year. This year (2017) was our third year running (or dancing) and once again Bev, Annie, Sue, Colin, Lyndsay and others did us proud with the haggis.

We enjoyed a great bring and share Church Lunch in May at the cricket ground. Jo's arrival was celebrated with an excellent BBQ at the vicar's house. A big thank you to the Plant men for their BBQ expertise and to everyone for 'bringing and sharing'. We managed another lovely picnic on Brizen fields (no rain this year) and once again held a Christmas Wassail. Our sense was that the Wassail maybe was a little tired this year and may be at a point in the dairy that is just too busy. With this in mind we may look to move it earlier this coming year with a slightly different format.

The year finished with mulled wine and mince pies at the Plants, an open house at the vicar's between Christmas and New Year, as well as New Year's day games at the Hughes' (too wet for walking).

Training - Spring Harvest - Sue Brown

On 28th March 2016 a group of 23 adults and 11 children from CNC went to Spring Harvest at Minehead in Somerset. We spent 6 days (5 nights) at the Butlins site in Minehead, along with several thousand other Spring Harvesters.

Spring Harvest offers bible teaching, worship celebrations, prayer opportunities and a wide variety of seminars to suit everyone including church leaders. There was a seminar programme for those searching in the faith or had no faith at all and wanted to find out why we were all there. Each year Spring Harvest holds a programme for those with learning difficulties at either Minehead or Skegness.

The theme for this was 'Game Changers' - getting out there and changing the world, making a difference to the lives of those we come in contact with in whichever way God chooses to use us. Nobody can or is expected to do it on their own, the truth is that together we can achieve so much more. There were some amazing stories of God doing just that from some of the leaders who were there. We have a memory stick with all the seminars and bible studies on for those who would like to listen to them.

Our bible study was centred on the story of Moses and was led by Ness Wilson – who is the Team Leader of Open Heaven Church in Loughborough. Worship Central, with Nick Herbert and Ben Cantelon, led the big top celebration. Spring Harvest also has an all age family celebration and a more reflective time of worship for those who prefer a quieter time. The day started with The Big Start setting the theme for the day with an all age feel, very lively but not for everyone. The After Hours programme runs each night from 10.30pm, if you can stay awake, and has a variety of speakers, comedians and bands to end your day off. And just about everything else happened in between. You could do as much or as little as you liked.

There is a sports programme for those of an energetic lifestyle. Butlins has an excellent indoor swimming pool, which lots of folk used every day. There are also several options for food and drink outside of the main dining room for those who didn't want to cook. Some went into Minehead town itself and went on the steam railway and walked along the wide sandy beach.

It is fair to say that there is something for everyone at Spring Harvest and if you would like more info talk to someone who was there, it was a really good time.

2016 was a special year at Spring Harvest for several people including our Youth Group. God is speaking to our young people and using them to share His message to those they meet and influence.

Thank you to everyone who came and made it a good time.

Financial Report - Chris Hughes

The treasurer attends all the trustee meetings and keeps them up to date with the financial position.

The annual accounts for 2016 have been independently examined and signed off.

The main thing to notice is the increase over 2015 of the final balance. This is due to the receipt in May of a legacy of £25000 from a deceased's estate. This will be mainly used (but not solely) for youth work & outreach. There was also an increase of £6000 in regular giving. Tax relief was accordingly up by £1700. A few people moved on from CNC during the year which reduced the increase in the regular giving. With interest rates so low we had the opportunity from our bankers to put funds into a fixed term deposit @ 1.3%. The trustees decided to place £35000 from the general fund and £12000 from the building fund until October 2017.

Expenses were very similar to the previous year but 2017 will see some increases. Following our move to the 6th Form Centre, rent will be about £11000, up by over £3500. The diocesan quota will also go up by £600 and the intern cost by £1000 over the 2016 figures.

We aim to have a balance at the year-end of at least 3x the monthly expenditure (ave. for 2016 - £6774). This was just over 4x at 31/12/2016.

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CNC gives away 10% of its income which is calculated from the previous year's income. In 2016 we just exceeded this by £400.

The general outlook for the finances is ok but we may have to consider the effect of the above increases.

Ethiopia

During the year we sent out £6000 for general purposes and a further £5250 towards a new youth centre. Income and expenditure were both down over previous years. The end of the year was marred by Jember's son, Workneh, suffering a serious heart attack for which he is still receiving hospital care in London. He was in a medically induced coma for several weeks and is still not fully conscious. Jember made an emergency flight from Ethiopia and supporters from around the country donated money to cover her expenses. £2000 was received and transferred to her bank account.

Giving Group – Frank Booth

CNC as a matter of policy gives away 10% of its income each year. The Giving Group meets regularly during the year to allocate one-off gifts. Regular monthly standing orders can be recommended and are reviewed by the group, but are for the trustees to decide. Any church member is very welcome to make suggestions about donations. In 2016 the group comprised Sue Brown (as a trustee), Frank Booth (from the Vision team), with Bev Hughes and Dave Hatten as co-opted members.

The key criteria from CNC Giving Policy are:

- A limit of £500 per one-off gift
- A balance between local and international
- A personal link with CNC to give accountability
- No more than 25% to go outside the Christian church

Current regular giving is as follows:

CAP (debt counselling)	£50 per month
Cheltenham Youth for Christ	£50 per month
Ethiopia (Adult Institute)	£75 per month
Cotswold EA	£80 pa

Taking account of regular giving, in 2016 the group had £5,725 to allocate in one-off donations which was distributed as shown:

Hebron School India (Building Appeal)	£500
Harnhill (Kitchen Project)	£500
Innsworth Summer Club (church led)	£350
Family Space (Hester's Way community project)	£325
CCP (for Hamper Scamper)	£300

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Salvation Army (Xmas Appeal)	£300
Elkstone Church (Eco-Loo Project)	£300
CMJ UK (working with Jewish people in UK & Israel)	£300
GARAS (Glos action for refugees)	£250
MENA (Middle East Christians)	£250
Cornerstone Centre (Cheltenham outreach)	£250
Ethiopia (Youth Centre Refurbishment Appeal)	£250
Old Farts Charity Run (for Maggie's Cancer Centre)	£250
Insight (working with the blind in Gloucestershire)	£250
David & Lynn Webb (retired missionaries)	£250
Open the Book (Lakeside Primary)	£250
College of St Barnabas (CofE clergy Retirement Home)	
(Xmas appeal 2015)	£250
(Xmas appeal 2016)	£250
Jo Pestell (Spring Harvest - before she was on staff)	£200
Mercy Ships (Africa medical relief)	£150
<u>Annual total</u>	<u>£5,725</u>

Some Background Notes:

- CAP (Christians Against Poverty) the local arm of a national debt counselling service
- CCP (County Community Projects) Hamper Scamper – since CNC did not help provide hampers this year, we made a financial contribution
- Cheltenham Youth for Christ - provides our youth work interns
- College of Barnabas - provides residential and nursing care for retired clergy; we support their annual appeal
- Cornerstone Centre is a local church based outreach in Whaddon
- Cotswold EA - CNC is a member of the Cotswold Evangelical Alliance
- CMJ UK (The Church's Ministry among Jewish people) is a CofE charity working in UK & Israel
- Elkstone parish church has no loo, so we supported their Eco-Loo Project
- Ethiopia – our links with Jember Teffer's work in Ethiopia go back over 25 years, our current monthly support goes to the Adult Institute in Addis Ababa. The one-off donation for the Youth Centre Refurbishment Appeal followed the conference we helped to host
- Family Space – is a Diocese backed charity working in West Cheltenham with mums and young families

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- GARAS (Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers) is a Diocese backed charity providing local support for refugees
- Hebron School is a Christian school in India with links to CNC
- Harnhill Manor is a retreat centre near Cirencester which we have often used, their kitchen needs major refurbishment
- Innsworth Summer Club - a church initiative led by Jackie Hyde, previously the minister at St Christopher's
- Insight is a charity working with the blind in Gloucestershire
- MENA (Middle East & North Africa) provides support for persecuted Christians in these areas
- Mercy Ships is a Christian charity providing medical relief in Africa
- Old Farts network did a Charity Run for Maggie's Cheltenham, which is a Cancer drop-in centre
- Open The Book – scripture enactment in schools, a new venture in Lakeside Primary
- Jo Pestell – before Jo was on staff she visited our Spring Harvest group, so we helped with her expenses
- Salvation Army – we normally support their Christmas work with the homeless
- David & Lynn Webb are recently retired missionaries

In most of these cases there is a significant personal link with someone in CNC, with two others our main link is through the Diocese/CofE connection.