



Hey baby! I've won the Blues

Elles Bailey on motherhood and her top award. **Page 3**

Indie spirit fuels Clifton

Life after Covid. **Page 4**



New venue for Clifton village is now finished

RENEW build is on time and on budget

It took 37 weeks and £1.6m but the refurbishment of Christ Church is now complete. Gone is the warren of rooms under the main building, making way for the arrival of a 'village hall' for church and community events.

The bright, modernised space means memories of school discos or Am Dram Society productions in draughty halls are a thing of the past. No more musty smells, velvet curtains or cold toilets. The updated crypt will be a new venue for Clifton's residents.

The logistics of the RENEW Project, under the extreme conditions of Covid, were a challenge for Graham Rowe, Company Director of constructors Kitto. 'We had over 100 personnel on this build with between 8 and 20 on-site at any one time. We adhered to the strict guidelines laid out by health and safety and were proud to receive top marks on all our inspections.'

The most-complex aspect of the project was to remove the 0.9 metre-thick load-bearing wall in the crypt. It required a specially designed temporary structure at both lower and ground floor levels and within the church nave to support the existing stone columns and arches. These in turn supported the external walls and roof of the church. The load at the base of the arcade stone columns is estimated at a hefty 65 tonnes.

'It's the point in the build when you most rely on the expertise of your engineers', said Chris Roberts, Contracts Manager, who was site supervisor for the duration of the project, 'Successfully ensuring no movement to the existing church building both during and after this construction phase was testament to the exceptional skills of our team.'

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Seraph, Rosie and Talitha give the building project a big thumbs up.

Friends reunited led by Glenys, 98

NINETY-EIGHT year old Glenys Mills will be one of the first to experience the crypt transformation when she attends a celebration lunch in June. As the oldest member of Christ Church, she will be joined by over 40 other guests who attend the mid-week service that was disbanded during the first lockdown.



Glenys Mills

'I can't wait!' she said. 'It will be great to live a normal life again. A lot of us aren't very mobile and our weekly meetings have become very important to us. I go to the church service and then have lunch and some social activities but others just come to meet friends. Everyone's welcome.'

It will be the first time the newly refitted kitchen will be put through its paces by the team of volunteers who cook each week.

Mair Davies has been helping out for eight years, 'I just wanted to be involved in community life. I enjoy enabling our guests to do things that they no longer find easy and sharing in the pleasure they have in each other's company.'

The past year has been particularly hard on older people living alone.

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Summer social

A final vacuum of the new carpet and Christ Church is ready to throw open its doors to a summer celebration for the residents of Clifton.

The church family is offering a warm welcome to the village with cream teas, a bouncy castle and fun activities for the children.

Vicar Paul Langham said, 'We can't wait to welcome everyone through our doors. Shutting to the public for most of last year goes against everything we believe in but with restrictions hopefully easing we want to celebrate with our neighbours and show them what's new.'

Members of the church will be offering guided tours of the new facilities for those with a general interest or with a view to hiring them out. Staff at the pre-school will be on hand to answer questions about autumn term admissions.

'Church is essentially about people and relationships and we want Clifton residents to feel they belong here,' said Mike Innes, head of the team which has overseen the development of the church building. 'We are proud of the changes we've made, which can benefit the community. The new lift and kitchen facilities as well as the modernised rooms and air handling unit will be ideal for events, exhibitions or birthday parties.'

Many in Clifton will be familiar with the cream teas that have been a fixture at Christ Church for over 30 years but as a way of bringing the village together the church decided to move it from the usual August Bank Holiday weekend.

So after a tough year and awaiting a green light on easing restrictions, finally a date for the diary: Saturday, 3rd July. Doors open from 2pm until 5pm.

COME AND JOIN US

Temporary arrangements for the Sunday 8am, 11am, 5pm and Wednesday 11am gatherings.

Visit www.ccweb.org.uk for more information.

On You Tube search 'Christ Church Clifton' and follow the links.

Building work at the core of Christ Church history

You might be mistaken for thinking that Christ Church, as seen today, is what the Victorians saw built in the 1840s. However, no sooner had the original gothic cruciform design gone up, there were plans to remodel the layout. In fact, Christ Church has witnessed ten significant developments from when plans were first drawn up. It's evolution since the 19th century speaks of the social and spiritual changes that have occurred over the past 180 years.

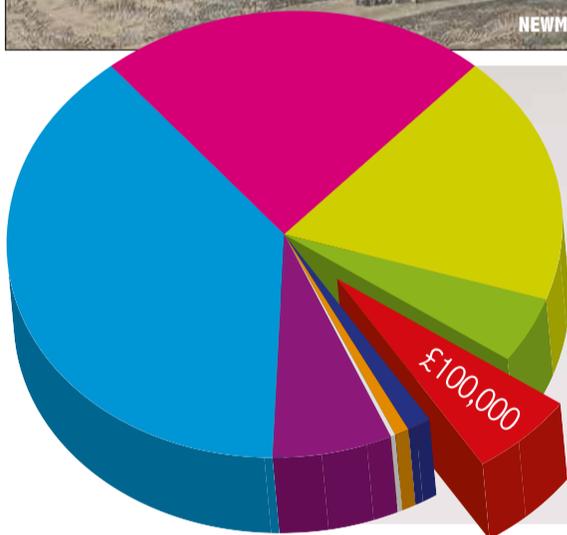
The spire was a very noticeable addition to the church structure in 1859 but it's by 1884 that another redesign reflects change of another kind in Clifton. As well as rapid population growth, social reformers were arguing for more 'free pews' because of the rather dubious policy of allowing the rich to rent or own their own. They often left them empty leaving the working classes, servants and children nowhere to sit. To create more space architects built on to the



sides of the existing building creating the more rectangular church we see today.

After expanding out it was time to dig down because by 1975 space was in short supply. The crypt underneath the ground floor was excavated to provide, among other things, a venue for Brownies, study groups and a place to hold exhibitions in the village.

Which brings us to 2021 and now the outdated crypt needs repurposing to reflect the church's vision to open up the space for more community events. A 'village hall' for meetings, activities, concerts and lectures. The RENEW project - in Clifton, for Clifton.



The majority of the £1.6m transformation has already been paid for leaving £100,000 still outstanding.

For more information on the RENEW project please visit www.renewchristchurch.org

To make a donation please visit www.ccweb.org.uk/renewgive

- Sale of property
- Donations
- PCC funds
- Grants and legacies
- Gift Aid
- Pre-school contribution
- Fundraising activities
- Bank interest



Heart-saving kit for church

A life-saving defibrillator is being installed in Clifton as part of a collaboration between Christ Church and the heart charity Arrhythmia Alliance.

The Automated External Defibrillator (AED) will sit outside the main entrance to the building to be used in an emergency by members of the public. Consultant Cardiologist at the BRHC and Church Warden Graham Stuart said it's great news for people living in the village.

'We know that 100,000 people die each year in the UK from a sudden

cardiac arrest. For every minute without intervention a victim's survival rate drops by 10%. Early defibrillation would save the lives of the majority of the patients.'

Funding for the defibrillator is being provided by Sportscardiology UK, a local company that treats athletes with heart issues. It coincides with World Heart Rhythm Week (7-13 June) which raises awareness of undiagnosed coronary problems.

Church Warden, Catherine Simmonds, said free training is available for Clifton residents.

'We want to encourage as many people as possible to sign up. The machine is designed to be used by children as young as eleven and the course is only an hour long.'

Cardiac arrest occurs when there is

an electrical problem with the heart which causes it to stop. The lack of oxygenated blood to the brain means a victim is likely to die unless a defibrillator is used straight away. A survey by the British Heart Foundation showed that only 1 in 3 bystanders would be confident performing CPR on someone suffering a heart attack. Stuart said, 'We hope that by doing the course we can dispel any worry about using an AED. The machine gives instructions either verbally or through simple pictures. You put electrode pads on the victim's chest, the device then assesses the heart rhythm. It only administers help when necessary, so there's no fear of accidentally shocking someone.'

To sign up for free training email graham.stuart@ccweb.org



Christ Church Pre-school children make a final inspection of the building

Vicar's vision

You will have seen the screens around Christ Church and noticed the building activity. Our doors had to shut for the best part of a year but now we open again with a new modernised venue for Clifton.

In most communities across the UK, the local church remains the biggest indoor space open to everyone.

For much of our history, before the welfare state, before the NHS, before state schools, church was the place people went when they were in need. In the middle ages, monasteries provided the first hospitals. In the 19th Century Christians were among the first to provide schools for those who couldn't pay for education, among the first to gather workers in Trade Unions, and among the leading agencies addressing social justice and poverty. Over recent generations, the State has stepped in as the provider of social needs, and the role of the church has diminished. But increasingly, as austerity and the global pandemic combine to stretch national and local government resources, churches are once again stepping up to meet the need



Rev Paul Langham

Here at Christ Church, even before the pandemic, we were partnering with local GP practices to provide a memory café, classes for new parents and other health and wellbeing initiatives. We also served our community through a wide variety of activities; our pre-school, toddler groups, children's groups on Sundays, a meeting place for the elderly, youth groups, relationship support, a Breakfast Run serving homeless people in the city, parenting courses, dads' drop-in-mornings, meals for internationals living, working and studying in Bristol - the list goes on.

We are so excited that we can now offer this modernised spacious meeting place to better serve our community and city.

Record-breaking explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes was famously saved by the prompt intervention of AED-trained staff at Bristol Airport when he suffered a heart attack whilst waiting for a flight to Edinburgh in June 2003.



Work with Olly Rees, carpenter, in preparation for the opening of their new classrooms.

Kids say goodbye to portacabins

They've been a feature of the Christ Church landscape for the past nine months but finally the pre-school children can say goodbye to their temporary classrooms.

'Everyone's excited about the new facilities,' said Christ Church Pre-School Leader Jayne Collier, 'It wasn't the easiest thing to move site and teach from cabins but the children were really adaptable and they particularly enjoyed making friends with the builders.' The doors closed temporarily last March during lockdown, the first time in the school's 45 year history, and in September they moved into two cabins erected by the South side of church for the duration of the renovation work. The first thing you notice as you approach the church from Clifton Park is the newly-fitted glass doors making the entrance more welcoming and easier to use. Externally the shallower steps to the garden make access easier and safer.

Elain Tsang, whose daughter attends the school, loves the opportunities and atmosphere the staff create, 'It was

recommended by a friend. Matilda enjoys the forest and beach schools and I love the fact staff turnover is low so she bonds with her teachers.'

Christ Church Pre-School is a not-for-profit charity that offers the 15 and 30 free school hours with no added top-up from parents. It also provides an holistic approach to childcare with regular Friday coffee mornings for parents, advice on transitioning to primary school and talks on relevant childcare issues. But pre-school deputy, Mel Smith, says the help doesn't end there.

'Our staff speak eight languages in total which can be hugely beneficial if English isn't a family's first language. Because we build trust and support parents seek our advice for their children even when they're much older. We're a family.'

Pre-school is open for applications for September.

For more information contact the school office on 0117 325 1214.

Elles Bailey does it again

Clifton singer and Christ Church regular Elles Bailey has more than most to celebrate on emerging from lockdown - she has just won UK Blues Artist of the Year for a second successive year as well as becoming a mum for the first time.

Bailey, who is now established as one of the leading Blues singers in the UK, received her prize in a virtual ceremony from 6 Music presenter and Catatonia lead singer, Cerys Matthews.

'It's just been the weirdest 14 months,' said Bailey. 'Musicians everywhere have had to cancel all gigs so it seemed a good time to try for a baby! My husband, Nick, and I were just thrilled to welcome Jasper into the world in March. And then to

win the award again was so humbling and exciting. Now we're just desperate to get back out performing again!' Bailey is part of the Christ Church family, which has closely followed her musical success. Her critically-acclaimed debut album 'Wildfire' was launched at the church and she performed tracks from her award-winning second album *Road I Call Home* there in 2019. She hopes to find time to sing live at the re-developed building soon.

Bailey's UK tour starts in Bournemouth in June and she will be in Bristol in October.

Elles Bailey, Thekla, Friday October 8th, £16.80 www.alttickets.com/elles-bailey-tickets

TLC from children's charity TLG

With more than 1,000 children excluded from Bristol's primary schools each year, Christ Church has partnered with the children's charity Transforming Lives for Good (TLG) to support young people finding it hard to cope for a multitude of reasons. The collaboration with local churches is one of nine in Bristol and more than 200 across the UK, where volunteers commit to an hour a week for a year to spend with a child in school.

'Our coaches are professionally trained by TLG. Most importantly they listen to the young person but also offer support and practical advice to make them feel valued, build self-confidence and learn to make good choices,' said Ruthy Lillington, Children's Pastor at Christ Church. The Early Intervention programme nationally has reported that 84%

of children feel more confident in themselves and since starting one-to-one coaching 97% say they are more hopeful about their future.

'Underlying difficult behaviour there is often a familiar theme of emotional trauma, poverty or family breakdown,' said Jan Tyrrell, who runs the mentoring scheme for the church. 'Schools identify children who might benefit from coaching. We then provide the support that under resourced staff cannot give. It's a partnership.'

Transforming Lives for Good began in Bradford in 1998. It has 12 church-based education centres across England for excluded young people and in 2018 joined forces with the charity 'Make Lunch' to provide meals in the school holidays for the one million children who would otherwise go hungry.

Souper heroes

When Covid shut Bristol down, Christ Church continued feeding the city's homeless.

Asked to carry on their work by Bristol City Council, the soup run volunteers handed out food and clothing every Wednesday night by Central Church and Redcliffe Bridge.

They've been part of the Bristol Soup Run charity since 1988 working on a seven day rotation with other church groups. The team partners with Clifton College and sandwich shop Pret a Manger, who supply food.

'I enjoy meeting people I wouldn't normally meet,' said John Buckland, whose day job is as a nuclear engineer.

'We're a listening ear, offering friendship and support as well as food.'

Other church collaborations include working with Bristol Outreach Services for the Homeless (BOSH) putting together food boxes for people in temporary accommodation.



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Continued from front page Venue finished

The crypt has altered over the years since it was first dug out in the 1970s. The outdated and impractical layout has now been replaced with level flooring throughout, movable walls to allow for greater flexibility of space and a new platform lift running between the foyer and crypt.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT - CREATING SPACE FOR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY:

 **Facebook**
cccliftonuk

 **Instagram**
#christchurchclifton

 **Twitter**
@cccliftonuk

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Email: office@ccweb.org.uk
www.ccweb.org.uk

Continued from front page Friends reunited

But weekly phone calls from Rhean Fox, Pastor for Older People, and others have kept people connected.

'We phone regularly, mainly to catch up, but if anyone needs help with shopping or collecting medication we can run errands too. We also sent out Christmas and Easter hampers and even managed to deliver the annual cream tea in a box!'

In addition to the Wednesday service a community group runs alongside. This is due to start back in September and Rhean says everyone's welcome. 'It's open to all older people living in Clifton. I would encourage anyone wanting to join to get in touch.'

Glenys, who is also due to celebrate her 99th birthday this month, would echo the sentiment. After a difficult year, something to look forward to!

CALL RHEAN
07736 161843
for more information

VILLAGE MATTERS



Back to business

The fallout from shutting up shops last year is still unfolding but Clifton's businesses seem better placed than most to weather the exceptional retail storm. We saw several big high street names collapse in the wake of Covid-19, so Christ Church decided to ask some village indies to reflect on the past year.

Simon Edwards, manager of Chandos Deli on Princess Victoria Street. 'Unfortunately we had to lose two employees and ran on a skeleton staff. We also had to restrict the number of people allowed in the shop at any one time, so there were queues to get in. Despite this, the takings for the first three months of lockdown were better than previous years. It was a real eye opener. I think there was more of a decision to shop locally and support small businesses. It also seemed that, for those who could afford it, they were spending a bit more on higher quality food.'

Stephen Bullimore of Instep Shoes on Princess Victoria Street. 'It wasn't easy shutting our doors. We lost thousands of pounds worth of trade. Luckily, the mail order business has worked well but it's not the same as having people come in for a personal fitting. We've been here since 1980 and have a loyal customer base. What's concerning me more are the

plans to pedestrianise the village centre. We don't feel the traders have been consulted properly.'

Barber, Savy Bellavia, on Portland Street is just relieved to be back. 'We get a lot of trade from office workers so working from home is not good for business. It's good to be open again. I'm more worried about the pedestrianisation plans. If people can't park it affects passing trade. Personally, I'd like to see chevron parking on Calcedonia place to offset the loss of parking elsewhere.'

Jennie Pomphrey from the family-run artisan coffee house, Bar Chocolat saw an uptick in visitors during lockdown. 'After shutting in March we opened up for takeaways in June. We started with a few hours a day, three to four days a week, on a reduced staff. Clifton became a key destination for people's daily walk. We'd have visitors from Redland, Cotham and Hotwells. I think we've all had to adapt quickly and I see the takeaway custom being important going forward.'



Stephen Bullimore



Jennie Pomphrey



Simon Edwards



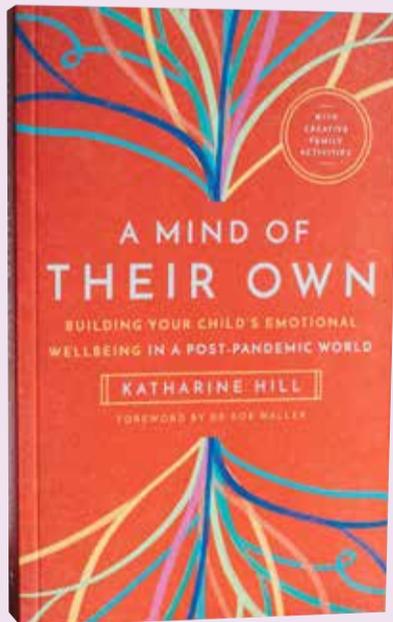
Savy Bellavia

Parenting in a pandemic by local author

The mental wellbeing of children is one of the biggest worries facing parents as we emerge from the Covid-19 lockdown. While some good things have been strengthened, the difficulties have been made a lot worse, according to local author and UK Director of Care for the Family. In her latest book *A Mind of Their Own: Building Your Child's Emotional Wellbeing in a Post-Pandemic World*, Katharine Hill offers practical advice to struggling parents.

'Younger children have missed the structures and routines of the school day, sleepovers, birthday parties and sport. And when teenagers should be gaining independence they've found themselves grounded. As parents, we are best able to help our children navigate the next steps and I hope this book will make that job easier.' With a growing body of evidence suggesting the effects on young people could be significant and long term this publication offers some timely and reassuring advice.

Buy one give one book offer until 15th June at www.muddypEARL.com quote CLIFTON



Journalist Kate Adie headlines Clifton Literary festival's return

Award-winning BBC journalist Kate Adie will headline the Clifton Literary Festival this autumn, which returns after missing last year because of the pandemic.

The world-renowned reporter will be kicking off the event at Christ Church on Friday 12th November discussing her books and the state of journalism. Adie has a wealth of stories from the front line in the Gulf War to witnessing the Tiananmen Square massacre in Beijing and interviewing Libya's Colonel Gaddafi.

Festival director David Parker said, 'We're delighted to be back after having to cancel last year's event. We have a terrific line up of speakers and an eclectic range of events.'

The festival will use Christ Church and Clifton Library as its venues, with a full programme to be published later this summer.

Tansy E. Hoskins and Laura Shepherd-Robinson will be at the festival. Hoskins has written a brilliant and perceptive book about globalisation and fashion called *Foot Work - What Your Shoes Are Doing to the World*, while Bristol born Shepherd-Robinson will be discussing her latest novel *Daughters of Night*.

Other festival authors include a welcome return for Jonathan Dimbleby, *Barbarossa*; Peace Adzo Medie, *his only wife*; George Arbuthnot and



Kate Adie

Jonathan Calvert, *Failures of State*; Amanda Craig, *The Golden Rule*; Helen Taylor, *Why Women Read Fiction*; and Stephen Moss, *The Wren - A Biography*.

The Festival will see the launch of local author and artist Hazel Gower's book, *Painted Out of History*, while Clare Reddaway is returning with a session on storytelling and will lead a guided walk around the village. S.I.Martin will use his writing, *Jupiter Williams*, to lead a discussion on Black historical fiction and young readers.

TOP

PRACTICE positive thinking. Rather than asking your children 'How was your day?' say 'Tell me one good thing from your day.' They can then share any challenges too.

TALK to your children about your own failures. Much of human learning is based upon modelling, so when we are open about our failures - both past and present - they learn that failure isn't the end of the world and that being an adult doesn't mean that you always get everything right.

MAKE a family worry box. Encourage your child to write down or draw the things that concern them, talk about it together, then put it in the worry box. At the end of the month, sit down together and read them through. You and your child may be surprised to see how many of the worries took care of themselves.

TIPS