



Celebrating the Queen's 90th

Marking the official birthday of our longest-reigning monarch

To celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday and her role as the Supreme Governor of the Church of England, churches are being encouraged to mark the Queen's official birthday over the weekend of Friday 10 to Sunday 12 June 2016.

Official celebrations will be taking place in London, and many churches and cathedrals are planning events of various kinds ranging from exhibitions to special services of Thanksgiving.

St Paul's Cathedral has commissioned the Master of the Queen's Music, Judith Weir, to create a new anthem, which will be sung by St Paul's Cathedral

Choir at the National Service of Thanksgiving on Friday 10 June (to be broadcast live at 11am on BBC1).

The text of the anthem is based on a poem by Robert Bridges, Poet Laureate in the year the Queen was born: "I love all beauteous things." The poem speaks of a person's delight and reverence for everything that comes from God, and the anthem will be joyous, uplifting and memorable.

But the Cathedral is not keeping the anthem to itself: it has been made available to choirs everywhere to use in their own commemorations, and our own choir hopes to be able to perform it on Sunday 12 June.

In addition, along with other bells in Bath, our bells will be rung for half an hour from about 12 noon.

Her Majesty has approved the following Collect for use in services celebrating her 90th birthday:



*Heavenly Father,
as we celebrate the 90th birthday
of Her Majesty the Queen,
receive our heartfelt thanks
for all that you have given her in these
90 years
and for all that she has given to
her people.
Continue, we pray, your loving
purposes in her,
and as you gather us together in
celebration,
unite us also in love and service to
one another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

Reordering: a date for your diary

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

The kitchen table is at the heart of the family home. In the same way our Sunday worship centres on the altar and the bread and wine. The current arrangement of the east end has the advantage of bringing the centre of attention closer to the congregation – but at the expense of the traditional



Have you got a suggestion or idea for the east end that you'd like to have represented in our model of Christ Church, to help people picture how it might work? Let Alex Soboslay know in person or e-mail alexs@christchurchbath.org

antiphonal arrangement of the choir.

The Celebration of the Eucharist is at the heart of our worship, and how we choose to do it is inevitably linked to the physical arrangement of our church. As you know, the current arrangement of the east end of the church, with the altar, the seating for the choir and the Communion rail in their current positions, is temporary. As a church we need to decide whether we want to continue with the current temporary arrangement (which would entail a renewal of our temporary licence) or return to the traditional arrangement while we plan our long term strategy for the east end.

This is at the heart of our worship and will affect all of us. To allow as many people as possible to be involved in this decision, we plan to get together on Saturday 9 July in the Lower Mews. Everyone is welcome. We expect the meeting to last all day and to allow time for a presentation of the options, brainstorming sessions, discussion and questions.

Please keep the date clear in your diary – and if you would like to contribute but that date is impossible for you, please let one of the ministry team know.

Anglican Centre in Rome turns 50

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Anglican Centre in Rome, which describes its aim as “promoting Christian unity in a divided world.” It was dedicated by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey, on 22 March 1966 before his historic visit to Pope Paul VI the following day.

“The Anglican Centre in Rome is the permanent Anglican Communion presence in Rome. It is a living symbol of our Communion’s commitment to the full visible unity of the Church.”

The Director, Archbishop David Moxon, who is the Archbishop of Canterbury’s representative to the Holy See, and those working with him at the Centre are keen to promote interest in its activities of Worship,

Hospitality and Education; and also promote prayer for its essential “missionary activity” of promoting Christian Unity in a divided world.

On Sunday 29 May, the Sunday nearest the feast of St Augustine of Canterbury, the entire Anglican Communion is being asked to pray for the Anglican Centre in Rome.

On Tuesday 14 June 2016 at 5pm a Choral Evensong will be held at Westminster Abbey to mark the anniversary. For details and tickets, visit <http://bit.ly/ACIR-evensong>.

For more about the Anglican Centre, visit www.anglicancentreinrome.org



Last month in Christ Church...



Above: Saturday 21 May saw the wedding of Jo Howe and David Wrigley. Fittingly for a wedding between our former organist and a long-standing member of the choir, the choir was swelled to over two dozen by the return of some old friends and others. Speaking of old friends, Revd Antony Claridge presided, and Canon Angela Townshend led the prayers. Congratulations and warmest good wishes to Jo and David!

Below, left and right: On Sunday 22 May, the youngest member of the Christ Church family, Owen Iain Cade, was baptised. Congratulations to him, parents Sarah and Iain, the godparents, relatives and friends, and big brother Marcus!



Nexus Methodist Church turns 200

This year Nexus Methodist Church is celebrating 200 years of Methodist worship. "Walcot Chapel" opened for worship on 30 May 1816. The main focus of the celebrations takes place over the weekend of Saturday 28th to Monday 30th May. The church will be open for a flower festival, with displays reflecting the life of the church over the past 200 years. Tea will be served on the lawn at the front of the church (weather permitting!).

On Sunday 29 May at 10:30am there will be a Celebration Service led by Revd Rachel Borgars. The preacher is Revd Steven Wild, President of the Methodist Conference.

Everyone is invited for a buffet lunch afterwards – please let them know if you are going so they know numbers for catering.

At 6:30pm there will be a Circuit Service led by Revd Rachel Borgars, "Songs of Praise" featuring Methodist music through the ages.

At both services, singing will be accompanied both on the organ and by the resident band, Diffusion.

Nexus Methodist Church, Nelson Place East, Bath BA1 5DA (London Road, not far east of St Swithin's). Phone 01225 461509, e-mail churchoffice@nexusbath.org.uk
Web: www.nexusbath.org.uk



Walcot Chapel around the time it opened...



...And Nexus Methodist Church as it is today.

Exploring Christianity

Would you like to explore your faith, its roots, its current concerns? A new Tutor Group for Exploring Christianity, our Bath and Wells course, is getting started in June. It will take place in Batheaston on Tuesdays at 7:30-9:30pm. The first module is "Prayer and Spirituality".

For all further details please contact Sarah Sheppard on 01225 684649 or bernina@uwclub.net

Garden party thanks

Janet would like to thank everyone who supported her garden party in aid of Dorothy House on Sunday 8 May. An astonishing total of £600 was raised. A particular thank-you to everyone who provided cakes or helped out.

Janet is opening her garden again for the traditional Apple Picking Party in aid of Genesis on Sunday 4 September 2016. The address again: Granville Lodge, Weston Road, Bath BA1 2XU. Put the date in your diary!

Meet our new Trustee



At the Christ Church Annual General Meeting on Sunday 24 April, we learned that Janet Mahto has accepted the invitation to become a Trustee of Christ Church. Janet is a long-standing member of our congregation, but

writes about her happy childhood in rural East Anglia and coming to Christ Church:

I was the first of two children born to parents who had met in the Royal Air Force. We returned to the family farm in West Suffolk in 1949, where conditions were somewhat primitive. Modern conveniences did eventually replace Calor gas and the well by the time I headed off to the grammar school in nearby Bury St. Edmunds. Much as I enjoyed helping on the farm, driving tractors, setting light to fields of straw, delivering piglets (activities now outlawed by health and safety) I did not see myself staying on the land.

My first job took me into the Pathology Department at the West Suffolk Hospital, where I trained as a Medical Laboratory Scientific Officer, now known as a Biomedical Scientist. We trained in all the different specialities (Haematology and blood transfusion, Microbiology, etc) before specialising.

There was very little mechanisation then and we performed many procedures which would not pass Health & Safety or risk assessments in today's climate.

Most of the junior doctors in District General Hospitals in the '60s were from abroad, the majority Indian and Pakistani. Social life took the form of Doctor's Mess parties and a Christmas revue. It was at one of these parties that I met my Indian husband, who was then a registrar in Ophthalmology. He had to find a new post in 1967, by which time he had decided that he did want to stay in England and have an English wife. Our first two years of married life were spent in Northampton.

We came to Bath in 1969, purchased a house in Cranwells Park and had three daughters in quick succession. We moved over to Granville Lodge in Weston Lane in 1977 – where I hope to remain for a few years yet. I did not resume work in Pathology until 1982, when all the children were at school, and was then fortunate to do part time. I was very fortunate to be in the same job with promotion until retirement in 2014.

Originally introduced to Christ Church by Antony and Tessa Claridge, I have had much wonderful support and friendship to help me over some difficult years. Now I am retired (more or less) I am delighted to be involved in our community outreach with Cedar Tree and Genesis. I now look forward to joining the Trustees.

Angela Berners-Wilson's new appointment

As you'll have seen in last month's *Christ Church Link*, Angela Berners-Wilson will be installed as Rector of the Quantock Towers Benefice in the church of St Mary's, Stogumber, at 7pm on Monday 25 July. If you think you'd like to come, please add your name to the list at the back of the church; once we have an idea of numbers, we can plan how best to get there and if necessary arrange a coach or similar. Bear in mind that we are

likely to get back to Bath quite late that night. At this stage you will not be committing to anything, just giving us an idea of numbers.

ABW's last Sunday with us will be 3 July, and she will be presiding and preaching at the 10am service. This will be followed by a bring-and-share lunch in the Lower Mews. Please put the date in your diary, and spread the word to anyone who might wish to come and give her and Andrew a fitting send-off!

Churches come together for Love Bath 2016

Love Bath is an ecumenical celebration with the aim of expressing the love of Jesus to Bath. Its goals are: to help bring Christians and churches together in the city into the reality of being One Church; to encourage the development of shared activities and events that help people in need, and that bring new life into local communities; and to encourage Christians to be bold in sharing the truth that Jesus Christ is Lord, that he loves each and every person and wants them to know him.

This year's Love Bath takes place in Victoria Park on Sunday 19 June, with worship (described on the website as "Songs of Praise") starting at the bandstand at 11:30am. The event will see people coming together from many of Bath's churches.

Following the service, from 12:30pm, there will be a Family Picnic with hot dogs and ice cream; you are invited to bring a picnic. From 1pm to 3pm, there's a party with games for all the family, inflatables, and music by The Mystery Machine.

No tickets are required, and you are encouraged to invite as many people as you can.

For more details, visit www.lovebath.org



Family Matters training

Family Matters has been working with families for over a year and some very positive results are coming from the families being supported. There are more families that need support, including some refugee families who have arrived in B&NES in the last few months.

Volunteers are finding this work fulfilling and rewarding. Family Matters is looking to recruit more volunteers to support vulnerable families in B&NES, and a training course will run on Wednesday 15 June and Wednesday 6 July with the intention of starting work with families in September 2016. For further information please contact Joy Fraser on 01761 433644 or jvfraser65@yahoo.com

Family Matters is a project of Genesis.

Daily prayer app released

"The hardest thing about praying is beginning. So just start." So Stephen Cottrell, the Bishop of Chelmsford, wrote in his 2011 book *How to Pray*. With this in mind, Church House Publishing has launched a new app called *Time to Pray: Prayer During the Day from the Church of England*. The app aims to help you pray during the day – at work, on the train commuting, at home or out and about.

Publishing Manager Thomas Allain-Chapman said: "*Time to Pray* offers a single form of *Prayer During the Day* – a shorter, simpler service involving three key elements: Praise, Bible reading and Intercession. The concise and flexible nature of the prayer makes it easy to fit into a variety of spaces in your day.

"You might say it alone before the start of the house is stirring, on the bus to work, or in the park (or, sadly more likely, at your desk) over lunch. Even if you are alone when saying it, you will be doing so with many others across the country and beyond who will be following the same pattern alongside you."

The app is free to use for four weeks and after that an optional annual subscription costs 99p ("less than 2p per week"). To find out more about the app and download it on iOS and Android, visit bit.ly/TimeToPray

Mothers' Union Big Summer Appeal

Sylvia Ayers writes:

Each year, the Mothers' Union launches an Annual Overseas Appeal, to raise funds for our linked branches on the African Continent. For the last two years we have called it the "Big Wheels Appeal", but this time our project has widened, so we ask for your help to support people in need through a whole range of projects both at home and abroad. We also think this is a good time for a name change, so this year we have called it the "Big Summer Appeal", as this is a good time of year to get out and have fun with friends and neighbours.

There are a great many projects which would welcome our help, so here are just a few of them.

- There are 2.2 million displaced people in South Sudan, still living in refugee camps since 2013.
- Many women in Burundi do not talk about gender-based violence, because it is considered a taboo subject.
- In Guyana, an estimated 43% of the population live below the poverty line.
- And in Myanmar, there are too few employment opportunities, which means parents have to move away from their children to neighbouring countries to find work.

The MU Headquarters in London has suggested that this year we hold events such as bake sales, coffee mornings and garden parties, to raise funds to help an illiterate person learn to read, a survivor of gender-based violence find healing, or a family to find a solution to their employment difficulties. By sharing a cake and coffee with friends you can help to transform people's lives around the world.

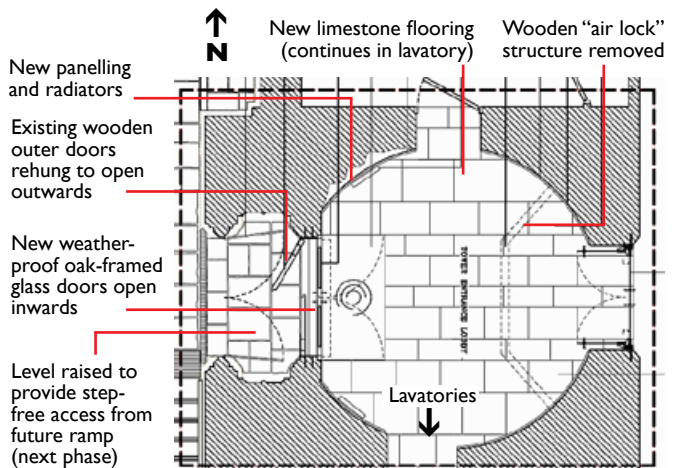
We have received a comprehensive package of information on this subject from Lynne Tembey, our MU Worldwide President, and this is now in Lore's hands, so if you would like to help in any way, please speak to her. There will be retiring collections after the 10am service on Sunday 12 June and Sunday 19 June, so please can we make this a bumper year and raise enough to pass our 2015 total. Please speak to Lore or Janet Mahto, our Christ Church Contact, if you would like to help.

The Christ Church branch of the Mothers' Union will be holding a meeting on Thursday 16 June at 2:30pm in the Lower Mews. There will be tea, cake and an illustrated talk.

It will be in aid of the Mothers' Union Big Summer Appeal and everyone is welcome – Mothers' Union member or not!

Porch plans

With our plans for refurbishing the church lavatories progressing, our architects have now turned to the entrance lobby. This is an overview of the proposal that has gone to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) for its "informal advice". Look for printouts on display at the back of the church, and let us know what you think!



Are you an extremist (again)?

Last month we looked at a report from the Barna Group which found that almost half of non-religious American adults consider Christianity to be extremist. But what about the UK? Despite the Church of England being the established state church, the UK as a whole is often considered more secular than the US. So what do British adults know and believe about Jesus Christ? What do they think of his followers? How often, if ever, do British Christians talk about their faith in Jesus? How do both Christians and non-Christians feel about those conversations? The Church of England, Evangelical Alliance and HOPE commissioned Barna Group to find the answers to these and other questions.

Barna's research found that 61% of British adults believe that Jesus was a real historical person who walked the earth. Younger adults (aged 18-34) are more likely to believe that Jesus is a mythical or fictional character (26%, compared to 22% of all UK adults).

However, only about one in five adults among the general population (22%) holds the orthodox belief that Jesus was "God in human form who lived among people in the First Century". The most common belief about Jesus is that he was "a prophet or spiritual leader, not God" (29%).

Barna relates this to racial and cultural factors: among ethnic minorities, 79% believe Jesus was a real person, far more than white adults (59%), but only 25% believe Jesus was "God in human form". Barna points out that "almost all Pakistani and Bangladeshi UK adults are Muslim, and in Islam Jesus is considered a prophet but not God."

When it comes to the resurrection, less than half (44%) of all UK adults believe the event actually happened. One in six (17%) believe "the resurrection happened word-for-word as described in the Bible", while 26% believe the biblical story "contains some content which should not be taken literally."

What about interactions between believers and non-Christians? Two-thirds (68%) of non-Christians said they personally know some-

one who is a "practising Christian". The good news is that most non-Christians in the UK (61%) enjoy the company of the Christian they know. Three out of five say they enjoy being around their Christian friend or family member always (28%) or most of the time (33%). And overall, non-Christians attribute more positive than negative qualities to the Christian they know. The most common positive perceptions are that he or she is friendly (64%), caring (52%) or good-humoured (46%), while the most common negative perceptions are that he or she is narrow-minded (13%), hypocritical (10%) or uptight (7%).

Talking about Jesus

The picture is more mixed, however, when it comes to evangelism. More than half of non-Christians in the UK who know a Christian (57%) have had a conversation with them about Jesus, but two out of every five non-Christians (43%) say evangelism made them glad not to be a Christian, and 60% did not want to know more about Jesus. Only 18% did want to know more.

Despite the mixed responses from non-Christians, 85% of practising Christians in the UK feel a responsibility to evangelise: 46% strongly agree that "it is every Christian's responsibility to talk to non-Christians about Jesus Christ", and another 39% tend to agree. Only 10% say they tend to disagree. For much more, visit bit.ly/barna-extreme2

EXPERIENCES OF EVANGELISM

% among non-Christians

POSITIVE EXPERIENCES		NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES	
Wanted to know more about Jesus Christ	18%	60%	Did not want to know more about Jesus Christ
Open to an experience or encounter with Jesus	20%	49%	Not open to an experience or encounter with Jesus
Felt sad that I did not share their faith	16%	43%	Felt glad that I did not share their faith
Felt more positive towards Jesus Christ	22%	30%	Felt more negative towards Jesus Christ
Felt closer to the person in question	27%	29%	Felt less close to the person in question
Felt comfortable	51%	33%	Felt uncomfortable

Over 10,000 attend Beacon Events for Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come, a week of prayer in the week leading up to Pentecost saw over 3,000 churches register their prayer spaces and 24-7 prayer rooms, with many more taking place across the country.

On Pentecost Sunday, over 10,000 Christians gathered at 6 Beacon Events at Canterbury, Coventry, Durham, Exeter, St Paul's and Winchester Cathedrals, and also at St Michael le Belfrey's in York. Thousands of Christians met at other churches as well to watch the live stream of the Canterbury Cathedral Beacon Event, which was led by The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, Pete Greig from 24-7 Prayer and The Reverend Tim Hughes from St Luke's Gas Street in Birmingham.

Writing in a letter sent out to every serving parish priest in the Church of England earlier in the year, the Archbishops said:

"At the heart of our prayers will be words that Jesus himself taught us – 'Thy kingdom

come, thy will be done.' It is impossible to overstate the life-transforming power of the Lord's Prayer. It is a prayer that is reassuring enough to be on the lips of the dying and yet dangerous enough to be banned in cinemas. It is famous enough to be spoken each day by billions in hundreds of languages and yet intimate enough to draw us ever closer into friendship with Jesus Christ.

"It is simple enough to be memorised by small children and yet profound enough to sustain a whole lifetime of prayer. When we pray it with sincerity and with joy, there is no imagining the new ways in which God can use us to his glory."

To find out more about Thy Kingdom Come, search Twitter for #ThyKingdomCome and visit: www.thykingdom.co.uk



Vocation, vocation, vocation - what is God calling you to?

Speaking about vocation is a bit like asking for more Sunday School teachers. The generalised notice at the front of church has pretty much no effect; a few face to face conversations along the 'have you ever thought of ...?' lines is much more like it. So two questions:

- When was the last time you seriously asked God what He wants from you and your life?
- When was the last time you asked someone else a question about their own vocation or call?

If the answer to either is 'not recently' then maybe you need to prayerfully ask God what He may be saying, and maybe seek a little help from the Vocations website.

One of my favourite stories recently is about someone attending a vocations course. The course coordinator was not messing around. She made it very clear that vocation is a serious business, that understanding and feeling affirmed in God's call on our lives is not something to be done lightly or hurriedly. Therefore the course members needed to get their heads in gear and commit to the whole course – no ifs or buts; no lame excuses about missing the odd session. They were here for the duration. And if this particular course coordinator says it's Wednesday then you really do need to work on the assumption that it's Wednesday.

So, imagine the fear and trembling of one course participant as she approached the coordinator explaining how she wanted to finish the course early. Nervously she came up at the end of an evening to say that she wasn't intending to come back for the final two sessions. There was some significant push back on this until the participant said: 'Look. I came onto this course as a nurse. I am now absolutely

certain that God is calling me to be a nurse. I am absolutely where God wants me to be. I'm sorted.' Fabulous.

A core aspect of Renewal & Reform is how we support and encourage all God's people to discern His vocational call. God has called us afresh in our generation to be salt and light, to love our neighbours as ourselves, to have compassion on a lost and bewildered generation. The Bible speaks of the most unlikely people hearing, and often trying to resist, God's call – such as Gideon and Jonah; of the changes wrought by the transformational obedience of Ruth and Isaiah; of Elisha's desire to sustain and develop the ministry of another. Calling comes as individuals and calling comes from within communities – Moses' calling seemed quite an individual conversation between him and God; Barnabas' and Matthias' vocation seemed to have been much more clearly discerned within the fellowship of believers.

As a church we need all God's people to be prayerful and serious both about their own vocation and about calling out the vocation in others. This is not just about getting more clergy, although that is important. It's back to the nursing story at the start. Our vocation matters to God and to each other.

Within Renewal & Reform we are doing work on how to talk to people about their vocation and calling. We are also doing particular work on how to talk vocationally to some of those currently most under-represented in church – young people and people from minority communities.

So: when was the last time you seriously asked God what He wants from you and your life? And when was the last time you asked someone else a question about their own vocation or call?

Growing number of churches working with CUF on social action

More churches than ever before are working with Church Urban Fund to develop or launch social action projects from cookery courses for people at risk of food poverty to running networks of winter night shelters, a new report has found.

The Together Network, made up of 18 joint ventures set up in partnership with CUF and Church of England dioceses, helped more than 500 churches with projects to serve the community in 2015, up more than 40% from 350 in 2014.

Development workers from the network supported churches with planning a range of activities including a cooking course for people at risk of food poverty in Newcastle, a community cinema project in Lancashire and a weekly lunch club for elderly people in Coventry.

The network promoted local partnerships to run projects such as winter night shelters bringing together churches, local authorities, businesses, charitable organisations and others.

The details of the work of the Together Network are contained in Changing Lives and Communities Together, assessing the impact of CUF over 2015.

The report includes the work of Near Neighbours, the CUF-administered programme to build relationships of trust across different faith and ethnic groups. The programme which works in eight locations across England invested £1.1 million in grassroots activities last year, giving grants to 330 community projects.

More than 2,000 people a week benefited from projects funded by grants of up to £5,000 awarded by CUF to communities across England in 2015.

CUF is now managing the work of the Church Credit Champions Network, the project helping congregations to take action

on money and debt issues in their communities and set up by the Church of England's task group on responsible credit and savings.

The report detailing the impact of CUF, along with a new look and website for the charity, marks its transition from primarily a grant giving organisation to a development agency helping to ensure that church based social action is effective and sustainable.

A project run by Together Lancashire, a joint venture between CUF, Blackburn Diocese and the Methodists in Lancashire, which started with helping food banks to work together more closely, has grown to leading a network of more than 70 organisations tackling food poverty in areas from cookery courses to distributing funds for equipment and training.

Rev Canon Ed Saville, social responsibility officer for Blackburn Diocese, and a director of Together Lancashire, said: "Working in partnership with the dioceses and other groups including Lancashire County Council, this project has grown from helping around 25 food banks to work in closer co-operation to supporting a range of different programmes on tackling food poverty from gifts of low cost slow cookers to work on growing fruit and vegetables and setting up job clubs.

"This has been about identifying the strengths of local communities and encouraging groups to work together to come up with solutions."

Visit the new CUF website and read more about the work they are doing at: www.cuf.org.uk

Church Commissioners annual report supports strategic mission

In 2015, the Commissioners provided £218.5 million or 15% of the Church's overall mission and ministry costs. Commissioners-funded projects ranged from clubs and drop-ins to youth work and food bank hubs, all supported by local churches. The helped supporting ministry costs in dioceses with fewer resources and provided funds to support strategic mission activities including:

Strategic Development Funding for large scale projects amounting to more than £6m, such as the Growing Younger initiative in Birmingham Diocese;

Supporting new churches to be planted across the country from a new City Centre Resourcing Churches fund, such as St Swithin's, Lincoln;

Pioneering church workers in new communities such as the Olympic Park in Stratford, East London and a new housing estate in Exeter.

Andrew Brown, Secretary of the Church Commissioners, said:

"I want to congratulate the investment team for the continued strong performance, delivering more than 8% in a challenging financial climate. Without this leadership and good stewardship it would not be possible to support the Church as we do. But we must not forget the generous support from parishes, dioceses and cathedrals which provide around three-quarters of the Church's annual spending on ministry and mission."

The Church Commissioners' annual report shows a total return of 8.2 per cent on their investments in 2015, exceeding their long-term target rate by 2%. Over the past 30 years, the fund has achieved an average return of 9.7% per annum and, since the start of 1995, grown from £2.4bn to £7.0 billion at the end of 2015.

The Church Commissioners' ambition is to be at the forefront of responsible investment practice. In 2015, they adopted a new climate change policy, setting out a comprehensive approach to climate change including how to divest, how to seek low-carbon investments and how to engage with companies and public policy. The Church Commissioners are actively integrating environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues into investment analysis and decision-making.

The Church Commissioners manage an investment fund of some £7bn, mainly held in a diversified portfolio including equities, real estate and alternative investment strategies. The Commissioners' work today supports the Church of England as a Christian presence in every community.

The annual objectives of the Church Commissioners include:

- A return on investments of RPI +5%
- Supporting ministry costs in dioceses with fewer resources
- Providing funds to support mission activities
- Paying for bishops' ministry and some cathedral costs
- Administering the legal framework for pastoral reorganisation and settling the future of closed church buildings
- Paying clergy pensions for service prior to 1998
- Running the national payroll for serving and retired clergy

The Church Commissioners Annual Review 2015 can be read online at: bit.ly/CC2015Review

The Church Commissioners Annual Report 2015 can be read online at: bit.ly/CC2015Report

Bishop's Message for June

Looking at the question a different way...



**From the
Rt Revd
Peter Hancock,
Bishop of
Bath and Wells**

“To be or not to be – that is the question.” Or perhaps we should say “to stay or not to stay – that is the question.” June 23 is EU Referendum Day, and some commentators say it is the most important election most of us will vote in. The difficulty seems to be, for me at least, to know what the real issues are and how these should be assessed and weighted. Financial, political, economic and social arguments have been presented by both sides and there is seemingly no consensus as to which arguments are the most persuasive or compelling.

In all that I have heard to date, however, there seems to have been too much emphasis upon self-interest

(“what we might get out of it”) and not enough being said about service and mutual flourishing (“what we can put into it”). Of course, it is important to consider what the impact on staying or leaving would be on the UK, but there is another important question which we need to consider: what can we contribute as a nation to the development, security and prosperity of other countries in the world, and would that be best served by staying or by leaving?

As we know, opinion polling is not an exact science, but analysts seem to agree it might be close. Research suggests younger people are more likely to vote to remain in the EU, while older voters tend to favour leaving. My hope is that we will all make it a matter of focussed and sustained prayer. Let’s pray that this will serve to unite rather than divide the UK and, whatever the outcome, that the UK will continue to seek the peace and welfare of all. Let’s pray for God’s peace and blessing on all the nations of the world.

+Peter Bath and Wells

Referendum prayer

The Church of England has released a prayer for the EU referendum campaign, for use by individuals and churches in the weeks ahead.

*God of truth,
give us grace to debate the issues in this
referendum with honesty and openness.
Give generosity to those who seek to form opinion
and discernment to those who vote,
that our nation may prosper
and that with all the peoples of Europe, we may
work for peace and the common good;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Referendum Q&A

Bring your questions to Bath Abbey on Thursday 9 June at 7.30pm. Doors open 7pm, submit your questions by 7:15pm.

The panel includes:

- Philip Lowe, Former DG for Energy, European Commission
- Paul Bickley, Political Director, Theos
- Joanne Kaye, Regional Secretary, UNISON South West
- Ben Howlett MP, MP for Bath, Parliamentary Champion for Stronger IN.

Christ Church photography policy

There have been discussions in Council about visitors taking photos during services in the church. We have a duty to be sensitive to concerns about privacy and safeguarding, but at the same time recognise that, particularly at events such as weddings and baptisms, many people expect to be able to take photos to record such significant occasions.

A working group has produced the following draft policy, for consideration by Council. Your comments are very welcome! Please contact Lore, one of the churchwardens or any Council member (they're all listed in last month's *Christ Church Link*).

"If you wish to take photos during a service, please be discreet, don't use flash, and avoid obstructing anyone's view.

"If you wish to publish photos on social media or share them in any other way, whether taken during a service or at other times, they must not include identifiable individuals who have not explicitly given you permission to do so. This applies particularly to children: you must obtain the parent/guardian's permission.

"Formal permission must be sought for photography, video or audio recording of a service for commercial use."

Our charity for June: Wizzybugs

The loose collection in the plate on Sunday 12 June, plus an optional retiring collection for the rest of June, will once again go to Wizzybugs.

Wizzybugs are fun and innovative powered wheelchairs designed specifically for children under five. Wizzybugs address the needs of children with mobility-restricting conditions such as cerebral palsy, spinal muscular atrophy, spina bifida and muscular dystrophy. Even those as young as 14 months can operate the simple controls, allowing them to zip around with their peers, developing spatial awareness,

social interaction and independence. It can be used indoors and outdoors in accessible areas such as level gardens, playgrounds and parks, enabling children to enjoy the experience of mobility with their "first wheels".

The original buggy was created in the early 1990s in close partnership with the Children's Centre at the Royal United Hospital in Bath. The buggy's design was driven by the same mission that the current Wizzybug follows: fun, independent mobility for young children.

Wizzybugs are built in Bath by Designability (Bath Institute of Medical Engineering), which runs a charitable scheme to make Wizzybugs available, free of charge, to children in mainland UK who could benefit from them. There is generally no NHS funding for powered mobility for children under five, so funds need to be raised for the scheme. Thanks to the generosity of funders, the scheme has been able to provide 231 families with Wizzybugs.

Through the scheme, a child can have a Wizzybug for as long as they can benefit (which is usually until they outgrow it). They then return their Wizzybug and it is refurbished for another child.

For more about Wizzybugs and the loan scheme, visit www.designability.org.uk/product/wizzybug



Wizzybugs are powered wheelchairs specially designed for under-five-year-olds.

Christ Church calendar June 2016

June 3 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

5 Sun *The Second Sunday after Trinity*
4:30pm Choral Evensong

10 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

11 Sat *Barnabas the Apostle*

12 Sun *The Third Sunday after Trinity*
8am Holy Communion (BCP)

16 Thu Christ Church Trustees meeting, 7:30pm

17 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

19 Sun *The Fourth Sunday after Trinity*

24 Fri *The Birth of John the Baptist*
Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

26 Sun *The Fifth Sunday after Trinity*

29 Wed *Peter and Paul, Apostles*

July 1 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

3 Sun *The Sixth Sunday after Trinity / Thomas the Apostle*
4:30pm Choral Evensong

Got something you want to let everyone know about? Pop a note in the “Magazine Editor” pigeonhole at the back of church or send an e-mail with all the details to magazine@christchurchbath.org. For the weekly notice sheet, e-mail notices@christchurchbath.org

Prayer Cycle for June 2016

Wednesday	1	For good relationships between the nations
Thursday	2	For our compassion fund
Friday	3	For those who work in dangerous conditions
Saturday	4	We give thanks for the beauty of creation
Sunday	5	For Lore and Colin
Monday	6	For the armed forces and police
Tuesday	7	That we may be peacemakers
Wednesday	8	For all at school
Thursday	9	For our Pilgrim Group
Friday	10	For victims of natural disasters
Saturday	11	For the Queen and heads of state
Sunday	12	For Angela our Verger
Monday	13	For those who work in medicine
Tuesday	14	That we may have the gift of faith
Wednesday	15	For the work of Julian House
Thursday	16	For our flower arrangers and those who look after the church
Friday	17	For refugees
Saturday	18	For adoptive and foster families
Sunday	19	For Mark, Keith and the choir
Monday	20	For journalists and those who work in the media
Tuesday	21	For those who mourn
Wednesday	22	For those who live and work in the streets around Christ Church
Thursday	23	That we may be good stewards of the world around us

Friday	24	For those who are persecuted for their faith
Saturday	25	For the lonely and depressed
Sunday	26	For the bell-ringing team
Monday	27	For those who work in social services
Tuesday	28	For Christian unity
Wednesday	29	For the work of Genesis
Thursday	30	We give thanks for those who inspire us

Long-term Prayer List

Please remember those we've been asked to pray for...

Rachel Sillett
 Cyril Selmes
 Ned Townshend
 Joyce Fairburn
 Val Curtis
 Martin Palmer

Rosemary Bethel
 Katharine
 David Slater
 David Lavis
 Jason Batup
 Don Sparks

Want to add a name to the prayer list, either long-term or short-term, or remove one? Please use the lists at the back of the church, or let the Verger or one of the Churchwardens know.

Christ Church Link

This magazine is published on the first Sunday of each month. Please send any contributions of news and articles by the 15th of the preceding month to the editor, Alex Soboslay, or by e-mail to **magazine@christchurchbath.org**

Rotas for June 2016

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
5 June Trinity 2	Emma Elliott 1 Kings 17:17-end	Alex Soboslay Galatians 1:11-end	Margaret Heath Luke 7:11-17
12 June Trinity 3	Malcolm Wall 2 Samuel 11:26 – 12:10,13-15	Judith Bishop Galatians 2:15-end	Daphne Radenhurst Luke 7:36 – 8:3
19 June Trinity 4	Jane Fletcher Isaiah 65:1-9	Morny Davison Galatians 3:23-end	Mark Elliott Luke 8:26-39
26 June Trinity 5	Lewis Boyd 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-end	Sylvia Ayers Galatians 5:1,13-25	Charles Rice Luke 9:51-end
3 July Thomas	Rebekah Cunningham Habakkuk 2:1-4	David Bishop Ephesians 2:19-end	Penny Edwards John 20:24-29

Laitry rota, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Chalice assistants	Sidespeople	Intercessions
5 June	Janet Mahto, Andrew Sillett	Rowena Hall, Morny Davison	Penny Edwards
12 June	David Rawlings, Jane Fletcher	Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers	Rebekah Cunningham
19 June	Malcolm Wall, Keri Chivers	Jane Nicholson, Janet Mahto	Georgina Bowman
26 June	Janet Mahto, Brenda Wall	Andrew Sillett, Margaret Silver	Canon Simon Tatton-Brown
3 July	Andrew Sillett, Clive Tilling	Margaret Heath, Morny Davison	Mark Elliott

Who's who at Christ Church

Priest-in-charge Revd Lore Chumbley
07595 294146
lore.chumbley@talktalk.net

Supporting clergy
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Revd Preb. Angela Berners-Wilson
Revd Canon Simon Tatton-Brown

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**Concert bookings,
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concerts@christchurchbath.org
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Revd Canon Simon Tatton-Brown
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simontb@christchurchbath.org

Tower Captain Ian Hay Davison
07932 160482
bells@christchurchbath.org

**Ringing Master
Steeple Keeper** Will Willans
David Kelly

Laity rotas Sarah Cade

Prayer cycle Virginia Knight

Cedar Tree café Janet Mahto

Publicity co-ordinators Janet Mahto,
Lewis Boyd, Hazel Boyd

Junior Church Emma Elliott

**United Society,
Churches Together in Bath,
Traidcraft stall** Rebekah Cunningham

Mothers' Union Sylvia Ayers
01225 463976

Mission to Seafarers Sylvia Ayers

Deanery Synod Reps Brenda Wall
Sarah Kerr
Jane Nicholson



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

About Christ Church

*We're a liberal, inclusive and open church,
seeking God through beauty in our worship, honesty
in our faith and doubt, and support in our community*

Christ Church has an unusual history, out of which has developed a distinctive ministry. It was founded at the end of the 18th century by a group of socially concerned clergy and lay people for those excluded from worship through the system of pew rents. It was probably the first church in England since the Reformation to provide seating for all free of charge. Early supporters included: John Moore, the Archbishop of Canterbury; William Wilberforce, the great evangelical and campaigner against slavery; and Martin Stafford Smith, godfather of John Keble, a founder of the Oxford Movement.

Christ Church is not a parish church and does not have a full-time vicar. This has led to the development of a shared ministry where clergy and laity both make important contributions to worship and church life.

Christ Church is part of the Anglican diocese of Bath and Wells, although it still sits outside the normal Church of England parish system. We see ourselves as a traditional and liberal Anglican church. Worship is led by our clergy, and music is provided by our

robed choir and organist. There is the option of separate activities for children in Junior Church groups during our 10am Sunday service.

As well as worship on a Sunday morning, there are many other activities going on in our community. We support the Genesis Sunday Centre and have our own community café. The musical tradition of the church continues to thrive, and we have an active choir. New singers of all ages are always very welcome. Our ecumenical Home Group provides a space for exploration and discussion of faith in an open and non-judgemental setting.

Regular Sunday services

- 8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
On the second Sunday of every month
- 10am Sung Eucharist with Junior Church activities for children and young people
Every Sunday
- 4:30pm Choral Evensong
Usually the first Sunday of every month, but see website or notice board for details

Baptisms, marriages and funerals by arrangement – please contact us!



Contacting us

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