



The meaning of Epiphany

How the Incarnation brings God closer to our lives

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

It feels as if even the month of January is for sale! Since before Boxing Day, on-line advertisements have been popping up on my computer screen offering me keep-fit equipment and computer software. The online offers have been matched by television commercials offering sofas and new kitchens, and the high street echoes the offers. In the liturgical calendar, however, we began the New Year at the beginning of Advent, and this is not the month of the January sales so much as the season of Epiphany, when we continue to celebrate the Incarnation – but in perhaps a slightly more nuanced way.

2017 was a year of political and social upheaval – but then so was the year of the Nativity. Had Herod the Great presented himself to an NHS psychiatric unit in 2018, I would expect him to have been diagnosed as either being a psychopath or as having a personality disorder, and Israel to have been placed on the Foreign Office list of places unsuitable for British citizens to visit. However, having an unstable despotic tyrant in control of a country was not unusual in 6BC, and at the time of the Nativity, Herod the Great had a few more years to live and cause havoc.

What is extraordinary, though, is that the Incarnation takes place in such a volatile, war-torn place under the rule of a man like Herod the Great, and at a time when the office of High Priest is so corrupt that those who wanted to hold the office paid the Roman occupiers for

the privilege. Like Syria today, Israel in 6BC seems a foolishly risky place to choose to be born, but possibly that is the point. Whatever happens in the coming year, God is not only the creator and sustainer of life but has also experienced life as a refugee, as a survivor of infanticide, as the son of a single-parent family and as the resident of an occupied country.

Our ordinary, individual and complex lives will not be like his, but there is something more than the January sales to celebrate in the recognition that things we do and experience have been lived and experienced by the incarnate God. The stars and clouds and swallows we see are like the ones he saw, the hills he walked are still there, the emotions and temptations which sway us are familiar to him.

So may 2018AD be a true *Anno Domini* – Year of our Lord.



The Nativity depicted in traditional style in front of our “high altar” over Christmas.

For whom we pray

Georgina Fairbrass Bowman writes:

I thought you might like to know a little about some of those for whom we pray each week.

Harry Pattullo is the husband of my oldest friend, Sarah. Sarah and I met over 50 years ago, shortly after I left home, and several years before I went to university. Sarah met Harry about 40 years ago, and she told me about him a week or so later, shortly before Christmas. Over the New Year holiday, he proposed, she accepted, and I was there at their wedding the following summer. It was obvious that they were very much in love, and that love continues to shine. They have a son and a daughter, both happily married and parents themselves. Their son lives in Canada, and their daughter in the south of England.

In the summer of 2016, Harry suffered a stroke. After 25 weeks in hospital, he finally came home in January 2017, and you may remember that he was on our prayer list for some time. Ten weeks after he came home, he was hospitalised again, this time diagnosed with Parkinson's Plus Syndrome, probably MSA (Multiple System Atrophy). Mentally, he is 100%, but he cannot stand or walk or swallow. Sarah sees to his feeding and medication (he is fed and medicated through a tube in his stomach), but nurses and carers visit twice a day to attend to those things which Sarah, who is petite, cannot manage. They both need our prayers.



Warm thanks to everyone who helped decorate Christ Church so beautifully for Christmas!

Bath Women's Conference 2018



The Bath Women's Conference 2018, organised by South-West Gospel Partnership, takes place on Saturday 14 April 2018, 10am–4pm, at Kingswood School, Lansdown Road BA1 5RG. The theme is "Ready for Heaven?"

The main speaker, Liz Cox, works as the Minister for Women and Community at St Giles' Church, Derby. She will be speaking on 1 Thessalonians, which focuses on Jesus' return and being sure we're ready for heaven. Thinking about that together will be a great antidote to the uncertainty around us in the world today.

Doors open 9:15, and registration takes place at 9:45. You are invited to bring your own packed lunch.

Alongside the main talks there are two seminar slots during the day – one in the morning, one in the afternoon. Topics to choose from include:

- Encouraging Women,
 - Raising Teens,
 - Are We All Omnigender Now,
 - The Heart of Forgiveness,
 - God's Care in Dementia, and
 - Are the Gospel Accounts in Conflict,
- among other topics.

Further information can be found on the website <http://bathwomensconference.org>, or e-mail info@bathwomensconference.org or call Jenny Singh on 01225 427428.

An "early bird price" of £15 per person (£10 concessions for students or pensioners) is offered for bookings before 31 January. The ticket price will rise to £20 (£15 concessions) from 1 February.

Last month in Christ Church



Seasonal services at Advent and Christmas are among our best attended of the year. At left, top to bottom: the packed Norland College Christmas carol service on Friday 8 December; this year's Advent carol service and Christmas carol service, both once again held jointly with our neighbours from St Mary's RC church. Above: this year's Nativity Play in our 10am service on Sunday 17 December featured three kings (top) along with John the Baptist, some shepherds and others...

“Our covenant with creation” study day

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

On Saturday 3 February, Modern Church South West will be holding a study day on the topic “Response to Crisis: Restoring our Covenant with Creation”. It takes place at 11am (with coffee available from 10:30am) at Manvers Street Baptist Church, and concludes at 4pm. Lunch is available at the church for a small charge.

The day includes Revd Dr Margaret Barker

explaining Temple Theology and its relevance to our stewardship of our planet, and an interview with Bishop Nick Holtham about his role as lead bishop on the environment.

Dr Barker is a Methodist minister as well as a Biblical scholar with a particular interest in the theology of Solomon's Temple and its influence in Christianity, and we are delighted that she has agreed to preach at Christ Church on Sunday 4 February.

Invitation to Zambia

Celebrating



Zambia - Bath & Wells

Dear Friends,

We are seeking people to join us for two exciting learning opportunities in Zambia later this year. The visits form part of the 40th anniversary celebrations of the Bath & Wells-Zambia link and are a result of conversations and our own experiences from our trip to Zambia with Bishop Ruth in 2017.

The first, "**Live. Learn. Link.**" will see a group of 30 lay and ordained people of different backgrounds, stages of ministry, ages and from both urban and rural parishes travel to Zambia to learn and experience what it means to live and tell the story of Jesus in a very different culture.

In the second, the **Young Adult Exchange**, we look to take 10 young adults aged 18-24 to Zambia in the summer. They will host their Zambia guests here in the UK the following month. The exchange will focus on exploring a Jesus-shaped life, as we seek to live and tell the story of Jesus in our own cultures, lives, homes, churches and communities.

Details and application forms are on the diocesan website, www.bathandwells.org.uk/2017/11/called-live-link-zambia/. Please share it with those who you feel might be called to this experience, and encourage them to contact us for an informal chat.

Jane Chamberlain

Training Team Leader, Ministry for Mission

Tony Cook

Go Team Adviser and Assistant Director,
Education Department

Young Vocations Day in Wells this month

Have you ever wondered if God is calling you to work for a church? Be a vicar? Be a pioneer in the church or in the workplace, or something else? The Diocese of Bath and Wells is holding a Young Vocations Day on Sunday 28 January for young people with questions like these.

Aimed at 16- to 30-year-olds, the day will include prayer, worship, workshops, stories and opportunities to ask loads of questions. There is no charge.

The venue is The Old Deanery, Wells BA5 2UG. Doors open at 10am, with refreshments available. The day will start promptly at 10:30am and will finish by 4pm.

To find out more and to book a place, visit www.bathandwells.org.uk/its-your-call or contact vocations@bathwells.anglican.org

Coming events

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

What is it? The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed in the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul. This year's theme is "That All May Be Free", focusing on some of the contemporary issues addressed by the churches of the Caribbean including routine abuses of human rights, human trafficking and addiction. For details visit <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2018/>
When is it? 18-25 January 2018

St Mark Live

What is it? A dramatised recital of Mark's Gospel by Gerald Osborne and Colin Heber-Percy. Includes a 15-minute interval with refreshments. Admission is free but there will be a retiring collection.

When is it? Friday 26 January, 7pm-9pm

Where? North Transept, Salisbury Cathedral
Admission free, but demand is likely to be high, so book at www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/events/st-mark-live

Bishop's Message for January

Looking back, looking forward, and giving thanks



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

In Ancient Roman religion the god of beginnings and endings was Janus. In art and sculpture he is therefore usually depicted as having two faces, since he looks both to the future and to the past. And it is generally believed that the month of January is named after Janus. But looking back and looking forward are also both very much part of the Christian tradition, and at the start of a New Year this can be a very helpful thing to do.

We so often rush from one thing to the next, from one week to the next, from one birthday to the next, from one Christmas to the next, and fail to stop, to remember and to give thanks. It is certainly not sentimental or maudlin to look back and to remember some of the people who have been instrumental in our lives. Our parents, our teachers, our friends, colleagues at work, neighbours, people with whom we have shared the special moments of our lives. Sometimes we will have photos to remind us of them, or presents that

perhaps they have given us. Sometimes however we have to rely on our memories. And as we remember we can give thanks for their example, for the love they gave us or things they taught us.

Paul, writing to the Philippians, said: "Dear Friends, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable or excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things". Sometimes the news seems to be filled with stories that are depressing, violent or worrying. But each of us has a fund of memories which remind us of the goodness, grace and love which we have received from other people. Those people and the example they showed us give us hope and inspire us "to lead lives worthy of the Lord".

In that same letter to the Philippians Paul encourages his readers to "live up to the example they have received" and to strain towards what lies ahead. He sees the Christian life as a race and speaks of "pressing on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called him". That prize is Jesus himself. His eyes are on what lies ahead, on all that is to come and eventually to the joys of heaven.

So as we begin a New Year, let us give thanks for all that we have learnt about the Lord in years gone by. Let us give thanks that God walks with us and watches over us now. And let us look forward to the future, secure and confident of Jesus' promise that he is with us always – in everything and through everything – until the very end of time itself.

May the Lord bless you and watch over you in all that 2018 may bring.

+Peter Bath and Wells

This month's charity: Bath Dementia Action

The loose collection in the plate on Sunday 14 January, plus an optional retiring collection for the rest of the month, will go to Bath Dementia Action Alliance. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.)

Bath Dementia Action Alliance is a registered charity, affiliated with the national Dementia Action Alliance (DAA) parent body, which aims to support people with dementia living in the community.

Seventy percent of people living with dementia continue to live at home. The aim of B&NES DAA is therefore to create a dementia-friendly community, enabling those with the condition to travel on public trans-

port, enjoy recreational activities, go shopping, go to church, and manage day-to-day tasks. It aims to do this by raising awareness to enable those living with dementia to remain in their community for as long as possible.

B&NES DAA will also consult with people with dementia and work with councillors, groups and services to identify the needs of these individuals and their carers in order to provide support. It will work in conjunction with another group called the Dementia Initiative to produce a booklet of services and support for those living with dementia.

The charity has signed up a substantial number of churches, businesses, leisure facilities, transport services, care providers and other organisations of varied types in and around Bath. It proposes to meet monthly at a central venue with easy accessibility. For more details, visit <http://bit.ly/BathDAA>

DAA Dementia
Action Alliance

Walcot Street Genesis Centre project update

Genesis Trust is working to develop the dilapidated building next to the Bell Pub in Walcot Street into a shop selling "upcycled" furniture, a workshop and offices for staff. The shop will be a social enterprise, enabling those working there to gain confidence, practical skills and retail experience which will help them move on positively in their lives and into the world of permanent work.

The Next Step Appeal, the first round of fundraising for the Genesis Centre, is now completed, and Genesis wants to thank all the donors and supporters. Technical issues

with the site have led to revised plans, which Genesis expects to submit soon. It hopes to break ground later this year, subject to the conversations taking place about planning.

"The Genesis Centre will give some of Bath's most disadvantaged people opportunities to take their next step towards independence and employment. We aim to empower individuals to take control of their lives, reconnect with society via our own and other projects, and become employed where possible." For more information and updates, visit www.genesisstrust.org.uk



Christ Church calendar January 2018

1	Mon	<i>New Year's Day / Naming and Circumcision of Jesus</i>
5	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm
7	Sun	<i>Epiphany</i> Christ Church rostered to assist at Genesis Sunday Centre
8	Mon	<i>The Baptism of Christ</i>
11	Thu	Eucharist, 11am, followed by coffee Pilgrim Group meeting, “The conversion of Paul”, 7:30pm
12	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm
14	Sun	<i>The Second Sunday of Epiphany</i> 8am Holy Communion (BCP)
18	Thu	<i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins (ends Thu 25th)</i> Eucharist, 11am, followed by coffee Christ Church Trustees meeting, 7:30pm
19	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm
21	Sun	<i>The Third Sunday of Epiphany</i> 4:30pm Choral Evensong
23	Tue	Christ Church Council meeting, 7:30pm
25	Thu	<i>The Conversion of Paul</i> Eucharist, 11am, followed by coffee Pilgrim Group meeting, 7:30pm
26	Fri	<i>Timothy and Titus, companions of Paul</i> Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm
28	Sun	<i>The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)</i>
30	Tue	<i>Charles, king and martyr, 1649</i>
Feb	1	Thu Eucharist, 11am, followed by coffee
	2	Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm
	4	Sun <i>The Second Sunday before Lent</i>

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 January 2018

Monday	1	For prisoners and prison workers
Tuesday	2	For former members of Christ Church who have moved away
Wednesday	3	For countries In conflict
Thursday	4	For the Local Deanery Synod
Friday	5	For the sick and suffering
Saturday	6	For those who live and work in the streets around Christ Church
Sunday	7	For our bell-ringing team
Monday	8	For our armed forces and police
Tuesday	9	That we may be stewards of creation
Wednesday	10	For victims of natural disasters
Thursday	11	For those who work in social services
Friday	12	For the ministry of the Cedar Tree
Saturday	13	For those who use and run food banks
Sunday	14	For our Archbishop, bishops and clergy
Monday	15	For farmers
Tuesday	16	For our charity of the month
Wednesday	17	For those who mourn
Thursday	18	We give thanks for family and friends
Friday	19	For the unemployed
Saturday	20	That we may be pure in heart
Sunday	21	For Angela our Verger
Monday	22	For those who work in medicine

Tuesday	23	For Christian unity
Wednesday	24	For peace
Thursday	25	For our flower arrangers and those who look after the church
Friday	26	For those who are unable to keep warm
Saturday	27	For hospices
Sunday	28	For our Junior Church
Monday	29	For those who work in local government
Tuesday	30	We give thanks for artists, poets and musicians
Wednesday	31	That we may have the gift of patience

Long-term Prayer List

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

John Burrows
 David Slater
 Maxine Hobday
 Keith Warren and Jean
 Katharine
 Rose Brown

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.

Other LMG services

These are the regular services at our Local Ministry Group sister churches:

Sundays

- 9am Eucharist, Charlcombe St Mary's
- 10:45am Choral Communion or informal communion, St Stephen's Lansdown
- 6:30pm Evensong (BCP), Charlcombe St Mary's – 3rd Sunday of the month

Morning Prayer

- Monday 8:45am St Stephen's
- Tuesday 9am Charlcombe St Mary's
- Saturday 9:30am St Stephen's

Rotas for January 2018

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
7 Jan Epiphany	Jane Fletcher Isaiah 60:1-6	Morny Davison Ephesians 3:1-12	David Bishop Matthew 2:1-12
14 Jan Epiphany 2	Ben Elliott 1 Samuel 3:1-10	Emily Bond Revelation 5:1-10	Isaac Elliott John 1:43-end
21 Jan Epiphany 3	Rebekah Cunningham Genesis 14:17-20	Lewis Boyd Revelation 19:6-10	Rowena Hall John 2:1-11
28 Jan Candle- mas	Daphne Radenhurst Malachi 3:1-5	Jonathan Stead Hebrews 2:14-end	Penny Edwards Luke 2:22-40
4 Feb 2nd before Lent	Emma Elliott Proverbs 8:1,22-31	Janet Mahto Colossians 1:15-20	Charles Rice John 1:1-14

Laity rota, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Chalice assistants	Sidespeople	Intercessions
7 Jan	Brenda Wall, Clive Tilling	Morny Davison, Jonathan Stead	Georgina Bowman
14 Jan	Janet Mahto, David Rawlings	Margaret Silver, Jane Nicholson	Mark Elliott
21 Jan	Brenda Wall, Janet Mahto	Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers	Jonathan Stead
28 Jan	Keri Chivers, Clive Tilling	Morny Davison, Janet Mahto	Rebekah Cunningham
4 Feb	David Rawlings, Brenda Wall	Jonathan Stead, Margaret Silver	Penny Edwards

Who's who at Christ Church

Priest-in-charge Revd Lore Chumbley
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Revd Canon Simon Tatton-Brown

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Cedar Tree café organiser Janet Mahto

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

**Event / concert bookings,
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**Tower Captain,
Ringing Master** Will Willans

Tower Secretary Ian Hay Davison
07932 160482
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Steeple Keeper David Kelly

Laitia rotas (acting) Judith Bishop

Prayer cycle Virginia Knight

Junior Church Emma Elliott

**Churches Together in Bath,
USPG** Rebekah Cunningham

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Judith Bishop

Mission to Seafarers Sylvia Ayers
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Deanery Synod Reps Sarah Kerr
Jane Nicholson
Brenda Wall

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



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 Sunday and Thursday mornings, 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 Pilgrim 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 on the third 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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