

Resurrection, the sign of Jonah

Thoughts prompted by a very timely performance

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

Just before Holy Week, 70 excited children from St. Andrews school crowded into Christ Church. They had come to sing *Jonah-Man Jazz* by Michael Hurd, first performed in 1968. They were accompanied by a jazz band from Christ Church and choir members conducted by Mark, our Director of Music. Angela's talents in stage scenery were invaluable as the pulpit turned into a ship and a pineapple tree grew out of the lectern. At the performance, palm trees danced, God glowered from the pulpit, the whale glowed and Jonah drowned in yards of blue, green and purple gauze. It was a marvellous event.

Jonah is mentioned by Jesus in both Matthew and Luke. Jesus tells the Pharisees: "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." And in Luke, Jesus says: "This generation is an evil generation; it seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it, except the sign of Jonah." Scholars argue about the meaning of the "sign

of Jonah", but the most obvious is that Jonah's return from the belly of the fish is a sign of resurrection.

After being swallowed by the fish, Jonah ponders in the darkness and realises that he is dependent on God. He prays:

*"As my life was ebbing away,
I remembered the Lord;
and my prayer came to you,
into your holy temple."* (Jonah 2:7)

In response to Jonah's prayer the fish spits Jonah out onto the beach. His life has truly been given back to him and he goes on to fulfil his journey to Nineveh.

The "sign of Jonah" is Jonah's return to life from the blackness the fish's belly. In the season of Easter, as we recognise the new life of Spring, we may find in them our own "signs of Jonah", signs of God's resurrection life in the world, reminding us of the power of resurrection life which is continually trying to burst into our own lives.



Middle Eastern evening Genesis update

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

This time next year some of us hope to be on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Retired priest Revd David Gatcliffe, who spoke at our Pilgrim meeting last year about icons, is a leader of Holy Land pilgrimages and is happy to lead a group from Christ Church. We are particularly excited that Biblical scholar Margaret Barker, who recently preached in Christ Church, would like to join us. We plan to spend several days in Jerusalem and Galilee, allowing time to soak up the atmosphere of the holy places. We hope to visit the new icon workshop in Bethlehem, which provides skilled work for Palestinian Christians, and the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. For those who are interested, there will be a visit to the Israel museum in Jerusalem, where the Dead Sea scrolls, the oldest copies of scripture, are on view, and where the archaeological artefacts from the times of the Bible and early Christianity help to put the origins of our faith in context.

We recognise it is a commitment of time and money to sign up to such a trip, but we believe that to make this pilgrimage in the company of like-minded people and Christ Church friends will be the experience of a lifetime. To help you decide if this is something you would like to do, we have arranged a "Middle Eastern evening" on Tuesday 17 April. David will talk about pilgrimages he has led, Lore will show some pictures of recent trips to the Holy Land, including some archaeology, and JAQ will provide delicious Middle Eastern food.

Everyone is welcome. Please come even if you would not be able to travel. It should be a good evening.

Janet Mahto writes:

I went to a meeting on Monday evening, 5 March, at the Forum, held by Genesis. It was their annual event to inform the public what they do. The meeting was opened by Sir Peter Heywood, who commenced by introducing us to the new Genesis logo.

Some statistics on Bath brought home to us in the audience how essential their role is:

- 36% increase in sleep-outs
- 10% increase in jobless
- 6,700 in poverty – of which they identify three types: of resources (financial), relationships and identity.

The main aim of Genesis is to develop wellbeing, skills to give confidence and work readiness, and, for people who have developed problems, to help them get out of it.

They now have ten projects in Bath, some of which are already familiar to us, such as the soup kitchen, foodbank, Sunday lunch centre, lunch box, furniture project, street pastors, etc. Family Matters helps families "mend" and often takes over from social services. There are also now five Syrian refugee families in Bath who are being helped by the Family Matters team.

Each project was represented by the leaders and also people who have benefited from their help.

At the moment Genesis operates on three sites. They have a long lease on the basement of the Quaker Meeting House in York Street, where the Lifeline Centre runs, offices in St. John's and the Furniture Centre in West Road. They have now raised sufficient funds for the Walcot Street project. Commencement is currently on hold as extra damp-proofing is needed to protect the rear of the building from damp permeating from the wall below the Paragon.



Christ Church reordering update

Charles Rice writes:

The Trustees of Christ Church commissioned our church architects, Chedburn Dudley, and Hugh Conway-Morris to come up with some possible designs for the east end. All of these were reviewed by the Trustees over three meetings, leading to a final proposal, sketched below by Hugh Conway-Morris, which has been endorsed by Christ Church Council.

The design consists of three phases:

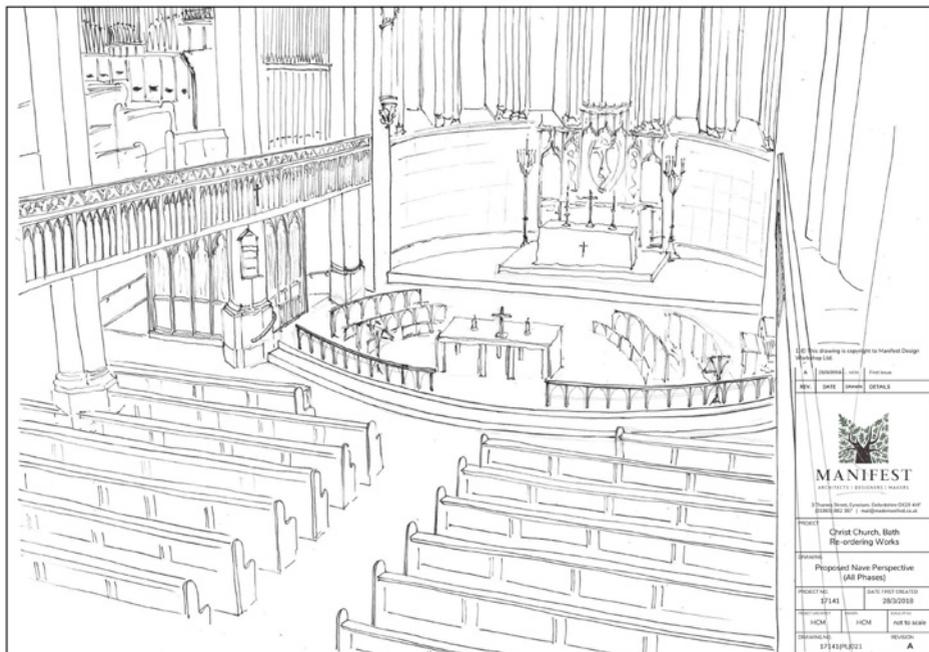
- Phase 1: covers the chancel and apse only. Its key aim is to expand the chancel to make more space for the choir and altar table and simplify the number of steps and levels. The aesthetics are enhanced by a curved step up to the chancel, which reflects the curve of the apse. Access is improved by both the reduction in the number of levels and the provision of hand rails adjacent to the main pillars.
- Phase 2: creates a chapel in the former sacristy area which provides for a more private space for prayer and worship than is possible with the current Lady Chapel. This phase can

be undertaken either in parallel with Phase 1 or separately.

- Phase 3: enables improved disabled access to the chancel via a ramp but at the cost of eliminating the current Lady Chapel. We do not propose to undertake this phase until there is a clear need for improved disabled access to this part of the church.

The option of extending the chancel eastwards into the apse area was discarded for structural reasons – the apse floor cannot be lowered without major structural changes. This means the chancel must be expanded westwards as in the proposed design.

After much debate, the proposed design involves the removal of the pulpit from the east end for reasons of line-of-sight and aesthetics: the contrast between the Victorian design and scale of the pulpit was felt to be incompatible with the more open, lighter feel of the proposed east end layout. This leaves open the option of relocating the pulpit elsewhere in the main body of the church.



Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come 2018 is ten days of intercession from Ascension Day to Pentecost (10 to 20 May), when churches across the denominations, the country and the globe will be focusing on prayer for family, friends and colleagues to know Jesus.

There will be an opening celebration service at 8pm on Thursday, 10 May in Bath Abbey with the Right Revd Ruth Worsley, Bishop of Taunton, the Revd Simon Ponsonby from St Aldate's church, Oxford, and a worship band made up of local musicians and worship leaders. Wells Cathedral will host a prayer labyrinth and art installation around its normal worship schedule.

For information, visit www.thykingdom.co.uk



Dementia Action Week

Every year, in Dementia Action Week, the Alzheimer's Society puts out a challenge to everyone across the country with a big question: what can you do to help people living with dementia? Our charity of the month for January was Bath Dementia Action Alliance, which aims to support people living with dementia in the area. This year's Dementia Action Week is 21 to 27 May 2018. For more information and ideas on how to contribute, visit the website at www.alzheimers.org.uk/DementiaActionWeek.

The Diocese of Bath and Wells has more about Dementia Action Week and sources of advice at <http://bit.ly/bath-wells-dementia>

Coming events

Mendelssohn's Elijah

What is it? Bath Choral Society and Bristol Ensemble Orchestra present Mendelssohn's Elijah. Details at www.bathchoralsociety.com

When is it? Saturday 21 April, 7:30pm

Where? Bath Abbey

Admission £6–£30. Tickets from Bath Box Office at <http://bit.ly/BCS-elijah>

Best of Bath Music

What is it? A concert featuring the Band of Avon Fire and Rescue Service, Saxophone "Saxtet" from Beechen Cliff School, and The Military Wives of Colerne Choir. Proceeds to Rotary Charities including Bath Stroke Support Group. For more information, see the fliers at the back of the church.

When is it? Saturday 21 April, 7:30pm (doors open 6:45pm)

Where? St Swithin's, The Paragon, BA1 5LY
Tickets £10 on the door, or in advance from various outlets including Bath Box Office, 01225 463362, bathboxoffice.org.uk

Dvořák Stabat Mater

What is it? Performed by Bath Minerva Choir with Bath Philharmonia (Gavin Carr, Conductor). Details at bathminervachoir.co.uk

When is it? Saturday 28 April, 7:30pm

Where? Bath Abbey

Tickets £10–£28 from Bath Box Office, 01225 463362, bathboxoffice.org.uk

Rossini, Petite Messe Solennelle

What is it? Canzona performs the work in its original version with piano and harmonium.

When is it? Saturday 5 May, 7:30pm

Where? Christ Church

Admission £10 on the door

Howard Goodall, Eternal Light

What is it? Goodall's *Eternal Light*: a requiem performed by Lucis Choir, with Noctis, Melody Makers and Southern Sinfonia.

When is it? Saturday 12 May, 7:30pm

Where? Bath Abbey

Tickets from Bath Box Office, 01225 463362, bathboxoffice.org.uk

Bishop's Message for April

Love and foolishness



**From the Rt Revd Ruth Worsley,
Bishop of Taunton**

“Christ is risen! Alleluia!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!”

April 1st is both Easter Sunday and April Fool's Day. Not a bad combination. For “it is the foolish things of God which confound the wise of this world” – so says Paul in his letter to Corinth. The message of the cross itself is foolish, he says, and he, Paul, in telling the story of it, does so inexpertly, and through his own weakness.

The story of God's grace doesn't make sense to many...

“What does God see that's worth redeeming in this world?”

“Why love me?”

And if we get past these questions, then: “How come his forgiveness is for everyone, when xx evidently doesn't deserve it?!”

Perhaps like Paul we find it difficult to communicate the message of the cross well to others. We may feel we lack theological understanding, be unfamiliar with all the atonement theories,

find it hard to put into words. But the simple fact is that the best way of telling the story, the message of Easter, is through you, yourself.

As people look at the way you live, do they see someone with faults, flaws and failings, and yet someone who knows that God loves them? Do they see you accepting the grace of God shown through his giving of himself on a cross for us? Do they see someone who now lives in the freedom of that forgiveness, living a life in all its abundance and fullness?

I have to confess that I find myself often continuing to strive to earn God's love and grace. My life becomes full of all that I seek to do in ministry for him. Forgetful that the message of the cross is the expression of his love for me, freely given, without strings. All I need do is receive his love.

What foolishness!

Such love!

+Ruth Taunton

Christ Church AGM

The Annual General Church Meeting of the Christ Church congregation will be held on Sunday 22 April after the 10am service. Come along to have your say, elect Churchwardens and Church Council, and receive reports on the activities of all the groups in the church.

Anyone can attend, but you must be on the Electoral Roll of Christ Church to vote. If you've recently joined us and wish to add your name, or if you need to change any details, forms are available from the Churchwardens or the Verger after services. Please return completed forms to Judith Anderson, our Electoral Roll Officer, via the “A” pigeonhole at the back of the church.

This month's charity: Bath Welcomes Refugees

The loose collection in the plate on Sunday 8 April, plus an optional retiring collection for the rest of April, will go to Bath Welcomes Refugees. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.)

Bath Welcomes Refugees (BWR) has one simple aim: to bring to safety and security in the UK those people persecuted and in danger in their own countries and homelands, and in particular to help them settle in Bath or the surrounding area, should that be where their journey ends. BWR aims to maintain a non-partisan stance when it comes to party politics and religion so that this one simple aim stays forever at the front of BWR's efforts whatever else may be happening globally, nationally or locally.

BWR, registered as a charity in February 2017, is run by volunteers and aligns its operation with the goals of Refugees Welcome and supports those campaigns initiated to improve the circumstances of refugees. It also seeks to support and assist all agencies involved in settling refugees locally through practical hands-on involvement, befriending,

fundraising, and campaigning where necessary.

While the refugee situation is constantly changing BWR strives to keep up with current developments and provide some insight into opportunities to volunteer or help beyond the bounds of its own activities. BWR communicates with many other organisations locally and nationally as we have a firm belief that pooling resources and working together is most effective.

BWR is currently supporting several refugee families in Bath and we are fundraising to help bring more to safety within our community. A fundraising goal we are well on our way to reaching is to bring another Syrian family here through the Community Sponsorships scheme. We are also hoping to fund some advanced level English classes for a few of those already here so that they can help with the settling of future families. Website: www.bathwelcomesrefugees.org.uk



Book review: Cliffs of Fall

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

Our Time and Talents Challenge has made us aware of each other's talents and interests as never before. As I write, I don't know how much the challenge will raise, and in a way it doesn't matter, because it was about so much more than money. One of the results of the challenge is the publication of a booklet of poems by Rowena Hall.

They grew out of her MA in creative writing but it is only now that they have been seen by a wider public. They vary from sharply observed pastiche of e e cummings to more personal, introspective work, but the writing is never indulgent. Each word, and even the space allowed to each word, is tightly con-

trolled, producing a collection which, while only 16 pages long, fizzes with energy.

She has a particular feeling for last lines pulling the poem together with a punch:

*"Outside in the post war greyness
even love is rationed"*

and, poignantly,

*"I expect to forget
better than this"*

It was generous and risky to publish these to raise funds for our church re-ordering. The risk has paid off. This is the triumphant collection of someone who has won through.

• ***Cliffs of Fall* by Rowena Hall
£3.50, available from the author**

Christ Church calendar April 2018

1 Sun *Easter Sunday*
8am Holy Communion (BCP)

5 Thu Eucharist, 11am, followed by coffee

6 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

8 Sun *The Second Sunday of Easter*
8am Holy Communion (BCP)

9 Mon *The Annunciation*
Eucharist, 7pm

12 Thu Eucharist, 11am, followed by coffee
Pilgrim Group meeting, 7:30pm

13 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

14 Sat Introduction to Centering Prayer, Lower Mews 10am–4pm

15 Sun *The Third Sunday of Easter*
4:30pm Choral Evensong

17 Tue Middle East Evening with David Gatcliffe, Lower Mews, 7:30pm

19 Thu Eucharist, 11am, followed by coffee
Christ Church Trustees meeting, 7:30pm

20 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

22 Sun *The Fourth Sunday of Easter*
Christ Church Annual General Meeting (after 10am service)

23 Mon *George, patron of England*

25 Wed *Mark the Evangelist*

26 Thu Eucharist, 11am, followed by coffee
Pilgrim Group meeting, 7:30pm

27 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

29 Sun *The Fifth Sunday of Easter*
Christ Church rostered to assist at Genesis Sunday Centre

May 1 Tue *Philip and James, Apostles*

3 Thu Eucharist, 11am, followed by coffee

4 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

6 Sun *The Sixth Sunday of Easter*

Prayer Cycle for April 2018

Sunday	1	Thanksgiving for the Resurrection
Monday	2	For journalists and those who work in the media
Tuesday	3	For the Local Deanery Synod
Wednesday	4	For those affected by disasters in the air or at sea
Thursday	5	For our Archbishop, bishops and clergy
Friday	6	For the sick and suffering
Saturday	7	That we may have the gift of faith
Sunday	8	For Mark our Lay Reader
Monday	9	For our government and politicians
Tuesday	10	For refugees
Wednesday	11	For our flower-arrangers and those who look after the church
Thursday	12	We give thanks for family and friends
Friday	13	For the unemployed
Saturday	14	For our charity of the month
Sunday	15	For Angela our Verger
Monday	16	For those who work in the emergency services
Tuesday	17	For those recently baptised or preparing for baptism
Wednesday	18	For those who live and work in the streets around Christ Church
Thursday	19	For countries experiencing civil unrest
Friday	20	For those who lack food or water
Saturday	21	For our bell-ringing team
Sunday	22	For our Local Ministry Group partners

Monday 23 For those who work in education

Tuesday 24 For the mentally ill

Wednesday 25 For Christian unity

Thursday 26 We give thanks for artists, poets and musicians

Friday 27 For those who use and run food banks

Saturday 28 For the elderly

Sunday 29 For our Junior Church

Monday 30 That we may have the gift of kindness

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
Donatella Phillips
Harry Pattullo
Joyce Fairburn
David Jones
Ivy Savage

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 April 2018

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
1 April Easter Sunday	Janet Mahto Isaiah 25:6-9	Clive Tilling Acts 10:34-43	Bob Siderfin John 20:1-18
8 April Easter 2	Judith Anderson Acts 4:32-35	Sylvia Ayers 1 John 1:1-2.2	Charles Rice John 20:19-end
15 April Easter 3	Rebekah Cunningham Acts 3:12-19	Jude Bishop 1 John 3:1-7	Penny Edwards Luke 24:36b-48
22 April Easter 4	Malcolm Wall Acts 4:5-12	Jonathan Stead 1 John 3:16-end	Richard Gabe John 10:11-18
29 April Easter 5	Emma Elliott Acts 8:26-end	Robin Kerr 1 John 4:7-end	Nick Wells John 15:1-8
6 May Easter 6	Daphne Radenhurst Acts 10:44-end	Lewis Boyd 1 John 5:1-6	Rowena Hall John 15:9-17

Laity rota, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Chalice assistants	Sidespeople	Intercessions
1 April	Brenda Wall, David Rawlings	Jonathan Stead, Margaret Silver	Mark Elliott
8 April	Keri Chivers, Clive Tilling	Morny Davison, Janet Mahto	Penny Edwards
15 April	Brenda Wall, Janet Mahto	Jonathan Stead, Jane Nicholson	Nick Wells
22 April	Janet Mahto, David Rawlings	Sylvia Ayers, Ken Ayers	Rebekah Cunningham
29 April	Clive Tilling, Brenda Wall	Margaret Silver, Janet Mahto	Georgina Bowman
6 May	Janet Mahto, Keri Chivers	Sylvia Ayers, Ken Ayers	Jonathan Stead

Who's who at Christ Church

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

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Churchwarden Malcolm Wall
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Lewis Boyd, Hazel Boyd

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notices@christchurchbath.org

**Tower Captain,
Ringing Master** Will Willans

Tower Secretary Ian Hay Davison
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bells@christchurchbath.org

Steeple Keeper David Kelly

Laitia rotas (acting) Judith Bishop

Prayer cycle Virginia Knight

Junior Church Emma Elliott

Cedar Tree café organiser Janet Mahto

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

Traidcraft orders Chris Tanner
Judith Bishop

Mission to Seafarers Sylvia Ayers

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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