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Marking 70 years of welcome

A celebration taking place in Christ Church next month

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

When I arrived in Bath in 2016 I was able to visit some of our church members who had been born in the Caribbean. They told a similar story – of a hopeful arrival, of years of hard work for long hours, and of eventual stability. But what shocked me was their story of trying to find a church which would welcome them and their families. They would walk into a church in Bath on a Sunday morning “and everybody would look around.” Whether that was surprise or disapproval is not now clear, but there was definitely a sense that local churches had difficulty welcoming people who were so obviously strangers. Christ Church was different. In Julian Road they found a welcome, and in the 1950s and '60s Christ Church had a considerable Caribbean congregation. Many have now moved out to Bristol, but we still welcome them back for occasional services.

June 22nd will mark the 70th anniversary of the arrival of the passenger liner Empire Windrush at Tilbury dock. The ship had travelled from Australia to London via Kingston, Jamaica, and en route had picked up hundreds of Caribbean residents who had the status of Citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies and were eligible to live and work in the United Kingdom. It was the beginning of the wave of legal immigration of which our Caribbean church members were a part. As far as we know, none of those who came over on the Windrush worshipped at Christ

Church, but among our Caribbean community there is a wish to mark the anniversary.

In light of the recent political concerns over immigration status, the anniversary cannot be a celebration only. The pain and hurt of being unwelcome in the 1950s is mirrored by the pain and hurt of those whose immigration status has recently been called into question. This will be taken into account in events to be held at Fairfield House later this year.

But for this summer at Christ Church, our Caribbean community would like a celebration service on Sunday 24 June, the nearest Sunday to the anniversary. So on that day we will celebrate the coming of our fellow citizens from the Caribbean and the 70 years we have shared together.



Are you ready to join the global wave of prayer?

10-20 May 2018

Join the global wave of prayer that more people may experience the welcome of Jesus Christ and come to know the love of God – see page 5.

The case for the pulpit

Alex Soboslay writes:

The current proposal for the reordering of the east end of the church does away with the pulpit. I think this is a mistake. Here's why.

First of all, very simply, the pulpit is needed to ensure that a preacher can be seen. Picture 1 below was my view of Lore's sermon on 18 February. Can't see her? Nor could I. If you happen to have tall people sitting in front of you, a preacher standing in the chancel cannot be seen. If the pews are packed, as we hope they will be, or you can't easily move to another position for some other reason, the pulpit is the proven practical solution.

Some say a preacher doesn't need to be seen, only heard. All I can say is, many people find that seeing the speaker benefits communication. It can be critical for some, such as the deaf or dementia sufferers. In *Developing a Dementia-Friendly Church*, a guide from Livability and the Alzheimer's Society, one of the key pieces of advice to aid dementia sufferers is to try to ensure that they can maintain eye contact.

An ambo or raised preaching platform does not meet this need, not unless it is as high as a pulpit would be anyway. Besides, even if it's movable, isn't this adding obstacles and changes of level in the chancel again, when the point was to eliminate these?

It is said that the pulpit interferes with "sight lines". This is true enough, if the goal is an entirely unobscured "performance space".



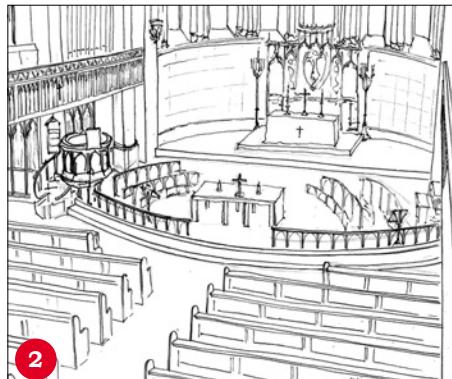
An alternative understanding is that pulpit and lectern are physical markers of what a church is fundamentally for, just like an altar or a font.

If we are determined not to use the pulpit, at the very least we must preserve it, because liturgical fashions change. If future generations come to want it but we have disposed of our historic pulpit, it will be lost forever.

So can we just store it somewhere, say at the back of the church, because it is out of keeping with the proposed aesthetic of the east end? Well, the proposal actually preserves the Victorian east end aesthetic – the curve of the new chancel step, for example, intentionally echoes the curve of the apse.

The pulpit is an integral element of the Victorian east end design. It was designed by John Elkington Gill, the architect responsible for the apse and the tiles on its walls. Indeed, the pulpit was put in place soon after the completion of the apse, several years before the tiles. The pulpit carvings echo the flower and vine motifs of the apse. Its columns and arches harmonise with the apse windows.

My personal preference would be to keep the pulpit at the north (left-hand) side of the extended chancel but lower it, which would make it possible for the choir to see and be seen through the openings (but leave it high enough for the preacher to be visible), as in Picture 2 below. If the consensus is, however, that an entirely unobstructed space is the priority, then at the very least we need to

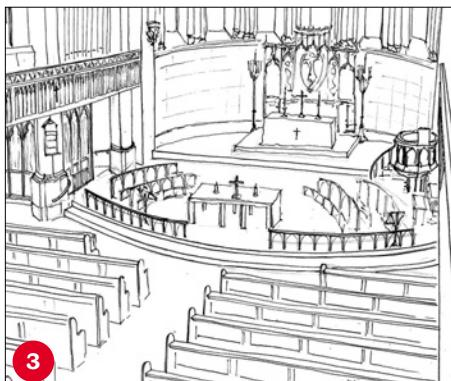


Church Council

find room for the pulpit at the east end – either just inside the apse arch, which was suggested by the architects, or just in front of the apse on the right-hand side, to the east of the organ console, as in Picture 3, where at a pinch it could still be used. In this position it will not interfere with “sight lines” or the use of the chancel – a curve of choir stalls will in any case leave an unused gap here, and if the sacristy is to become a closed-off chapel, there is no need for access through this area.

A compromise? The Church of England embraces compromise as a way of embracing each other. When we resumed talking about reordering in 2016, the visiting facilitators from the diocese cautioned us against divisive, “cats-vs-dogs” thinking. Christ Church is itself a distinctive compromise architecturally, a unique combination of largely intact Georgian nave and largely intact Victorian apse. We have an obligation to preserve this extraordinary living history – to embrace and celebrate this compromise. And doing so will not damage the usability of the proposals one jot.

One last thing. Keeping the pulpit matters to only a minority of our active members, but to these it *really* matters. If Christ Church refuses to make room for the pulpit, it is declaring that it no longer aspires to be “a spiritual ‘open space’” willing to accommodate (in this case physically accommodate) a diversity of views. That would be doing away with something very valuable indeed.



At the Christ Church Annual General Meeting on Sunday 22 April, Lewis Boyd and Janet Mahto were elected as Churchwardens for the coming year; and Sylvia Ayers, Jane Nicholson, Tosin Rotini and Judith Bishop appointed as Assistant Churchwardens. Malcolm Wall and Alex Soboslay were thanked for their past service as Churchwardens.

Following this and the receipt of nominations to Council, the members of Christ Church Council for the coming year are as follows:

Ex officio members

Revd Lore Chumbley	Priest-in-Charge
Mark Elliott	Reader
Lewis Boyd	Churchwarden
Janet Mahto	Churchwarden
Sarah Kerr	Deanery Synod rep
Jane Nicholson	Deanery Synod rep
Brenda Wall	Deanery Synod rep

Elected until 2019

Georgina Bowman
Penny Edwards
Virginia Knight

Elected until 2020

Matthew Jones
Sharon Rawlings

Elected until 2021

Judith Bishop
Rowena Hall
Jonathan Stead

The first meeting of the new Council will take place on Tuesday 22 May. Dates for meetings for the rest of the year should be set at the first meeting.

The next Annual General Meeting for all those on the Christ Church electoral roll will take place on Sunday 7 April 2019.

First World War Commemoration Concert

Simon Tatton-Brown writes:

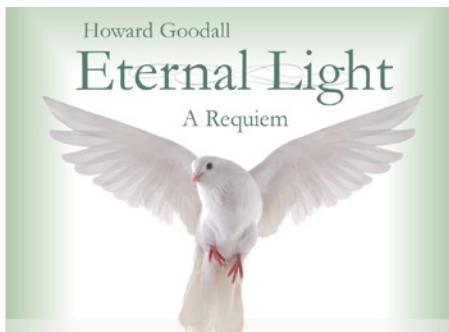
Lucis Choir (in which I sing) is performing a First World War Commemoration Concert in association with the Royal British Legion in Bath Abbey on Saturday 12 May at 7.30pm. The programme (shared with Noctis Choir, Bath Abbey's Melody Makers and the Southern Sinfonia) is:

Ola Gjeilo – The Spheres (from *Sunrise Mass*)
Will Todd – No More Sorrow
Sir John Tavener – Funeral Ikos
Sir Karl Jenkins – Dona Nobis Pacem (from *The Peacemakers*)
John Williams – Where dreams are born
Sir Hubert Parry – Jerusalem (sung with the congregation)
Sir Edward Elgar – Give unto the Lord
Interval
Howard Goodall – *Eternal Light: A Requiem*

The main work in part 2 is Howard Goodall's *Eternal Light: A Requiem*. It combines the traditional Latin words of the requiem mass with English poetry and hymnody in a work that movingly honours those whom we now remember 100 years later. Howard Goodall is perhaps most popularly known as the composer of the music for *The Vicar of Dibley*.

There will be a retiring collection in aid of the Royal British Legion.

Tickets @ £25, £15, £10 can be purchased from the Bath Box Office, 01225 463362 or bathboxoffice.org.uk/whatson/eternal-light-2



Coming events

Contemplative Christianity

What is it? A talk by Revd Dr Sarah Bachelard, a theologian and Anglican priest. She founded and leads Benedictus (benedictus.com.au), an ecumenical contemplative church in Canberra. Christian discipleship, she says, is an invitation to be transformed into Christ-likeness, transformed through the contemplative experience of God's living reality. In addition to the talk there will also be a period of meditation, time for questions, and a book stall.

When is it? Wednesday 9 May, 7:15pm

Where? Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institute, 16-18 Queen Square, Bath BA1 2HN

Donations at the door; £10 suggested if you can. Please book by phoning 01275 463727 or e-mailing bristol@christianmeditation.org.uk

Modern Church: Sceptical Christianity

What is it? Canon Robert Reiss, former Canon of Westminster Abbey, will introduce and lead a discussion on his book *Sceptical Christianity*, at the next meeting of Modern Church South West.

When is it? Saturday 12 May 11am – 1pm (coffee available from 10:30am)

Where? Manvers Street Baptist Church
Admission free, but to give an idea of numbers please e-mail rd.james@live.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>

Bishop's Message for May

So much to celebrate



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

Pride is something we all need to be careful about. It is regarded as one of the “seven deadly sins” and it is often said that “Pride comes before a fall”. John Ruskin captured that thought when he said that “Pride is at the bottom of all great mistakes”. And that is probably true. Misplaced pride, over-exaggerated pride, egotistical pride probably does lie behind the great tragedies of human history. Wars are often fought because pride is involved somewhere. And as we know to our own cost, pride can seriously affect and undermine the relationships we have with friends and family.

But pride may not always be bad. Writers and philosophers have at times tried to distinguish between “good pride” and “bad pride”. And whilst it may not be possible to differentiate completely between them, I think we have a sense of what “good pride” looks like. And 11 May is a day to celebrate “good pride”, for that is Somerset Day. It was chosen because on 11 May 878AD King Alfred the Great roused the people of Somerset to fight and subsequently defeat the invading Viking army. And whilst people argue about whether or not he can be regarded as the first true King of England, he is the only English monarch to be accorded the title “the Great”.

I think I am right in saying that Somerset was the third largest county

in England, although the original county boundary now includes other local authorities. Somerset Day, however, celebrates all that is good about the wonderful county of Somerset. It seeks to give Somerset more identity and is an occasion for all of us who live here to give thanks for the beauty and diversity which we sometimes take for granted. It is too easy to drive through villages and towns, through the stunning landscapes which come alive in different seasons and to fail to thank God for the gifts of his creation all around us.

On Somerset Day let’s make an effort to pray for our local communities and those who serve us in every walk of life. There is so much to celebrate, so much to thank God for and so much to be proud of.

+Peter Bath and Wells

■ For more information on Somerset Day visit www.somersetday.com or find them on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Want to get involved? E-mail info@somersetday.com

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.

In our diocese there is an opening celebration service at 7:30pm on Thursday 10 May in Bath Abbey with the Bishop of Taunton, Right Revd Ruth Worsley, Revd Simon Ponsonby from St Aldate’s church, Oxford, and a local worship band. Wells Cathedral will host a prayer labyrinth and art installation around its normal worship schedule. For information, visit www.thykingdom.co.uk

This month's charity: USPG Malawi project

The loose collection in the plate on Sunday 13 May, plus an optional retiring collection for the rest of the month, will go to the USPG Malawi project. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.)

Rebekah Cunningham writes:

This month we are again having our USPG project in Malawi as our charity of the month.

To remind you, USPG are working in four parishes in Malawi with the aim of helping low income households. One of the ways they hope to achieve benefits is by working with girls of school going age.

Education is something we can take for granted in this country and it's difficult to imagine the eagerness, even desperation, with which it's pursued in Africa when it's not easily available because of poverty, war or unrest.

In many parts of Africa, including Malawi, poor families will choose to educate sons rather than daughters. It's long been recognised, however, that education for girls is one of the best long term solutions to reducing poverty and improving health for all. Educated girls have higher self-esteem, are less likely to be married early, are more likely to defer pregnancy and have smaller families, and are better able to protect the health and wellbeing of future generations of children. The United Nations states that "educating a girl changes her destiny, as well as those of her future children, and ensures that she can contribute to the economic life

of her community."

USPG aims to help girls in Malawi by:

- Inspiring girls to return to education through motivational talks in communities;
- Improving access to schooling and providing girls with educational materials, including hostels for girls at secondary boarding schools;
- Installing girl-only toilets in schools;
- Promoting sexual health services to reduce early pregnancy;
- Taking education for girls into communities and educating via the radio.

At Christ Church, rather than relying solely on loose change giving, we're hoping to make a regular commitment to USPG, through individuals or families making a regular donation by direct debit to this project. Our direct debits can be amalgamated by USPG and recognised as coming from Christ Church, and they will send us a yearly total of all we have given. If you would like to do this please take a direct debit form from the display at the back of church – you just need to note on the form that you are from Christ Church Bath and add the code RE103.

Do speak to me if you'd like to know more.

End of Life Matters

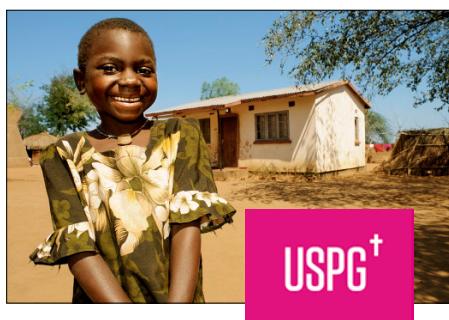
Quakers in Bath are offering a course entitled "End of Life Matters", covering:

- End-of-Life at Home/Hospice/Hospital
- Lasting Power of Attorney
- What is a Good Ending?
- Planning your own funeral
- Bereavement and pastoral care of terminally ill people

The venue is the Friends (Quaker) Meeting House, York Street BA1 1NG (near Bath Abbey). No charge, no need to book. Light refreshments available half an hour before.

- Tuesday 8 May, 5.30pm Hospital Chaplaincy – Revd Narinder Tegally, Lead Chaplain, RUH;
- Thursday 24 May, 6.00pm Hospice pastoral work – speaker from Dorothy House.

For more dates and details, see the poster at the back of the church.



Christ Church calendar May 2018

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*

8 Tue *Mother Julian of Norwich, spiritual writer*

10 Thu *Ascension Day*

Eucharist, 11am, followed by coffee

Sung Eucharist, 7:30pm

11 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

13 Sun *The Seventh Sunday of Easter*

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

14 Mon *Matthias the Apostle*

17 Thu Eucharist, 11am, followed by coffee

18 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

20 Sun *Pentecost*

4:30pm Choral Evensong

22 Tue Christ Church Council meeting, 7:30pm

24 Thu Eucharist, 11am, followed by coffee

Pilgrim Group meeting, 7:30pm

25 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

27 Sun *Trinity Sunday*

30 Wed Christ Church Trustees meeting, 7:30pm

31 Thu *Corpus Christi*

Eucharist, 11am, followed by coffee

June 1 Fri *The Visitation (Visit of Mary to Elizabeth)*
Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

3 Sun *The First Sunday after Trinity*

**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 May 2018

Tuesday	1	For prisoners and prison workers
Wednesday	2	For former members of Christ Church who have moved away
Thursday	3	For the chaplaincies at Bath's Universities
Friday	4	For the ministry of the Cedar Tree
Saturday	5	For those who mourn
Sunday	6	For all those taking on new responsibilities at Christ Church
Monday	7	For those in the legal profession
Tuesday	8	For a good harvest
Wednesday	9	That we may have the gift of hope
Thursday	10	For those who produce publicity for Christ Church
Friday	11	For those who live or work in care homes
Saturday	12	We give thanks for beauty in the world around us
Sunday	13	For our link Dioceses in Zambia
Monday	14	For those who work in local government
Tuesday	15	For Dorothy House and other hospices
Wednesday	16	For our plans for the church building
Thursday	17	For good use to be made of this prayer cycle
Friday	18	For the homeless
Saturday	19	That we may have the gift of the Holy Spirit
Sunday	20	For all clergy taking services at Christ Church
Monday	21	For those who work in medicine
Tuesday	22	For the Church Council, meeting tonight
Wednesday	23	For our charity of the month

Thursday	24	For good relations between different faiths
Friday	25	For those who have suffered from terrorism
Saturday	26	For those on the Christ Church rotas
Sunday	27	For our Diocese of Bath and Wells
Monday	28	For shopkeepers and shop workers
Tuesday	29	That we may be open to encounters with God
Wednesday	30	For peace
Thursday	31	We give thanks for the blessings of the past month

Long-term Prayer List Other LMG services

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

John Burrows
 David Slater
 Maxine Hobday
 Keith Warren and Jean
 Katharine
 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.**

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 May 2018

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
6 May Easter 6	Daphne Radenhurst Isaiah 55:1-11	Lewis Boyd Acts 10:44-end	Rowena Hall John 15:9-17
13 May Easter 7	Alex Soboslay Ezekiel 36:24-28	Mark Humphries Acts 1:15-17, 21-end	Isaac Elliott John 17:6-19
20 May Pentecost	Zoe Bushell Ezekiel 37:1-14	Morny Davison Acts 2:1-21	Jane Fletcher John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15
27 May Trinity	Brenda Wall Isaiah 6:1-8	Bob Siderfin Romans 8:12-17	Sylvia Ayers John 3:1-17
3 June Trinity 1	Clive Tilling Deuteronomy 5:12-15	Janet Mahto 2 Corinthians 4:5-12	Virginia Knight Mark 2:23-3:6

Laity rota, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Chalice assistants	Sidespeople	Intercessions
6 May	Janet Mahto, Keri Chivers	Sylvia Ayers, Ken Ayers	Jonathan Stead
13 May	Clive Tilling, TBC	Jane Nicholson, Margaret Silver	Penny Edwards
20 May	Brenda Wall, David Rawlings	Sylvia Ayers, Ken Ayers	Mark Elliott
27 May	Clive Tilling, TBC	Morny Davison, Jonathan Stead	Sarah Jones
3 June	Clive Tilling, TBC	Sylvia Ayers, Ken Ayers	Rebekah Cunningham

Who's who at Christ Church

Priest-in-charge	Revd Lore Chumbley 07595 294146 lore.chumbley@me.com	Tower Captain, Ringing Master	Will Willans
Supporting clergy	Revd Prof. Cliff Burrows Revd Canon Simon Tatton-Brown Revd Narinder Tegally	Tower Secretary	Ian Hay Davison 07932 160482 bells@christchurchbath.org
Reader, Director of Music	Mark Elliott 01225 445360 mark.elliott@christchurchbath.org	Steeple Keeper	David Kelly
Churchwarden, Safeguarding officer	Lewis Boyd 07739 989639 lewis.boyd@christchurchbath.org	Christ Church Link editor	Alex Soboslaj 07769 655927 alexs@christchurchbath.org
Churchwarden, Cedar Tree café organiser	Janet Mahto 01225 424860 janetmahto@gmail.com	Publicity co-ordinators	Janet Mahto, Lewis Boyd, Hazel Boyd
Verger	Angela Soboslaj 01225 333297 angela.soboslaj@christchurchbath.org	Laity rotas	Judith Bishop
Chair of Trustees	Charles Rice 01225 332915 charles.rice@btopenworld.com	Prayer cycle	Virginia Knight
Treasurer	David Bishop 01225 869409 david.bishop@christchurchbath.org	Junior Church	Emma Elliott
Organist and Assistant Director of Music	Keith Pigot 01225 723801 keithpigot@gmail.com	Churches Together in Bath, USPG	Rebekah Cunningham
Event/concert bookings, weekly notice sheet	Judith Bishop 01225 869409 concerts@christchurchbath.org notices@christchurchbath.org	Traidcraft orders	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 Soboslaj, or by e-mail to magazine@christchurchbath.org

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



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

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)
<i>On the second Sunday of every month</i> |
| 10am | Sung Eucharist with Junior Church activities for children and young people
<i>Every Sunday</i> |
| 4:30pm | Choral Evensong
<i>Usually on the third Sunday of every month, but see website or notice board for details</i> |
- Baptisms, marriages and funerals by arrangement – please contact us!



Contacting us

Christ Church,
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(answer phone)
Email: admin@christchurchbath.org
Website: www.christchurchbath.org

