

Breaking boundaries

The God who breaches boundaries, and living on the edge

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

Boundaries are dangerous. Whether in war, political negotiations or polite dinner party conversation, there are boundaries which we dare not approach for fear of explosions.

As a transgender priest, poet, writer and broadcaster with significant health problems, Revd Rachel Mann has lived life dangerously with regard to boundaries, and her experiences have fed into her writing, preaching and liturgy. For the past couple of years words from her book *A Star-Filled Grace* have formed part of the liturgy of our Christmas and Advent carol services. Rachel will be visiting Christ Church from Manchester to give the first of our Thursday evening summer “Spirituality” talks on 16 May. It will be worth hearing. The title of the series this year is “Spirituality on the Edge”, and it will run from 16 May to 25 July. As well as Rachel, we will hear from the vicar of Avebury about building bridges between the church and the pagan community, about the spirituality which held South Africa together at the end of apartheid as chaos threatened, and about the mysticism of Thomas Merton.

But the theme of living on the edge is deeper and more significant than a series of talks. Our lives are lived in the boundary between joy and sorrow, youth and age, the secular and the spiritual, the present and the future, life and death. God appears to delight in destroying boundaries – between peoples, and between people and God.

In the Incarnation, God is born as a human being, changing the boundary between God and human for ever. At the moment of Crucifixion the veil of the temple ripped from top to bottom as the boundary was destroyed and we gained access to the Holy of Holies. The Resurrection shows us the destruction of the

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Full peal success!

On Monday 11 March, a team of ringers successfully rang 5,088 changes of Yorkshire Surprise Major in 2 hours 48 minutes. This was the first full peal at Christ Church since 1904 – and what’s more, the sponsorship target was not only met but exceeded. Congratulations to everyone concerned! Below, Ian Hay Davison, our Tower Secretary (far left), congratulates the ringers – L to R, standing: Rob Perry (conductor), Dave Kelly, Mike Stubbs, Josh Jones, Nicki Lang, Tom Wareing. At the front: Nick Field, Jody Wood.



Breaking boundaries

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boundary between death and life.

At a quarter to six on Easter morning, at the boundary of night and day, some of us will be in the garden of St Mary's Charlcombe. We will light a fire, sing, and proclaim the Resurrection and by its power the destruction of the final boundary between death and life.

Organ restoration



Work is under way on the final stage of repair and restoration of the organ. The scaffolding is rather extensive because it has to support the hoist needed to lift heavy components up to gallery level, and it will unfortunately be in place over Easter, but it's hoped that the organ will be fully recommissioned by mid May.

Bishops' Lent campaign

There's still time to take part! Bishop Peter and Bishop Ruth are challenging everyone in the diocese to take better care of God's Creation. The 2019 Lent Campaign, Living Well in God's World, focuses on caring for creation, reflecting on the guardianship we've been given of God's world and the impact our actions have. The campaign is based around caring for creation, a Lent journey offering a short daily reading, a pause for reflection, a prayer and a Lent challenge to act or consider. Each week has a practical theme: Celebrating Creation, Travel/Lifestyle, Food/Shopping, Energy/Water, Justice, Change and the future.

The challenge element is accessible for school groups, churches, individuals and families and aims to inspire us to action. Find out more, and sign up for “inspiration in your inbox,” at <http://bit.ly/lent-2019-living-well>



Living Well

in God's world

Holy Week services

Please see this month's calendar on pages 6-7 for Holy Week and Easter services at Christ Church. Other services and events at our Local Ministry Group churches include:

Compline at 8pm on

- Monday 15 April at Charlcombe St Mary's,
 - Tuesday 16 April at St Stephen's, Lansdown,
 - then Wednesday 17 April at Christ Church.
- We are invited to take part in an Agape Meal at St Stephen's starting at 7pm on Maundy Thursday, 18 April.

On Holy Saturday, 20 April, the Blessing of the Light is at Charlcombe St Mary's, 8pm. On Easter Sunday, a simple Dawn Service takes place in the Quiet Garden at Charlcombe St Mary's at 5:45am.

Last month (not all in Christ Church)...



Cross Walk

Once again this year Christ Church is one of the stops on the ecumenical Cross Walk on Good Friday, 19 April. Participants have a choice of routes, and are encouraged to start from a place near where they live rather than where they usually attend church. At each stop there is a simple act of worship lasting approximately 15 minutes. At Christ Church this takes place at 10am, and the walk then continues, culminating at 11am with all the routes converging in the Abbey Churchyard to close with a short ecumenical act of worship and reflection. For those unable to walk, there is a service in Bath Abbey at 10:30am, finishing in time to join the walkers at 11am. For details of all the routes, you'll find a map to download at bit.ly/bath-cross-walk-2019

Above left: At the start of March, two groups undertook a prayerful exploration of the traditional craft of icon painting guided by an expert, Helen McIlldowie-Jenkins, jointly sponsored by Christ Church and St Mary's R.C. church. The picture at top left is the group at St Mary's at work, and below left the group at Christ Church showing the icons they produced.

Above: Keith and Marie tied the knot quietly in London, then travelled to Thailand, one of their favourite places, for a full-on traditional Thai wedding. Their hotel (where they'd stayed before) generously provided a sumptuous ceremony on the Banyan Deck pictured above, with beautiful flowers and the sea as a backdrop. Keith and Marie say they hope the picture "really conveys how special and unique the day was." Warmest congratulations, Mr and Mrs Pigot!

Poetry Day

The Rowena Hall Poetry Day will take place on Saturday 27 April at the Old Barn, Kelston Roundhill, starting at 9:30am and finishing at about 2pm. Join us for a day of poetry to celebrate Spring and friendship in the beautiful surroundings of the warm and comfortable barn. We will plant a rowan tree in memory of Rowena, enjoy a bring-and-share lunch, hear the poetry and prose of Gerard Manley Hopkins, and try our hands at writing and sharing our own poetry. (Or you can just sit in the barn or outside, go for a walk on the hills, and enjoy the day!)

For more details, see the leaflets in church. Please sign up on the list at the back of the church if you'd like to come, and indicate whether you need a lift or can offer one. Tea and coffee will be provided; please let Lore know what you can contribute for lunch. There will be no charge, but there will be an opportunity to give to Open Doors, a charity that Rowena supported.



The Old Barn commands a stunning view from Kelston Roundhill. Photo courtesy of Mark Elliott.

Bring & Buy triumph

The Bring-and-Buy sale on Sunday 24 March raised £600 for our east end reordering – a fantastic result – and also brought new people into the church. Huge thanks and congratulations to Jonathan and all who helped, made or donated items, and all who bought things.

Coming events

Lucis: Brahms' Ein Deutsches Requiem

What is it? Lucis Choir performs Brahms' Ein Deutsches Requiem arranged for choir and two pianos.

When is it? Saturday 6 April, 7:30pm

Where? Wiltshire Music Centre, Bradford on Avon BA15 1DZ

Tickets £20 (under-16s £10), available from Wiltshire Music Centre, 01225 860100 or www.wiltshiremusic.org.uk.

Friends of Dorothy House Quiz Night

What is it? A quiz night raising funds for Dorothy House hospice.

When is it? Friday 3 May, 7pm

Where? Widcombe Social Club, Widcombe Hill, Bath BA2 6AA

Entry £3.50 per person (teams of 4). Tickets in advance by contacting Di 01225 858636 or Clare 01225 334653.

Children's Centre Supper Club

What is it? A three course dinner of recipes from celebrity chef Joudie Kalla's book *Palestine on a Plate*, to raise funds for the Spafford Children's Centre in Jerusalem, which provides free medical treatment for Palestinian children. Our Holy Land Pilgrimage will visit the centre.

When is it? Friday 17 May, 7pm – 9:30pm

Where? Cricket Pavilion, Bath Recreation Ground, Bath BA2 4DS.

Tickets £30 from www.jumblebee.co.uk/bathspaffordsupperclub.

Final Pilgrim Group

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

This term, the Pilgrim Group has studied the Letter to the Hebrews, and we think it was delivered as a sermon – so for our final meeting of the term on Thursday 11 April at about 8:15pm in the Lower Mews we will hear all 13 chapters of Hebrews read to us as if it were a sermon. Everyone is welcome, and there will be refreshments.

Bishop's Message for April

He is not here. He is risen!



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

I heard a wonderful story recently about a church Sunday School which was putting on a drama telling the story of Holy Week and Easter. All had gone well and the wonderful moment arrived when the angel appeared to the women at the tomb to declare those glorious words: "He is not here, he is risen" (Luke 24:6). Unfortunately, five-year-old Brian could not remember what to say, and so the Youth Leader had to quietly remind him of his line. He then confidently grabbed the microphone and triumphantly shouted, "He's not here; he's in prison!"

As we move this month from Lent into Holy Week and on to Good Friday I am sure we are all looking forward to

Easter Day, when we shall once again hear those words ring out: "He is not here, he is risen!" And we shall rejoice and celebrate again the glorious truth that Jesus rose from the dead. Death could not hold him. When Jesus began his ministry in Galilee he declared that "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

And those words from Isaiah help us understand why Jesus came. He came to proclaim freedom for the prisoner and to release the oppressed. He came that we might "have life and have it to the full". He came to release us from our sins and set us free from our fears. He came that we might know God and that through knowing God we might have eternal life. "I am the resurrection and the life," he said. "Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."

The good news of the Easter message is that although Jesus died upon the cross, he rose again, and through his resurrection he overcame the power of sin and the sting of death. That is why Paul could write: "Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15: 57). This Easter, let us give thanks that Jesus is not dead. He is not in prison. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

+Peter Bath and Wells

Christ Church calendar April 2019

1	Mon	Lent Lunch at St Mary's R.C.
4	Thu	11am Eucharist, followed by coffee Pilgrim Group meeting discussing Hebrews, 7:30pm
5	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm
7	Sun	<i>The Fifth Sunday of Lent</i> Christ Church Annual Church Meeting (after 10am service)
8	Mon	Lent Lunch at St Mary's R.C.
11	Thu	11am Eucharist, followed by coffee Final Pilgrim Group meeting discussing Hebrews, 7:30pm
12	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm
14	Sun	<i>Palm Sunday</i> 8am Holy Communion (BCP)
17	Wed	8pm Compline
18	Thu	<i>Maundy Thursday</i> 11am Eucharist, followed by coffee Agape meal at St Stephen's, Lansdown, 7pm
19	Fri	<i>Good Friday</i> (no Cedar Tree café today) All Age Service, 12 midday Meditations on the stations of the cross, 1pm Music and Meditation for Good Friday, 2pm
20	Sat	<i>Holy Saturday</i> Blessing of the Light, Charlcombe St Mary's, 8pm
21	Sun	<i>Easter Sunday</i> Dawn Service, Charlcombe St Mary's, 5:45am 8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Eucharist, followed by Great Christ Church Egg Hunt
25	Thu	11am Eucharist, followed by coffee
26	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm
28	Sun	<i>The Second Sunday of Easter</i>
29	Mon	<i>George, patron of England</i>
30	Tue	<i>Mark the Evangelist</i>
May	1	Wed <i>Philip and James, Apostles</i>

2 Thu 11am Eucharist, followed by coffee

3 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

5 Sun *The Third Sunday of Easter*

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

This month’s charity: Open Doors

The loose collection in the plate on the second and fourth Sunday of the month, 14 and 28 April, plus an optional retiring collection for the rest of the month, will go to Open Doors. (Donations in collection envelopes will still go to Christ Church.)

Open Doors is an international ministry working in over 60 countries to support persecuted Christians and churches, supplying Bibles, training church leaders and providing practical support, literacy programmes and emergency relief. In the UK and Ireland it works to raise awareness of global persecution, mobilising prayer, support and action.

Open Doors was founded by Brother Andrew, author of *God’s Smuggler*. Last year, the charity distributed over 2.5 million Bibles, Christian books and other types of literature, and trained over 500,000 Christians facing persecution and discrimination.

“When I first discovered a persecuted Church behind the Iron Curtain the need was for Bibles,” says Brother Andrew. “But as our ministry expanded, other needs emerged. For example, in some countries pastors have little or no seminary training. We provide them

with training. In other regions Christians are discriminated against, denied education and job opportunities. So we may strengthen the church by providing small loans to help Christians start businesses. The needs and thus the strategies vary from country to country.”

In 2017 over 850,000 persecuted Christians received relief aid, livelihood support and community development projects. In the Middle East, local partners provided food, medicines and trauma care and helped to rebuild homes and create jobs.

In the UK around one-sixth of all MPs have attended the launch of the World Watch List each year. Thousands of young people engaged with the Hope for the Middle East campaign at summer festivals. Hundreds of youth groups got involved in BLACKOUT, a 48-hour social media fast raising awareness and money to support Christians silenced for their faith.

“Our mission is called ‘Open Doors’ because we believe any door is open, anytime and anywhere,” Brother Andrew says. “I literally believe that. Every door is open to go in and proclaim Christ, as long as you are willing to go and are not worried about coming back.” Learn more at www.opendoorsuk.org



Open Doors

Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

Prayer Cycle for April 2019

Monday	1	For the Queen and other heads of state
Tuesday	2	For churches, Cathedrals and communities named Christ Church
Wednesday	3	For the elderly
Thursday	4	For Mark our Lay Reader
Friday	5	For those who use and run food banks
Saturday	6	That we may hunger and thirst after righteousness
Sunday	7	For our Archbishop, bishops and clergy
Monday	8	For those taking on new responsibilities at Christ Church
Tuesday	9	For good use to be made of this prayer cycle
Wednesday	10	We give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy
Thursday	11	For new members to be added to Christ Church
Friday	12	For the homeless
Saturday	13	For those who are persecuted for their faith
Sunday	14	For our Junior Church
Monday	15	For those who work in financial services
Tuesday	16	For refugees
Wednesday	17	That we may have grace to love
Thursday	18	For Christian unity
Friday	19	For victims of violence
Saturday	20	For our charity of the month
Sunday	21	Thanksgiving for the Resurrection
Monday	22	For those who work in medicine
Tuesday	23	For children and their families

Wednesday	24	For our bell-ringing team
Thursday	25	For the Fairtrade movement
Friday	26	For those who work in dangerous conditions
Saturday	27	For those on holiday
Sunday	28	For our servers and others who assist at the altar
Monday	29	For farmers
Tuesday	30	We give thanks for beauty in creation

Long-term Prayer List

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

David Slater
 Keith Warren and Jean
 Katharine
 Harry Pattullo
 Joyce Fairburn
 Nick Johnson
 Hilary and Mary Faulkner
 Amber
 George Alagiah
 Sister Catherine
 Demelza King
 Zayad
 Joe Street
 Mrs Wright
 Gill
 Andrew Clatworthy
 Tom King
 Joyce Gabe
 Eileen Selmes
 Zareb

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
- 4pm Scruffy Church (4th Sunday of the month), St Stephen's
- 5:30pm Re:Fresh contemporary worship (1st & 3rd Sunday), St Stephen's Centre
- 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 2019

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
7 April Lent 5	Zoe Bushell Isaiah 43:16-21	Lewis Boyd Philippians 3:4b-14	Penny Edwards John 12:1-8
14 April Palm Sunday	Emily Bond Isaiah 50:4-9a	—	(Dramatised reading of the Passion)
21 April Easter Sunday	David Bishop Acts 10:34-43	Sylvia Ayers 1 Corinthians 15:19-26	Morný Davison Luke 24:1-12
28 April Easter 2	Nick Wells Exodus 14:10-end	Rebekah Cunningham Acts 5:27-32	Virginia Knight John 20:19-31
5 May Easter 3	Judith Anderson Acts 9:1-6[7-20]	Clive Tilling Revelation 5:11-end	Charles Rice John 21:1-19

Laity rota, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Chalice assistants	Sidespeople	Intercessions
7 April	Keri Chivers, David Rawlings	Jonathan Stead, Margaret Silver	Mark Elliott
14 April	Janet Mahto, Malcolm Wall	Sylvia Ayers, Ken Ayers	Penny Edwards
21 April	Keri Chivers, Clive Tilling	Jonathan Stead, Jane Nicholson	Sarah Jones
28 April	Angela Soboslay, Jonathan Stead	Sylvia Ayers, Ken Ayers	Rebekah Cunningham
5 May	David Rawlings, Clive Tilling	Morný Davison, Margaret Silver	Georgina Bowman

Who's who at Christ Church

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Revd Prof. Cliff Burrows
Revd Narinder Tegally

Reader, Director of Music Mark Elliott
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Publicity co-ordinators Janet Mahto
Lewis Boyd

Laity rotas Judith Bishop

Prayer cycle Virginia Knight

Junior Church Emma Elliott

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

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 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)
<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

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