

For everything a season

From the priest-in-charge...

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. (Ecclesiastes 3:1,4)

As I write this, six members of the congregation have recently tested positive for Covid; a much-loved former member of our congregation is peacefully dying; we will be saying goodbye to two loved members of our congregation in August, and I dare not predict what the world political situation will look like by the time you read this. But, "To everything there is a season."

We rejoiced last month at Kara's priesting in the Abbey and presiding at her first Eucharist. We marked Windrush Day with a marvellous poem commissioned for the occasion and given its first performance by the poet Vanessa Melody. This month, God willing, we will celebrate Ken and Sylvia's diamond wedding with a celebratory lunch. For around half of their 60 years of married life they have been faithful members of the congregation at Christ Church. We thank God for them, offer them many congratulations and wish them more happy years together. Then on Friday 5 August we hope you will all come to a ceilidh when we will wish "Godspeed" to Rebekah and Greg, who are moving away. It will be an opportunity to celebrate being together, to eat and dance or watch the dancing and rejoice in God's goodness - without denving the heartbreak and near despair caused by public and private events.

"A time to mourn and a time to laugh." Through the incarnation we are assured that, astonishingly, God understands the sorrow and anger of loss and has experienced bereavement and death. But beyond the heartbreak is God's demonstration of resurrection. It isn't disrespectful to rejoice when we can, to laugh and dance or watch the dancing. We are called by God to rejoice in God's glorious creation. I hope you will be able to do so with us this summer.



Poet Vanessa Melody in Christ Church on Windrush Sunday this year, 19 June.

Last month...



On Saturday 25 June, Bath Abbey was packed for the ordination of eight new priests including Revd Kara Maylor. There were a good number from Christ Church present to support Kara, including several in the choir for the occasion.



The new priests pictured with Bishop Ruth outside the west door of the Abbey after the service.



Kara celebrates with her family afterwards (and Lore, just behind). Many congratulations, Kara!

Curate's corner

Revd Kara Maylor writes:

Wow! A year ago I began my Curacy at Christ Church. My heart is filled with gratitude and joy for you all. Words are not enough to express the thanks I feel. The year culminated in my Priesting in the Abbey on Saturday 25 June and my first Eucharist on Sunday 26th. I was so thankful that my family were at both and got the chance to meet many of you. Thank you for the warm welcome you gave them and for including them throughout their time with us. Thank you too for all the wonderful gifts and cards I received. And thank you for your patience, love, encouragement and constant prayers that have sustained me through this time. I look forward to the next couple of years to see what God is going to do!

As many of you have requested a copy of the Abandonment prayer by Charles de Foucauld that was given to me on my retreat, I include this here and know that I will be returning to this throughout my life.

Father.

I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what you will.

Whatever you may do, I thank you: I am ready for all, I accept all. Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures.

I wish no more than this, O Lord. Into your hands I commend my soul; I offer it to you with all the love of my heart, for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself, to surrender myself into your hands, without reserve. and with boundless confidence, for you are my Father.

Never did I think stepping into this role was going to be both so challenging and full of joy. My biggest thanks go of course to both Lore and God for taking a chance on me and believing that I could learn and grow enough to make it this far, which I am of course aware is only the beginning.

Brunch and the Holy Spirit

Brenda Wall writes:

On the first Sunday of each month, come and discuss the sermon! The idea of getting together, sharing brunch and discussing the sermon has proved to be very good for thought and fellowship. It's quite amazing how many thoughts lodge in the mind whilst listening to a well-thought-through, deep theological sermon, which are really never developed until one discusses them with other people who have been thinking and praying about the same issues. Written like this it sounds far too serious - in fact we have smiled and laughed together over croissant and good coffee!

Our latest meeting was on 12 June, Trinity Sunday. Trinity Sunday, according to those "in the know," is a notoriously difficult subject on which to preach and is often given to the Curate! Once we started to try to define exactly how we understand the Holy Spirit and the Trinity, we concurred with the difficulty! No doubt this is the problem with anything that tries to define God: we simply can't do it because it is so far away from our understanding. We simply cannot take God on board. This was the issue we were going to address, and the only way for mere humans was to use our own experience as a metaphor and use similes to at least approach our understandings.

Lore in her sermon likened the Holy Spirit to superglue, to a bond of love. The Holy Spirit is a knot that holds God and human beings together. The Holy Spirit is love and we are commanded to do all things with love.

Over a second pot of coffee we developed our own similes to help us through our thoughts and feelings about the Holy Spirit. We looked at the metaphor of an Elizabethan knot garden: full of intricate hedging forming a pattern, filled in with colour from many plants. The intricate patterns are the commandments and the Gospels, coloured in by our own experience of faith, of prayer and learning.

Eventually we agreed that the Holy Spirit could be called God's GPS system, guiding us, keeping us on the true path, calling us back

when we err. Yes, we know GPS systems have led to wrong turnings, when we haven't listened to them properly or felt we knew the route better. But the reassuring thing about a GPS system is that it can recalibrate and, no matter how far you are away from the true route to your destination, it will get you back on the true path. This sounds like the Holy Spirit! "So how does that describe the Trinity?" someone asked. "Ah," said Simon Tatton-Brown, "the Father is the hardware. the Son is the software and the Holy Spirit is the voice of the sat nav!"

The next time we meet for a "brunch with a punch" is on Sunday 7 August. Come and join us! The coffee and croissant are first rate and the talk matches up to them!

Lay ministries celebrated



On Saturday 2 July, Wells Cathedral saw a celebration of the gifts of all those who play a part in the life of the church and the community. The Celebration of Lay Ministries also recognised those marking a milestone in their personal journey of faith by completing one of the Diocese's lay ministries courses and those looking to move on to a more defined role, such as Lay Worship Assistants, Lay Pastoral Assistants, or Chaplains.

The event included live music from Locking Castle Band and dancing by WSM dance worship group. The whole congregation had the opportunity to contribute to making a meadow of hope: a variety of flowers, bugs, butterflies and bees were drawn, coloured in and stuck down, then placed with a message of hope on the front of the altar.

From the Eco Group

Rebekah Cunningham writes:

We hope you may have seen the latest display on the Eco Group notice board at the back of the church, telling you what developments there have been in our efforts to make our church "greener." As you may be aware, we have achieved an Eco Church Bronze Award.

We would like to encourage you to take your own actions too. A good starting point is your own self-assessment - you could use a tool such as https://creationcare.org.uk. This looks at all aspects of your home life and lifestyle, and I found it surprisingly challenging.

Specifically looking at carbon footprint are websites such as: www.footprint.wwf.org.uk, www.carbonfootprint.com, and www.worldlandtrust.org/carbon-calculator.

What changes can we all make? We've all heard the mantra "Reduce, reuse, recycle". Can we use less plastic? For example, buy vegetables loose, reuse our plastic bags to bag them up, then recycle the bags when they're worn out. Sainsbury's and the Co-op will take all sorts of soft plastic, even plastic that says "not recyclable," including crisp packets, biscuit wrappers and coffee bags.

Can we try to use cars less? Walk or bike ride, multitask on our car journeys, car share? It's not easy in a city like Bath or in busy lives but every little reduction makes a difference.

What about our food? LOAF is a word to remind us of what to aim for - Locally grown, Organic, Animal friendly and Fairtrade. Again, we can't succeed in all these aims all the time. but every small change makes a difference.

I was struck by a recent anthem sung by the choir at church, containing the words "The leaves of the trees are for the healing of the nations" (Rev 22:2). It made me think how the whole of creation is working here and now for our well-being, physical, mental and spiritual. We learn more and more every day about the amazing properties of the plants and animals we share our world with.

Creation is one of God's greatest gifts to us and a reminder of his presence with us. May our hearts overflow with thankfulness as we work to protect his gift.

This month's charity: Woodland Trust

The loose collection in the plate on the second and fourth Sunday of the month - 10 and 24 July – will go to the Woodland Trust. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.)

Rebekah Cunningham writes:

As part of the Eco Group's plans to make our church increasingly environmentally active, Christ Church is supporting the Woodland Trust, the UK's largest woodland conservation charity, as our charity of the month for July.

The Woodland Trust was founded 50 years ago and, as the name suggests, it works for our woodlands, restoring ancient woodlands, planting new woods and trees, fighting against tree pests and diseases, and campaigning to protect ancient woodland from destruction when threatened by new development.

Trees are essential in the fight against climate change and the Woodland Trust is on a mission to get 50 million native trees in the ground over the next five years. An increase in native trees will help to minimise the pace and level of climate change and adapt to its unavoidable impacts. To help achieve this they are giving away hundreds of thousands of trees to schools and communities. You can apply here: www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/planttrees/schools-and-communities.

A walk in the woods is good for our physical and mental health too. Why not visit one of the several Woodland Trust woods near Bath? They protect and maintain woods in Midford, Upper Westwood, Swainswick and Colerne, among others. You can find out more on their website.

To donate visit www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/ support-us/give/donations. Their address is: The Woodland Trust, Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6LL.



Bishop's Message for July

A wealth of ministries



From the Rt Revd Ruth Worsley. Bishop of Taunton

Half-way through the year already! Midsummer's day past. It hardly seems possible. We have now had Bishop Michael's election as our new Diocesan Bishop confirmed, and we have joined together in a Day of Prayer to mark this new chapter in the life of the Diocese of Bath and Wells. Praying with hope and joy as we look forward to the next part of the journey together, and with realism as we recognise the challenges we face especially with our limited financial resources.

However, we are rich in other ways. The missional and ministerial resources amongst us are strong. We continue to see people drawn to exploring ordained ministry and yet an even greater number seeking new lay ministerial opportunities. Reader training is beginning to increase once more. Chaplaincies of all shapes and sizes are developing. Recently we introduced chaplaincy to the courts in Taunton, and Westonsuper-Mare is following after. Churchwardens in this past month have demonstrated their commitment to service at the annual Visitation services.

And there are loads more ways in which the wealth of the Church is seen.

through pastoral care, worship leading, and children and youth work, to name but a few. Our deaneries are working together on plans for local shared ministry focusing on the particular needs, context and gifts of each place and community. It is an opportunity for us to note God's abundant goodness to us and the gift of the people with whom we gather.

As I write this I am looking forward to sharing in our annual celebration of all the lay ministries across the diocese on Saturday 2 July. It is an opportunity to recognise, affirm, encourage and thank people for all the gifts and talents they share in their churches and communities, showing God's love and continuing Christ's ministry and mission today.

Every blessing,

+Ruth Taunton

Coming events

Poetry reading

What is it? Pilgrim Group is hosting a poetry reading by Rosemary Wells, who wrote the poems that we used in our Easter morning service. Come and meet her and hear her read more of her work.

When is it? Thursday 14 July, 7:30pm Where? Christ Church

Farewell ceilidh

What is it? An opportunity to say farewell to Rebekah and Greg, who are leaving the area, and also to enjoy each other's company. Everyone welcome! Dancing not compulsory, and no need to bring a dancing partner. Watch for more details nearer the date. When is it? Friday 5 August Where? St Mary's Parish Centre, Julian Road

Book review: The Matter with Things

The Matter with Things: our brains, our delusions and the unmaking of the world, by Ian McGilchrist (Perspectiva Press, 2021, 1,578 pages. ISBN 978-1914568060), RRP £89.65

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

Why is there something rather than nothing? Why do we find the juxtaposition of formal planting with the informality of the growth of individual plants beautiful? How do our perceptions relate to what is true? How might the inbuilt asymmetry of our brains offer insight into these and other questions of perception? Perhaps most significantly, as energy precedes mass, may consciousness - the consciousness of a creator - precede matter?

Ian McGilchrist's meticulously constructed book argues that consciousness - and with it our recognition of beauty, truth and goodness - cannot have evolved from nothing but rather must relate to and resonate with the beauty, truth and goodness of our "Ground of Being." McGilchrist is a significant thinker. After studying English at Oxford he switched to philosophy and lectured as a fellow of All Souls for ten years. He then retrained in medicine and researched and taught as a consultant psychiatrist. He is now retired and this book is the result of his life of thought. He calls on his expertise in neurology and the interaction of the left and right sides of the

brain to interrogate WITH THINGS and the Unmaking of the World IAIN MCGILCHRIST

philosophical and theological concepts of the nature of being. He is a skilled communicator and doesn't assume any expert knowledge (though I found it helpful to keep a dictionary

handy). He has intentionally written it so that each chapter stands alone. It isn't necessary to read all of them in order, but well worth doing so.

McGilchrist is not a churchgoer but his book places God's relationship with creation back where it belongs right at the centre of intellectual debate. Reviews have been slow to arrive, possibly because the two volumes take time to read, but it received an unprecedented four-page review in The Tablet. There's now a copy of it in the Christ Church library. Please borrow and read it, but give it back. It's a first edition, which in fifty years' time may be as valuable as a first edition of The Origin of Species.

Services live and online

Our weekly 10am Sunday Eucharist is open to all in person and also live streamed at www.facebook.com/christchurchbath. As Covid restrictions ease, pews are no longer cordoned off, we welcome people to kneel at the Communion rail, and we offer Communion wine, but the wine is entirely optional.

Our weekly Thursday I Iam Eucharist takes place live in the church, and is not broadcast.

The choir are taking a summer break, and Evensong will resume in September.

An informal reflective service is held on the fourth Sunday of each month at 5pm. This uses the form of evening service in A Wee Worship Book (Fifth Incarnation) compiled by the Iona Community and published by their Wild Goose Resource Group. All are welcome. For further information, please contact Ionathan Stead. There is also a short service of silent contemplation on alternate Sundays contact Kara Maylor for details of this.

Do add prayer requests to the list in church or post to Christ Church, Julian Road, Bath BAI 2RH. Bear in mind that some services will be online, so be mindful of the privacy of friends and loved ones. We will not use full names in any public prayers that are live streamed.

Christ Church calendar July 2022

	7	Thu	11am Eucharist
	8	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
	10	Sun	The Fourth Sunday after Trinity 8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Eucharist
	14	Thu	11am Eucharist Pilgrim Group: poetry reading by Rosemary Wells, 7:30pm
	15	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
	17	Sun	The Fifth Sunday after Trinity 10am Eucharist Bring-&-share lunch for Ken & Sylvia Ayers' 60th anniversary (No Choral Evensong today)
	21	Thu	11am Eucharist
	22	Fri	Mary Magdalene Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
	24	Sun	The Sixth Sunday after Trinity 10am Eucharist 5pm Contemplative Service (Iona)
	25	Mon	James the Apostle
	28	Thu	11am Eucharist
	29	Fri	Mary, Martha and Lazarus, companions of Jesus Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
	30	Sat	William Wilberforce, social reformer (and one of the founding benefactors of Christ Church)
	31	Sun	The Seventh Sunday after Trinity 10am Eucharist
Aug	4	Thu	11am Eucharist
	5	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
	6	Sat	The Transfiguration
	7	Sun	The Eighth Sunday after Trinity 10am Eucharist

Our Sunday 10am Eucharist, and other services as advertised, continue to be live-streamed at www.facebook.com/christchurchbath

Prayer Cycle for July 2022

Friday	1	For those who have lost their faith
Saturday	2	For our own personal ministry
Sunday	3	For Mark, David and the choir
Monday	4	For our government and politicians
Tuesday	5	For those who have been baptised, confirmed or married at Christ Church
Wednesday	6	For peace
Thursday	7	For the ministry of hospices
Friday	8	For those in slavery or bonded labour
Saturday	9	We give thanks for the fruits of the earth
Sunday	10	For the ministry of our Junior Church
Monday	11	For those who work in the transport industry
Tuesday	12	For countries experiencing civil unrest
Wednesday	13	For new members to be added to Christ Church
Thursday	14	That we may have grace to love
Friday	15	For the lonely and depressed
Saturday	16	For those on our long-term prayer list
Sunday	17	For our bell-ringing team
Monday	18	For the emergency services and police
Tuesday	19	We give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy
Wednesday	20	For Churches, Cathedrals and communities named Christ Church
Thursday	21	For our charity of the month, the Woodland Trust
Friday	22	For the homeless

Saturday	23	For all in hospital
Sunday	24	For Angela our Verger
Monday	25	For those who work in social services
Tuesday	26	For those who are confined to their homes
Wednesday	27	For the work of Genesis
Thursday	28	For those who travel
Friday	29	For those who are persecuted for their faith
Saturday	30	For the local Deanery Synod
Sunday	31	We give thanks for the blessings of the past month

Long-term Prayer List

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

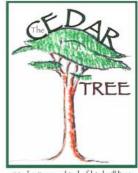
Tilly	Chris
Revd John	Thomas
Jean	David
David G	Patrick
Amber	AJ
David	John Batup
Joyce W	Karin
Roger and Frances	Frankie
Joyce K	
Mylene	
Jean and John	
Evelyn	
Sister Margaret	

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

Cedar Tree is open

The Cedar Tree community café is open every Friday from 11am to 1:30pm. All are welcome! If you live or work in the area, do consider dropping in for a chat, a cup of

coffee, homemade cake or a light snack, to support this important part of our outreach to the local community. If you can help on a Friday or make a cake we can sell, then please contact lanet Mahto. Your offers will be very gratefully received.



"Under it every kind of bird will live"

Julian Road

Rotas for July 2022

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel	Intercessions
3 July Thomas	3 July Angela Soboslay Thomas Habakkuk 2:1-4	Georgina Bowman Ephesians 2:19-end	Janet Mahto John 20:24-29	Peter Bowes
10 July 4th after Trinity	10 July Sylvia Ayers 4th after Amos 7:7-17 Trinity	Peter Bowes Colossians 1:1-14	Virginia Knight Luke 10:25-37	Ian Hay Davison
17 July 5th after Trinity	17 July Robin Kerr 5th after Amos 8:1-12 Trinity	Judith Anderson Colossians 1:15-28	Beryl Bowes Luke 10:38-42	Jonathan Stead
24 July 6th after Trinity	24 July Ben Elliott 6th after Trinity	Jonathan Stead Colossians 2:6-15	Brenda Wall Luke 11:1-13	Beryl Bowes
31 July 7th after Trinity	31 July Emma Elliott 7th after Hosea 11:1-11 Trinity	Ian Hay Davison Colossians 3:1-11	Nick Wells Luke 12:13-21	Rebekah Cunningham
7 August 8th after Trinity	7 August David Bishop 8th after Isaiah 1:1,10-20 Trinity	Morny Davison Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16	Jane Hoe Luke 12:32-40	Simon Tatton- Brown

Who's who at Christ Church

Priest-in-charge Revd Lore Chumbley 07595 294146

lore.chumbley@me.com

Revd Kara Maylor

Event/concert bookings,

weekly notice sheet Judith Bishop 01225 858816

> concerts@christchurchbath.org notices@christchurchbath.org

> > alexs@christchurchbath.org

07769 655927

Ian Hay Davison

Supporting clergy

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Tower Captain,

Tower Secretary

Ringing Master Will Willans

Christ Church Link editor Alex Soboslay

Revd Dr Peter Bowes Reader, Director of Music Mark Elliott

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Revd Beryl Bowes

07932 160482 bells@christchurchbath.org

Churchwarden,

Cedar Tree café organiser | anet Mahto 01225 424860

janetmahto@gmail.com

Steeple Keeper David Kelly

Publicity co-ordinator Janet Mahto

Laity rotas Judith Bishop

Churchwarden lane Nicholson 07990 552413

jane@janemnicholson.com

Prayer cycle Virginia Knight

Emma Elliott Junior Church

Verger Angela Soboslay 01225 333297

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Chair of Trustees Nick Wells

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David Bishop

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Organist and Assistant

Treasurer

Director of Music David Winters

Safeguarding officer Virginia Knight 07896 916840

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Churches Together in Bath,

USPG Rebekah Cunningham

Mission to Seafarers Sylvia Ayers

Deanery Synod Reps Brenda Wall Pauline Swaby-Wallace

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

About Christ Church

THE CHURCH We're a liberal, inclusive and open church, OF ENGLAND 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 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. New singers of all ages are always very welcome.

Concerned about the health risks of singing? We do not sing at the 8am BCP Communion or 5pm Quiet Service. As Covid restrictions are gradually lifted, we are singing the Gospel acclamation at the 11am Thursday Eucharist.

As well as worship on Sundays and Thursday mornings, there are many other activities going on in our community, including our weekly community café every Friday. Visit the website to check service times and events.

Regular Sunday services

Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) - On the second Sunday of every month Sung Eucharist with Junior 10am Church activities for children

and young people - Every Sunday - also streamed at www.facebook.com/christchurchbath

4:30pm Choral Evensong - Usually on the third Sunday of each month, resuming in September

Contemplative Quiet Service 5pm (Iona) - On the fourth Sunday of every month

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

Contacting us

Christ Church. Julian Road. Bath BA1 2RH

Phone: 01225 338869

(answer phone)

Email: admin@christchurchbath.org Website: www.christchurchbath.org

