



Rest in God

From the priest-in-charge...

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

I hope you have found some time for rest and recreation over the summer months to ready you for the challenges and activities of the new academic year. In the Church's calendar, Harvest Festival and then Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter come so rapidly they seem almost to fall over each other. The great festivals of the Church are crammed together into four winter months. Historically this was the quieter period in farming communities when the earth rested during winter and there was leisure to prepare for and celebrate Christmas and Easter.

In spite of the tradition of summer holidays, our culture is not very good at resting. I know many of you have not been able to take time away, and even those who have may have been tripped up by travel delays abroad and disappointing weather at home. But finding time to rest is essential for health, happiness and spiritual maturity. R. Somerset Ward, a spiritual director in the early twentieth century, recommended that our first priority in life should be prayer. That is not surprising. Many of us are familiar with the idea that we give the first and best part of the day to God in prayer. But his second priority is unexpected as "rest and recreation" push "work" into third place.

Somerset Ward understood rest as an imperative. After six days of creation, God rested on the seventh day. Observant Jews still follow that example. Michael Fishbane, a Jewish theologian,

explains that as well as obeying the fourth commandment, Sabbath rest ensures that "the heartbeat of repose may suffuse the mind and limbs of one's being and generate an inner balance poised on quietude and a settled spirit."

Jesus invites us to rest, comparing the heavy yoke of the requirements of contemporary society with his easy yoke of discipleship and love (Matthew 11:29-30). Making the decision to let go of anxiety and hurry and to hand ourselves over to rest in God is a true acceptance of Jesus' offer. In Fishbane's words, Sabbath rest "is the divestment of will for God's sake and the wonder of the world." Jesus' promise is that by resting in him we shall find "rest for our souls." That I think is the rest we are truly looking for in a holiday.



Last month, the Christ Church community gathered to say farewell to our oldest member, Madge North. See page 3.

Circuit of Bath Walk

Join the Circuit of Bath Walk on Sunday 24 September and take a stand against homelessness. Challenge yourself to take on the full 20.9 mile route, or a distance of your choosing, and raise sponsorship to help support the many men and women experiencing homelessness and escaping domestic abuse across the South West.

By taking part you'll get to appreciate this historic city and its surrounding countryside like never before. In addition, by raising sponsorship you will be helping Julian House to provide life-changing support to more than 2,000 vulnerable men, women and children across the region.

With rough sleeping on the rise and the cost of living crisis hitting marginalised people in society hardest, Julian House needs your support now more than ever. It's a sad fact that the life expectancy of a long-term homeless person is just 45 years. But you can help change that!

If you complete the full epic route, you will be rewarded with a special environmentally-friendly medal to mark your amazing achievement. If you prefer not to walk the full 20.9 miles, a free taxi service will operate between the checkpoints, allowing you to get back to your start point.

The route is fully waymarked, thanks to a collaboration with Bathscape and Cotswolds National Landscape.

You can find full details and register at <https://circuitofbathwalk.co.uk>.



This month's charity: Bath City Farm

The loose collection on the second and fourth Sundays of the next two months – 10 and 24 September, then 8 and 22 October – will go to Bath City Farm. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.)

Bath City Farm is a non-profit organisation providing a green space close to the city for people and nature to thrive. It works with children, young people and adults living with poor mental health, learning disabilities and other complex needs, helping them develop new skills and confidence as well as raising environmental awareness. Its farm is the venue for a range of projects encouraging people to engage with organic farming and, as a therapy, to learn to grow and cook healthy fresh produce. See <https://bathcityfarm.org.uk>.



Christ Church 225

As part of our celebration of the 225th anniversary of the consecration of Christ Church, which falls on 7 November, we are holding an evening Ceilidh on Saturday 14 October. It will take place in the Church Rooms behind St Mary's Catholic Church on Julian Road. The ticket price will include the cost of a simple meal. Everyone is invited, and please feel free to buy tickets for friends. Watch for more details soon.

Clare Carter RIP

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

We are sorry to report that Clare Carter, a well known former resident in Julian Road and a frequent welcome visitor to our Cedar Tree community café, has died. Clare used to worship at Christ Church before she had a stroke and moved away from the neighbourhood. She died unexpectedly on 20 August, leaving her son Axel and his partner Nichole. Since her stroke three and a half years ago they have looked after Clare in their joint home. She had apparently recovered from the stroke but never regained full mobility. Frustrated by her inability to be independent, she took to the internet and become an unlikely but extremely popular TikTok star.

Clare was one of nature's disrupters, with a well developed sense of fun and a fine contempt for rules. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

We will be hosting Clare's funeral in Christ Church. Watch for details to come.

Bath Half Marathon

Advance warning: this year's Bath Half Marathon takes place on Sunday 15 October. Details of road closures and parking suspensions will be released nearer the time, but this year will apply in Royal Victoria Park on Saturday 14 October in addition to the Sunday. This is because there's a Family Fun Day on the Saturday. Other changes this year include a return to the "traditional" anti-clockwise course and a new start and finish location on Royal Avenue (in front of the Royal Crescent). As usual, you might need to allow extra time to get to and from Christ Church on the Sunday because of road closures and the fact that Julian Road is inevitably one of the diversion routes. Watch for more information in the next issue of the *Link*.



Last month in Christ Church



Top: Madge and Albert North in 1972, some while before any of us at Christ Church knew them. This photo, and the portrait of Madge on page 1, courtesy of Angela Morris. Below: Madge's funeral in Christ Church on Monday 21 August. Photo courtesy of Jane Nicholson. We join in sending our condolences and prayers to Angela, Roy and all Madge's family and friends.

Gaia at Bath Abbey

Bath Abbey is hosting Luke Jerram's touring Gaia artwork from Monday 18 September to Sunday 29 October, as part of the Abbey's Treasuring Creation Festival.

Measuring seven metres in diameter and made up of detailed NASA imagery of the Earth's surface, Gaia provides the opportunity to see our planet in the round.

The Treasuring Creation Festival focuses on appreciating and caring for our planet. Events include an art exhibition featuring details from the Abbey's stained glass windows and diptychs from the Abbey's collection, with a short commentary shining a light on treasuring the Earth from a Christian perspective; tours of the Abbey; activities and trails for schools and families; workshops; and Extraordinary Earth Day on Saturday 30 September, 10am–5pm. This is a day for all to see what's going on locally to help combat climate change and support the city in living more sustainably. Details of the festival and booking info as relevant at www.bathabbey.org/gaia.



The Gaia installation in London's Natural History Museum. See more at <https://my-earth.org/about>.

Cottages correction

Last month's *Link* included a photo taken by Dave Kelly, looking from the church roof over Christ Church Cottages, showing the garden of Cottage No. 1 filled with plants. It was of course here where Frank and Dorothy Twissell lived, not Cottage No. 2.

A lifelong journey

From the Diocese of Bath and Wells:

As Christians we're not called to attend church, we're called to follow Christ, to be his disciples. But how do we respond to that call? And how is your relationship with Christ?

Cheryl Govier, Growing Faith Adviser for Bath and Wells, says: "As Christians, we are all on a journey, and it is really important that we grow as Christians as we journey with God. As with any journey, and any relationship, sometimes it can feel that things are going really well, while sometimes it can feel static or even as if it's going backwards."

With so many demands on our time, in church and outside church, our discipleship can be a bit neglected, but we can all learn to make time to reflect on our faith as we live out our daily lives. In the last few years people from across Bath and Wells have gathered together at our Everyday Faith events to do just that – and have also gathered to celebrate with those marking personal landmarks in their journeys with Christ, both lay and ordained.

David Ball of the Gold Project, one of the resources the diocese signposts in Bath and Wells to support discipleship, attended the Celebration of Lay Ministries in June. "We want to encourage all Christians, not just those on the path to theological college, to become life-long learners and to encourage people in their discipleship," he says. "Discipleship doesn't stop when you become a Christian, it keeps going your whole life. Many people worry that they aren't equipped to engage with the Bible, but we all can. Yes, it may raise difficult questions, but we shouldn't be afraid of addressing them, especially as we aren't doing so alone.

"Most importantly, we should not be afraid of being educated in our faith."

Find out more about growing in your faith at bathandwells.org.uk/lifelong-journey.

Bishop's Message for September

Learn from the Master



**From the Rt Revd Michael Beasley,
Bishop of Bath and Wells**

When you hear the word *disciple*, what comes into your mind? A learner? A follower? A super Christian? Someone kitted out in Biblical dress complete with robe, sandals, tea towel head covering and beard?

The New Testament's word for disciple doesn't quite match any of these descriptions. It's much closer to the word we'd use in English for "apprentice".

Back in history, and still today, to be an apprentice meant spending time in the presence of a master in order to learn a craft – maybe carpentry, or blacksmithing, baking or butchery. You'd start out doing the simple stuff – sweeping floors or sharpening tools. Then gradually you'd acquire more and more skills until you learnt to work confidently with materials producing beautiful things, products of utility and worth. Apprentices often learnt their craft while living alongside their masters, becoming members of their trade through time spent together at work and rest and play.

Jesus was often called "the carpenter's son" – apprenticed to his worldly father Joseph, growing in skill at the

plane and the lathe. He was also the apprentice of his heavenly father. The Gospels speak of Jesus withdrawing to spend time with God in order to know God's mind, hear God's voice, grow in God's ways.

Apprenticeship was and is a story of growth, development, discovery and change. It's the journey that Jesus invites us to take with him too – of baby steps and toddler stumbles, of emerging skill and increasing understanding.

Churches near you are offering opportunities to apprentice yourself to Jesus this autumn – from practical action that gets you involved in Jesus's service to the world, to learning and discussion that comes with courses such as Alpha, Exploring Christianity or Pilgrim.

Why not sign yourself up and learn from the Master?

Every blessing,

+Michael

Saturday recitals

There will be a series of recitals at Christ Church on the following Saturday afternoons:

■ 9 September: Organ recital by David Winters and Will Beech (Organist and Organ Scholar, Christ Church).

■ 23 September: Music for counter-tenor, recorder and harpsichord, with Philip Draisle, Simon Winters and David Winters.

■ 14 October: Organ recital by Malcolm Archer, former Director of Music and Organist at Bristol, Wells and St Paul's Cathedrals.

The short recitals will start at 3pm and last approximately an hour. Admission is free (with a retiring collection) and the church will be open from 2:15pm for refreshments.

The Franciscan Third Order

Pam Hitchins writes:

I am struggling to tell you what The Franciscan Third Order is and why three of us (Dan, Graham and Pam) belong to it. Initially I thought it was a simple task and yet I have made several attempts to explain it. Perhaps my struggle reflects something of the whole process of speaking about ourselves. The Third Order has been described as the Anglican Church's best kept secret, and at one time, it is said, one member of a couple could not tell the other they were a Franciscan.

However, I am going to try to tell you more, but it will be a brief overview.

The Anglican Third Order began early in the 20th century, although St Francis was born in the 12th century and his Rule of Life for the Third Order was approved by the Pope in 1221. It is this same Rule that we adhere to but initially it was written to enable those many followers of Francis to live their own lives in the community, rather than literally follow him everywhere. He recognised that such an action would affect the economy of the nation, because so many people were attracted to his way.

The three of us have chosen to follow this way too. We wanted at the time to live our lives differently than we had been, and we wanted to know and serve Jesus more. I think we can all say it has changed our lives for the better, although I suggest it has asked more of us than we expected.

What it asks of us is to commit our lives under vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, but not to the extent of our First Order Brothers and Sisters, who own nothing for themselves. However, as our lives are lived in the community, we aim to live more simply and be aware of others' needs. Living chastely and being obedient to the "call" on us is also



The oldest portrait of St Francis, a mural in the sacred grotto of St Benedict's Cave in Subiaco, Rome.

something we try to adhere to. Our main aim is to make the love of Jesus known and to preach the Gospel. St Francis is cited as saying "Preach the gospel but use as few words as possible". Thus, the requirement for us is to live a life that reflects the life of Jesus such that others will know Him. Quite a challenge!

To do this we are enabled, over a period of a few years of learning and with the guidance of a Novice Guardian, to work out a Rule of Life relevant to us personally. We also learn how the application of the "Principles" of our Order help guide us in keeping our Rule, along with the meetings we have with other Brothers and Sisters in our Local and Area groups (community). This leads to our Profession, where we take our vows to serve God for the rest of our lives. Following our Profession, we become a full member and are known as Tertiaries. Thereafter we continue to seek to grow in our Franciscan Spirituality. Our interests are varied and reflect our care of creation, justice and peace. Franciscans are known to join in public protests concerning these three important matters. We also seek to care for the marginalised in whatever way needed, taking care of all in a variety of ways.

Underpinning our work is our prayer life, which is an essential part of our day. We aim to be obedient in praying for the whole Order across the world and for our local members; this includes reflecting on the "Principle" pertinent to the day. The Eucharist is an essential part of our Rule and is where we return for an infilling of the Holy Spirit to enable us to continue our life in Jesus Christ. Underpinning all this we pray God's grace to enable us to live a life of humility, love and joy.

I am aware there is much more to clarify but I hope I have managed to at least sketch out a way of life that reflects what it is like following Jesus in the Franciscan Way. Perhaps I need to add, it does become a way of life, lived out each moment of the day, and our Rule does have a section for penitence, which is a needed blessing on its own.

Please feel free to talk to any of us if you want to know more.

Christ Church calendar Sep. 2023

3 Sun *The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity*
10am Eucharist

7 Thu 11am Eucharist

8 Fri *The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

9 Sat Organ Recital, 3pm

10 Sun *The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity*
8am Holy Communion (BCP)
10am Eucharist

14 Thu *Holy Cross Day*
11am Eucharist

15 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

17 Sun *Harvest Thanksgiving / The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity*
10am Eucharist
4:30pm Choral Evensong

21 Thu *Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist*
11am Eucharist

22 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

23 Sat Music for Countertenor, Recorder and Harpsichord, 3pm

24 Sun *The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity*
10am Eucharist
5pm Iona Contemplative Service

28 Thu 11am Eucharist

29 Fri *Michael and All Angels*
Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

Oct 1 Sun *The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity*
10am Eucharist

5 Thu 11am Eucharist

6 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

8 Sun *The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity*
8am Holy Communion (BCP)
10am Eucharist

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

Prayer Cycle for September 2023

Friday	1	For the unemployed
Saturday	2	For those who travel
Sunday	3	For our Archbishop, bishops and clergy
Monday	4	For scientists and engineers
Tuesday	5	For those who have lost their faith
Wednesday	6	For those who live or work in care homes
Thursday	7	We give thanks for family and friends
Friday	8	For those who have been forced to flee their homes
Saturday	9	For those who have been baptised, married or confirmed at Christ Church
Sunday	10	For Mark our Lay Reader
Monday	11	For farmers
Tuesday	12	That we may be pure in heart
Wednesday	13	For those on our long-term prayer list
Thursday	14	For our servers and others who assist at the altar
Friday	15	For all in hospital
Saturday	16	For the ministry of safeguarding
Sunday	17	For our Junior Church
Monday	18	For those in the legal profession
Tuesday	19	For the Trustees of Christ Church
Wednesday	20	For peace
Thursday	21	For our charity of the month
Friday	22	For those in slavery or bonded labour
Saturday	23	We give thanks for the fruits of the earth

Sunday	24	For Jane and Jonathan our churchwardens
Monday	25	For journalists and those who work in the media
Tuesday	26	That we may have the gift of patience
Wednesday	27	For the local Deanery Synod
Thursday	28	We give thanks for those who enrich our lives
Friday	29	For the lonely and depressed
Saturday	30	For countries experiencing economic problems

Long-term Prayer List

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

Chris
David
Hui Tao Ling
Jean and John
Joyce K
John K
Kat
A J Kninchi
Roger and Francis
Evelyn
Mary Elizabeth Bull
Natalia Bull
Sheila
Paul and Kate
Jeremy and Roz

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, home-made 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 Jenny Hesketh. Your offers will be very gratefully received.



Rotas for September 2023

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
3 Sep 13th Sunday after Trinity	Simon Tatton-Brown Jeremiah 15:15-21	Morny Davison Romans 12:9-21	Robin Kerr Matthew 16:21-28
	Intercessions: Beryl Bowes		
10 Sep 14th Sunday after Trinity	Jane Hoe Ezekiel 33:7-11	Judith Anderson Romans 13:8-14	Peter Bowes Matthew 18:15-20
	Intercessions: Mark Elliott		
17 Sep Harvest Thanks- giving	Brenda Wall Deuteronomy 8:7-18	Jonathan Stead 2 Corinthians 9:6-end	Mark Elliott Luke 12:16-30
	Intercessions: Peter Bowes		
24 Sep 16th Sunday after Trinity	Virginia Knight Jonah 3:10 – 4:11	Rachel Preston Philippians 1:21-30	Sue Caden Matthew 20:1-16
	Intercessions: Jonathan Stead		
1 October 17th Sunday after Trinity	Kara Maylor Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32	Ben Elliott Philippians 2:1-13	Malcolm Wall Matthew 21:23-32
	Intercessions: Georgina Bowman		

Who's who at Christ Church

Priest-in-charge	Revd Lore Chumbley 07595 294146 lore.chumbley@me.com	Organist and Assistant Director of Music	David Winters david.winters@christchurchbath.org
Curate	Revd Kara Maylor	Safeguarding officer	Virginia Knight 07896 916840 christchbathsafeguarding@gmail.com
Supporting clergy	Revd Canon Simon Tatton-Brown 01225 835404 simon@tattonbrown.myzen.co.uk	Deanery Synod Reps	Brenda Wall Pauline Swaby-Wallace
	Revd Beryl Bowes Revd Dr Peter Bowes	Christ Church Link editor	Alex Soboslay 07769 655927 alexs@christchurchbath.org
Reader, Director of Music	Mark Elliott 01225 445360 mark.elliott@christchurchbath.org	Tower Captain, Ringing Master	Will Willans
Churchwarden	Jane Nicholson 07990 552413 jane@janemnicholson.com	Steeple Keeper	David Kelly
Churchwarden	Jonathan Stead jonathanstead20@gmail.com	Cedar Tree café organiser	Jenny Hesketh jenny.hesketh@me.com
Verger	Angela Soboslay 01225 333297 angela.soboslay@christchurchbath.org	Junior Church	Emma Elliott
Chair of Trustees	Nick Wells 07774 104584 nicholaswells5@btinternet.com	Laitia rotas	Judith Bishop
Treasurer (outgoing)	David Bishop 01225 858816 david.bishop@christchurchbath.org	Prayer cycle	Virginia Knight
Treasurer (incoming)	Zoë Bushell zoe.bushell@christchurchbath.org	Charitable Giving co-ordinator	Jonathan Stead
Event/concert bookings, weekly notice sheet	Judith Bishop 01225 858816 concerts@christchurchbath.org notices@christchurchbath.org	Mission to Seafarers	Sylvia Ayers

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 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.

For anyone still concerned about the health risks of congregational singing, we do not sing at the 8am BCP Communion or 5pm Quiet Service.

As well as worship on Sundays and Thursdays, there are many other activities going on in our community, including our weekly community café every Friday. Our ecumenical Pilgrim Group provides a space for exploration and discussion of faith in an open and non-judgemental setting. Visit the website to check service times and events.

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 – also streamed at www.facebook.com/christchurchbath*
- 4:30pm Choral Evensong – *Usually on the third Sunday of each month*
- 5pm Contemplative Quiet Service (Iona) – *On the fourth Sunday of every month*

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

Contacting us

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(answer phone)
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