

Christ Church Link

Spring 2011 Issue 4

We're an open-minded Christian community exploring our faith together

50p Where sold

Mending broken things

Sarah Sheppard

Long ago I had work that involved taking up people's references. Some fairly florid letters came back, and at times it was unclear if our missionary society had been lucky enough to make contact with archangels, or other heavenly beings, for potential work overseas. Even the candidates wrote rather enthusiastically about themselves. I've forgotten nearly all the purple prose. But I remember one candidate who put down as a hobby "mending broken things".

It struck a cord with me. There's a great satisfaction in getting something back into working order. UHU glue often does the trick, and epoxy resin is its big brother, for rather tougher mends. I wonder if part of the satisfaction in a mend goes beyond good household management, and lies deep within us? Might it be a picture of our inner needs being met? For we all need mending up, and it is going to take more than UHU to make the difference.

Coming to church is part of making the difference. Here is time and space to think over our past hurts and failures, and an opportunity to offer them up for God's help. We are so apt to lug about all these troubles, like an overfull suitcase. In church, through prayer and fellowship, we can unpack the contents gradually. Of course, as we know, church is full of people all unpacking their spiritual suitcases. That's the rub. Sometimes we jar on each other, and don't listen to one another's needs. But when we do, it is like flying. For real happiness, congregational life at its best is hard to beat.

Does this mean that church is merely one huge mutual aid society? That would trivialise our calling. Our help, our listening and our support all have to spread much wider than our own personal circle. Intercessions within the liturgy should include our loved ones, of course – but they also need to bring the world's troubles to our attention.

Our brothers and sisters are living not only in Bath, but in North Africa, Japan, and in the rubble of Christ Church, New Zealand. And if we pray for all such people, we ask to be moved to do something – however small – to help them.

Caring for the world's needs can never be a Christian optional extra. For if we do any mending up of troubles, it is only the faintest reflection of the greatest mending up there has ever been. Good Friday and Easter have been described in so many ways, but at heart this is the story of God building a bridge, so that humanity need not be separated from the divine love. This is a mending up on a scale we can hardly contemplate. And it should come as no surprise that those who write most movingly of Holy Week are those who know their own need of God's mending touch.

With Japan and its troubles much on our hearts at present, I am reminded of a set of Christian reflections written years ago by some Japanese leprosy patients. One of these travels the road to Calvary:

I do not fear to tread the road
I cannot see,
Because the hand of One-Who-Loves
Is leading me.

Another might almost describe the Risen Jesus appearing to the disciples, as they bring their fishing boats to the shore. Could it also be a picture of our mended lives, and our fellowship together this Eastertide?

What joy it is at early morn to meet
Beside the sea, with those who love our Lord
And whom we love; and there to read the Word,
And lay our burdens at our Master's feet.



Mothers' Union: update on the Bye Buy Childhood campaign

Margaret Burrows

The Mothers' Union Chief Executive Reg Bailey has been asked to chair the Government's review of the commercialisation and premature sexualisation of children. This committee is due to report back in May this year and has won widespread political support. Potential recommendations include imposing tighter controls on advertisers and retailers. There is widespread concern about the impact the commercial world has on children, particularly the sexualisation of children through inappropriate images on television, in music and adverts and clothes sold to young girls. The popular internet site Mumsnet has run campaigns on this issue over several years, and last year launched: 'Let Girls be Girls' asking retailers to commit not to sell products which play upon, emphasise or exploit sexuality. This is now being extended to tackle the display of lads' mags in newsagents and supermarkets where children can see them. Justine Roberts, (Mumsnet founder) says her members have stated they don't want their school-age children to have to navigate adult sexual imagery every time they visit a newsagents.

Another possible route of accessing such material is of course online. A survey by the

How best to entice a vicar?

Mark Elliott

Firstly I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to the process of putting together our church profile document. There has been a great deal of thoughtful consideration and discussion in various forums and I am quite sure that the whole process has been a useful one for the church community. We are now nearing the end of a final review of the document as a whole to ensure all the sections complement each other and fully describe our church's life. Very shortly we will format the text using our corporate identity and add photographs. Print copies of the final version will be made available so everyone can see the fruits of all our labours.

Having been in ongoing discussions with Andy Piggott (Archdeacon of Bath) about the appointment process, we have decided to delay the advertisement of the post until after Easter. As we know, the paschal period is a hectic one for the clergy and we don't want our advert to be missed by potential candidates amongst all the Easter preparations. I realise this will be disappointing to some people, but I do think it is the best course of action to encourage the widest possible field of applicants.

Please continue to pray for the trustees as they take the appointments process forward. Pray too for the church community as a whole, that in God's grace we will find the right person to lead the ministry of Christ Church in the future.

London School of Economics found that 50% of nine to sixteen year olds have internet access in their bedroom.

It is probable that the review will suggest a voluntary code of conduct rather than legislation, but this hasn't been ruled out. Reg Bailey also points out we all need to play a part, not just blame advertisers: "we all tend to have fallen into a more consumerist society, and we make judgements on people based on what they own or wear."

A big 'thank you' to everyone at Christ Church who signed the 'Bye Buy Childhood' petition which has been sent on to Mothers' Union HQ Mary Sumner House. They in turn will pass all the sheets on to the review committee.

You can read more about this campaign in the latest edition of the MU Families First magazine (ask Margaret if you would like to borrow a copy) or on the MU campaign website: www.byebuychildhood.org

Situation vacant

Hazel Boyd has decided to step down from the role of secretary to Church Council. Many thanks to Hazel for her hard work in keeping council members up-to-date. Please consider if you could take on this task. The secretary is not necessarily a council member. Please speak to Lewis Boyd (chair) if you are interested.



Churches Together in Bath (CTB) meeting report

Sylvia Ayres

This meeting began with the Central Zone AGM, at which the officers were re-elected for the ensuing year. Although Rev Tom Gunning will probably move away from Bath in either June or September, he is willing to continue as chairman until his departure.

Dates for 2011

May: Christian Aid week 2011 will be from 15th to 21st. The main service will be on May 15th. The Bath Spring Flower Show will not be taking place this year, so there will be no associated service.

June: The Service of Remembrance at Haycombe crematorium will be held outside the top chapel, probably on the 19th, but this date has yet to be confirmed by the new manager.

July: The 'Love Bath' day on the 10th will include a procession leaving from the Abbey at 11am. Details about the whole day are on the Springboard website: www.springboardbath.org.uk

The Central Zone 'day of reconciliation' at Downside Abbey will be led by Dom David Foster. It was proposed that this event should also include a farewell ceremony for Tom Gunning.

November: The annual Road Peace event will in future be a secular instead of a religious service and as such will not require any input from CTB.

December: The CTB Executive reported that Open Christmas 2010 had been very well attended and organised. They asked that individual churches should put forward the names of guests who could be invited to the 2011 event.

At the AGM it was decided that the Central Zone should hold four committee meetings each year instead of three. The next will be on May 10th.

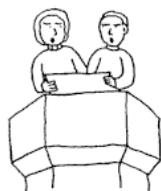
Dates for 2012

January: The central zone Epiphany service for 2012, organised by Colin Hunt, will be held during the week of prayer for Christian Unity. This could be a combined event in a large central Bath church, although the holding of smaller unity services in local churches was not ruled out.

Easter: Arrangements for Good Friday will be unchanged from 2011. During the service in the Abbey churchyard, there will be a 15 minute performance by a local group of actors.

ROTAS

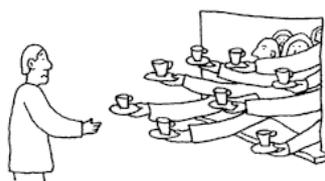
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY GO WRONG



WHEN TWO PREACHERS BOTH THINK IT IS THEIR WEEK



WHEN ONLY ONE ACOLYTE SHOWS UP



WHEN TWO RIVAL HOME GROUPS BOTH THINK IT IS THEIR TURN TO BE ON COFFEE DUTY



WHEN A DRAWING PIN FAILS, CAUSING THE FLOWER ROTA TO FALL BEHIND A RADIATOR

Dave Walker is a freelance cartoonist whose work features regularly in the Church Times. He has also published three books of cartoons about church life. We hope you enjoy his work as much as we do.



New service booklets: an update

Sarah Jones

One of the things Christ Church is justifiably proud of is the warm welcome we offer to visitors, particularly over coffee. It has been discussed at council over several years that another way to make people feel more welcome and comfortable would be to improve our orders of service to include some explanation as to what is happening during Holy Communion. Church can seem a very strange place if you are unused to it! Matthew and I recently decided to take on this task and we printed a trial version for use during Advent.

Many thanks to everyone who took time to comment on the new format. We received a mixture of positive feedback and constructive criticism and we'd like to respond to some of the common themes and let you know how we plan to take the project forward.

Print size

The print size we used was the same as that used for the one-off service booklets but in response to feedback from several people, we have increased the size in the new version.

Shape of the booklet and material used

The 'long and thin' shape was used as it will neatly fit on the pew ledge. Once opened out of course, the booklet forms an A4 page (like the current A4 laminated cards). Most feedback on the shape was positive, so we intend to retain it.

Once a final version of the booklet is agreed, we intend to have them printed with a cardboard cover to increase their robustness. We will also use coloured covers to help easy differentiation between different versions of the booklet.

Text of the service

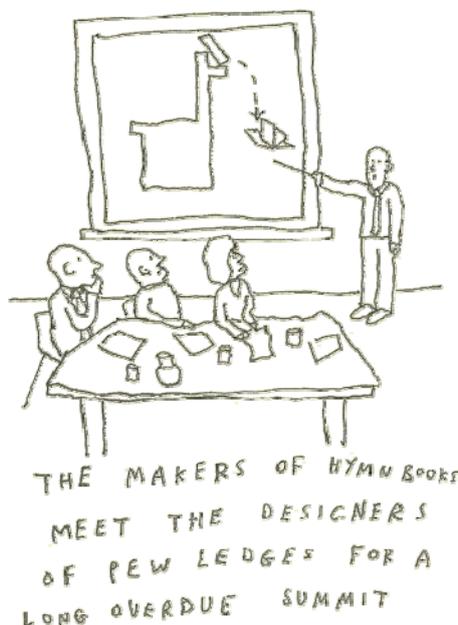
There were various comments on the text of the service, but we have not altered any of the selected prayers from the original laminated cards and would not intend to do so during an interregnum. We have tried to respond to some of the other comments to make the 'running order' clearer. It is not possible to include the entire text of the service, as different Eucharistic prayers are used each week.

Fonts and design

The fonts and design used are part of the new 'corporate' identity and so will remain the same.

Although we recently finished proof reading the Lent version of the booklet, we have decided not to print it part way through this short season, in case our new priest-in-charge wishes to change the text of the service. We are aiming to have the non-penitential version ready for use after Easter, as these will receive a lot more use in the near future.

Thank you once again for your feedback, we hope you find the new booklets a useful aid to worship and we also hope that they will provide a welcome to new and visiting members of the congregation.



Prayer Cycle

A reminder to look out for the regular prayer cycle which is printed each month with the rotas. It provides a really useful focus for private prayer and in a quiet way it helps focus the prayer life of the congregation as a whole. David Marles undertook the compilation of the cycle during his magazine editorship and on his departure to Yorkshire, Margaret Heath kindly took on the task. It has now passed to Virginia Knight. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this important part of church life.

No kitchen sink drama...

Martin Palmer

After careful consideration of the projects that need to be carried out in the church building, the trustees recently agreed to commission work to completely update the kitchen. It was, of course, still maintained to a hygienic standard, but had become dowdy looking and was no longer meeting all the needs of the Cedar Tree café or larger church events. So time for a new one.

Time to dispose of the outdated hot water cylinder, as well as the electrics, the old cooker, the dirt on the outside of the windows and the grotty old brown cupboards with their chipped Formica worktops and ill-fitting doors. Time to invest in a few labour-saving appliances and turn the dingy workspace into a light, pleasant, environment. Well, it's certainly not dingy any

more with its pale cream walls and unit doors, white ceiling and worktops, new lighting and clean windows. We now have a dishwasher, a bottle-cooler, which will be very useful for concerts and weddings (and also be ideal for

keeping puddings cool for the Harvest Lunch). There is a floor level heater, the draughty louvered window has been double-glazed in an attempt to raise the ambient temperature, whilst still preserving the architectural feature.

There is a fan-assisted oven, perfect for mince pies and of course the ubiquitous quiche. We have installed an induction hob, which rapidly heats the saucepan without getting hot itself. A new set of saucepans has been provided (only ferrous metal pans will work). A word of caution, don't put knives or stainless steel utensils on the hob: they will become very hot when the hob is switched on and may burn fingers when removed!

The new water heater is housed out of sight in one of the cupboards. Owing to the limited power supply available in the kitchen, we were only able to put in a 3 kW heater. This does not supply constant boiling water, but we have reduced the demands on it by installing two



separate small water heaters for hand washing in the toilets. The three heaters should be sufficient to supply all our water demands. The floor is the recommended non-slip, safety flooring sealed to the bottom of the plinths to stop spillages running under the units. There are now two sinks: a food preparation and washing up sink and a regulation hand washing sink.

There are of course many people to thank. People who have been paid to do a job, who have done far more than was asked. And those who have volunteered their time: Brenda and Malcolm Wall, Lewis Boyd and Yvonne and Donald Morris. Nick Garbutt removed the old kitchen and installed the new. Russell Smith rewired and brought it up to the legal safety standards. Thanks too to Sammy the painter and Nigel O'Neil, who laid the flooring. All of these people would value our support and if anyone

would like their details to offer them work, please contact me.

Jane Nicholson researched and planned the requirements for both church and Cedar Tree and always had answers to questions of 'what went where'! One Sunday she was chatting to our

friends from Julian House, and discovered that one member of the group, Shaun Miles, had had a plumbing business for over 25 years, so I asked him if he would undertake the plumbing work for us. Shaun was delighted to do it, and executed a perfect job, I can really recommend him. It has been a real bonus to be able to help someone in our local community. He did a lot more than just the plumbing: turning up voluntarily to help unload lorries, tidy up and generally be a major member of the project team, so much so that we asked him to cut the ribbon to open the completed project last Sunday. Finally, thanks to everyone who made alternative arrangements to keep Cedar Tree running and still made coffee after Sunday services.

There it is, finished and I hope it is what the church needs. The only thing I ask is that those who use it, respect it, and leave it as they would hope to find it.

Thanks too to Martin for all his efforts (Ed)

Devil's Advocate



I once heard a wise man giving a lecture about how continually striving to obtain perfection could get in the way of actually managing to do something good. I fear we may be falling into this trap at Christ Church.

We're in an interregnum at the moment. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of many people, things are going very well. But we can't do everything we might want to do, as the time and energy people have to

dedicate to the church are being spread more thinly. It saddens me, then, to hear the occasional complaint that: "we usually do this, why aren't we doing it this year?" or "the priest-in-charge used to do this – why isn't anyone doing it now?"

The reality is that at the moment, we simply have to put some things to one side for the moment; if we try to do everything, we'll end up achieving less, as we get worn out with the physical, mental and emotional effort. This isn't easy of course, especially if the thing that currently isn't happening is something we always found enjoyable or fulfilling, so we need to be very careful not to blame individuals for this. I hope my ears have been deceiving me when I think I've overheard conversations along the lines of: "why hasn't so and so done this" or "they ought to do this" – can any of us truly understand the pressures anyone else is under at church, let alone home and work? As another wise man once said, don't criticise someone until you've walked a mile in their shoes (that way, when you do criticise them, you're a mile away and you've got their shoes!) Or as a wiser man said "how can you say, 'let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the plank that is in your own eye?"

Are you a Devil's advocate?

Would you like to use this anonymous column to get people thinking about an issue in a different way? If so, please talk to the editors.

From the editors' laptop

Matthew and Sarah Jones



Many, many thanks to Emma Elliott and Janet Mahto who edited the Winter edition of *Christ Church Link* while we were in the sleep deprived, emotional whirlwind that accompanies new

parenthood. Thank you too to everyone who sent cards, gifts and warm wishes to welcome Timothy Barnabas in to the world and to Christ Church in particular. He continues to thrive (16lb 8oz at the last weigh in) and as many of you will be aware, he has a good pair of lungs! The ongoing support of all our friends at Christ Church continues to be invaluable as we face the new challenges parenthood presents.

The summer edition of the magazine will be published in July and the deadline for contributions is Sunday 26th June.

As ever, if you have suggestions of other things that should be included, please let us know. In part, we hope *Christ Church Link* can be a place we can share things we have found spiritually uplifting. If you have read a book (perhaps as part of a Lenten observance), seen a film, an exhibition or a television programme that has got you thinking, or perhaps inspired you, then why not write about it and share it with others? We have a really interesting selection of books in the church library (on the shelves at the back of church) - why not borrow something and then let others know what you think?

We hope you have a very blessed and joyful Easter. We look forward to sharing some of our services with our Local Ministry Group partners: St Stephen's Lansdown and St Mary's Charlcombe. Please consider using one of the publicity postcards to invite someone along to church who isn't part of our regular congregation to share in the contemplative worship of Holy Week and the life affirming celebrations of Easter Day.

Devil's advocate

(noun, idiomatic)

One who debates from a view which they may not actually hold, usually to determine its validity, or simply for the sake of argument.

Coming up at Christ Church

Please see the Easter publicity for more details of services in Holy Week

Mon 18th to Wed 20th April	8pm Services of Compline and Meditation at each of the LMG churches in turn
Maundy Thurs 21st April	11am Eucharist for Maundy Thursday at Christ Church 7:30pm Agape Meal at St Stephen's, Lansdown
Good Friday 22nd April	12:30pm A Children's Service for Good Friday 2pm Music & Meditations
Easter Eve 23rd April	8pm Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday 24th April	5:30am Service at Sunrise in the garden of St Mary's, Charlcombe 8am BCP Communion 10am Family Eucharist followed by the Christ Church Easter Egg Hunt!
Sunday 1st May	4:30pm Evensong
Sunday 15th May	After 10am service: Annual General Meeting
Sunday 5th June	4:30pm Evensong

Who's who

Officiating Minister	Vacant	Organist	David Wrigley 01761 439355
Reader	Mark Elliott	Pastoral care coordinator	Keri Chivers 01225 421265 keri.chivers@christchurchbath.org
Chair of Trustees	01225 445360		
Director of Music	mark.elliott@christchurchbath.org	Magazine editors and publicity coordination	Matthew & Sarah Jones 01225 443284 sarah.jones@christchurchbath.org
Reader	Cyril Selmes 01225 420039	Concert bookings	Judith Bishop 01225 869409 concerts@christchurchbath.org notices@christchurchbath.org
Churchwarden	Lewis Boyd	Weekly notice sheet	
Chair of Church Council	01225 329190 lewis.boyd@christchurchbath.org	USPG	Adrian Pegg 01225 858809
Home group leader		Mothers' Union	Margaret Burrows 01225 334743
Churchwarden	Malcolm Wall malcolm.wall@christchurchbath.org	Deanery Synod CTB	Margaret Heath 01225 428272
Verger	Angela Soboslay 01225 333297	Deanery Synod	Andrew Sillett
Treasurer	David Bishop 01225 869409 david.bishop@christchurchbath.org	CTB	Sylvia Ayers 01225 463976
Secretary to Church Council	Vacant	Mothers' Union	
Junior Church	Sarah Cade	Mission to Seafarers	
Laity rotas	01225 339305		

Regular Sunday Services

- 8am Holy Communion using the text from the Book of Common Prayer.
Usually the second Sunday of every month but see website or notice board for details
- 10am Sung Holy Communion
With Junior Church activities for children and young people
- 4:30pm Choral Evensong once a month
Usually the first Sunday of every month but see website or notice board for details

The church also aims to be a place of spiritual welcome when marking particular points in life's journey. If you would like to discuss holding a service of marriage, baptism or a funeral here, please use the details below to contact us.

About Christ Church

Christ Church has an unusual history out of which has developed a distinctive ministry. It was built at the end of the 18th century, founded by socially concerned clergy & lay people for those excluded from worship through the system of pew rents. It was probably the first church at that time to provide seating free of charge. Early supporters included the Archbishop of Canterbury, the great evangelical and campaigner against slavery, William Wilberforce and Martin Stafford Smith, godfather of John Keble, a founder of the Oxford Movement.

It is not a parish church and does not have a paid 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 today is part of the Anglican diocese of Bath and Wells, although it still sits outside the normal 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 are separate activities for children in Junior Church groups.

As well as worship on a Sunday morning, 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. Our ecumenical home group provides a space for exploration and discussion of faith in an open and non-judgmental setting.

If you are considering whether Christ Church is a place where you would feel comfortable in exploring the Christian faith, we would be delighted to welcome you, please come along to a service or get in touch with us (see below). If you feel you are looking for a different Christian community we wish you well with God's blessing and we would be happy to tell you of other churches in the area.

How to find or contact us

Christ Church
Julian Road
Bath
BA1 2RH

Telephone: 01225 338869 (answer phone)

Email: admin@christchurchbath.org

Website: www.christchurchbath.org

