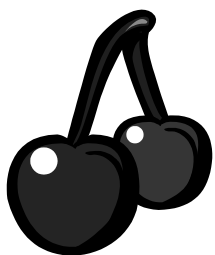


# Christ Church Link

Spring 2012 Issue 8

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

50p Where sold



## A bowl of cherries Canon Angela Townshend

My husband, Ned, is often amused by the skill I have of remembering songs. My mother sang to me the popular songs of her time and she often had 'The Light Programme' on. I guess I imbibed the songs I heard as I imbibed my mother's milk. Then as a teenager, here in Bath, I went on to be a part of a music and drama group and we sang all sorts of things from pantomime to Gilbert and Sullivan. So I had a good introduction to light music in my youth.

I have always loved cherries and sometime ago I bought a large bag of and enjoyed them very much. The song which came to mind and stayed there far too long was 'Life is Just a Bowl of Cherries'. The problem is that in the bag were a number of overripe or rotten cherries, but I had bought a bag and so I had to take the bad with the good.

Life is a bit like that song. We may think that life is good and that it will go on this way forever, but we don't know what difficulties lie ahead of us. A friend of mine was recently taken seriously ill with a brain tumour, I am sure there are people you know who have had to face illness or disability and old age creeps up on us all and our joints and muscles ache.

We have to cope with all sorts of 'bad cherries' in our bag of life.

The important thing is to give thanks for the good things and pray for strength to cope with the difficulties that life throws at us.

But how hard it is to thank God for what has been when we are dealing with the difficulties that are present now. What we can do is turn to God. We can invite friends and family to share in our experience. We can become part of a group, maybe from Christ Church, which will support and renew us. In these ways we can be supported and loved through whatever difficulties we may face.

We all know people who have had a hard life, one way or another, too many 'bad' cherries, indeed we may feel that we ourselves have had too many knocks and bruises along the way. If we trust in God then those difficulties will be easier to cope with and we can learn to laugh and love, enjoying the 'good' cherries!

I have been singing 'Life is just a bowl of cherries,' in my head ever since I started thinking about this article and I want to dedicate it to all those wonderful people who, loving God, see beyond the hardships to the simple joy of being alive.

Agatha Christie wrote:

"I have sometimes been wildly, despairingly, acutely miserable, racked with sorrow, but through it all I still know quite certainly that just to be alive is a grand thing."

Life is indeed a bowl of cherries!

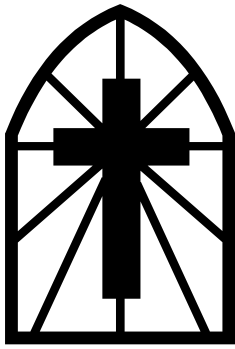
Life is just a bowl of cherries  
Don't take it serious,  
Life's too mysterious  
You work,  
You save,  
You worry so  
But you can't take your dough  
When you go, go, go

So keep repeating "It's the berries."  
The strongest oak must fall  
The sweet things in life  
To you were just loaned  
So how can you lose  
What you've never owned

Life is just a bowl of cherries  
So live and laugh,  
Laugh and love  
Live and laugh at it all!

Easter competition: spot the extra egg hiding in this edition.  
The first person to tell the editors wins a prize!





## Seeing the Light?

Judith Anderson

One of the hot topics of conversation in Bath recently has been Haycombe Crematorium. Not because of any problems with funerals (at least none that I know of) but because of a window replacement project. And the reason for the level of interest?

A window which bears the image of a cross is to be replaced by a plain one. It is evident that this has touched a nerve with many people by the fact that it has figured prominently in the local media. Those who object to the removal of the cross feel that it further undermines the position of Christianity, whilst the supporters evidently feel happier with no prominent symbols of religious belief on show.

A couple of weeks ago, I heard mention of it on a BBC Somerset as I journeyed into Bath from home for the Sunday morning service. This is a much lengthier process since I moved to Frome.

One of the correspondents said his daughter had come up with the suggestion that rather than bearing either one religious symbol or none at all, the new window should show symbols from all major faiths. She even produced a possible design: a circle divided into sections with a different symbol in each section. Clearly this would not be particularly acceptable to those wishing no symbols, but I felt that it was a really creative solution and would help with inclusion of those from other faith groups. As the presenter remarked 'Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings...' What do members of the congregation think?

*Editors' note: on 14th March, petitions with nearly 4900 signatures against the proposed changes were presented to a meeting of BANES council cabinet.*

## Big Questions: Little Answers

This edition, learn more about Chrissa Hopper, dedicated junior church leader and mum to Freddie and Lilly.

### **What are your hobbies?**

I don't have time for hobbies but am involved in my children's, so: Transformers, Lego, Barbie, maths problems

### **What car do you drive?**

Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 - first car!

### **What is your favourite film, and why?**

Aliens. "All I need to know is where they are." One of the best action movies from the Golden Age of action movies.

### **What is your favourite kind of music?**

Loud music

### **What is your favourite kind of meal / food?**

Coffee

### **What has been your proudest moment?**

Cycling up Landsdown without having a heart attack

### **What is the most amazing place you have visited?**

Kekova, Turkey. Lycean rock tombs and Byzantine cities half sunk in turquoise water.

### **What famous person, dead or alive, would you like to meet?**

Jesus

### **What's your pet hate?**

Newspapers

### **What's your favourite book?**

'Poem for the Day' edited by Nicholas Alberry

### **Tell us a little known fact about yourself**

I was born in Saigon, Vietnam. My sister's eyewitness account of the siege of Saigon was featured in the New York Times.

# Mothers' Union News

Sylvia Ayers and Margaret Burrows



[www.themothersunion.org](http://www.themothersunion.org)

Did you know that the Mothers' Union is active in 84 countries of the World? More than four million members do all they can through volunteering, giving and prayer to achieve the MU's objectives . They support families, promote marriage and family life, and are pledged to reach out from their communities to help those whose family life has met with adversity, those who are isolated or in trouble, or who are in need of any kind of help.

At Christ Church on March 18th, we celebrated Mothering Sunday, which is an important day for all mothers and especially for our MU members. On March 11th the congregation were given a booklet entitled *Make a Mother's Day*. This suggested that you give a mum or a carer a Mothering Sunday gift, and so help a family in tough circumstances. A poster about this is on the MU notice board and Margaret has a catalogue listing special ethical gifts. If you were not able to take advantage of this offer, it will still be possible to contribute to the MU, through the Worldwide Fund Appeal in June.

We are a grassroots movement that actively works towards a world where love and respect are the hallmarks of personal, national and international relationships. To this end we campaign on a variety of issues, including women's education, domestic violence, gender equality, good parenting, and community development. We support overseas MU workers who teach health education, and train people in work skills which can help to eradicate poverty in the most marginalised areas in the world.

All this work still needs constant financing, which is why we are again launching our annual appeal. Our after-service collection for the Mothers' Union Overseas Fund will be during coffee time on Sundays June 17th and 24th. We are asking for your support in the hope that this year you will make our total a bumper one. The amount that was raised in this country for the Worldwide Fund last year was over £20,000, but if they are to keep operating at their present level, all MU programmes continually require further funds.

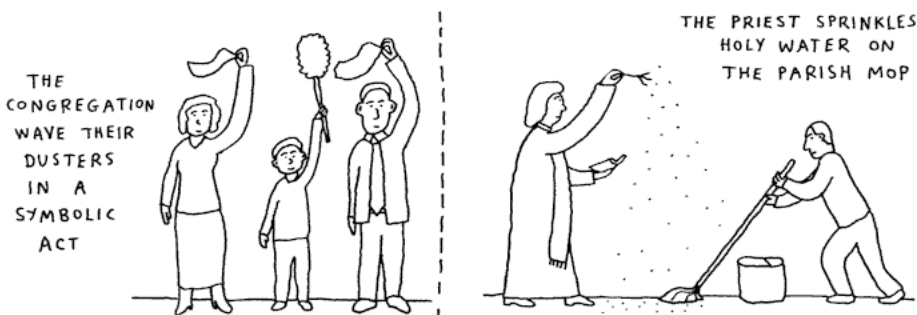
There will be a plate at the back of Church for your contributions on both these Sundays, and we do ask that you give generously towards this important work of the MU.



Dave Walker is a freelance cartoonist and has published three books of cartoons about church life. We hope you enjoy his work as much as we do. This CartoonChurch.com cartoon originally appeared in the Church Times.

## CLEANING SUNDAY

ON THIS SPECIAL SUNDAY WE RECOGNISE THOSE WHO CLEAN, AND BLESS THEIR IMPLEMENTS



CartoonChurch.com

## Churches Together in Bath (CTB)

Sylvia Ayres

Notes from the AGM and Ordinary Committee meetings held on February 8th, in the Church Hall at St. Michael's Without, both chaired by Mr. Colin Hunt.

The meeting started with a short AGM, at which the current Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer were re-elected. Colin Hunt welcomed Rev Dee Sircar from Widcombe Benefice to his first meeting, and thanked the Secretary and Treasurer for their hard work during the past year. He also praised the loyalty of the ex-Holy Trinity representatives who continue to attend our meetings despite being without a church of their own. Among the apologies, we heard the name Canon Angela Townshend, so hope she will be able to attend the next meeting in June.

Until Kieran is fully recovered, the production of the Churches Listings Leaflet will be delayed, but it will then be distributed to all churches, hotels and guest houses in the city.

The CTB Executive Secretary, David Pendle, reported that the Victoria Park Flower Festival Service will no longer be held, and the Portnall Lecture and the Service of Remembrance at Haycombe have been discontinued owing to lack of support. In future, instead of the now defunct Epiphany Service, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be combined with an event similar to the 2012 *January Joy*. It was envisaged that this pattern would be repeated for the whole of Bath in the future. Next year, the event will be organised on January 20th at 2pm, by the Living Springs Church at the URC in Grove Street.

On May 22nd, when the 2012 Olympic Torch comes to Bath, a linked gathering will be held in the city. To view the opening ceremony, it has been suggested that big screens be erected in local churches and pubs.

The 2012 *Love Bath Festival* taking place on June 24th, will start at 11am at the Abbey. We will then proceed to Victoria Park for family games in front of the Royal Crescent, and the day will end at 4pm or with a 3.30pm Evensong back at the Abbey.

St. John's Bathwick is 150 years old this year, and on July 31st they have a Service of Prayer and Commitment in celebration of the anniversary of its consecration. After the success of the 2011 Central Area *Day of Recollection* or away day, it was decided to repeat the event on a Saturday in July, at a venue to be arranged.



David Pendle then recommended a Christian led website:

[www.springboardbath.org.uk](http://www.springboardbath.org.uk), which publicises various activities in the city. This site has a direct link to [www.bathchurches.org.uk](http://www.bathchurches.org.uk), where, among other information, a list of all Bath Churches and their officers may be found. It was agreed that the Travelling Light rota be added, as a fresh list has now been compiled. Christ Church will receive the Light on January 6th 2013, and will pass it on to Widcombe a month later.

There will now be three Central Area meetings at four monthly intervals. The next area meeting will therefore be held at Nexus Church Hall on Tuesday 19th June 2012.

## Live Below the Line this May

Paul Hiscock (Sarah Cade's brother)

From 7th to 11th May, people around the world are getting behind the poverty awareness campaign Live Below the Line, to raise funds for critical anti-poverty initiatives. Live Below the Line is an awareness and fundraising campaign designed to help people understand the challenges faced by those currently living in extreme poverty. Live Below the Line challenges people to do just that, and feed themselves with just £1 a day – the UK equivalent of the international extreme poverty line.



**LIVE BELOW  
THE LINE**

You can find out more and sign up at [www.livebelowtheline.com/uk](http://www.livebelowtheline.com/uk)

## Let's pray, celebrate, remember and hope

Peter Maurice, Bishop of Taunton



The daily reflections that I'm using during Lent came up with this gem from Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi, this morning – 'Be part of a community. There is something transformative about being part of a group who pray, celebrate, remember, and hope together.' That seemed a pretty good thought as we prepare to celebrate again the Easter Feast.

Easter Day is not so much about what may or may not have happened to 'the body'. Easter day invites us to consider what difference the resurrection makes to you and to me, here and now, in our living and loving. As we pray, celebrate, remember, and hope together on Easter morning, will we be transformed by God's radically inclusive love?

Easter challenges us about how we are to live in the light of resurrection. Whatever Peter may have felt about himself in the wake of his betrayal, the risen Christ makes it clear very quickly that what happened then is now in the past. There are no old scores to be settled, no grudges to be held. Jesus forgives and opens the way to a new beginning.

It is forgiveness, reconciliation and the hope of new beginnings that lie at the heart of the Christian story, and they must be at the heart of our story. There are too many scores being settled, grudges being held, and revenges being taken, in the way we behave in the church, in our families, our communities and among nations.

The defiant inclusiveness of Jesus which we see throughout his life, welcoming the prodigal, eating with the tax collectors, receiving the ministry of women, lived on in the church which threw its doors open to the gentiles, the outsiders, in spite of all that had been taught in the older religion. Yet as a church we continue to be in dispute with each other about who is in and who is out. We are in danger of setting up what Bishop John Taylor called 'passports to legitimacy', closing our doors on those who don't happen to fit our image of what it means to be Christian. Our living and our loving, both as members of the church, as well as members of society, must reflect an Easter God who in the words of Revelation 'sets before us an open door which no one can shut.'

So, this Easter, pray, celebrate, remember, and hope together and be part of a community that seeks to change lives for good. 'We shall go out', writes June Boyce-Tillman, 'with hope of resurrection, we'll sing our song of wrongs that can be righted, we'll dream our dream of hurts that can be healed; we'll weave a cloth of all the world united within the vision of a Christ who sets us free.'

## The Children's Society Speakers Urgently Needed

Gill Ford - Children's Society Regional Fundraiser

Every year in the UK, 100,000 children will run away from home and many end up living rough on our streets. At a point in their lives when these children are at their most desperate and vulnerable, The Children's Society reaches out to them. Our approach is driven by our Christian values and we remain resolute in our commitment to the most disadvantaged and those at risk. You can read much more about their work on their website: [www.childrengsociety.org.uk](http://www.childrengsociety.org.uk)



Would you prayerfully consider helping us by volunteering a little of your time to give talks at local churches on our behalf? All training will be given. We have a particularly urgent need for speakers in the Diocese of Bath & Wells. Please contact me by at [gill.ford@childrengsociety.org.uk](mailto:gill.ford@childrengsociety.org.uk) or telephone on 01380 726410.

# The People's Passion

Matthew and Sarah Jones

This Easter, the BBC is encouraging choirs across the country to join together in a nationwide premier of uplifting new music, and the Christ Church choir has taken up the challenge!

BBC Radio 4 commissioned Manchester Carols composer Sasha Johnson Manning and the celebrated poet Michael Symmons Roberts to write a mass setting and an Easter Sunday anthem as part of the wider BBC People's Passion project. Using the BBC website, Facebook and Twitter, choirs from across the country are being encouraged to perform these works this Easter, uniting singers in a moment of national harmony.

We have been working hard during rehearsals (the music isn't easy!) but we are all really excited to be part of this national project. We will also have other musicians joining us (some familiar faces and some visitors). The instruments include 'cello, trumpet, recorders and glockenspiel.

The wider output across the BBC during Holy Week as part of the People's Passion includes five radio plays centred on a fictional cathedral by the award winning playwright Nick Warburton. In addition, there will be five feature pieces about some of Britain's real cathedrals, looking at the music, people, belief and belonging, art and heritage. There are also plans for BBC local radio stations to focus on their local cathedrals, and in the light of the protests around St. Paul's ask the question: what is the purpose of cathedrals in Britain today?

As well as the challenge and excitement of learning the pieces of music, we are also proactively using this project as part of our Easter outreach to the community in Bath and beyond. Our press release to BBC Radio Bristol resulted in Mark appearing on their Sunday morning programme on 18th March to talk about our involvement and a little about Christ Church in general. As Canon Angela pointed out, Christ Church was founded as a church for the people, so it is highly appropriate that we should be part of a "People's Passion".



We will be performing the works in our Easter morning 10am Eucharist. If you would like to read more about this project, or hear Mark's radio interview, visit the church website.



## From the editors' laptop

Matthew and Sarah Jones

We will soon be marking two years of editorship of the Christ Church magazine. We

have experienced lots of change within that time, both personally and as a church community. When we wrote a piece for one of the final editions of *Christ Church*

*Challenge*, we were honest with you in saying that we did not have the personal resources to continue the production of a monthly magazine. So we took the decision to move to a quarterly format and redoubled the pleas for high quality material from you, our readers.

Two editions ago, when appealing for articles, we threatened you with the prospect of extracts from the PhD theses of our learned Doctors of

Philosophy in the congregation, and although we haven't done so in this edition, it was a close run thing! Many thanks to those who have contributed articles, but you will notice lots of diocesan rather than local material.

Again we have been forced to reflect that perhaps a regularly produced printed magazine no longer

best serves the needs of our congregation. We note that there approximately half of the copies of the Winter edition still in church. There are other options for those who want to

share written material with the congregation including the website and one-off news letter publications. Perhaps these are directions we should consider to ensure we are making best use of our finite time and energy.

We have asked Church Council to discuss the future of the magazine and of course we would like to hear your views. Speak to one of us or to a member of council.

**The deadline for articles for the Summer edition is Sunday 17th June 2012**

## Coming up at Christ Church

**Sunday 1st April 10am**

**4:30pm**

Psalm Sunday Sung Eucharist with Junior Church

Choral Evensong

**Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd April 8pm**

Compline at St Mary's Charlcombe and St Stephen's Lansdown respectively

**Wednesday 4th April from 12 noon**

**8pm**

Lent Lunch - followed by a short service

Compline at Christ Church

**Maundy Thursday 5th April 7:30pm**

Agape with Holy Communion at St Stephen's Lansdown

**Good Friday 6th April 12 noon**

**1pm**

**1:30pm**

Quiet Meditation

Children at the Cross

Stations of the Cross

**Holy Saturday (Easter Eve) 7th April 8:30pm** Service and Easter Vigil

**Easter Sunday 8th April 6am**

**8am**

**10am**

Sunrise service in the garden of St Mary's Charlcombe

BCP Holy Communion

Sung Eucharist including music from the People's Passion

## Who's who

Priest-in-charge	Canon Angela Townshend angela.townshend@christchurchbath.org 01225 464194	Junior Church Laity rotas	Sarah Cade
Supporting clergy	Rev'd Cliff Burrows Preb Angela Berners-Wilson	Organist	David Wrigley 01761 439355
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Reader	Cyril Selmes 01225 420039	Magazine editors and publicity coordination	Matthew & Sarah Jones 01225 443284 sarah.jones@christchurchbath.org
Churchwarden Chair of Church Council Home group leader Deanery Synod All round good egg	Lewis Boyd 01225 329190 lewis.boyd@christchurchbath.org	Concert bookings Weekly notice sheet	Judith Bishop 01225 869409 concerts@christchurchbath.org notices@christchurchbath.org
Churchwarden	Malcolm Wall malcolm.wall@christchurchbath.org	USPG	Adrian Pegg 01225 858809
Verger	Angela Soboslay 01225 333297	Mothers' Union	Margaret Burrows 01225 334743
Treasurer	David Bishop 01225 869409 david.bishop@christchurchbath.org	CTB	Margaret Heath 01225 428272
Secretary to Church Council	Brenda Wall	Deanery Synod	Andrew Sillett
		CTB Mothers' Union Mission to Seafarers	Sylvia Ayers 01225 463976

## Regular Sunday Services

- 8am Holy Communion using the text from the Book of Common Prayer.  
On the second and fourth Sunday of every month
- 10am Sung Eucharist  
With Junior Church activities for children and young people
- 4:30pm Choral Evensong  
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



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BA1 2RH

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Email: [admin@christchurchbath.org](mailto:admin@christchurchbath.org)

Website: [www.christchurchbath.org](http://www.christchurchbath.org)

