



Christ Church Link



Winter 2011 Issue 7

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

50p Where sold



In the very first issue of *Christ Church Link*, Mark reflected on the subject of change. You may remember the “light bulb” jokes he shared with us, culminating in:

Question: How many Anglicans does it take to change a light bulb?

Answer: CHANGE????!!!

We have been through various changes since Summer 2010 and we are now enjoying a new beginning as we welcome Angela and Ned to Christ Church.

Change

Rev'd Canon Angela Townshend

As I write I am in the middle of throwing things away, organising and packing up. I don't find this an easy thing to do, but I am experienced! I have moved many times in my life. I find it a time of stress but also excitement. Stress because we leave behind the people we have grown to love and the security of what we know, and excitement because of new possibilities, new people, new experiences and challenges. But doing something new is always a risk.

Many people find change threatening and want to hold on to what they know and love. John V. Taylor, once Bishop of Winchester, wrote that if we hold tightly to what we know and never give it room to breathe we stifle it and ourselves. It is like holding a bird in your hand; hold on to it too tightly and it will die; open your hand and it will fly into new life.

Change is at the heart of our lives. From birth onwards we are required to change and adapt or we don't survive.

Change is at the heart of our faith. Christ calls us to risk moving onward into new and exciting possibilities in our relationship with God. For Ned and me this means moving to Bath and ministering at Christ Church. For you it may mean getting used to someone new at the front!

The Pharisees in many of the gospel stories did not take risks, did not like change. They criticised Jesus and his disciples asking 'why do you heal and why do your disciples pick grain on the Sabbath?'; 'why do you eat with tax collectors and sinners and allow women with doubtful reputations to be close to you?' It was all too threatening. Jesus took too many risks for the Pharisees' wellbeing. 'Stay with what you know, obey the rules and resist change,' might have been their motto. But Jesus came, took the risks, challenged the rules and disturbed the religious leaders in order to bring life! Beneath their powerful and haughty exterior the Pharisees were anxious human beings doing what they thought was right. What they couldn't do was open their hearts to new possibilities. They couldn't take risks. They couldn't let that bird fly and enjoy the freedom Jesus brings.

Ned and I come to you in all our weakness, need and humanity, our fears and our worries. But we also come with love, excitement and a sense of God calling us here.

Jesus promised us new life and change can lead to new life. Yes, it is scary. Yes, it is disturbing. Yes, change can bring new life!

Let us look forward to that new life as we take risks and walk together on the journey to which God has called us.



Providing for the youngest members of the congregation

Emma Elliott

Four of us recently attended a diocesan conference in Wells on the subject of children's work in church (read more about the day on page 4). Following on from this conference, which gave the attendees lots of inspiration, we are looking to revise the Pew Bags. These are small drawstring bags with books and toys for very young children and are intended to be a welcome offering, for parents and their children to borrow while in church. We are looking for donations of toys to include in the bags. In particular, we would love to receive small play figures of people and animals (approx. Playmobil sized). Also, we would love a baby doll for the crèche corner (of about "Tiny Tears" or "Baby Annabel" size – if you're of the right generation to know what this is!)

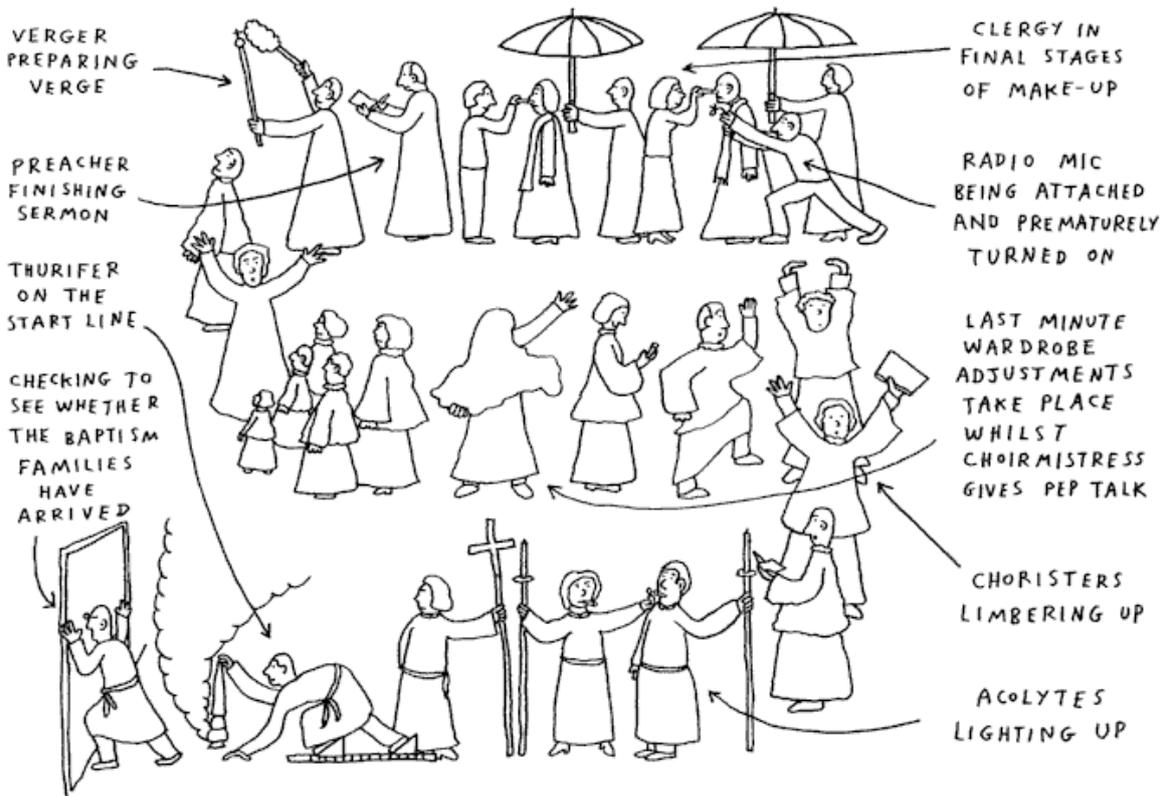
We certainly wouldn't want to deprive you of anything your own children or grandchildren still play with, but maybe you have some lurking in a corner your attic that no one wants? Alternatively, if you happen to visit any charity shops, and spot anything reasonably priced that fits the requirement, then that would be gratefully received too. All items must be in good condition, with no broken parts, unfortunately we cannot include them otherwise. I'd be delighted to receive contributions, please pass on any suitable items to me or to Sarah Jones or Sarah Cade.



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.

IN THE VESTRY

THE FINAL MOMENTS BEFORE THE SERVICE



CartoonChurch.com

Mothers' Union News

Sylvia Ayers



We sincerely thank all the members of the congregation who so generously supported our Autumn Women's Refuge Appeal by bringing in a total of 78 lovely gifts, including toiletries, cleaning materials, food and drink and items of clothing. We also received a grand total of £90, which was converted to gift vouchers for the ladies in the refuge. Your donations were all delivered at the beginning of November and you can be assured that everything was greatly appreciated. The house manager was overjoyed to receive so many welcome gifts, a list of which is displayed on the MU noticeboard.

I have now been notified of the amount of the 2012 Mothers' Union annual subscription, which is due on 1 January. If current and potential members could let me have their cheque for £17 made payable to 'The Mother's Union' as soon as possible, I will forward them to the Deanery Treasurer. This amount covers £9 for Mary Sumner House, £7 for MU Bath and Wells, 50p for every member's 'Springs' magazine and the essential 50p per member for us to cover our own expenses. Of course members can also attend the Bath and District Deanery branch meetings without any further payment.

In December we hope to join St. Luke's MU for their service of Christmas Lessons and Carols, which is always followed by a splendid tea. In conclusion may we wish all Christ Church friends a very happy Christmas and a successful New Year.

Big Questions: Little Answers

It's a clergy edition: find out more about Rev. Philip Hawthorn, the vicar of our Local Ministry Group partners: St. Stephen's Church, Lansdown, and Charlcombe Parish Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

What are your hobbies?

Cycling, pig-keeping, veg-growing, cooking, stone carving.

What car do you drive?

A beaten up and rather lovely old Golf diesel.

What is your favourite film, and why?

Babette's Feast - it's about generosity, hospitality and fullness of life.

What is your favourite kind of music?

Somewhere between Tom Waits and Shostakovich

What is your favourite kind of meal / food?

A meal of home-produced meat and veg with my wife, Lizzie.

What has been your proudest moment?

Marriage, fatherhood, priesting.

What is the most amazing place you have visited?

Watching the sun rise on Everest was hard to beat.

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

Jesus, though it wouldn't be easy given his track record with religious leaders ...

What's your pet hate?

The spirit of impossibility.

What's your favourite book?

Hugh Fearnley-Whittington's Meat Book.

Tell us a little known fact about yourself

I once preached to 25,000 people at West Ham football ground.

“The Next Generation” Youth and Children’s Leaders Conference



Clare Wilcock

On Saturday 15th October, over 250 youth and children’s leaders and volunteers attended “The Next Generation” conference in Wells. The event was a joint initiative by the Dioceses of Bath & Wells and Bristol, aimed at those who work with children and young people in parishes. The day included a key note address from Jim Davis of the Children’s Society, workshops on everything from godly play, Messy Church, creative crafts to all-age worship, reconnecting with confirmation and exploring the Bible. Four representatives from Christ Church attended the day and we all came away with lots of ideas from the workshops. Look out for some of them in action on Sunday 18 December in the 10am service and read Emma’s appeal for items to help update the pew bags on page 2.

Below, Clare Willcock has written us a thoughtful reflection on the day’s key note address and the follow-up workshop:

Jim Davis of The Children’s Society (TCS) gave one of the addresses at the start of the day, and spoke with style, clarity and humour, summed up in: “love is the long-term commitment to the well-being of another person”.

Research by The Children’s Society into children’s well-being show there is an adult desire to focus a child on ‘*Becoming*’ or to put it another way: to achieve society’s expectations (such as doing well at school, earning an income) rather than to focus on a child’s ‘*Being*’. We have forgotten life’s basis is *Being* not becoming.

Interestingly, in this same research, the children’s focus was on ‘*Belonging*’ whether that be to friends, family or peer group. Their biggest fears and anxieties were about school achievement, personal choices and freedoms and about their physical appearance.

In Jim’s workshop later, we were asked to think about our personal views on several statements:

“It is better to have 6 friends than 6 GCSE’s”

“Children should be allowed to have a tattoo aged 16”

“Children should change tradition rather than comply with it”.



We all moved about the room to indicate our agreement, or otherwise, so each person’s moral stance was visible and generated much discussion.

We thought about changes in society: the current trend towards individualism means there is less trust, more competition, more suspicion of others, less a sense of belonging to neighbours; a reluctance to get involved; a greater value is placed on personal and private space and so more likelihood of complaints from residents who find children’s play noisy. We are more fearful as a society: for children’s safety; about unofficial personal contact between an adult and a child; and fearful children themselves find ‘safety’ within a gang culture. Top of the list of priorities for

children are that friendships really, really, matter, and that anxieties about family breakdown are acute. Children worry a great deal about body image, and we asked ourselves is this because adults are reflecting their own anxieties about their physical appearance onto children?

Overall the key conclusions from the research is that we need to be more loving as a society.

How can we show love to children outside the family? What does it mean to say “it takes a village to raise a child” in today’s society? Children need what they have always needed from adults: clear and consistent boundaries, guidance, time to talk, to be listened to, to spend time together, to eat together, encouragement, validation, kindness.... Love. And finally, we hear on good authority that when children do talk to their dads - it is because “*it is Really Important*”.

On the internet... ideas next time you're surfing

Virginia Knight

Religion and the Internet seem to be made for one another, and there is a huge range of websites out there to cater for every taste and need. In this article I'm going to pick out a few sites which I like.

Firstly of course there is Christ Church's own website (www.christchurchbath.org). Here you'll find information on people, services and other activities and downloadable versions of the magazine, rotas, prayer cycle and music and readings lists. The photograph section (under 'Church Community') includes hundreds of photos of the building and recent Church social events. Christ Church also has a Wikipedia page (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christ_Church,_Bath), which gives an outline of the church's history, architecture and activities.

There is a section about Christ Church on A Church Near You (www.achurchnearyou.com) a website which lists all Church of England churches, with details of locations and services. It can be searched by postcode, so that for example if you are away on holiday you can find a suitable church nearby.

Looking at the wider Church, you will find websites for the Church of England (www.churchofengland.org) and a recently-redesigned one for the diocese of Bath and Wells (www.bathandwells.org.uk). Wells Cathedral's own website (www.wellscathedral.org.uk) proudly proclaims in its title bar that it is 'perhaps the most beautiful of the great English cathedrals'.



Away from Church you might be wanting to do some Bible study, and here too the Internet can help. For example, BibleGateway.com (www.biblegateway.com) includes the texts of many different Bible translations, as well as the original Hebrew and Greek, allowing you to compare different translations of the same passage.

If you can see the funny side of faith, you might enjoy The Ship of Fools (www.ship-of-fools.com) 'The Magazine of Christian Unrest'. As well as publishing articles and forums, the website sends out 'Mystery Worshippers' to attend services incognito and then write about what they found. They've been to some Bath churches, but not Christ Church yet!

A more reflective site, aimed at enquirers and with a youthful feel, is rejesus (www.rejesus.co.uk)

Music is another huge area, and I'll end by singling out just one website, the CyberHymnal (<http://hymntime.com/tch>) which contains words and music for a huge number of hymns, and some information on authors and composers, with a bias towards the American and evangelical (as well as some rather soupy harmonies!) As is common on the Web, the content is limited by copyright restrictions, so there is little recent material.

This is just a small sample of what is available - most of these sites also have a collection of links to other sites for further browsing. Once started, it can be difficult to stop. Happy web surfing!

Malcolm & Brenda Wall's Ruby Wedding

We enjoyed an amazing anniversary weekend and would like to thank all our dear friends at Christ Church for their good wishes, cards, gifts and prayers. The climax was the Sunday morning Eucharist and a chance for us to give thanks for our forty years together and our family.



We'll never forget the exquisite anthem written by Richard Gabe so beautifully sung by our outstanding choir and the sermon and Holy Communion celebrated by our friend Revd. John Brown. The cake made by Jo Palmer and the flowing champagne were good too! There's no doubt about it, Christ Church knows how to celebrate! Thank you one and all!

Churches Together in Bath (CTB)

Sylvia Ayres

Notes from the meeting on October 13 chaired by Mr Colin Hunt.

The Central Zone "Day of Reconciliation" at St Benedict's Centre at Downside Abbey in July led by Dominican David Foster was pronounced a success. This event included a farewell ceremony for Tom Gunning who has left Bath for his new post in Stroud. His successor at St John the Evangelist, South Parade is Rev'd David Ryan.

A new edition of the churches listing leaflet will shortly be available. This will be distributed to all churches, hotels and guest houses in the city.

St John's Bathwick is 150 years old this year. In June they held a ceremony to commemorate the laying of the church's foundation stone in 1861. On 31 July they are planning a major celebration for the anniversary of its consecration.

The CTB Executive reports that arrangements for Open Christmas 2011 at Kingswood School are well in hand. The organisers are asking the individual churches should now put forward the names of guests who could be invited. They also announced that the Good Friday walks will take the same format as in previous years. It was requested that microphones be supplied to the actors and other participants in the service as last year many members of the congregation in the churchyard were unable to hear the words.

The Central Zone Epiphany service will be held at Nexus Methodist Church, Walcot on 15 January during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The time is to be confirmed but is planned to be 4pm to avoid clashes with other services that day.

Unfortunately due to lack of finance, the annual Mayor's Call to Prayer will not take place in January. However, the annual interfaith gathering will still be held on 15 February at 2:45pm in Bath Guildhall.

The 2012 "Love Bath" event will take place on 24 June starting at 11am by the Abbey. A procession will then proceed to the Parade Gardens for a service, and the day will end back at the Abbey with a service of Evensong.



From the editors' laptop

Matthew and Sarah Jones

Many thanks to all of you who have responded to our request for magazine

articles, we hope you will agree with us that this edition is full of interesting pieces.

Please do keep it up, it's great to hear the views of different members of the congregation. On this note, we have not had space for a 'Devil's Advocate' column this edition, but rest assured it will return so do let us know if you have a piece you would like to feature in this particular slot.

As is clear, the whole church community is celebrating a new beginning following Angela's licensing and it is particularly appropriate that this coincides with the start of a new church year on Advent Sunday. Although we are familiar with the idea of preparation and penitence in Lent, it is perhaps less common for us to focus

The deadline for articles for the Spring edition is Sunday 11 March 2012

our thoughts in this direction during Advent. Perhaps it is hardly surprising amid all the frantic preparations for Christmas itself. However, perhaps this Advent in particular, you might make time to think about your part in the family of Christ Church and how you would like that

family to grow and develop in the coming twelve months. If you have thoughts or ideas (whether highly spiritual or more earthbound and practical) please share them

with a member of Church Council or Trustees and consider too how you personally can contribute to making things happen. This prayer from the Church of England liturgy for Advent seems particularly appropriate to us at this exciting time:

People of God: awake! The day is coming soon when you shall see God face to face. Remember the ways and the works of God. God calls you out of darkness to walk in the light of his coming. You are God's children. Lord, make us one as we walk with Christ today and for ever. Amen.

Coming up at Christ Church

Sunday 27th November 10am	Advent Sunday Sung Eucharist with Junior Church
6:30pm	Advent Carol Service
Thursday 1st December 7:30pm	Home Group - John I
Sunday 4th December 4:30pm	Choral Evensong
Monday 5th December 7:30pm	Church Council meeting
Thursday 15th December 7:30pm	Home Group Christmas social - all welcome, details TBC
Sunday 18th December 10am	Family Communion and Nativity Play
6:30pm	Christmas Carol Service
Christmas Eve 4:30pm	Crib service
11:30pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day 10am	Sung Eucharist - a Christmas celebration!

Who's who

Priest-in-charge	Rev'd Canon Angela Townshend	Junior Church Laity rotas	Sarah Cade 01225 339305
Supporting clergy	Rev'd Cliff Burrows Rev'd Angela Berners-Wilson	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		
Reader	Cyril Selmes 01225 420039	Magazine editors and publicity coordination	Matthew & Sarah Jones 01225 443284 sarah.jones@christchurchbath.org
Churchwarden	Lewis Boyd	Concert bookings	Judith Bishop 01225 869409
Chair of Church Council	01225 329190	Weekly notice sheet	concerts@christchurchbath.org
Home group leader	lewis.boyd@christchurchbath.org		notices@christchurchbath.org
Deanery Synod			
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	Sylvia Ayers		
Mothers' Union	01225 463976		
Mission to Seafarers			

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 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

Christ Church
Julian Road
Bath
BA1 2RH

Telephone: 01225 338869 (answer phone)

Email: admin@christchurchbath.org

Website: www.christchurchbath.org

