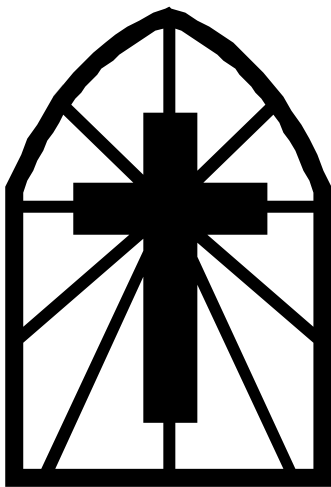


CHRIST  
CHURCH  
CHALLENGE



December 2003

**CHRIST CHURCH, JULIAN ROAD**  
**DIOCESE OF BATH AND WELLS IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**

**SUNDAY SERVICES**

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Family Communion, Junior Church & Crèche
First Sundays & Festivals	Choral Evensong and Sermon at 6.30pm
Other Sundays	Said Evening Prayer at 5.30pm (see page 5)

*There is amplification to assist the hard of hearing*

**MID-WEEK SERVICE**

11.00am Thursday	Holy Communion
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**CHOIR**

Junior Choir Practice	Friday 6.30pm - 8.00pm
Adult Practice	Friday 7.30pm - 9.00pm

*New singers always welcome - please contact Director of Music 01225 445360*

**BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, FUNERALS**

By arrangement. Please 'phone the Vestry 338869 / Officiating Minister 427462

*Chris and Angela, the churchwardens, would like to know about people who are ill, or of any circumstances in which the ministry of the Church would be welcome*

~ SHARING CHRISTMAS ~

Leaflets are available from the back of Church. Please use them to let your friends and neighbours know that they are welcome to share Christmas with us.

We have a Gospel to proclaim.

It is the gospel of love and peace at Christmas.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

# Forum...

## ADVENT IS NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS



Advent is the beginning of the year for most churches in the Western tradition. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, which is the Sunday nearest November 30, and ends on Christmas Eve. If Christmas Eve is a Sunday, it is counted as the fourth Sunday of Advent, with Christmas Eve proper beginning at sunset.

Historically, the colour of Advent is purple, the colour of royalty to welcome the Advent of the King. The purple of Advent is also the colour of suffering used during Lent and Holy Week. This points to an important connection between Jesus' birth and death. The nativity, the Incarnation, cannot be separated from the crucifixion, the Atonement. The purpose of Jesus' coming into the world, of the "Word made flesh" and dwelling among us, is to reveal God and His grace to the world through Jesus' life and teaching, but also through his suffering, death, and resurrection.

The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. And so, Advent is far more than the marking a 2,000-year-old event in history. It is a celebration of a truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ through which all of creation might be reconciled to God. That is a process in which we now participate, and the consummation of which we anticipate. Scripture readings for Advent will reflect this emphasis on the Second Advent, including themes of accountability for faithfulness at His coming, judgment on sin, and the hope of eternal life.

In this double focus on past and future, Advent also symbolises the spiritual journey of individuals and of all of us as a congregation, as we declare that Christ has come, that He is present in the world today, and that He will come again in power. That declaration provides a basis for the ethics of the Kingdom, for holy living arising from a profound sense that we live "between the times" and are called to be faithful stewards of what is entrusted to us as God's people. So, as a church we celebrate



God's entrance into history in the Incarnation, and anticipate a future consummation of that history for which "all creation is groaning and is awaiting its redemption," we also confess our own responsibility as a people commissioned to "love the Lord our God with all our heart" and to "love our neighbour as ourselves."



This will be the theme of our Advent Carol Service on Sunday 30 November at 6.30 pm. The readings from scripture will be those which, from the earliest pages of the Old Testament through to the final parts of the New Testament, speak of the continuity of God's love from his promise of the Messiah, to the manger at Bethlehem and then in the revelation of the Second Coming. Favourite Advent hymns, and carefully chosen choral pieces will complete something which will be the true starting point of all our Christmas celebrations.

Antony

## First to the Lord 2004

Readers will know from the November magazine that this diocesan initiative is now well and truly launched. Training days for clergy and readers have taken place and members of church council and anyone else interested are looking forward to **An Evening with Bishop Peter** at the Pavilion Bath on Thursday, 22 January. Details of the Lent course "**Changing Lives**" will be published in January and we hope to be sharing this with people from other churches if advanced copies are available soon enough.

The diocese has come up with idea of offering each parish a "visitor" – a kind of independent observer and confidante – to give support in looking at giving and setting financial priorities against the church's mission statement. This is an optional service and, at Christ Church, we have decided not to take it up because of our unique extra-parochial status. However, there may be members of the congregation who would like to train as a visitor and give help in the diocese. If you think you have some thing to offer – and you need not be a financial expert – please speak to Antony who will be pleased to help you explore the possibilities.

# Church Calendar for December

**Nov 28 Fri 9.15am** King Edward's Pre-Prep School Christingle Service

**30 Sun ADVENT SUNDAY**

**6.30pm** Advent Carol Service

**Dec 1 Mon 8.00pm** Guild of the Servants of the Sanctuary

**4 Thurs 9.15am** Visit to Christ Church—St Andrew's School

**11.00am** Holy Communion—Rev Antony Claridge

**7 Sun SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

No evening service

**11 Thurs** No service

**13 Sat** Christmas Fair at the Guildhall

**14 Sun THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**5.30pm** Evening Prayer (said)

**18 Thurs 11.00am** Holy Communion and Carols with the Mothers' Union followed by lunch

**21 Sun FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**6.30pm** Carols by Candlelight

*For full details of Christmas Services, please see page 9*

**25 Thurs CHRISTMAS DAY**

**28 Sun THE HOLY INNOCENTS**

**5.30pm** Evening Prayer (said)

**Jan 4 Sun FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY**

No evening service at Christ Church

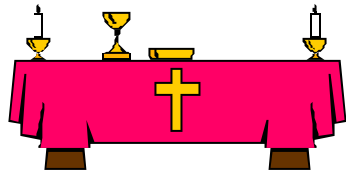
**6.30pm** Churches Together in Bath Epiphany Service at the Salvation Army Citadel

# Service Rota for December

	<b>8 am</b>	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Evening</b>
		<b>Celebrant</b>	<b>Leader</b>
		<b>Preacher</b>	
<b>Dec</b>	<b>7</b> Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Cliff Burrows Dr Cyril Selmes	
	<b>14</b> Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Antony Claridge Rev Sandy Munday	Rev Antony Claridge
	<b>21</b> Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Antony Claridge Dr Cyril Selmes	Carol Service
	<b>25</b> Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Antony Claridge	
	<b>28</b> Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Antony Claridge Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Antony Claridge
<b>Jan</b>	<b>4</b> Rev Cliff Burrows	Rev Cliff Burrows Dr Cyril Selmes	No service

**Thursday Services at 11.00 am**

<b>Dec</b>	<b>4</b> Rev Antony Claridge
	<b>11</b> No service
	<b>18</b> Rev Antony Claridge
	<b>25</b> Christmas Day



# Laity Rota for December

Readers	OT Readers	NT Readers	Gospel
<b>December</b>	<b>7</b>	Mrs P Edwards	Mrs S Ayers
	<b>14</b>	Mrs G Bowman	Mrs E Elliott
	<b>21</b>	Mr D Bishop	Mr R Gabe
	<b>28</b>	Mr C Graham	Mr B Pont
<b>January</b>	<b>4</b>	Mrs R Gabe	Mrs P Adelman
	<b>11</b>	Miss J Fletcher	Dr D Marles

## Chalice Assistants

<b>December</b>	<b>7</b>	Mrs J Metcalfe	Mr R Siderfin
	<b>14</b>	Mrs M Burrows	Mr C Graham
	<b>21</b>	Lady Heath	Dr C Selmes
	<b>28</b>	Miss J Fletcher	Mrs P Edwards
<b>January 2004</b>	<b>4</b>	Mrs J Metcalfe	Mr R Siderfin
	<b>11</b>	Mrs M Burrows	Mr C Graham

## Intercessors

<b>December</b>	<b>7</b>	Mr R Vince
	<b>14</b>	Mr M Elliott
	<b>21</b>	Mrs P Edwards
	<b>28</b>	Mr B Pont
<b>January 2004</b>	<b>4</b>	Dr D Marles
	<b>11</b>	Rev C Burrows



Sidespeople	8am	10am		
<b>December</b>	<b>7</b>	Miss E Hewlett	Dr D Marles	Mrs J Bunkin
	<b>14</b>	Mr C Tilling	Mrs T Claridge	Mrs J Ferguson
	<b>21</b>	Miss E Iden-Hart	Mr & Mrs Olney	
	<b>28</b>	Mr A Jones	Mrs M Silver	Mr F Twissell
<b>January 2004</b>	<b>4</b>	Mrs D Twissell	Mr & Mrs Ayers	
	<b>11</b>	Mrs B Hayward	Dr D Marles	Mrs J Bunkin

# Lectionary for December

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
<b>Dec 7</b>	<b>The Second Sunday of Advent</b>		
	Malachi 3.1-4	Philippians 1.3-11	Luke 3.1-6
<b>14</b>	<b>The Third Sunday of Advent</b>		
	Zephaniah 3.14-20	Philippians 4.4-7	Luke 3.7-18
<b>21</b>	<b>The Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>		
	Micah 5.2-5a	Hebrews 10.5-10	Luke 1.39-45
<b>24</b>	<b>Midnight Mass</b>		
	Isaiah 9.2-7	Titus 2.11-14	Luke 2.1-14
<b>25</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>		
	<i>Readings to be announced</i>		
<b>29</b>	<b>Holy Innocents</b>		
	Jeremiah 13.15-17	1Corinthians 1.26-29	Matthew 2.13-18
<b>Jan 4</b>	<b>The Epiphany</b>		
	Isaiah 60.1-6	Ephesians 3.1-12	Matthew 2.1-12

## STAMPS! STAMPS! STAMPS!

Although fewer of you than expected patronised the 2002 Bath Scout Post by buying your stamps from us, we have decided to continue with this for a further year. We are much cheaper than the GPO, even if our stamp price has risen to 15p each. We will sell them from 30th November, and they are valid until Dec 16th, but only in the Bath area. Having written and stamped your cards, you will of course need somewhere to post them. Well, worry not! There will be a Post Box in Church, but **ONLY FOR ONE WEEK** from December 8th to 14th for you to deposit your post, (cards only please). As this operation now occurs a bit later in December, we hope for your full support in this venture. In this way, you will be helping Scouts from all over the City to carry out their promise to 'Help Other People.' May we thank you in advance for your help.

*Sylvia Ayers and Frank Twissell*



# Christmas Services

~ Sunday 21st December ~

**6.30 pm: Carols by Candlelight**

~ Christmas Eve ~

**2.30 pm: Crib Service**

A very special service for children and adults of all ages. Everyone will enjoy the carols and the marvellous moment when the Christ-lights are lit and the Crib blessed.

**11.30 pm: Midnight Mass**

A traditional sung service which takes us into the first hour of Christmas Day to worship the Child revealed as God-with-Us.

~ Christmas Day ~

**8.00 am: Holy Communion**

A quiet meditative service with the words of the 1662 Prayer Book

**10.30 am: Christmas Celebration with Communion**

Our hope is that that this one-hour service – with popular hymns and carols will make your Christmas Day. Children are invited to bring their best present (so far!) to be admired. We often find something sweet on our Christmas tree for them to take home.



## Caring for Seafarers at Christmas

Shipping, on which we depend for many of our daily needs, is a 24-hour, 365-days-a-year business. The world's merchant fleet consists of over 44,000 ships carrying more than 90% of world trade. The 1.2 million merchant seafarers come from many nations, the majority being from South-East Asia.



Some of them can go for years without getting home for Christmas, and, whether at sea or in Port, they all suffer from home sickness as they think of their families celebrating without them.

Christmas Services are at the heart of all the Mission's celebrations, and the Chaplains try to include hymns and carols from different parts of the world at services in their own Chapels. Great efforts are also made to take visiting seafarers to worship at local Churches of their own nationalities and denominations if at all possible. In Rotterdam, the Chaplain took a group of Polish Sailors to the Polish Roman Catholic Church, and Croats and Filipinos attended the Midnight Mass. A Polish Shipmaster in the Medway in Kent asked the Mission Chaplain for wafers which would be broken and exchanged as a Christian sign of peace at the start of the Polish Christmas meal, and happily the Priest at the local RC Church was able to help with this request. In Walvis Bay, Namibia, the Centre served 70 Christmas Dinners, and visited every ship to give a present to each crewmember. In Richards Bay, South Africa, the Chaplain took gifts to all the seafarers in Port, visiting 19 vessels, and distributing about 450 presents. Donated gifts were also distributed to the Captain and Crew of a Container Ship in Hong Kong.

These are just a few of the many ways the Mission works, and more can be found in the latest article on the Church Noticeboard. So, as we hold our own celebrations in Christ Church this year, let us remember the Seamen who will not be home for Christmas, and offer a prayer for those who are trying to make their lives just a little more bearable.

*Sylvia Ayers, Christ Church Mission to Seafarers Secretary*

## **Mothers' Union News**



By the time of our AGM, the amount collected for the Bath Women's Refuge had risen to £64.40. With this, we were able to buy a selection of much needed bath towels, which were delivered with the contributions received from Christ Church Congregation. The ladies who run the Refuge very much value all your help and interest in their work.

At our AGM in November, we were all delighted to welcome Betty Lacey to our number. Betty, who was a member of Newport (Gwent) Mothers' Union for many years, has now moved to Bath to be near her daughter. At present she knows very few people in Bath, so we rely on the friendly Christ Church Congregation to make her feel welcome amongst us.

I am happy to say that teddies are still being knitted by members of our congregation, and I was recently able to send off a parcel of 16 toys to Diana Emery at Hallatrow. She writes: 'Very many thanks, once again, for the lovely teddies. They will go onto a lorry in Bridgwater in December, and leave for Romania with medical supplies and warm clothing. Please thank all the knitters for me'. If this has inspired anyone to knit some for us, please do let me know. They will definitely be much appreciated.

On December 18th, we will have our Branch Corporate Communion, when we hope to include three carols, and hopefully this will be followed by a delicious 'Metcalfe' Christmas Lunch. The Branch and its supporters, would once again like to send our best wishes and heartfelt thanks to John and June for providing these throughout the year. Having such a splendid meal to follow the Communion really makes this a highlight of our Branch Programme.



Sylvia M Ayers (MU Secretary)

## **Musical News**

Very many congratulations to two members of our Junior Choir on their recent achievements:

Abigail Dudley has been awarded the St Cecilia Award (the highest achievement for a Junior Chorister) and Alice Pont has been successful in obtaining her Dean's Chorister Award (Green Ribbon)

Well done, both of you!



## OPEN CHRISTMAS

For some weeks there has been a special display at the back of the church giving details of Open Christmas. Open Christmas is organised by Churches Together in Bath (CTB) and takes place at Kingswood School, Lansdown, for some 200 people who would otherwise be alone on Christmas Day.

In the beautiful dining room of the school, guests are served a traditional Christmas lunch followed by entertainment and a light tea. Each guest is given a gift from Father Christmas and is taken to and from Kingswood by volunteer drivers. Meals and gifts are also provided for those who go to the Julian House Night Shelter in the city centre.

Open Christmas cannot happen unless there are helpers. CTB is making its annual appeal for volunteers join the shifts to:

- Assist with food preparation and the decoration of the room on Christmas Eve
- Transport guests to and from their homes on Christmas day
- Work in the kitchen on Christmas Day
- Greet guests and help serve meals and beverages
- Help with the washing up

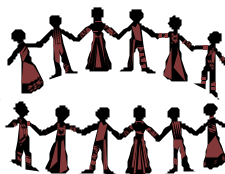
There will be a meeting for volunteers at 8pm on Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at the Central Reformed Church in Grove Street. The meeting will explain how the event is organised and what volunteers can do to help. It also provides an opportunity for volunteers to meet and get to know each other. If you are able to help in any way please ask for full details and a volunteer from Chris Gladstone or Angela Soboslay. You can send the form to the Open Christmas organiser, Hilary Williams or, if you prefer, you can telephone Hilary direct on 01225 447320. Those who cannot help on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day can still do something – and it's a vital something. The event costs £3000 to run and money is urgently needed. Please send your donation to Richard Phillips, 33 Easton House, Grosvenor Bridge Road, Bath, BA1 6BG.

**Invite a guest to enjoy Open Christmas**  
***Know someone who may be alone on Christmas Day?***  
***Tell them about Open Christmas***

If you know someone who is planning to spend Christmas day on their own, invite them to Open Christmas. We have invitations with full details of the day's programme, and Chris or Angela will be glad to give you one to pass on to a friend.

## It's our job's worth

Following the appeal called "Christ Church Challenge" we have managed to cover the list of jobs formerly undertaken or organised by John and June. The complete list is printed below so that everyone knows what is going on. Thank you to everyone who has offered their time, skills and energy in the service of our church.



- ✓ Change the altar frontals etc according to the season **JANE NICHOLSON**
- ✓ Look after the amplification system and re-charge all batteries weekly  
**CHRIS GLADSTONE & ANGELA SOBOSLAY**
- ✓ Programme the heating system **CHRIS G & ANGELA**
- ✓ Organize the ordering of communion wine, wafers, candles, oil and palm crosses etc **CHRIS G & DAVID MARLES**
- ✓ With Antony, compile the rotas and calendar **PAT ADELMAN**
- ? Produce weekly notices of service – A4 inside and A5 outside
- ✓ Maintain the register of services (monthly) **JUNE METCALFE**
  
- ✓ Wash and iron small towels and various small items of altar linen (weekly)  
**DOROTHY TWISSELL**
- ✓ Organise the dry cleaning of large heavy altar cloths **JANE FLETCHER**
- ✓ Organize the cleaning and repair of priests' and servers' robes and vestments **VERA BLOOM**
  
- ✓ Take on the annual update of the electoral roll **JUDITH ANDERSON**
- ✓ Carry out the annual diocesan census **NICKY & CHRIS GLADSTONE**
- ✓ Become the Friend in Deed Co-ordinator **YVONNE MORRIS & JANE F**
- ✓ Form or join a team for catering at Harvest Festival, Sales, Book Fairs and other occasional events **JANE KIRKBRIDE with MARGARET SILVER, JENNY WRIGHT, ANN CHARMAN, CHRIS TANNER, YVONNE, NICKY, EMMA ELLIOTT, ANGELA etc**
- ? Lead the Christmas Fair team
  
- ✓ Offer advice and/or professional expertise on building and maintenance work **VARIOUS CONTRACTORS**
- ✓ Be responsible for opening the building on request from contractors  
**DOROTHY**
- ✓ Oversee car park and parking scheme **DAVID M with JANE K**
- ✓ Assist clergy at weddings and funerals **PAT, DOROTHY, JANE F**

## Put the 'W' in Christmas

*A mother recalls the poignancy of seeing her son in the school's Carol Service. It's a message we might care to take to heart this Christmas.*

That December, I had vowed to make Christmas a calm and peaceful experience. I had cut back on nonessential things - extensive card writing, endless baking, decorating, and even overspending. Yet still, I found myself exhausted, unable to appreciate the precious family moments, and of course, the true meaning of Christmas.

My son, Nicholas, was a very excited six year old. For weeks he'd been learning songs for his school's Carol Service. I didn't have the heart to tell him I wouldn't be there because I was working. Unwilling to miss his shining moment, I spoke to his teacher. She assured me there'd be a dress rehearsal and all parents unable to attend on the evening would be made welcome. Fortunately, Nicholas seemed happy with the compromise. So, on the morning of the dress rehearsal, I arrived ten minutes early, found a spot near the front and sat down. Around the room, I saw several other parents. Then the children came in class by class, and sat down cross-legged on the floor near the front. Each group rose to perform their song. I didn't expect anything other than seasonal fun, I suppose, so when my son's class stood to sing, 'Christmas Love', I was slightly taken aback by its bold title.

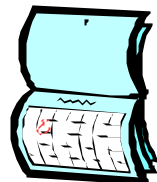
Nicholas was aglow, as were all of his classmates, dressed in fuzzy mittens, red sweaters with bright bobble hats on their heads. He was one of the children chosen for the front row, and given large letters to hold up, one by one, to spell out the title of the song. As the class sang 'C is for Christmas', a child would hold up the letter C. Then, 'H is for Happy', and on and on, until each child holding up his portion had presented the complete message, 'Christmas Love'.

The performance was going smoothly, until suddenly, we noticed that Nicholas, in the front row, was holding the letter 'M' upside down - totally unaware that his letter 'M' appeared as a 'W'. Several children began to giggle at his mistake, but Nicholas had no idea they were laughing at him, and so he stood tall, proudly holding his 'W'. Then the last letter was raised, and we all saw the words the letters now made. With tears in my eyes I stared at what my son had done. He had reminded us all why we were there celebrating in the first place. For when the last letter was held high, the message read loud and clear: 'CHRISTWAS LOVE'.

And, I believe, He still is. This is why I can say **Happy Christmas** to everyone.



## The church calendar



We are very anxious that our church building should be used more often outside of Sunday and weekday services. Christ Church is well known as a good place for concerts – amateur and professionals alike admire the acoustics. We would also like to think other community groups might come to us for their meetings, discussions or other events. Jane Fletcher is the contact person for musicians and singers, while non-musical requests should be directed to Antony or the churchwardens.

In order to avoid clashes and to make sure we all know what is going on, Pat Adelman has volunteered to manage the church calendar. Anyone receiving a request to hold a concert or other event at Christ Church is asked to check the date with Pat before making any commitment. Pat will then liaise with Antony and the wardens and if the date is free she will reserve it in the desk diary in the clergy vestry and on the wall planner in the south aisle. Pat is the only person authorised to make these entries. This seems to be the best way to avoid the embarrassment of double booking.

*- Advertisement -*

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**DIRECT** SOUTH  
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choice and control to  
the older person”**

*If you, or someone you care for, needs assistance  
to carry out the normal activities of daily life.*

**Contact: Sarah Talbott on 01225 334692**

**We offer support seven days/week**

# Prayer Cycle for December

- Mon 1** For all new members of our congregation: for all visitors
- Tue 2** That people may resist the temptation to get involved in loans which will be difficult to repay
- Wed 3** For the under-privileged for whom the material aspect of Christmas celebrations is a source of great concern
- Thur 4** For the work of the Mission to Seafarers
- Fri 5** For effective measures against pilferers at this busy shopping period
- Sat 6** For all who mourn, especially for parents mourning the death of a child or children
- Sun 7** For all who lead worship or preach today
- Mon 8** For those who plan TV and radio programmes for the Christmas period
- Tue 9** For our branch of the Mothers' Union and the Children's Society
- Wed 10** For an end to suicide bombing and all acts of useless hatred
- Thur 11** For the people of Iraq, for the armed forces of Great Britain, the USA and all other armed forces on duty there
- Fri 12** For the work of CRUSE in caring for the bereaved
- Sat 13** For Angela and Chris, our Churchwardens and David, our treasurer
- Sun 14** For all who lead worship in the countryside
- Mon 15** For the clergy and all others who are preparing the church's programmes for Christmas
- Tue 16** For a sensitive and helpful attitude towards those who suffer mental illness and their families
- Wed 17** For one parent families: for schoolgirl mothers
- Thur 18** For those who are sad through the death of a loved one since last Christmas

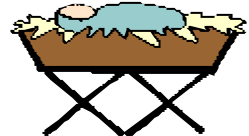


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- Fri 19** That where relationships have been spoiled by unresolved quarrels, the parties may come together with mutual forgiveness
- Sat 20** For an end to “drink-drive” offences on our roads
- Sun 21** For Rowan, our archbishop, Peter, our Bishop and our Clergy Team and their families
- Mon 22** For those whose loved ones are overseas in the Armed Forces or on other duties at this time
- Tue 23** That our Police Forces may receive full co-operation from all members of the public in all circumstances
- Wed 24** That people may travel safely to and from Midnight Mass
- Thur 25** We give thanks for the Incarnation of our Blessed Lord and consider the consequences for Himself and the whole family of mankind
- Fri 26** For those spending this time in hospital and for those whose duty it is to care for others
- Sat 27** Let us give thanks for the special insights of John, Apostle and Evangelist
- Sun 28** For all children who suffer abuse and neglect
- Mon 29** For all who suffer persecution for their faith
- Tue 30** Let us consider how our attitudes need to change in the New Year
- Wed 31** Let us give thanks for our blessings in the month and year now ending
- January**
- Thur 1** For wisdom for those who manage our social and economic life
- Fri 2** For all who offer any kind of ministry at Christ Church
- Sat 3** For a fairer distribution of the nation’s wealth
- Sun 4** For our Clergy Team and their families

## You Came a Long Way to Save Us

*By Gwen Grant*

Hello, petal!  
Hello, little flower!  
I held a babe like you last night  
And loved her.  
With you  
It was the other way round.  
You came  
Because you loved us.  
Held us in the safety of your arms  
From the beginning.  
Blitzing the world with wonder.  
Little Christ child,  
You came a long way to save us.  
Pushing through the darkness  
Of the world,  
Turning its opaque density into a starry firmament  
Which set you about with stars  
And angels.  
Christ child.  
Christmas rose.  
Flower into my heart.  
Let me love as I am loved by you.  
Hello, petal!  
You came a long way to save us,  
With your starry angels joyfully singing,  
Shaking out shepherds from quiet fields abiding,  
And Magi from magical  
places appearing.  
Then, us,  
Kneeling.  
I held a babe like you last  
night and loved her.  
Little flower,  
Love us for ever.  
Christ child,  
Welcome!



**WHO'S WHO?**

**OFFICIATING MINISTER**

The Rev Antony Claridge, 62 Cranwells Park, Weston, BA1 2YE Tel: 427462

**ASSISTANT CLERGY**

The Rev Cliff Burrows, Stonecroft, Entry Hill Drive, BA2 5NL. Tel: 334743

**READERS**

Tom Slade, 42 Rockcliffe Road, Bathwick, BA2 6QE. Tel: 465864

Cyril Selmes, 10 Daffords Buildings, Larkhall, BA1 6SG. Tel: 420039

**CHURCHWARDENS**

Chris Gladstone, 16 Croft Road, Fairfield Park, BA1 6JJ. Tel: 444938

Angela Soboslay, 285 Newbridge Road, BA1 3HN. Tel: 333297

**HON SECRETARY to Church Council**

Nicky Gladstone, 16 Croft Road, Fairfield Park, BA1 6JJ. Tel: 444938

**HON TREASURER**

David Marles, 21 Camden Crescent, Bath BA1 5HY. Tel: 461159

**CHAIRMAN of the TRUSTEES**

Yvonne Morris, 3 Summerhill Road, Sion Hill, BA1 2UP. Tel: 425555

**DIRECTOR of MUSIC**

Mark Elliott, 32 Broadmoor Lane, Weston, Bath BA1 4JY Tel: 445360

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BATH**

Margaret Heath, St Lawrence, Lansdown Road, Bath BA1 5TD Tel: 428272

**BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP**

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**JUNIOR CHURCH and CRECHE**

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# ***CHRIST CHURCH, JULIAN ROAD***

## **DIOCESE OF BATH AND WELLS IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**

### **PAST HISTORY**

Christ Church was built at the end of the 18th Century by the socially concerned clergy and lay people for those excluded from worship by the system of pew rents. It was probably the first church of that time to provide seating free of charge. Early supporters included the Archbishops of Canterbury and York; the great evangelical campaigner against slavery, William Wilberforce; Philip Pusey, the father of E B Pusey; and Martin Stafford Smith, the godfather of John Keble, who were both founders of the Oxford Movement. The building was designed by the famous Bath architect John Palmer, who was responsible for the completion of the Great Pump Room, Lansdown Crescent and St Swithin's, the parish church of Walcot. In November 1998, the congregation, friends and well-wishers from all over the world celebrated the bicentenary.

### **MINISTRY**

Christ Church is unusual in not being a parish church. Much of the vitality of its life and worship derives from the fact that the congregation comes from all areas of the city and the surrounding districts. Whilst there is no full-time paid vicar, there is a non-stipendiary priest-in-charge, who leads a ministerial team of ordained and lay people. Worship at Christ Church largely reflects the traditions of those responsible for its foundation and the rich diversity of the Church of England as a whole. Thus, preaching and Bible-based teaching is firmly set within a liturgical setting which is best described as liberal and catholic.

### **SERVICES**

The 8am Holy Communion is either Book of Common Prayer (1662) or Common Worship. At 10am the Family Eucharist is celebrated according to Common Worship. On the first Sunday of each month, there is a full Choral Evensong. A more informal discussion-based service is held on the third Sunday of the month. A Junior Church and a Crèche cater for the children and young people who attend the 10am service. At festivals such as Easter, Christmas, Mothering Sunday and Harvest, our special services, designed for the whole family, are very popular.

There are a variety of mid-week activities including Holy Communion at 11am every Thursday (with lunch on the first and third weeks of the month). The notice board and the weekly notice sheet provide details of discussion and prayer groups which are held at different times throughout the year. An all-age choir, which rehearses on Friday evenings, maintains the much-admired music tradition at Christ Church.

### **THE CHURCH MAGAZINE**

Currently published on the first Sunday of every month, Christ Church Challenge brings news of the church locally, in the Diocese, and throughout the world.

**Articles or news items MUST be with the Editor by the 15th of the month preceding the publication date**