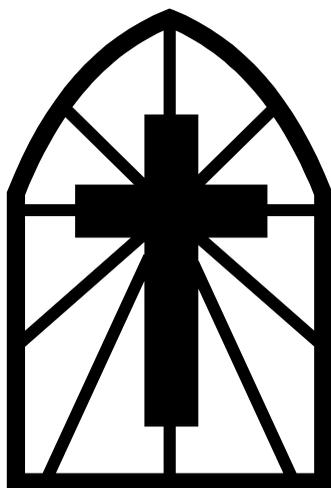


CHRIST CHURCH CHALLENGE



February 2005

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.

Emmie Broackes RIP

As the magazine goes to press, we are saddened to hear of the death of Emmie Broackes.

A tribute to Emmie will appear in next month's edition of Christ Church Challenge.

Forum...



As the magazine goes to press, the church prepares to celebrate Ash Wednesday. This is the day that marks the beginning of Lent, the forty days of self-denial which leads to Easter Sunday.

Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness fasting and praying as a prelude to his public ministry. Since the earliest days of the church, Christians have tried to follow his example. The forty days of Lent have become a time for reflection and self-examination. Ash Wednesday gets its name from the custom of marking the foreheads of worshippers as a sign of penitence. Ashes are an ancient symbol of mourning and Jesus himself speaks of the ashes of repentance in Matthew 11: 21.

Nearly everyone knows Lent is a period during which people try to give something up. It's called self-denial and is intended to be a spiritual discipline. One colourful and eccentric bishop of a left-wing persuasion once told me of his Lenten penance. He gave up reading *The Guardian* newspaper and took on *The Daily Telegraph* instead!

Perhaps the good and great bishop was being mischievous but I suspect he was pointing to an essential truth about Lent. Essentially it is a time for questioning all the things we hold most dear – values, ambitions, obsessions and, I dare say, coffee and pastries.

Self-denial, penitence and meditation on the impermanence of life – the very stuff of Lent – sit uneasily alongside our current life experience. Our consumer-driven society creates desires in us we never knew or needed, encourages us to indulge every last craving and, in turn, to deny any form of self-denial.

If we want to know how deeply attached we are to something (food, time, money and so on) it is revealing to see what happens when that something is taken away. One common attachment is 'busy-ness' – the notion that we are only using time properly if we are busy. Our information age is an age of mental clutter and overload. Finding the spiritual space and time to be quiet can be a huge challenge for most

of us. And yet it is the key to our mental and spiritual well-being. As the Prophet Isaiah says, "In calm detachment lies your safety, your strength in quiet trust" (30: 15)

Lent is the time to find your inner space and the time to take a journey with Jesus along the Resurrection road.

Antony

STOP PRESS!

The late publication of this month's magazine has one happy consequence, and that is that it gives us the opportunity to formally record the safe arrival of Isaac William Elliott, on Saturday 5th February at 3.58am, weighing 8lb and half an ounce.



It is hard to think of a child who could be more accurately described as a "Christ Church Baby" - not only were Mark and Emma married at Christ Church, they actually met in the building. Perhaps even more astonishing is the fact that, previously to this fateful meeting, Emma was part of the selection committee for the position of Director of Music, and had actually telephoned Mark to offer him the post!

Congratulations to Mark and Emma, with love from everyone.

A WINDOW FOR BISHOP JIM

Next time you visit Wells Cathedral, you may like to have a look at the newly-dedicated memorial window to Bishop Jim Thompson, who died suddenly in September 2003 just after his retirement following 10 years of service to the Diocese.

The window was designed and made by Wells artist John Rowlands-Pritchard, and carries the engraving "Jim Thompson, Bishop of Bath and Wells, 1991 – 2003" which is circled by the words "For Jim, the love of God encircled everything".

A photograph of the window can be seen on the Diocesan web-site, www.bathwells.anglican.org

Church Calendar for February

Feb 5 Sat 3.00pm A service of Dedication and Blessing - Dan and Sue Webster

6 Sun THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

6.30pm NO EVENSONG

7 Mon 8.00pm "Meet Up Monday" Social Evening in the Hare and Hounds, Lansdown. All welcome!

9 Wed ASH WEDNESDAY

11.00am Holy Communion followed by Lent Lunch at Christ Church

7.30pm Sung Eucharist for Ash Wednesday

13 Sun THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

5.00pm Said Evening Prayer

16 Wed 11.00am Holy Communion followed by Lent Lunch at St Mary's

20 Sun THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

5.00pm Said Evening Prayer

23 Wed 11.00am Holy Communion followed by Lent Lunch at Christ Church

27 Sun THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

5.00pm Said Evening Prayer

Mar 2 Wed 11.00am Holy Communion followed by Lent Lunch at St Mary's

6 Sun MOTHERING SUNDAY

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Laity Rota for February

Readers	OT Readers	NT Readers	Gospel
February	6	Junior Church	
	13	Mark Elliott	Judith Anderson David Marles
	20	Jane Fletcher	Margaret Burrows John Metcalfe
	27	Matthew Jones	Judith Bishop Eileen Selmes
March	6	Junior Church	
	13	Sarah Hiscock	Audrey Sheppard Martin Palmer
	20	Rosanne Gabe	Chris Munday Lloyd Grosvenor

Chalice Assistants

February	6	Margaret Burrows	Chris Graham
	13	Rev Sandy Munday	Cyril Selmes
	20	Jane Fletcher	Penny Edwards
	27	Bob Siderfin	
March	6	Margaret Burrows	Chris Graham
	13	Rev Sandy Munday	Cyril Selmes
	20	Jane Fletcher	Penny Edwards

Intercessors

February	6	Junior Church
	13	David Marles
	20	Rev Cliff Burrows
	27	Chris Graham
March	6	Junior Church
	13	Rev Antony Claridge



Sidespeople	8am	10am	
February	6	Clive Tilling	Tessa Claridge Jean Ferguson
	13	Elizabeth Iden-Hart	Margaret Silver Frank Twissell
	20	Dil Jones	Ken & Sylvia Ayers
	27	Dorothy Twissell	David Marles Joan Bunkin
March	6	Barbara Hayward	John and June Metcalfe
	13	Esther Hewlett	Chris Tanner Ann Charman
	20	Clive Tilling	Tessa Claridge Jean Ferguson

Lectionary for February

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
Feb 13	Lent 1		
	Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7	Romans 5.12-19	Matthew 4.1-11
20	Lent 2		
	Genesis 12.1-4a	Romans 4.1-5, 11-17	John 3.1-7
27	Lent 3		
	No reading	Romans 5.1-11	John 4.5-42
Mar 6	Mothering Sunday		
	No reading	Colossians 3.12-17	John 19.25b-27
13	Passion Sunday		
	No reading	Romans 8.6-11	John 11.1-45
20	Palm Sunday		
	Isaiah 50.4-9a	No reading	Passion story of Matthew

Who is like you?

Who is like you,
 Jesus, sweet Jesus?
 You are the light of those who are spiritually lost.
 You are the life of those who are spiritually dead.
 You are the liberation of those who are imprisoned by guilt.
 You are the glory of those who hate themselves.
 You are the guardian of those who are paralysed by fear.
 You are the guide of those who are bewildered by falsehood.
 You are the peace of those who are in turmoil.
 You are the prince of those who yearn to be led.
 You are the priest of those who seek the truth.



Johann Freylinghausen (1670 – 1739)

Mothers' Union News

In spite of our reduced numbers, we shall want to join in the MU world-wide wave of prayer which takes place each February. Therefore on February 9th we will join our prayers to those of many thousands across the world during the course of the 11am Ash Wednesday Corporate Communion. We must thank Antony for agreeing to use some of the special prayers on this occasion.

I have now been advised that the MU Annual Subscription for 2005 will remain at £12 per member. As well as the actual subs, this amount includes payment for the quarterly Newsletter, and a donation to branch funds. We also contribute to the upkeep of the Deanery Office at Wells, and to a fund to help MU officers with their expenses when visiting other Branches and Events. I have to send all monies to the Deanery Treasurer by February 20th so you will appreciate that prompt payment will be extremely welcome.

We have now decided that for the time being we will join with the Thursday Congregation one week each month - the next occasion will be March 9th. We still plan to hold an overseas sale and coffee morning, probably in April - watch this space for further details!



Sylvia M. Ayers (MU Secretary)

A Friend



In Deed

The Christ Church Friends in Deed scheme is designed to provide a network of good neighbours, called Area Wardens. These Area Wardens have volunteered to do the neighbourly things we used to do for each other when we lived closer together. When the need arises, they are prepared on request to:

- make friendship visits or telephone calls
- do shopping at times of illness or infirmity
- offer or find sources of advice
- handle occasional non-specialist odd jobs

All areas in which church members live are covered by the Friends in Deed scheme. If you need or know of someone else who needs help, you should in the first instance contact the Friends in Deed Co-ordinators, Jane Fletcher (01225 463758) and Yvonne Morris (01225 425555). They will then get in touch with the Area Warden best able to provide the help that is needed.

Do some good this Lent

A little bit of kindness with a piece of cake and a pudding

The indefatigable John and June Metcalfe are bringing Christ Church and St Mary's Roman Catholic Church again this Lent. Following a successful launch on Ash Wednesday, the two congregations will share lunch on each Wednesday during Lent. Full details are shown below.

All are welcome to the lunches which are at 12 noon following the Eucharist at 11am. There is no charge but donations are invited for Children's' Hospice South West project. Last year £1000 was raised towards the £15m appeal. There is only one hospice for the care of terminally ill children in the whole of the South West Region. To date £6m has been raised and, as an act of faith, the building will actually begin in March with completion planned for 2006.

Clearly, money is desperately needed and our fellowship with other Christians matched with a little kindness and generosity could do much to guarantee success. Just think what a simple lunch of soup and bread followed by some Protestant pudding and a Catholic cake could do for children and their families.

On those Wednesdays when you might not be able to be at church, you might consider giving John a donation to the fund. And if you want further details of the project, which is sponsored by Dick King-Smith the author of the famous children's' books, including the story of Babe, have a look at the display provided by June and John at the back of the church.

Wed 16th Feb	St Mary's
Wed 23rd Feb	Christ Church
Wed 2nd Mar	St Mary's
Wed 9th Mar	Christ Church
Wed 16th Mar	St Mary's
Wed 23rd Mar	Christ Church



Bath Symphony Orchestra Family Concert
Thursday 17 March 2005, 7.30pm
The Forum Bath

BSO have put together a varied and accessible programme which they hope will appeal to everyone, whether adults or children, whether you are more BBC radio 3 or Classic FM or neither.

Through the music and presentation of the concert they aim to provide an opportunity for the audience to learn about the orchestra and the instruments that are played. For young people there will be special programme information sheets incorporating quiz questions and the chance to enter a prize draw.

The programme is as follows:

Humperdinck: Overture - Hansel and Gretel
Prokofiev: Peter and the Wolf
Quilter: A Children's Overture
Tchaikovsky: Concert ballet suite "The Nutcracker"

Tickets are £10 for adults and £4 for children/students and are available from Nicky Gladstone or Sarah Hiscock.

At this concert BSO are pleased to be supporting Children's Hospice South West and their Babe's Big Appeal through a retiring collection. As this is also the charity which we are supporting through our Lent Lunches, this is even more of a reason to come along, enjoy an evening of music and support a worthy cause while you do so.



Scout Christmas Postal Service 2004

Dear Friends

Now that the Scout Christmas Post operation has been successfully completed for another year, we take this opportunity to thank you all very much indeed for helping Bath Scouting by buying our Christmas Stamps and then by posting your cards in our Church Box.

In all, we managed to sell 1643 stamps which, at the rate of 2p to us for each stamp purchased, raised the sum of £32.86 for Scout Fellowship Funds. The collection box also helped to make up the grand total of 1340 cards delivered by the Central Postal Team, which at 9p per delivery will result in a further profit at £120.60. These wonderful contributions are very warmly welcomed by Bath Scouts, so we thank everyone most sincerely for your part in our success. From this income we have sent a large contribution to the Tsunami Earthquake Appeal.

With all best wishes for 2005,

Yours, in Scouting,

Frank Twissell and Sylvia Ayers, Central Scout Postal Team

Happy birthday to Sarah!

Congratulations and celebrations

Audrey Sheppard and her family invited all Sarah's friends to celebrate her 50th birthday on Saturday, 22nd February. In fact, this was a late Epiphany party since Sarah's actual birthday was on Christmas Day. And what a wonderful party it was.

Guests were welcomed to Herne House by members of the Sheppard family, were digitally photographed and invited to write in Sarah's birthday album. We then enjoyed a glorious spread of birthday sandwiches, cakes and scones.

Audrey and Sarah had been firm that there should be no presents but generous donations to WaterAid, a charity dear to Sarah's heart raised well over £400. Whilst we were all delighted that WaterAid should have benefited from such a happy celebration, Christ Church people are a rebellious lot. In defiance of instructions, we could not resist giving Sarah a book token to mark her fiftieth year. In a note of thanks Sarah says she will be grinning like a Cheshire cat all the way to Waterstones.



Make Poverty History 2005

The tragedy in Asia reinforces how vital it is to challenge the causes of poverty. For half the world's population, extreme poverty is an everyday reality that doesn't often hit the headlines. The Make Poverty History campaign is working to highlight this scandal and call our government and other world leaders to account. Now is your chance to make a real change.

Christian Aid has joined together with Comic Relief, Oxfam, CAFOD, churches, trade unions and a host of celebrities and organisations in what could become the most powerful coalition ever against world poverty: **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY2005**.

The UK Prime Minister will have a unique role this year, as Tony Blair hosts the G8 summit of world leaders and holds the presidency of the European Union (EU). Urgent action from Tony Blair could improve the lives of millions of poor people around the world who live on less than 60 pence a day.

MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY wants people to call on Tony Blair to:

- change the rules and practices of unjust trade
- cancel poor countries' debts and
- deliver more and better aid.

Over the next 12 months a series of landmark meetings are taking place where world leaders can finally stop 30,000 people dying every day, just because they are poor.

On 14th January 2005, 600 vicars from across the country joined Dawn French to deliver a white band card to Number 10 Downing Street showing their support for the campaign. While the group of vicars waited outside, tying hundreds of white bands, the symbol of the campaign, to the railings, a smaller delegation of 10 vicars representing the different church denominations, actor Dawn French and writer Richard Curtis met the Prime

Minister. They reiterated challenges on debt, trade and aid laid down earlier this year by the Make Poverty History campaign.

With Gordon Brown in Africa addressing the same issues of poverty, the campaign hopes the UK Government will use its influence internationally to make important changes at the G8 in July this year.

Twenty years on from Live Aid, the statistics remain shocking and shameful – one child dying every 3 seconds, unnecessarily, of the results of extreme poverty, diarrhoea, TB, hunger. The answer lies in dropping debt, more and better targeted aid, and justice in trade. But the politicians must know that we care to make the issues high on their priority list. Please continue to send the campaigning letters.

“2005 is a year of great opportunity. If everyone who wants to see an end to poverty, hunger and suffering speaks out, then the noise will be deafening. Politicians will have to listen.”

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

What you can do:

- Write to your local MP, lobbying for their active support for Make Poverty History 2005,
- Wear a white arm band to show your support in a visible way. These should be available from most Oxfam shops and can be ordered from the Christian Aid website or by talking to me,
- Sign and send the campaign letters distributed through church most months,
- Discuss the issues with family, friends and colleagues to raise awareness,
- Get involved in the Global Week of Action (10-16 April 2005) and Christian Aid Week (15-21 May 2005).

Jenny Wright, Christian Aid Representative

Cathedrals count!

New research reveals economic and social value of England's Anglican cathedrals

Nearly nine million people visited England's Anglican cathedrals in 2003 - two million more than visited Blackpool Pleasure Beach, five million more than went on the London Eye and almost twice as many as visited the British Museum in the same year. This is just one of many compelling findings in a recent report on the value of England's cathedrals which has been published as part of 'Heritage Counts'. This is the



annual audit of the historic environment carried out by English Heritage on behalf of the sector. The research, commissioned jointly by English Heritage and the Association of English Cathedrals, provides the first comprehensive evidence of the substantial economic and social contribution made by cathedrals in their local communities.

Cathedrals are first and foremost places of worship, and well recognised as places of great spirituality and beauty, but until now little consideration has been given to the boost that their presence gives to the local economy and the range of opportunities they offer for education, events and volunteering.

Highlights of the research:

- ✚ Visitors attracted to an area by the presence of a cathedral spend £91 million in the local economy per year. When the amount cathedrals themselves spend on goods, services and employment is taken into account the figure rises to £150 million per year.
- ✚ The 42 Anglican cathedrals account collectively for the direct employment of 1,885 full time workers. Through spending in the local economy they support 5,500 workers in total.
- ✚ Cathedrals provide huge opportunities for volunteers and benefit significantly from their time and skills. The survey suggests that the number of cathedral volunteers is in excess of 12,000. This is equivalent to over 500 full time employees and is more than the total number of volunteers for the RSPB across the UK.
- ✚ Cathedrals are open 365 days a year. They are open to all and have more contact with non-churchgoers than any other part of the Church.

- † More than 300,000 schoolchildren benefited from organised educational visits to cathedrals in 2003.
- † All cathedrals have, on average, between three and five special events (concerts, plays, lectures, art exhibitions etc) per week. More than 50% reported an increase in the number of events they hold.
- † Almost 50% of the cathedrals reported an increasing trend in congregation size with attendance at its highest on Sundays.
- † An average of 23 regular services takes place at each cathedral every week and an increasing number of requests for special services were reported.

The report concludes that there is a pressing need to reinforce these findings with more in-depth research. It suggests that future research should focus on the characteristics of visitors to cathedrals, such as age and nationality, for which there is currently a lack of information.

While many people have intuitively understood the value of cathedrals, until now their wider social contribution has been largely overlooked. For the first time, this new research puts figures on the significant economic and social contribution made by cathedrals locally and nationally. It demonstrates the need to treasure and protect these great buildings, so that they can maintain their invaluable contribution to the nation's life.

BATH AND WELLS Diocesan Secretary Nick Denison is in training to "run with patience the race that is set before him." He plans to take part in the London marathon in April to raise money for charity, and he will be spurred on by his fellow Diocesan Secretary from Exeter Mark Beedell who plans to run in the same race.

Why am I doing it? asked Nick, aged 51. *The easy answer and the one probably nearest the truth is insanity. But I also like a physical challenge and want to raise money for two very good causes.*"

Nick is now seeking sponsors for his run and any money raised will be divided between the Children's Society and a £290,000 scheme to adapt and refurbish his home village Church of St Leonard's, Butleigh near Glastonbury.

This is Nick's second London Marathon, and he estimates that the course will take him about 4 hours to complete. He is grateful that his colleague Mark will also be running: *"It's not so much the inter diocesan rivalry that will be spurring us on as the mutual support we can offer each other,"* he added.

Nick Denison can be contacted on 01749 685109.

Prayer Cycle for February

- Tue* 1 For all parents, step-parents and godparents
- Wed* 2 For all who suffer persecution for their faith
- Thur* 3 For those facing redundancy, for those who are unemployed
- Fri* 4 For those considering a vocation to the priesthood or religious life
- Sat* 5 For those suffering from depression, and for those who love them; that they will find the strength to seek the help which they need.
- Sun* 6 For members of our congregation who can no longer attend church due to illness or infirmity
- Mon* 7 For children who have to operate as carers for members of their family
- Tue* 8 For those who are hungry, both abroad and close to home
- Wed* 9 We offer ourselves afresh to God at the beginning of Lent
- Thur* 10 For David our Treasurer
- Fri* 11 For those facing new challenges at work or at home
- Sat* 12 For the departed who have shared their earthly pilgrimage with us
- Sun* 13 For Rowan our Archbishop and for Peter our Bishop
- Mon* 14 For couples who can no longer live together due to illness or infirmity, that God will comfort them
- Tue* 15 For Tom and Cyril our readers, and Sarah's ministry at Batheaston
For Mark as he trains to become a reader
- Wed* 16 For the people of St Mary's Roman Catholic Church
- Thur* 17 For the work of Churches Together in Bath; for Sylvia and Chris, our CTB representatives
- Fri* 18 For children being bullied at school. For parents who worry about them and do not know how to help
- Sat* 19 For Church's mission to those with any form of physical or mental difficulties; for those who suffer discrimination because of these issues.

-
- Sun* 20 For those mourning the death of loved ones; for those mourning the death of a child or children
- Mon* 21 For peace throughout the world, and for all world leaders
- Tue* 22 For young people in prison for whatever reason; for all who work with them
- Wed* 23 For John and June, and for those attending the Lunch today
- Thur* 24 For couples experiencing difficulties in their relationship. For the work of Relate.
- Fri* 25 For those who feel that no-one appreciates or cares about them
- Sat* 26 For our hospitals, nursing homes and local surgeries
- Sun* 27 For our next-door neighbours; for our colleagues at work
- Mon* 28 We thank God for the blessings of the month now ending
- March*
- Tue* 1 For those who work behind the scenes to assure the smooth running of our church
- Wed* 2 For the work and witness of our branch of the Mothers' Union
- Thur* 3 For countries of the Third World which suffer through the selfishness of richer nations
- Fri* 4 For Mark our Director of Music, David our Organist, and the Choir
- Sat* 5 For success in the struggle against the distribution of drugs
- Sun* 6 For all members of the congregation who are away from Christ Church today
- Mon* 7 For those who work for the Emergency Services
- Tue* 8 For Angela and Chris, our Churchwardens
- Wed* 9 For journalists and all those who work in the media, that they will be mindful of their responsibilities both to those whom they inform, and those about whom they report
- Thur* 10 For the work of USPG in general, and especially for St Anne's Hospital, Lake Malawi

From the Church Registers**Holy Matrimony**

Adam Blazeby and Bryony Kerr on Saturday, 22 January, 2005

Dedication and Blessing

Dan and Sue Webster on Saturday, 5th February, 2005

**High Days and Holidays: 1st March - St David's Day**

The first day of March is St David's Day, and it's time for the Welsh to wear daffodils or leeks - but why the Welsh wear leeks or daffodils to honour their patron saint remains shrouded in mystery.

We do know that David - or Dafydd - of Pembrokeshire was a monk and bishop of the 6th century. In the 12th century he was made patron of Wales, and he has the honour of being the only Welsh saint to be canonised and culted in the Western Church. Tradition has it that he was austere with himself, and generous with others - living on water and vegetables (leeks, perhaps?!) and devoting himself to works of mercy. He was much loved.

In art, St David is usually depicted in Episcopal vestments, standing on a mound with a dove at his shoulder, in memory of his share at an important Synod for the Welsh Church, the Synod of Brevi. Fans of "Little Britain" will doubtless allow themselves a wry smile at this information. He was probably the only saint in the village.

An infants' teacher was observing her class of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work.

As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

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

The Rev Sandy Munday, 18 Chestnut Walk, Saltford, BS31 3BG. Tel 342740

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

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

Sylvia Ayers, 5 Forester Avenue, Bath BA2 6QD. Tel: 463976

CHRISTIAN AID/CHILDRENS' SOC

Jenny Wright, First Floor Flat, 13 Moorland Road, Oldfield Park, Bath BA2 3PL.

JUNIOR CHURCH

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

BOOKINGS AND CALENDAR

Patricia Adelman, 14 The Linleys, Bath BA1 2XE. Tel: 421178

USPG & MISSIONARY COMMITTEE

Adrian Pegg, 68 London Road West, Bath BA1 7DA. Tel: 858809

MOTHERS UNION BRANCH DEANERY

Margaret Burrows, Stonecroft, Entry Hill Drive, BA2 5NL. Tel: 334743

SECRETARY / TREASURER

Sylvia Ayers, 5 Forester Avenue, Bath BA2 6QD. Tel: 463976

MISSIONS TO SEAFARERS

Sylvia Ayers, 5 Forester Avenue, Bath BA2 6QD. Tel: 463976

ORGANIST

David Wrigley, 3 Haydon Gate, Radstock, BA3 3RB. Tel: 01761 439355

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTOR

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

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 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 once a 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.

CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS

Published on the first Sunday of every month, Christ Church Challenge brings news of the church locally, in the Diocese, and throughout the world. Our website is constantly updated and can be found at www.christchurchbath.org

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