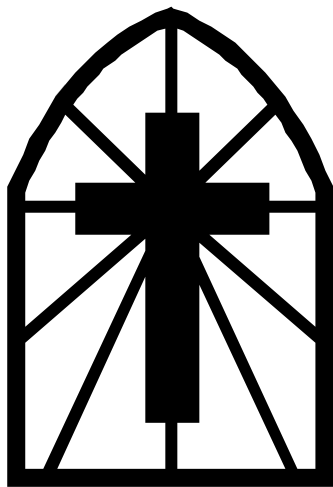


CHRIST  
CHURCH  
CHALLENGE



January 2004

**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.*

**Happy New Year to all our readers! Two dates for your new diary:**

**First to the Lord 2004**

If you would be interested in joining members of Church Council at the Deanery's **Evening with Bishop Peter** at the Pavilion on Thursday 22 January, please give your name to one of the Wardens.

Everyone should make sure that they have the date of the **Christ Church Away Day** at Chewton Keynsham in their diaries. It's not a date which is easy to forget – 14 February, St Valentine's Day.



# Forum...

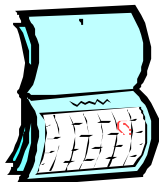
## Don't forget the resolution



Towards the end of December, just as the New Year looms over the horizon, I am driven to make a resolution. The scenario goes something like this. Those nice people at the Gloucestershire County Cricket Club write and say how much they are hoping I will re-join for the 2004 season. The thought appeals; I begin to think of days of sunshine, the sound of leather on willow and the slow unravelling drama of the summer game. At about this point, Tessa's voice disturbs my reverie. "Not much point," she says, looking over my shoulder, "you hardly went at all last season." I mutter something along the lines of women not understanding that membership is all about supporting the club and nothing to do with getting your money's worth in terms of games attended. This line of argument is always a mistake and leads to a wider discussion of gender differences often involving reference to standards of tidiness in the wardrobe department. No, the best way of getting a renewal is to voice a firm resolution to get over to Bristol and see more games and try to stick to it.

Whatever the cynics might say, a new year's resolution is something that has a deeper meaning than a good day's cricket or a substantial post-Christmas weight lose. It really is the starting point for renewal.

Jonathan Edwards, the 18th-century Puritan theologian, sat down at age 17 and penned 21 resolutions by which he would live his life. Throughout his lifetime he added to this list until, by his death, he had 70 resolutions. He put at the top of his list: "Being sensible that I am unable to do anything without God's help, I do humbly entreat Him by His grace to enable me to keep these Resolutions. ... Remember to read over these Resolutions once a week." Edwards didn't casually make New Year's resolutions with an expectation of eventually breaking them. Each week he reviewed his progress and sought God's help in the process.



At the beginning of every year, many New Year's Resolutions are made and promptly broken within a few months or even a few days. Why is it so for us hard for us to keep our resolutions? It's because, unlike Jonathan Edwards, we don't always involve God in the setting of our goals. This year, as we make our New Year's Resolutions, we would do well to give them a spiritual focus by following the following two biblical principles...

**1. Please God with your goals**

*Colossians 3:23-24 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

As you make your resolutions, make them with the Lord in mind. Think about what areas of your character you know God would be pleased for you to change. Ask yourself, "What does God want me to do with my life this year?"

**2. Be realistic**

*Proverbs 14:8 The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception.*

Don't set yourself up for failure by picking goals that are impracticable. You'll become discouraged and give up before you see any results. Instead, select a few goals that are most important. Make sure that these stretch you a little beyond your comfort zone but are still attainable. And above all, give yourself time and don't give up at the first hint of a set-back. Christ calls us to actively work at becoming conformed to His image. This coming year resolve to become a person committed to a godly renewal.

*Antony*

**A lovely Christmas**

Many people have said how much they enjoyed coming to Christ Church at Christmas. We did have a lovely time together and it was good to see so many newcomers.

Thanks must go to all those who contributed to the Christmas lunch, the services, the flower arrangements, the decorations and the music. A special treat this year, was the Nativity Play on Christmas Eve. Congratulations to all our young actors and their director, Rosanne Gabe.



# Church Calendar for January

**Jan 5 Mon 7.30pm** Mayor's Call to Prayer at the Guildhall

**8 Thurs 11.00am** Holy Communion -Rev Antony Claridge

**11 Sun FIRST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY  
THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST**

**5.30pm** Said Evening Prayer

**15 Thurs 11.00am** Holy Communion - Rev Antony Claridge  
followed by lunch

**7.30pm** Church Council

**17 Sat 7.30pm** Concert - Bath Baroque

**18 - 25 January: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

**18 Sun SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY**

**5.30pm** Said Evening Prayer

**22 Thurs 11.00am** Holy Communion - Rev Antony Claridge

**7.30pm** "An Evening with Bishop Peter" at the Pavilion

**25 Sun THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY  
THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL**

**5.30pm** Said Evening Prayer

**29 Thurs 11.00am** Holy Communion - Rev Antony Claridge

**Feb 1 Sun FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY  
CANDLEMAS**

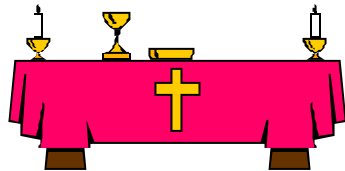
**6.30pm** Choral Evensong

# Service Rota for January

	8 am	10 am	Evening
		Celebrant	Leader
		Preacher	
<b>Jan</b>	<b>4</b> Rev Cliff Burrows	Rev Cliff Burrows Dr Cyril Selmes	No Service
	<b>11</b> Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Antony Claridge Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Antony Claridge
	<b>18</b> Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Cliff Burrows Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Antony Claridge
	<b>25</b> Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Sandy Munday Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Antony Claridge
<b>Feb</b>	<b>1</b> Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Antony Claridge Rev Sandy Munday	Rev Antony Claridge

## Thursday Services at 11.00 am

<b>Jan</b>	<b>8</b> Rev Antony Claridge
	<b>15</b> Rev Antony Claridge
	<b>22</b> Rev Antony Claridge
	<b>29</b> Rev Antony Claridge



# Laity Rota for January

Readers	OT Readers	NT Readers	Gospel	
<b>January</b>	<b>4</b>	Mrs R Gabe	Mr M Elliott	Mrs P Adelman
	<b>11</b>	Miss J Fletcher	Mrs S Ayers	Dr D Marles
	<b>18</b>	Mr M Jones	Mrs E Elliott	Mrs N Gladstone
	<b>25</b>	Mrs A Kemp	Mr R Gabe	Mr J Metcalfe
<b>February</b>	<b>1</b>	Ms J Anderson	Mr B Pont	Mrs E Selmes
	<b>8</b>	Mrs M Burrows	Mrs P Adelman	Mr M Palmer

## Chalice Assistants

<b>January</b>	<b>4</b>	Mrs J Metcalfe	Mr R Siderfin
	<b>11</b>	Mrs M Burrows	Mr C Graham
	<b>18</b>		Dr C Selmes
	<b>25</b>	Miss J Fletcher	Mrs P Edwards
<b>February</b>	<b>1</b>	Mrs J Metcalfe	Mr R Siderfin
	<b>8</b>	Mrs M Burrows	Mr C Graham

## Intercessors

<b>January</b>	<b>4</b>	Dr D Marles
	<b>11</b>	Rev C Burrows
	<b>18</b>	Mr C Graham
	<b>25</b>	Rev A Claridge
<b>February</b>	<b>1</b>	Mr R Vince
	<b>8</b>	Mr M Elliott



## Sidespeople

	8am	10am		
<b>January</b>	<b>4</b>	Mrs D Twissell	Mr & Mrs Ayers	
	<b>11</b>	Mrs B Hayward	Dr D Marles	Mrs J Bunkin
	<b>18</b>	Miss E Hewlett	Mr & Mrs Metcalfe	
	<b>25</b>	Mr C Tilling	Mrs C Tanner	Mrs A Charman
<b>February</b>	<b>1</b>	Miss E Iden-Hart	Mrs T Claridge	Mrs J Ferguson
	<b>8</b>	Mr A Jones	Mr & Mrs Olney	

# Lectionary for January

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
<b>Jan 4</b>	<b>The Epiphany</b>		
	Isaiah 60.1-6	Ephesians 3.1-12	Matthew 2.1-12
<b>11</b>	<b>The Baptism of Christ</b>		
	Isaiah 43.1-7	Acts 8.14-17	Luke 3.15-17, 21,22
<b>18</b>	<b>Prayer Week for Christian Unity</b>		
	Isaiah 62.1-5	1 Corinthians 12.1-11	John 2.5-10
<b>25</b>	<b>The Conversion of Paul</b>		
	No reading	Acts 9.1-22	Matthew 19.27-30
<b>Feb 1</b>	<b>The Presentation of Christ in the Temple</b>		
	Malachi 3.1-5	Hebrews 2.14-18	Luke 2.22-40

## Scout Christmas Postal Service

Dear Friends,

Now that the Scout Christmas Post is over for another year, we take this opportunity to thank everyone very much indeed for helping Bath Scouting by buying our Christmas Stamps and posting your cards in our Church box.

In all, we managed to sell 1367 stamps, which, at the rate of 2p for each stamp purchased, raised the sum of £27.34 for Scout Funds. The collection box also helped to make up the grand total of 1546 cards delivered by our Group, which, at 9p per delivery, will result in a further profit of £139.14. These wonderful contributions are very warmly welcomed by the Scout Movement, and we do thank you all most sincerely for your part in our success.

With all best wishes for 2004,  
Yours in Scouting

Sylvia M Ayers



**The Conversion of St. Paul – Sunday 25th January**

January is the month for the beginning of great things! As well as the naming of the Son of God, we celebrate the conversion of the greatest ever apostle of the Christian faith. Many books have been written on Paul, and here is the briefest of brief introductions.



He was a Jew, born as 'Saul' at Tarsus, and brought up by the rabbi Gamaliel as a Pharisee. A devout, fanatical Jew, Saul persecuted the Christians, and watched with satisfaction the first Christian martyrdom, the stoning of Stephen. Then on his way to Damascus Saul had a vision of Christ that stopped him, literally, in his tracks. He realised that this Jesus whom he was persecuting was in fact the Messiah he had longed for.

Saul changed overnight. He took a new name, Paul, and became an evangelist for the cause of Christ. He became a leader in the early Church, and his special calling was as an apostle to the Gentiles. He wrote many epistles to the young churches he founded - and thus, coincidentally, wrote a great part of the New Testament. Life as the greatest apostle was hardly full of comfort and luxury : he was stoned, beaten, mobbed, homeless, hated, imprisoned, and finally martyred. Tradition has it that he was beheaded in Rome during the persecution of Nero in AD 64, and buried where the basilica of St Paul 'outside the walls' now stands.

**The Presentation of Christ in the Temple - Monday 2nd February**

The next edition of the magazine will be published on the Sunday on which we hear of the presentation of Christ in the temple. In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2 February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself. In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to "present him to the Lord". At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas. The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.



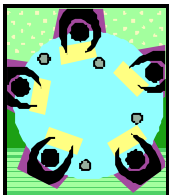
**DEANERY SYNOD****Notes on meeting held on 19 November**

Our new Rural Dean, Patrick Whitworth, All Saints', Weston, was in the chair for the first time. We enjoyed a very informative and lively meeting.

St. Michael's presented its "parish profile". It is a "seven days a week" inner-city church, with a particular mission to the disadvantaged. Addicts are welcomed and given food and a listening ear. Each street in the parish is told when it will be prayed for and the church goes out to where people are, eg the YMCA gym. I thought of Jackie Pullinger in the walled city and the contrast between this outreach and our own limitations.

Next we were given a very full presentation, plus supporting papers, on the diocesan development of "First to the Lord" or "Changing Lives", elaborating on the four strands, : changing lives, reviewing expenditure, equipping the preachers and sharing the challenge. The diocese is setting an example by cutting clergy posts; we are above our Sheffield quota. Volunteers wishing to be Visitors will be given training and expected to make two or three parish visits.

We broke into small groups to discuss the future of the church and how it should be resourced. I was with representatives from Monckton Combe, the Abbey and All Saints' Weston and we could have compared notes and discussed for hours. We barely had time to do justice to the first part of the question. The village church had no problem in including all, regular church goers or not, in invitations to church events. In a small place people knew each other and chatted at bus stops . All Saints could attract outsiders too, and did , for example to lunches. The Abbey felt as we did, that there was a problem of poaching; it was good to find common ground. We all four agreed that we should reach out. We were all, I think, inspired by St Michael's example.



Warm enquiries were made after Conrad, which I welcomed. Whatever the differences in Anglican churchmanship in Bath, this was a very positive and friendly meeting.

*Margaret Heath*

## **Mothers' Union News**



At our December meeting, members again joined the Thursday congregation for our festive celebrations. The Corporate Communion service, taken by Antony, was the usual well-supported event; a lesson was read by a member, and we thank Mark for accompanying our singing. The lunch which followed the service was thoroughly enjoyed by all the participants, and we must yet again thank John, June and their helpers very much for their regular culinary contributions, which are very much appreciated.

Our timetable for the New Year starts with another Corporate Communion on 15th January, which will again be followed by a Metcalfe lunch. We are very glad that although John has stepped down as Churchwarden, he and June continue with these enjoyable events which give us all so much pleasure.

By the time this reaches you, all members should have received details of our programme for 2004, including the new dates for our Sales. I will put this on the MU Noticeboard, but if anyone else would like to have a personal copy, please would you let me know, and I will run one off for you.



Sylvia M Ayers (MU Secretary)

## **KEN AYERS - BIKE ACCIDENT**

On Thursday December 4th, while riding his bike on the A36, Ken Ayers was rammed from behind by a van 4 miles out from Warminster. As well as various cuts and bruises, he sustained three fractured vertebrae and two cracked ribs necessitating a period of bed rest in hospital.



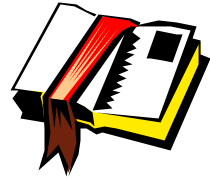
We would both like to send our very grateful thanks to Christ Church Congregation for the many messages of sympathy we received after the accident, for the offers of help with transport to and from the RUH, and for all the many friends who telephoned and/or visited him. We were also humbled to hear that at least three churches have said special prayers for us during the time Ken was in hospital.

For all the love shown to us in these and countless other ways, we thank you.

Sylvia and Ken

## OUR BIBLE CONSULTANT WRITES...

St. Matthew's gospel was written some ten to fifteen years after Mark's gospel and about forty two years after the death of Christ on the Cross. After reading Mark's sparse and straightforward account, the gospel of Matthew was full of surprises as far as I was concerned: first of all I realised how much of the gospel appeared to be new to me. Then I realised that the relative shortness of our Bible readings on a Sunday, together with the short passages used in many bible studies, means that the detail of much of the gospel is missing.



This detail, I feel, was one of the main features of this gospel: not only are the events of Jesus' life more fully described, but much of his teaching is better explained. Indeed, there seem to be more parables than in Mark's gospel and many of these are teaching about the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God. Matthew also seems to know about many of the sayings of Jesus which were not known to Mark. The style of the writing is also different: sentences are longer and more complex; phrases are melodic, if not poetic, in many places. For example, the beatitudes, once heard may never be forgotten, particularly when spoken to the multitudes from the side of a mountain.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, because theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are those who sorrow, because they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the gentle, because they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they who are hunger and thirst for righteousness, because they shall be fed."

I can understand why multitudes followed him to hear him speak, but once again I am impressed by the many cures, both physical and mental, that Jesus performed during his ministry. Even when the disciples were sent out by themselves they were charged to cure all infirmities and to cast out demons.

My last, almost overwhelming, impression is of the amount of preparation that went into this gospel. This is not just a written account of an oral tradition but a carefully researched and detailed account of Jesus' life, as predicted by the Old Testament. From the very beginning, where the generations of the House of David are listed to show that Jesus was descended from that King, who seems to have been more revered than even Solomon, to his death on the Cross; many



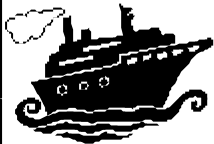
of these events are supported by quotes from the Old Testament, particularly the writings of the prophets. Probably many Jewish scholars, if not several churches, were involved in this work.

If that is the case it may not be surprising that the end of the gospel has Jesus telling the disciples: "All authority has been given to me, in heaven and on earth. Go out therefore and instruct all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have taught you. And behold, I am with you, all the days until the end of the world."

*Cyril Selmes*

## Mission to Seafarers

### *Mission's phone card can be used on ships*



The Mission to Seafarers has developed a new phone card that can be used on shore and on ships. Until this development, calling from a ship required a different kind of card often not easily available to seafarers.

Ken Cornforth, the Mission's North Tees chaplain responsible for the breakthrough, says the new generation of The Mission to Seafarers phone card will enable seafarers to call home from both land lines on shore and via satellite from ships.

"This is a fantastic new development and I believe it is a world first," said Ken. "Our existing international card is very popular and enables seafarers to call home from any shore line while in port, but the technology is quite different when using ship satellite systems."

To combine both technologies on one dual-purpose card, the Mission cooperated with Millennium Communications, which produces the existing Mission to Seafarers card, and Xantic, a premier satellite communication provider. "It has taken a lot of technical research and negotiation," said Ken, "but it is a giant step towards easy communication for seafarers. It will mean a great deal to know they are no longer quite so isolated. A lot of seafarers already use the Mission card and they will now have the means in their pocket to call home from their ship."



## Facing the facts

### **Some issues in human sexuality: a guide to the debate**

Issues of human sexuality have the potential for splitting our church. Some African bishops have already threatened to break away from the Anglican communion. It is important that we should face the facts and be in a position to reach a personal decision on the basis of evidence. It is hoped that this article will enable readers to move towards an understanding of issues which have implications for the future of our church and for individuals within it.

The House of Bishops has commended for study a guide to some aspects of the debate on human sexuality. *Some Issues in Human Sexuality: A Guide to the Debate*, requested by the House three years ago, sets out a variety of views on homosexuality, bisexuality and transsexualism and seeks to promote informed reflection on them. It neither changes nor suggests changes to current Church policy. "Recent events have highlighted the need for such a guide," said the Rt Rev Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford and chairman of the group of bishops that produced the Guide, "and the House of Bishops believe it has become timely to publish this study guide now to help Christian people think through different aspects of gay, lesbian and transsexual relationships."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, said that the report was intended to deepen the Church's study on the issue: "It is clear that there is a real need for more study of the issues raised by human sexuality. We have done a great deal of work as a church on this matter and we know that there is much still to be learned.

"I hope that this report will help us to develop our understanding and to address the challenges that we still face."

When the House asked a group of bishops, in 1999, to prepare a study guide on some issues in human sexuality, it was conscious of the need to listen to the experience of homosexuals as called for in the 1998 Lambeth Conference Resolution 1.10. Furthermore there has also been a great deal of published material in this field since the House's 1991 Statement Issues in Human Sexuality appeared. In June 2003 the House of Bishops - following discussion at the annual meeting of all Church of England bishops - agreed to publish *Some Issues in Human Sexuality: A Guide to the Debate* under its authority and to commend it to the Church for study. As is stated in the Foreword to the document, 'it works within the parameters of the House's 1991 Statement Issues in

Human Sexuality and does not seek to change the position of the House of Bishops from the one expressed there'. It is a study guide, designed to complement Issues rather than to make specific policy statements or recommendations.

The document is intended as a resource to enable people within the Church to understand these complex and sensitive matters more clearly and reflect more deeply on them. A short accompanying booklet, *A Companion to Some Issues in Human Sexuality*, with study material for individuals and groups, is being provided to assist the wider Church - in the General Synod, dioceses, parishes and elsewhere - in its continuing reflection.

The timing of any debate on the document in the Synod will be a matter for the Synod's Business Committee. The Synod next meets in February and again in July.

*'Some Issues in Human Sexuality: A Guide to the Debate', price £12.95, and 'A Companion to Some Issues in Human Sexuality', price £2.50 are published by Church House Publishing and are available from all Christian bookshops and Church House Bookshop, 31 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BN, tel. 020-7898 1305, e mail bookshop@c-of-e.org.uk, or on the web at: www.chbookshop.co.uk (mail order available).*

*- Advertisement -*



**“A service that gives 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 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
- Mon* 5 For the release of hostages everywhere
- Tue* 6 On this feast of the Epiphany, let us give thanks that the Incarnate God is shown to be the Lord of all nations
- Wed* 7 For a change in heart in those who believe hatred to be a virtue and who plan terror attacks on others
- Thur* 8 For children who have to act as carers in the family situation
- Fri* 9 For Angela and Chris, our Churchwardens and David, our treasurer
- Sat* 10 For a sensitive and helpful attitude towards those who suffer mental illness and their families
- Sun* 11 For parishes coping with an interregnum
- Mon* 12 For the work of the Genesis Trust
- Tue* 13 For the victims of HIV and AIDS
- Wed* 14 For all coping with the difficulties of old age: for those who have problems with sleeping
- Thur* 15 For Mark, our Director of Music, David, our Organist, our Choir and all who contribute musically to our worship
- Fri* 16 For our Junior Church and those who care for its members
- Sat* 17 For the work of CRUSE in caring for the bereaved and the local volunteer helpers
- Sun* 18 For those who lead worship or preach today
- Mon* 19 For growing understanding between Israel and the Palestinians and between Israel and the Arab world

*January 2004*



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- Tue 20** For our National Health Service, our hospitals, nursing homes and our local surgeries
- Wed 21** That our Police Forces may receive total co-operation from all members of the public
- Thur 22** For Tom and Cyril our Readers, and Sarah's ministry at Batheaston
- Fri 23** For those who quietly and efficiently do the unspectacular tasks which enable our church programmes to be carried out
- Sat 24** For our branch of the Mothers' Union and the Children's Society
- Sun 25** For Rowan, our archbishop, Peter, our Bishop and our Clergy Team and their families
- Mon 26** That people in the public services may set an example of trust and honesty in all situations
- Tue 27** For those we tend to forget about!
- Wed 28** For the Mission to Seafarers
- Thur 29** For Nicky and Emma and all who help to produce Christ Church Challenge and our weekly Notice Sheet
- Fri 30** For our members in hospital and all suffering the consequences of recent accidents
- Sat 31** Let us give thanks for our blessings in the month now ending
- February**
- Sun 1** For our Clergy Team and their families
- Mon 2** For any innocent people in prison
- Tue 3** For guidance for our Parliament and Government in both home and foreign affairs
- Wed 4** For a sensible attitude by young people to the use of alcoholic drinks
- Thur 5** For stability in marriage and other sexual relationships
- Fri 6** For children who have run away from home
- Sat 7** For those heavily in debt
- Sun 8** For Rowan, our Archbishop, and Peter our Bishop
-

## From the Church Register...

### Burial

22 December 2003

Stanley Reginald Lowe

*May he rest in peace*



### Christian credit

Christian Aid has launched a credit card affinity scheme with The Co-operative Bank. The charity will receive £15 for every account opened, a further £2.50 if the card is used within the first six months, and 25p for every £100 spent.

### John Polkinghorne Lecture

On 27th November 2003, Mark Elliott was among members of the Congregation who attended a lecture entitled "Science, Christianity and the End of The World: Is there a destiny beyond death?" by the Rev Dr John Polkinghorne. So impressed was Mark that he has put together a precis of the ideas put forward during the lecture. This precis is on display at the back of Church, so that anyone who missed out can get at least a taste of the Rev Dr Polkinghorne's ideas. Many thanks, Mark.

### New Year Thoughts

Every man's life lies within the present; for the past is spent and done with, and the future is uncertain. *Marcus Aurelius Antoninus*

Life is too short for us to do everything we want to do; but it is long enough for us to do everything God wants us to do. *Anon.*

The future belongs to those who belong to God. This is hope. *W T Purkiser.*

New Year's Day is every man's birthday. *Charles Lamb*

I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving. *Oliver Wendell Holmes.*

### A better mousetrap

If you need to catch any mice this winter, use chocolate rather than cheese as your bait. Rodents find chocolate irresistible, according to recent research.



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**WHO'S WHO?**

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**OFFICIATING MINISTER**

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

**ASSISTANT CLERGY**

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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**