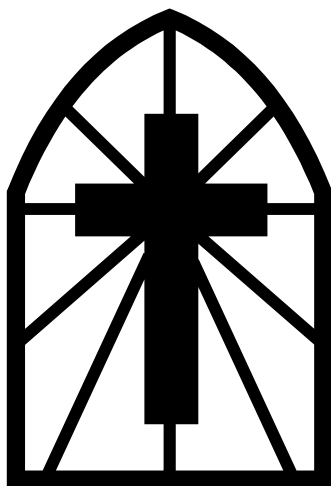


# CHRIST CHURCH CHALLENGE



July 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*

**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.*



Whether you are jetting off to far flung places, or hoping to enjoy some seasonable weather here in Bath, we wish you all a refreshing summer.

Whilst relaxing in your deckchair, you may wish to take up the challenge issued by Cyril in this month's "Forum". How do you feel Christ Church measures up to the criteria which he lists? How do you feel about the criteria themselves? Don't just recline there.. Write something!

All contributions will be gratefully received - have a good summer!

## Forum...

“How to get the punters in the pews” was a heading which caught my eye in *The Guardian* recently. The article was written by Colin Sedgwick, pastor of Lindsay Baptist Church in Middlesex. His main argument was that in spite of falling numbers in many mainline Christian denominations, if you went to any city, town or village, you would find one or more churches which were defying this trend and were flourishing. So why didn't we take a closer look at these churches and learn from their experience?



As a result, I've taken many of the generalisations he made about these successful churches and turned them into a series of statements by which we can decide whether Christ Church has, or is developing, these signs of a successful church.

The statements I've concocted should be considered individually and separately, as far as that is possible.

- The Bible is stressed as both authoritative and relevant.
- There is down-to-earth intelligible preaching, which has a message worth hearing and a challenge worth considering.
- The business of prayer is emphasised as a central feature of both personal and church life.
- Midweek prayer groups are encouraged, with both extemporary and set prayers.
- Social activities are important and are designed to attract participants from the wider community.
- In church services and public gatherings every effort is made to explain what is going on so that newcomers or visitors are not made to feel excluded or foolish.
- Children are taken seriously, not shushed into silence at the slightest wriggle.
- Even if they do not participate in the main service, children are catered for in separate groups, by qualified adults.
- Teenagers are also made welcome and are encouraged to use their talents, including musical ones, in the church services.
- There is no single musical idiom: old hymns and new songs may co-exist.

- There is no tyranny of the organ... or the guitar... or recorded music.
- The distinction between “sacred” and “secular” is not recognised.
- There is no need to dress or behave in a particular way: people come to meet God, not join a fashion display.
- We consider ourselves as a community or family, not just a casual collection of individuals.

How do you think Christ Church fares in this suggested list of the characteristics of a successful church? And if you think we might do better in some aspects, you might suggest to Antony, or Yvonne, or the Church Council, how things might be improved.



*Cyril Selmes*

## **Sad News**

As this edition of the magazine goes to print, we have heard that two long-standing and faithful members of our congregation have died.

Lorna Cane died in the RUH in her 95<sup>th</sup> year. She sang in the choir for many years and scarcely missed a mid-week communion until recent ill health took its toll. Lorna spent many years of her life in South Africa, where she still has family. We understand her nephew will be flying in for her funeral. A woman of forthright views, Lorna had a great affection for Christ Church and its people. We shall miss her.

Watty Watson also died in the RUH where she spent most of her working life in the maternity unit. She was a well-known and popular figure within Bath's West Indian community and the St Michaels's Centre. Watty was a regular worshipper at Christ Church and liked to join the company at lunch after the Thursday Eucharist. Watty loved music and dancing and her gentle wit and kindness endeared her to many. A walk along Julian Road will not be the same without the likelihood of meeting Watty.



# Church Calendar for July

<b>Jul</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>THOMAS THE APOSTLE</b>	
			4.00pm	Choral Evensong at Orchardleigh
	<b>4</b>	<b>Mon</b>	8.00pm	Meet-up-Monday in the "Hare & Hounds"
	<b>10</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>	
			6.30pm	Said Evening Prayer
	<b>15</b>	<b>Fri</b>	SWITHUN, Bishop of Winchester - c.862	
	<b>16</b>	<b>Sat</b>	6.30pm	Pan & Pipes Fundraising Trattoria
	<b>17</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>	
	<b>22</b>	<b>Fri</b>	MARY MAGDALENE	
	<b>24</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>	
	<b>25</b>	<b>Mon</b>	JAMES THE APOSTLE	
	<b>30</b>	<b>Sat</b>	WILLIAM WILBERFORCE, Social Reformer and Founder of Christ Church, Bath - 1883	
	<b>31</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>	
<b>Aug</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Sat</b>	THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD	
	<b>7</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>	
			4.00pm	Service For Jamaican Independence

# Laity Rota for July

Readers	OT Readers	NT Readers	Gospel	
<b>July</b>	<b>3</b>	Rosanne Gabe	Sylvia Ayers	Audrey Sheppard
	<b>10</b>		Junior Church	
	<b>17</b>	Pat Adelman	David Marles	John Metcalfe
	<b>24</b>	Eileen Selmes	Bob Siderfin	Penny Edwards
	<b>31</b>	Nicky Gladstone	Martin Palmer	Lloyd Grosvenor
<b>August</b>	<b>7</b>	Georgina Bowman	Bob Siderfin	Nicky Gladstone

## Chalice Assistants

<b>July</b>	<b>3</b>	Jane Fletcher	Penny Edwards
	<b>10</b>	Bob Siderfin	Margaret Burrows
	<b>17</b>	Rev Sandy Munday	Chris Graham
	<b>24</b>	Jane Fletcher	Penny Edwards
	<b>31</b>	Bob Siderfin	Margaret Burrows
<b>August</b>	<b>7</b>	Rev Sandy Munday	Chris Graham

## Intercessors

<b>July</b>	<b>3</b>	Rev Cliff Burrows
	<b>10</b>	Junior Church
	<b>17</b>	Chris Graham
	<b>24</b>	Rev Antony Claridge
	<b>31</b>	Mark Elliott
<b>August</b>	<b>7</b>	Penny Edwards



Sidespeople	8am	10am		
<b>July</b>	<b>3</b>	Barbara Hayward	Margaret Silver	
	<b>10</b>	Clive Tilling	Ken & Sylvia Ayers	
	<b>17</b>	Elizabeth Iden-Hart	David Marles	Joan Bunkin
	<b>24</b>	Dil Jones	John & June Metcalfe	
	<b>31</b>	Dorothy Twissell	Chris Tanner	Ann Charman
<b>August</b>	<b>7</b>	Barbara Hayward	Tessa Claridge	Jean Ferguson

# Lectionary for July

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
<b>Jul 3</b>	<b>Thomas the Apostle</b>		
	Habakkuk 2.1-4	Ephesians 2.19-22	John 20.24-29
<b>10</b>	<b>Sea Sunday / World War II Anniversary</b>		
	No Reading	Acts 27.27-44	Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23
<b>17</b>	<b>The Eighth Sunday after Trinity</b>		
	Wisdom 12.13,16-19	Romans 8.12-25	Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43
<b>24</b>	<b>The Ninth Sunday after Trinity</b>		
	No Reading	Romans 8.26-39	Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52
<b>31</b>	<b>The Tenth Sunday after Trinity</b>		
	Isaiah 55.1-5	Romans 9.1-5	Matthew 14.13-21

**Our Calendar Correspondent Explains...**  
**"Transfiguration" (6th August)**

The word **Transfiguration** means a changing of appearance or form and is a miraculous event in the Synoptic Gospel accounts of Jesus (Matthew 17:1–6, Mark 9:1–8, Luke 9:28–36): Jesus led three of his apostles, Peter, John, and James, to pray at the top of a mountain, where he became transfigured, with his face shining like the sun, and with brilliant white clothes; Elijah and Moses appeared with Jesus, and talked with him, and then a bright cloud appeared overhead, and a voice from cloud proclaimed, "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him." According to Luke, Moses and Elijah also appeared in "glorious splendour", and Jesus spoke with them concerning his upcoming death. Moses and Elijah have been interpreted to represent the Law and the Prophets, respectively, recognizing and adoring Jesus, and speaking of how his upcoming death and resurrection would fulfil the Law and the Prophets.

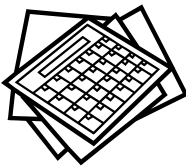
## Mothers' Union News

We look forward to welcoming members of the Congregation to our Coffee Morning and Sale on July 2nd in aid of Overseas Work of the Mothers' Union. Our final Corporate Communion of the Season will take place on July 21st, and will be followed by another appetizing lunch, a week later than our usual date. We are sure it will be a most enjoyable occasion.



Most members will remember Joan Norman who, while married to the Rev John Norman, was part of Christ Church MU. An extremely entertaining speaker, she addressed the MU on several occasions. After John's death, she married a military man and became Joan Ridley. When she also lost him, she moved into Henrietta House, where she died on May 18th 2005 at the age of 85. At her funeral on June 6th, donations were requested for the National Osteoporosis Society, from which disease she had suffered during her latter years. Although we had not seen her recently, we still remember her with great affection, as we give thanks for her full and rewarding life.

Several members of the Congregation regularly purchase MU diaries, calendars and cards through our Christmas Order plan. Pictures of this year's cards have already appeared on page 38 of the Summer edition of the Home and Family magazine. If



ordering these, please quote the number of the design as detailed in the advertisement, as this makes it so much easier to avoid mistakes. I will be in touch with all our regular customers as soon as I receive the diary and calendar prices.

Every order must be accompanied by payment, and the parcels should arrive by the beginning of October. It is not necessary to be an MU member to buy from us, so if anyone has been unable to see the magazine pictures, but would like to order cards, please let me know.

*Sylvia M Ayers (MU Secretary)*



## General Synod: What is it, and what does it do?

**General Synod will be in session between 8th and 12th July. But what is General Synod? If you've ever wanted to know more, read on...**

The General Synod is the national assembly of the Church of England. It came into being in 1970, replacing an earlier body known as the Church Assembly. It continues a tradition of synodical government which, in England, has its origins in the medieval period.

The General Synod has 579 members, comprising the Convocations of Canterbury and York, joined together in a House of Bishops and a House of Clergy, to which is added a House of Laity.

The House of Bishops consists of the archbishops and all other diocesan bishops and the Bishop of Dover as ex officio members, nine elected suffragan bishops (6 from Canterbury and 3 from York), and any other bishops who are members of the Archbishops' Council.

The House of Clergy is made up of the Lower Houses of the Convocations of Canterbury and York.

The House of Laity consists of members from each diocese of the two Provinces elected by lay members of the deanery synods and religious communities, together with ex officio members.

Representatives of other Churches are invited to attend the Synod and enjoy speaking but not voting rights.

Synod has powers in the following areas:

### *Legislation*

Passing Measures, which become part of English law, and legislating by Canon

### *Relations with other Churches*

Regulating the Church of England's relations with other churches and making provisions for matters relating to worship and doctrine.

### *Liturgy and Doctrinal Assent*

Approving, amending, continuing or discontinuing liturgies and ensuring that the forms of service contained in the Book of Common Prayer continue to be available for use in the Church of England.

### *Deliberation*

Considering any other matters of religious or public interest

### *Finance*

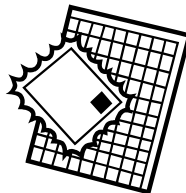
To approve (or reject) the central church budget each year.

## Missions to Seafarers



Are you going on holiday this year? I expect that you are, and while you are away, I am sure you will spend some of your time writing postcards of the "Wish you were here" variety. Then, of course, on your return, there will be a comforting pile of similar cards on your doormat, sowing that you have not been forgotten. The question then arises: What to do with all this largesse? Well, obviously, they go on the mantle piece for a week or so, but what then? Do they get thrown away? If so, then STOP. Those pretty postcards still have value, so before you dispose of them, please pause a moment to remove the stamps by cutting (not tearing) carefully round them, leaving a half inch border. Then, bundle them up and place in the 'A' pigeonhole in Church, where they will be very gratefully received by yours truly.

It is several years since I started asking for used Postage Stamps which the Mission can sell to raise much needed funds. In spite of the thousands that have already come my way, I am nevertheless still appealing for them. However, I have been advised that the familiar red and blue first and second class stamps showing the Queen's Head are no longer required. All others are very warmly welcomed, so I do thank you for all you have given me in the past, and I look forward to receiving many "pictorial" stamps in the future. I cannot always thank you in person, owing to there often being no name of the parcels, so may this heartfelt THANK YOU be to you all, however few or many stamps you can give me.



*Sylvia M Ayers (Missions to Seafarers Secretary)*

A bishop was disappointed with the attendance at a church he was visiting and asked the incumbent if he had advertised his visit to preach. "No, bishop," he replied promptly, "but I'll soon deal with the wretch who did!"

## **A View from the Choir Stalls**

*"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)*

By the time you read this I will be in London, working at the Inland Revenue on a placement year, but for the past academic year I was often found sat by Matthew in the choir on a Sunday morning, singing tenor as best I could!

I just wanted to thank you all for the way in which I have been made to feel very welcome at Christ Church throughout the past year. It has been a spiritual journey for me, what with joining Christ Church and partaking in Bible Study with one of my friends, and it has meant a lot to be part of such a friendly church, especially taking part in events such as the fundraising concert!

It is through my recent Bible Study that I have realised it is all too easy as a Christian to lose sight of the fundamentals, or become blasé about what Jesus did for us. "He died, He rose, He saved us, He ascended into heaven...!" It's so very true, and yet so amazing. God sent His only Son to a sinful world, so that He could take all that sin on His shoulders and destroy it in one triumphant act – the crucifixion. That one act saved our souls, and yet it somehow seems so easy to gloss over – of which I know, for one, I have been guilty.

Even more spectacularly, it reinforces God as the only righteous being, because He is both "right" and "just" – a way of thinking I only considered recently. It was right that we needed saving, and just in the way it was executed – God could not have removed our sin without punishment. We can be grateful, therefore, that God chose to punish us by killing his own Son, an act which shows how much love he had – and still has, more than 2000 years on – for us. It is therefore why we can trust that God can still forgive our sin, if we lead lives dedicated to him and pray thoughtfully.

Of course, none of this is new – the story is hundreds of years old – but this is just the reason why we need to consider it time and time again. My year has been illuminated by careful contemplation of just what God did for us, and why it was so important – and remains so. I just wanted to share this fact with you and thank you all for your contribution whilst I move away – but continue to praise God for the sacrifice He made to save me.

*Tim Partridge*

## **Archbishop of York announced - 17 June 2005**

At the time of writing, Downing Street had just announced the appointment of the Rt Revd Dr John Sentamu to succeed the Rt Revd Dr David Hope as the next Archbishop of York. So here's the lowdown on Bishop Sentamu...

Bishop Sentamu, who is 56, was born in Uganda. He was educated in Uganda, graduating in Law from Makerere University, Kampala and is an Advocate of the High Court of Uganda. He practised Law both at the Bar and at the Bench before he came to the UK in 1974. He read theology at Selwyn College Cambridge where he gained a Masters Degree and a Doctorate. He trained for ordination at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, then part of the Cambridge Federation of Theological Colleges. Following his ordination in 1979 he served as Assistant Chaplain at Selwyn College, Cambridge. From 1979-1982 he was Chaplain at HM Remand Centre Lachmere House and Curate of St Andrew's, Ham in the Diocese of Southwark.

From 1982-1983 he was Curate of St Paul, Herne Hill, and from 1983-1984 Priest-in-Charge at Holy Trinity, Tulse Hill and Parish Priest of St Matthias Upper Tulse Hill. He then became Vicar of the joint benefice of Holy Trinity and St Matthias from 1984-1986. Between 1987 and 1989 he was also Priest-in-Charge of St Saviour Brixton Hill. He was appointed Bishop of Stepney in 1996 and Bishop of Birmingham in 2002.

He said: "I am looking forward to working with the Archbishop of Canterbury and other bishops to lead the Church of England in its mission to the nation. It is imperative that the Church regains her vision and confidence in mission, developing ways that will enable the Church of England to reconnect imaginatively with England. It is important that the Church of England's voice is heard locally, nationally and internationally, standing up for justice, bringing Good News to the poor, healing to the broken-hearted, setting at liberty those who are oppressed, and proclaiming the death of Christ and his resurrection until he comes again. What an exciting prospect."

In welcoming Bishop Sentamu to the Archdiocese, the Bishop of Hull said, "His wide experience of life and the Church from Africa to Birmingham has shown him to be adaptable and versatile, and ready to engage with people of all backgrounds and ways of life. He challenges boundaries and fixed ideas about the world, the Church and the Christian Gospel - and he's great fun too."

Bishop Sentamu is married to Margaret, a Senior Selection Secretary in the Ministry Division of the Archbishops' Council, and they have two grown-up children, Grace and Geoffrey. Bishop Sentamu's interests include music, cooking, reading, athletics, rugby and football.

Bishop Sentamu was on the General Synod from 1985 to 1996. He was also a member of the Archbishop's Advisory Group on Urban Priority Areas from 1987, and of the Revision Committee for the Ordination of Women to the Priesthood. He served on the Decade of Evangelism Steering Group and for five years was a member of the Executive of the Archbishops' initiative on Evangelism (Springboard). He was Prolocutor of the Convocation of Canterbury from 1990 to 1994 and Chairman of the General Synod's Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns between 1990 and 1999. He is a member of the Commission on Urban Life and Faith.

From 1997 to 1999, Bishop Sentamu was Adviser to the Stephen Lawrence Judicial Inquiry and he chaired the Damilola Taylor Review, 2002. He has been the chairman of the NHS Haemoglobinopathy Screening Programme since 2001. Between 2002 and 2004 he was Chairman of the EC1 New Deal. He became President of Youth for Christ in 2004 and President of the YMCA in April 2005.

## 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.

There is a sizeable demographic slice whose affection for the actor Hugh Laurie is inordinately high. Less of a luvvie than Kenneth Branagh, more approachable than Emma Thompson, without Stephen Fry's insecurity, he's become our incredibly successful, dearly loved older brother. I'm sure my fellow middle-class thirty-somethings were as thrilled as I was when he became America's new big TV star in the medical drama "House".



## House Created by David Shore



Having run in States, it's now showing on Thursday evenings at 10pm on channel five. Hugh Laurie plays Dr House, an American doctor. His accent sounds good to me and the story goes that Bryan Singer (who directed 'The Usual Suspects' and also the first episode of House) thought that he actually was American. House is a diagnostician, which roughly translates to his being handed cases the other doctors can't diagnose. This naturally leads to a formula on which to hang the show, with House and his handpicked team testing and treating until they solve the medical conundrum.

The success of the show then depends on what is wrapped around this formula. Dr House himself is the most striking element of the show. Unshaven, rude, frequently referring to himself as a cripple (he walks with a stick), he is tolerated by his boss only because of his outstanding medical talents. He avoids his patients whenever possible, partly because he thinks they'll give him misinformation but mostly because he's wildly misanthropic. He does his job to treat diseases, not patients. On the few occasions when he's forced into holding clinics, he is offhand with his patients but, with Holmesian perspicacity, diagnoses not only their illnesses but also their deeper problems almost as soon as they arrive.

But if he seems dismissive of those who come to him with runny noses and sore backs, it is their trivial complaints he is dismissing. To him, the intellectual struggle is where the challenge lies. His moment of triumph is not when the healthy patient leaves the hospital, but when he finds the piece of evidence that fills the missing piece of his diagnosis.

So far - I've seen the first three episodes - the series is entertaining. House's caustic remarks are funny, Laurie's brilliant but unfriendly doctor makes an appealing anti-hero, the medical mystery is nicely paced and there's not too much blood. The relationships between House and the rest of the hospital staff are just starting to develop, and it is likely to be this that determines whether the programme becomes either enjoyable viewing if you catch it, or an unmissable weekly fixture.

*David Marles*

## **Mission to Seafarers: A message from the Revd Canon Bill Christianson, Secretary General**

### **Sea Sunday - July 10**

"We would be grateful if you would remember seafarers and the Church's ministry to them on Sea Sunday. We would especially appreciate the prayers and support of UK parishes this year which has been designated Sea Britain 2005 and which focuses on our dependence on the sea. It is a timely reminder of the vital role that merchant seafarers play in all our lives in bringing so many of our daily needs across the sea, and of the cost to them in terms of the separation from their families and the dangers they face.

You may know that in the UK, July 10 has also been chosen to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in which many thousands of seafarers lost their lives."

## **Diocesan "Exploring Spirituality" Course**



After a one year break the Exploring Spirituality Course which the diocese of Bath and Wells has been running for many years is back. This course is designed to allow participants to explore their own personal spiritual growth and self awareness. We also develop listening skills, look at and experience different traditions of Christian spirituality and help people to form a simple rule of life.

It is a one year introductory course which is open to Christians of all denominations and we are developing a second year to equip people to become Spiritual Directors.

The course, which is re-starting in September 2005, takes place fortnightly during term times on Thursdays from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Old Deanery in Wells. There are also two residential weekends: Sept 16-18 at Langport and July 7-9 at Glastonbury. The course costs £450 for the year which includes all course materials and the 2 weekends, the money is payable in instalments.

Further information and application forms are available from Revd Jane Eastell (course director) Tel 01275 332554 [jane.eastell@btclick.com](mailto:jane.eastell@btclick.com) and also from Mrs Heather Voizey Tel 01935 422292

# Prayer Cycle for July

- Fri 1** For those who work behind the scenes to assure the smooth running of our church
- Sat 2** For the work of the Mission to Seafarers
- Sun 3** For today's Church Picnic and Evensong at Orchardleigh
- Mon 4** For members of our congregation who can no longer attend church due to illness or infirmity
- Tue 5** We pray for the University Chaplaincy Centre, for Angela the University Chaplain, and for all the chaplains
- Wed 6** For world leader: for the G8 summit
- Thur 7** For our Church Council as it meets tonight
- Fri 8** For Church's mission to those with any form of physical or mental difficulties; for those who suffer discrimination because of these issues.
- Sat 9** General Synod is in session. We pray that God will bless and guide those present
- Sun 10** For seafarers and the work of the Mission to Seafarers
- Mon 11** For Angela and Chris, our Churchwardens, and for Frank and Yvonne, our Deputy Churchwardens
- Tue 12** For those suffering from depression, and for those who love them; that they will find the strength to seek the help which they need.
- Wed 13** For our HR Group for young people and for their leaders
- Thur 14** For couples experiencing difficulties in their relationship. For the work of Relate
- Fri 15** For the departed who have shared their earthly pilgrimage with us
- Sat 16** For tonight's "Pan and Pipes" meal: for Kate and her team
- Sun 17** For Genesis and the work of the Sunday Centre
- Mon 18** We pray for the week ahead, and think especially of those who are unhappy or frustrated in their work.
- Tue 19** For all parents, step-parents and godparents



- 
- Wed 20** For Tom and Cyril our Readers; for Mark our Reader in training, and for Sarah's ministry at Batheaston
- Thur 21** For the work and witness of the Mothers' Union; for Sylvia, Margaret, and all members of the Christ Church MU Branch
- Fri 22** For all who are leaving school today: for families over the summer break
- Sat 23** For our hospitals, nursing homes and local surgeries
- Sun 24** For all members of the congregation who are away from Christ Church today
- Mon 25** For Sarah Hiscock who draws up the Laity Rota. For all our readers, chalice assistants, intercessors and sidespeople
- Tue 26** For those who work for the Emergency Services
- Wed 27** For children who care for their parents, either due to illness or old age; for families everywhere
- Thur 28** For the work of Churches Together in Bath; for Sylvia and Chris, our CTB representatives
- Fri 29** For the choir: for Mark, David and Mike
- Sat 30** For those mourning the death of loved ones: for those mourning the death of a child or children
- Sun 31** Let us thank God for the blessings of the month now ending, and offer him the challenges of the month that is to come

*August*

- Mon 1** For our holidays over this season, that we will all be refreshed by a break, whatever form it may take
- Tue 2** For those who will not have any kind of holiday this year
- Wed 3** For all being mistreated or suffering injustice
- Thur 4** For all who are coming to terms with the death of a loved one. For those who are bearing a grief which they cannot share
- Fri 5** For engaged couples as they prepare for their marriage; for all who are responsible for helping and advising them
- Sat 6** For those who are lonely
- Sun 7** For all new members of our congregation: for all visitors

## High Days and Holidays

For the first half of each year (Advent to Whitsuntide) our focus is on what God has done for man, particularly through Christ. But in the second half of the year (from Whitsuntide back to Advent) we focus on Man's response to God - through faith and deeds. And here the smaller festivals can really come into their own – as we recall the lives of different saints down the centuries. They each have set us an example by their spirituality and courage. Certainly mission and social concern are nothing new among Christians, as our saints this month show...

### **4 July Elizabeth of Portugal (1271 – 1336) Queen**

As wife of Denis, the King of Portugal, Elizabeth became a byword for her acts of piety and charity to the poor. She founded convents, hospitals, and shelters for prostitutes. After Denis died she became a Franciscan tertiary at a Poor Clare convent.

### **8 July Theobald (1017 – 1066) Hermit**

Theobald was born into an aristocratic family at Provins in France. But he became a hermit with a fellow ex-soldier in the Pettingen Forest in Luxembourg. They later moved to Salanigo in Italy. Theobald's holy life attracted so many followers that he was canonized by Pope Alexander II in 1073.

### **14 July Camillus de Lellis (1550 – 1614) Founder**

Discharged from the Venetian army with an incurable leg wound, Camillus founded a religious order called the Ministers of the Sick (the Camellians). In their Holy Ghost Hospital in Rome, and by travelling to plague-stricken parts of the world, the Camellians dedicated their lives to caring for the sick. Camillus is the patron of the sick and of nurses.

### **22 St Mary Magdalen**

It is easy to understand the popularity of Mary Magdalen over the centuries: she is the patron saint both of repentant sinners and of the contemplative life.

Jesus drove seven demons from Mary, who came from Magadal, a small village near Tiberias in Galilee. She became his follower to the bitter end. She followed him to Jerusalem and was present during the crucifixion, standing heart-broken at the foot of the cross. Her love for Jesus did not end there, for she went to the tomb to anoint his body on the Sunday morning.

Mary Magdalen has sometimes been identified with the woman who anointed Christ's feet in the house of Simon (Lk 7.37). Over the centuries many artists have painted this scene. Mary Magdalen's feast has been kept in the West since the 8th century. England has 187 ancient churches dedicated to her, as well as a College in both Oxford and Cambridge.

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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 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. We hold special all-age services once a month and at festivals such as Easter, Christmas, Mothering Sunday and Harvest.

There are a variety of mid-week activities including Holy Communion at 11am every Wednesday during Lent, followed by lunch). 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](http://www.christchurchbath.org)

**The Editor would be grateful if contributors were to submit articles by the 15th of the month preceding the publication date.**