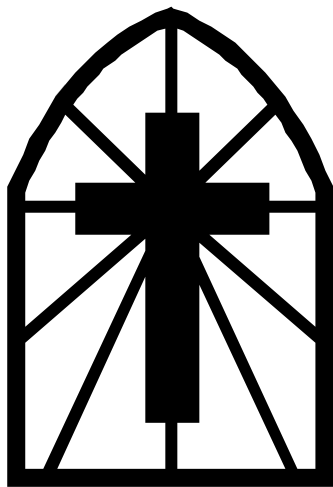


CHRIST
CHURCH
CHALLENGE



June 2003

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

There is amplification to assist the hard of hearing

MID-WEEK SERVICE

11.00am Thursday	Holy Communion
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CHOIR

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

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

BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, FUNERALS

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

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

Another packed edition for your enjoyment this month... so packed, that our profile of Angela our new churchwarden has been pushed into July's magazine! Pages 8 & 9 contain important Christian Aid news, and details of our new Christian Aid representative who will be keeping Christ Church up to date with this vital work.

Plus, as our thoughts turn to holiday reading, what's YOUR favourite book? Turn to page 4 for details of our Book survey, and page 18 for a Book Quiz to test you! Thank you very much to all our contributors—material is always gratefully received.

From the Vicar's Desk

Flaming June



The calendar shows that Pentecost (or Whit Sunday) and Trinity Sunday both fall in June this year. These are both great festivals and times of celebration for our church. Festivals invariably make people feel happy and more confident especially if they are blessed with blue skies and sunshine.

Many people are affected by lack of sunshine. In the winter months when the days are short and the skies are grey they are afflicted by that form of depression known as Seasonally Affective Disorder (SAD). Writing in *The Times* recently, Libby Purvis reported that when we have a sunny Bank Holiday and the pace of life slows down our brains behave differently than on workdays. Apparently, scientists have established that when we are relaxed there is increased electrical activity in the left front cortices and far less in the right ones where anger and anxiety are lodged.



In her excellent article, Libby Purvis referred to scientific studies that have produced brain scan evidence which seems to show that monks and others who practice religious meditation are happier than the norm. This is not to say that a diet of serenity would suit us every minute of every day. Some stress is good for us and much of human progress derives from the right side of our brains urging us on to fresh achievements.

Periods of quiet when we have the opportunity for contemplation are undoubtedly essential to our well-being. I am grateful to Ms Purvis for reminding me of the old saying which declares that "churning water, for however long a time, does not produce butter". I wonder some times if our churches are too full of activity which makes demands on people instead of giving them chance to just be. I know Margaret Heath would recommend the Ammerdown Centre as a place to re-charge mental and spiritual batteries and would say that the existence of such places contributes much to the health of the nation, Christian and non-Christian.



I am sorry if I sound as though I am a member of the Libby Purvis fan club – which I would be if I could find it – but her concerns about the rat race to supposed happiness strikes a chord with me. She talks about the pursuit of happiness as a "blaring, jostling, flashing, shouting, desperate

headlong competition..." And she goes on to say that "even little children have less time to sit and rejoice in the progress of an ant up a blade of grass". So many of the things we think we want more of do not make us happy and too many of us resort to pills to give us the calm which, really, can be found more safely in other ways.



All of this has implications for the way in which we order our lives and the towns and cities in which we live. Allotments, green spaces, river walks and trees are not optional extras and public money needs to be invested in them as part of the health and safety budget. When I was a headteacher I tried to do my bit in resisting the tendency of the Gradgrind national curriculum to marginalize art, music and drama. In the final paragraph of her well-argued piece, Libby Purvis describes churches and cathedrals as "vital oases of calm and stillness in the racketies of cities." I would so want our church in Julian Road to be known as one of these - a place where contemplation, acceptance and joy are promoted. I would even say that Evening Prayer and Choral Evensong on Sundays offer the best possible preparation for the busy working week ahead.

Antony Claridge

A Big Read for Christ Church?

You may have seen recently on the television that, following a national poll, the nation's favourite novel has been narrowed down to a shortlist of 100. Your editorial team thought that it might be fun to see if a Christ Church list would mirror the national favourites.



This will be done in two stages—first a poll of everyone's favourite novel and then a focus on those works which feature heavily in the Congregation's list. So, to begin this exciting survey, please write your favourite book on a piece of paper, add your name if you wish and place your paper in the box at the back of church. Any work of fiction is acceptable, from any period in literary history, and children's books are equally valid, so the whole congregation can be involved.

It'll only take a minute to enter YOUR favourite—let's all join in and learn a little more about our congregation!

Church Calendar for June

Jun 1 Sun THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

6.30pm Organ Dedication Service

3 Tue 2.30pm Mothers' Union Prayer Meeting

5 Thurs Boniface (Wynfrith) of Crediton, Bishop, Apostle of Germany, Martyr 754

11.00am Holy Communion—Rev Antony Claridge
NO LUNCH

7 Sun 7.30pm Organ Recital—David Briggs

8 Sun PENTECOST (WHIT SUNDAY)

11 Wed BARNABAS THE APOSTLE

**12 Thurs 11.00am Holy Communion—Rev Antony Claridge
NO LUNCH**

15 Sun TRINITY SUNDAY

19 Thurs CORPUS CHRISTI

11.00am Holy Communion—Rev Antony Claridge
followed by lunch

22 Sun THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

24 Tue THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

26 Thurs 11.00am Holy Communion—Rev Antony Claridge

29 Sun PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

Jul 3 Thurs THOMAS THE APOSTLE

11.00am Holy Communion—Rev Antony Claridge

5 Sat 10.00am Summer Sale

6 Sun THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

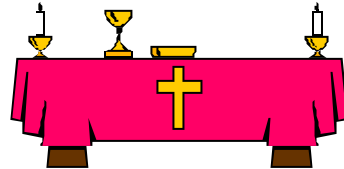
6.30pm Choral Evensong

Service Rota for June

	8 am	10 am	Evening
		Celebrant Preacher	Leader
June	1 Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Cliff Burrows Dr Cyril Selmes	Rev Antony Claridge
	8 Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Antony Claridge Rev Cliff Burrows	
	15 Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Cliff Burrows Rev Antony Claridge	
	22 Rev Marianne Atkinson	Rev Marianne Atkinson Rev Marianne Atkinson	
	29 Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Antony Claridge Rev Marianne Atkinson	
July	6 Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Antony Claridge Dr Cyril Selmes	Rev Antony Claridge

Thursday Services at 11.00am

June	5 Rev Antony Claridge
	12 Rev Antony Claridge
	29 Rev Antony Claridge
	26 Rev Antony Claridge
July	3 Rev Antony Claridge



Laity Rota for June

		OT Readers	Epistle	Gospel
June	1	Mrs R Gabe	Mr M Jones	Mrs P Edwards
	8	Mrs G Bowman	Mrs A Kemp	Mrs S Ayers
	15	Mr D Bishop	Ms J Anderson	Mrs E Elliott
	22	Mr M Elliott	Mrs M Burrows	Mr R Gabe
	29	Mr C Graham	Mrs J Bishop	Mr B Pont
July	6	Mr M Elliott	Mrs A Sheppard	Lady Heath

Chalice Assistants

June	1	Mrs M Burrows	Mr C Graham
	8	Lady Heath	Dr C Selmes
	15	Miss J Fletcher	Mrs P Edwards
	22	Mrs J Metcalfe	Mr R Siderfin
	29	Mrs M Burrows	Mr C Graham
July	6	Lady Heath	Dr C Selmes

Intercessors

June	1	Rev C Burrows
	8	Mr C Graham
	15	Rev A Claridge
	22	Mr R Vince
	29	Mr M Elliott
July	6	Mrs P Edwards



Sidespeople

		8am	10am	
June	1	Mr A Jones	Mrs T Claridge	Mrs J Ferguson
	8	Mrs D Twissell	Mr & Mrs Olney	
	15	Mrs B Hayward	Mrs M Silver	Mr F Twissell
	22	Miss E Hewlett	Mr & Mrs Ayers	
	29	Mr C Tilling	Dr D Marles	Mrs J Bunkin
July	6	Miss E Iden-Hart	Mr & Mrs Metcalfe	

Lectionary for June

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
Jun 1	Sunday after Ascension		
	Acts 1.15-17, 21-26	1 John 5.9-13	John 17.6-19
8	Pentecost (Whit Sunday)		
		Acts 5.1-21	John 15.26-27; 16.4b-15
15	Trinity Sunday		
	Isaiah 6.1-8	Romans 8.12-17	John 3.1-17
22	First Sunday after Trinity		
	Job 38.1-11	2 Corinthians 6.1-13	Mark 4.35-41
29	Peter and Paul, Apostles		
		Acts 12.1-11	Matthew 16.13-19
Jul 6	Third Sunday after Trinity		
	Ezekiel 2.1-5	2 Corinthians 12.2-10	Mark 6.1-13

Meet Jenny, our Christian Aid Representative!

Many thanks to **Jenny Wright** for agreeing to become our new Christian Aid Representative. It's an important job which will involve keeping the congregation informed about the work of Christian Aid all year round as well as bringing us up to date with the many ways in which we can be involved in campaigning for justice and fair trade in poorer countries, for example by sending postcards to our MP.

Jenny is a postgraduate student working for a PhD in the engineering department of the University. She's a local girl—her parents live in Saltford, and she was a pupil at Oldfield School. Why not ask her some time about her headmaster?!

Campaigning lives

This June sees the next key national event in the campaign for trade justice. In the 24 hours from noon on Friday 27th, campaigners will be aiming to lobby all 659 MPs in their constituencies, alongside many other events calling for trade justice. But who are these people who give their time and energy to add their voice to many thousands of others?



Hilda Taylor, who lives near Colchester, has been actively involved with Christian Aid for nearly 50 years. She will probably never meet Awut Deng, a peace worker from Southern Sudan. But Hilda and Awut have one thing in common: both are committed lifelong campaigners. Hilda and her friend Chris Mort were inspired by a poster for the very first Christian Aid Week in 1957. It made them want to do something about poverty. And they have campaigned and collected for Christian Aid ever since, and are leaving legacies to continue their support. Hilda said disarmingly, 'Some people think we're getting a bit old for this, that we should calm down. But there's important work still to be done.' She added, 'It is essential to emphasise poverty in individual countries, but global campaigning must continue also. There's a long way to go, but we remain hopeful.'

Meanwhile, Awut was growing up in southern Sudan in the midst of civil war. More than 20 members of her family have been killed. As the daughter of a traditional peacemaker she has devoted herself to bringing people from the Dinka and Nuer communities together to discuss and resolve their differences. Her outstanding leadership, mainly as a volunteer, has received international recognition. Today she works as a peace mobiliser for Christian Aid's partner the New Sudanese Council of Churches. 'I was born and brought up in war,' she says. 'I feel I have an obligation to contribute to a peaceful Sudan, to enable our children to enjoy freedom and peace.'



Campaigning is a key part of Christian Aid's work - in the United Kingdom and Ireland and overseas. Volunteers campaigning for peace or fair trade, to drop the debt or change international trade rules, are all helping to make a difference and change the world. If you feel ordinary individuals can't do anything much, Hilda reminds us of the old African saying, 'If you think you are too small to make a difference, you have never been in bed with a mosquito.'

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Number 1 in an occasional series which explains aspects of our Christian faith.

TRINITY SUNDAY

The observance of Trinity Sunday, the 1st Sunday after Pentecost, in honour of the Trinity, seems to have originated early in the 10th century. But, it was not made obligatory on the whole Church until the first half of the 14th century. In keeping with ancient Church usage, the Athanasian Creed is often used in the church services on Trinity Sunday. The liturgical colour for the Trinity season is green. Green is the colour of living plants, green is liturgical colour depicting a living God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

THE TRINITY

The Christian doctrine of the Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - Three in One, is one of the mysteries of faith. The intellectual issues raised by the illumination of the Trinity were to have perennial interest and become major subjects of thought, and, sad to say, of controversy. The Trinity could never be adequately expressed in words, although some of the creeds or symbols which were devised in an attempt to do so, gained wide, indeed, almost universal acceptance among those who bore the Christian name. Nor could all the questions about the Trinity be answered with entire satisfaction. Always there was mystery, yet belief in the Trinity, based upon early and continuing experience, became and remains a distinguishing characteristic of Christianity.

CREEDS

A creed is a confession of faith for public use or a form of words setting out with authority certain articles of belief. Creeds do not precede faith, but follow it, expressing the convictions of the believer towards Christ and His Word. A Creed outlines and preserves, in balanced proportion, Christianity's fundamental beliefs; it witnesses to the persistence, unity, and universality of the Christian faith; it binds Christians to one another and to the faithful of all centuries. Creeds were used as summaries of doctrine, bonds of union, safeguards against error, and means of instruction. Many statements have been formulated in modern times, though none has attained the same level of importance as the Ecumenical Creeds. The Apostles, the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds have remained standard creeds for the majority of Christians since early years of the Church. Taken together they are, in effect, a view of the whole horizon of the Church's belief.

Mothers' Union News

The Branch would like to extend its grateful thanks to Marianne for holding the Communion services on Wednesdays during Lent, and we send our congratulations to her on her forthcoming nuptials. We will all miss Marianne very much when she leaves Christ Church for pastures new.

Because we moved our Sale to an earlier date this year, our next Prayer Meeting will be on June 3rd at 2.30pm in the Vestry, when all are welcome to join us.

Further to my Lent Appeal, I am pleased to report that Pat Burdon has made us four "Teddies for Tragedies" together with the little bags to hold them. She says that she would be willing to make the bags for anyone who likes the knitting but not the sewing involved in this project. I am also promised a further batch of Teddies from Joan and Nancy who have been hard at work on them for several weeks.



Our Autumn Coffee Morning for the Women's Refuge Christmas Appeal will be held on October 18th. However, items for this cause can be donated at any time, and will of course be passed on straight away. We do thank everyone most sincerely for supporting all our efforts during the year.

Sylvia M. Ayers (MU Secretary)

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Churches Together in Bath Update

Fr Tom Gunning is the new Chairman of CTB. A Vice-Chairman, from the Free Churches, is yet to be elected. Roger Nunn, who has put Churches Together in Bath on the map continues as Exec. Secretary.

Open Christmas

There are two places to fill for a 16-member committee. Any volunteers? Also, does anyone know of suitable entertainers for this party on Christmas Day, when lunch, tea and transport are offered to those who would otherwise be alone?

CTB is planning a web-site. More anon.



Margaret Heath

CHRISTIAN VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Help for people with learning difficulties and their carers.



The highlight of this year's Churches Together in Bath AGM was a presentation by Sarah Couchman, a Reader at All Saints Weston. She talked about two established Christian voluntary organizations which have combined to become **CARE Prospects**. Sarah described the work of this excellent charity and asked everyone to go back to their churches and encourage volunteers. The **CARE Prospects** Scheme is looking for volunteers to provide practical support to people with learning difficulties and their careers in the Bath area.

Everybody benefits from a change of scenery occasionally and the chance to make new friends and visit new places. However, for a person with learning difficulties this is the exception rather than the rule. There is limited opportunity to enjoy many life experiences that most people take for granted. A family where a person has learning disabilities also needs an occasional break from the demands of providing support day after day, year after year.



There are three ways in which volunteers can help: -

- **Befriending:** meeting up with someone regularly and enabling them to develop their confidence, increase their social life, take part in a hobby or interest or talk about the things that are important to them.
- **Short breaks:** opening your home to someone who needs some space away from where they live or whose carers need a break.
- **Day opportunities:** getting involved in setting up **CARE Prospects** day opportunities group which will provide a drop-in service support, advice or information and structured activities for people who want to develop their skills or interests



Sarah Couchman explained that no experience is necessary, as training will be given. However, she emphasised that you need a heart for supporting people who are often marginalized by society. Another important talent is the willingness to build new relationships and maybe learn new skills. In closing her presentation, Sarah remarked that the work is extremely rewarding and many people find they get more out than they could ever put in.

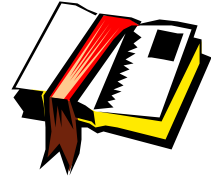
Congratulations Marianne and Bob!

Next Sunday June 8th after the 10 am service, The Revd Marianne Atkinson and The Revd Robert (Bob) Torrens would like to offer a glass of wine (or other drink) to everyone. This is to celebrate their forthcoming marriage on June 11th in Bury St Edmunds, though Marianne is not leaving Bath just yet.

Our warmest congratulations to Marianne and Bob. We wish you every happiness in your future life together.

OUR BIBLE CONSULTANT WRITES...

I did not find Paul's second (?third) letter to the church in Corinth, also written about 53 AD as stimulating and interesting as the first, but it still contains some important ideas and information. The dangerous life of the apostles in preaching the gospel in Asia is emphasised at the beginning of the Letter,



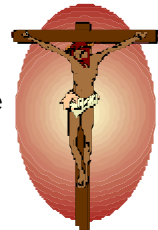
when Paul points out that he and his companions had suffered and might have been put to death, but God saved them, helped by the prayers of the church in Macedonia. Later on, when Paul is trying to refute the suggestion that he boasted of his achievements, he writes:

"With more labours, more imprisonments, many more beatings, often near the point of death; five times I took the thirty nine lashes of the Jews, three times I was beaten by rods, once stoned, three times ship-wrecked, and spent a day and a night in the water; often on the road, with danger from rivers, brigands, my own people, danger from foreigners, in the city, in the wilds and at sea." And that's only part of his reasons for being able to boast about his exploits! He also goes on to say that he will



continue to boast about what happened to him on the road to Damascus because this is where God called him to be an apostle and to preach the Gospel. Reading Paul's letters as a whole has made me realise how often he refers to his calling by God: his Good News of Christ is always recognised as the work of God, just as Paul's achievements are the work of God.

In spite of all his trials and tribulations, Paul maintains that he, and all followers of Jesus, will recognise that although they may be afflicted, they will not be crushed; although they may be bewildered, they will not despair; although they may be persecuted, they will not be forsaken; although they may be cast down, they will not be destroyed. And the reason for this: "Keeping Jesus' death in our bodies so that the life of Jesus shows. God will also raise us from the dead, for it is the invisible things that are eternal, the Visible are earthly." This recognition of the pre-eminence of God does not lessen Paul's preaching of the Gospel of Christ: the coming of Jesus, his life and death, have replaced the law of Moses. The glory of God is now

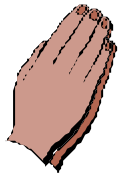


shown in the face of Jesus Christ and we now have the gift of the Holy Spirit to guide us. Just as Moses had to veil his face before God, our understanding of God has remained veiled until the coming of Christ. These ideas and sentiments (and many others) have been written to the Church in Corinth because the members of that community have criticised Paul and compared him with other apostles.

Although Paul continues to suggest that their version of the gospel is suspect and that some of their behaviour is unacceptable, he also continues to praise them for their efforts and for their support of other churches. He admits that his letters to them have been critical but rejoices in the fact that this has made them change their ways. He also apologises for failing to visit them for the third time but warns them that he may still not approve of all they do! He then ends with what seems to be the first appearance of what we now call the Grace in the New Testament: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Cyril Selmes

About The Ammerdown Centre



The Ammerdown Centre is near Radstock, only about 13 miles from Bath, but a place in great contrast to this bustling city. Ammerdown offers peace and calm, a chapel, good food, pretty walks, a chance to study or rest. Everyone is welcome, of all faiths and none. Christ Church has in the past had quiet days or a study afternoon there—our ideals of ecumenism and good interfaith relations are shared by Ammerdown.

Nobody is made to feel spiritually out of his or her depth. For years, I felt I wasn't holy enough to go on a retreat, and too much of a divergent thinker to attend courses on spirituality. At Ammerdown, no-one is made to feel silly or ignorant: there are lots of laughs as well as learning.

Do join in some of our 30th Anniversary celebrations—see the leaflets at the back of Church, or ask me for further details. You will, I think, share my enthusiasm when you have seen the place.

Margaret Heath

Prayer Cycle for June

- Sun* 1 For the work and witness of Churches Together in Bath
- Mon* 2 For seafarers and the work of the Mission to Seafarers
- Tue* 3 For those who work in the Social Services
- Wed* 4 For any who feel unloved
- Thur* 5 For all with low self-esteem
- Fri* 6 That our nation's wealth may be more fairly distributed
- Sat* 7 For all who drive on our roads, that they may do so responsibly
- Sun* 8 For our Clergy team and their families
- Mon* 9 For Angela and Chris our Churchwardens and David our Treasurer
- Tue* 10 For those who form our local councils
- Wed* 11 For all aspects of the work of "CRUSE" in caring for the bereaved:
for the volunteers of the Bath branch
- Thur* 12 For guidance for the people of Iraq in building a stable government
- Fri* 13 For our National Health Service, our hospitals, nursing homes and
local surgeries
- Sat* 14 For families from which a member or members have left home and
whose whereabouts and state of life are unknown
- Sun* 15 For Rowan our Archbishop and Peter and Andrew, our Bishops
- Mon* 16 For those who suffer any form of mental illness and their families,
that they may find our attitude towards them sensitive and helpful
- Tue* 17 For our branch of the Mothers' Union
- Wed* 18 For Mark our Director of Music, David our Organist, our Choir and
any others who provide music for our services
- Thur* 19 For those who face the loss of their job
- Fri* 20 That our Police Forces may receive full co-operation from all
members of the public in seeking information and the discharge of
their duties

-
- Sat* 21 For Dorothy House
- Sun* 22 For those training for Holy Orders
- Mon* 23 That the affluent countries of the world may behave responsibly towards those Third World countries seeking to build up viable economies for themselves
- Tue* 24 For all who live alone and find it difficult: for the housebound
- Wed* 25 That young viewers may recognise and reject the selfish and self-indulgent attitudes portrayed in so many TV programmes
- Thur* 26 For our Junior Church and those who care for its members
- Fri* 27 That families in which there is concealed discord may recognise this and have grace to sort out what is amiss
- Sat* 28 For those who practise or encourage any form of prostitution
- Sun* 29 For the country clergy and all who lead worship in the countryside
- Mon* 30 Let us give thanks for the blessings of the month now ending
- July*
- Tue* 1 For all on holiday
- Wed* 2 For those caring for a seriously ill member of their family
- Thur* 3 For children unhappy at school and parents worried about them
- Fri* 4 For the United Nations Organisation
- Sat* 5 For drug addicts and those who care for them
- Sun* 6 For our Clergy Team and their families: for Tom and Cyril our readers and for Sarah in her ministry at Batheaston

*Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and thy balm
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire
Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire
O still small voice of calm!*



Book Quiz



The following are all first lines of famous books... how many do you know? Answers next month.

'When he was nearly thirteen, my brother Jem got his arm badly broken at the elbow....

On they went, singing "Eternal Memory" and whenever they stopped, their feet, the horses, and the gusts of wind seemed to carry on their singing.

Dr. Iannis had enjoyed a satisfactory day in which none of his patients had died or got any worse.

When Mary Lennox was sent to Misselthwaite Manor to live with her uncle everybody said she was the most disagreeable-looking child ever seen.

As I walked through the wilderness of this world, I lighted on a certain place where was a Den, and I laid me down in that place to sleep: and, as I slept, I dreamed a dream.

The boy with fair hair lowered himself down the last few feet of rock and began to pick his way towards the lagoon.

It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen.

All happy families are alike, but an unhappy family is unhappy after its own fashion.

If you want to find Cherry Tree Lane all you have to do is ask a policeman at the crossroads.

Many years later, as he faced the firing squad, Colonel Aureliano Buendía was to remember that distant afternoon when his father took him to discover ice.

WHO'S WHO?

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

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JUNIOR CHURCH and CRECHE

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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

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MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTOR

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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