



Seeking peace in South Sudan

Visiting speaker tells of the work of the Church and the MU

In April the Mothers' Union welcomed Joanna Hunt to speak to us about the world's newest country, South Sudan. Joanna had worked there for more 11 years back in the 70s and 80s, at a time when it was still part of Sudan, then Africa's largest country.

She reminded us of Sudan's complex history, with the North mainly Arab and Muslim, and the South mainly African and Christian, this division leading to long-standing unrest and civil war.

Other factors included disputes over oil in the South, increasing Islamic fundamentalism in the North, with interference in the tribal politics of the south. The Southern Peoples' Liberation Army (SPLA) gradually won over more and more of the south.

What joy and celebrations there were on 9 July 2011 when, after peace talks and a referendum, independence was finally granted to Southern Sudan. In one account from Mundri – a little up-country town no bigger than an English village, where Joanna taught English at Bishop Gwynne Theological College and set up an education programme in the district – the lowering of the old Sudan flag “was the most emotive sign, and was very much interpreted as the end of centuries of slavery.”

However, there is still ongoing tribal warfare and fighting over oil, and more seriously a power struggle between the new president and his deputy, who are from opposing tribes. At least a quarter of a million people have been displaced within Sudan and many have fled to

neighbouring countries. There have been horrendous stories of atrocities, the massacre of people hiding in a church, women raped, mass graves telling of the slaughter. Southern Sudan has dropped out of the news lately, but there are ongoing peace talks and a tentative ceasefire.

The church is strong and powerful in the new country. The Sudanese Archbishop has been working for peace between different groups. The MU is also strong, a powerful band of women that keeps the church running, prepares meals, educates the younger girls and so on. The church was delighted and encouraged to welcome Archbishop Justin Welby recently for a long planned visit.

We are grateful to Joanna for her informative and interesting talk.

Rebekah Cunningham



The MU's Relief Fund Committee gave a grant of £25,000 to aid the humanitarian response of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan & Sudan to thousands of displaced people in South Sudan.

Christian Aid Week

War tears lives apart; love can help piece them back together

For a growing number of people across the world, the horror of war is a part of daily life. Right now, fuelled by the devastating violence in both Syria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the numbers of people driven from their homes by war is on the rise. It stands at 42 million people – an appalling statistic and a stain on the conscience of humanity. We can't turn our backs.

Last year, a magnificent 20,000 churches across the country helped raise over £12m for Christian Aid Week.

This Christian Aid Week (11–17 May 2014) we want to go even further. We want every church in Britain and Ireland to get involved – whether by

giving, acting or praying. Together we can send people living in fear this message: you are not alone. We're with you, helping you to rebuild your lives, and working for peace. Imagine what such an expression of love would mean to people searching for the strength to cope with the devastation of war, and how it could help to drive out their fear.

Demonstrate God's love for those living in poverty and show how much good the church is doing in the world this Christian Aid Week. Together we can reach the 42 million people caught up in conflict and help them live a life free from fear.

Could you provide the gift of hope? £15 could provide blankets for refugee children to protect them from bitter night-time temperatures. £40 could provide enough nutritious food for two refugee children for a month.

Be an instrument of God's peace. Give, act and pray this Christian Aid Week. For information, visit caweek.org



Mothers' Union News

Sylvia Ayers writes:

Thank you to everyone who bought our colourful Mothering Sunday and Easter cards. We are sure they gave much pleasure to all your recipients, and their sales raised £41.45. We can now reveal that the total sum donated to the Lent Charity in March for the MU has risen to £65. This has now gone towards supporting the workers in Africa who are facing such a hard time at present.

The MU meeting held in the Lower Mews on Tuesday 1st April was most inspiring. More details of the talk on Sudan are in Rebekah Cunningham's report on page 1. We also had a rearranged Communion on 2nd April followed by a Lent Lunch which our friends

from St. Mary's Catholic Church also attended. It is good to see that other members of the congregation are joining the MU Group on these occasions, which do serve a long-felt need for a regular daytime mid-week service.

In April, we discovered that, according to the inscription on a kneeler in the Lady Chapel, Christ Church Branch is now 100 years old, having been founded in 1914. It would be lovely if we could do something this year to commemorate this anniversary.

Our next Corporate Communion Service will be in the Lady Chapel on Wednesday 7th May at 11am, when the MU Prayer will again be used, after which we will enjoy tea, coffee, biscuits and chat at the back of the church.

Bishop's Message for May

The 40 days of Easter

**From the Rt Revd Peter Maurice,
Bishop of Taunton**

For most people Easter lasts for about three or four days and ends at midnight on Easter Monday, but for Christian people Easter is a season that lasts for 40 days, and with good reason. It reminds us of the enduring hope that we have in God and that God has in us – hope that encourages us to work for a better future for humankind, especially for those who are the poorest and most vulnerable.

By the time you read this I will have joined with many others in supporting the “Live Below the Line” campaign. From 28 April for five days we will be living on £1 a day both to raise awareness of the issues of food poverty around the world (and in our own country) as well as to raise money for a range of charities who are seeking to address the issue. I will be supporting “Send a Cow,” a locally based charity just outside Bath who focus much of their work in Zambia and other parts of Africa.

They provide poor families with the skills they need to build new lives free from poverty and hunger. By providing training, livestock, seeds and support, they restore

hope and create stronger communities for the future. You may, for very good reason, not be able to live below the line yourself but I hope you will be generous in supporting those of us who are.

Later in May you are also likely to receive a Christian Aid envelope through your letterbox. This too will invite us to be generous in our response to the enduring hope that we have in a God who seeks to bring an end to poverty and injustice. This year the focus is on “giving people a future without fear.” We know that for a growing number of people across the world, the horror of war is part of daily life. Last year Christian Aid, through the churches, raised £12 million. War tears lives apart – our generosity can help put them back together.

The 40 days of Lent are over and the 40 days of Easter are here. We are invited to believe ever more deeply in the reign of God for our world, and we are invited to live in confidence and in hope that the God who has raised Jesus from the dead can and will rebuild and revitalise all that poverty and injustice has shattered, with us as willing partners!

+ Peter Taunton

Awake to God

Canon Melvyn Matthews, now one of the supporting clergy here at Christ Church, will present a series of talks titled “Awake to God: Four Explorations in the Mystical Way” based on his book of the same title, which uses the insights of key mystical thinkers to “suggest a style of being and seeing for contemporary people of faith”. The first session, at 7:30pm in the Lower Mews on Wednesday 21 May, is entitled “‘There is no wrath in God’ (Julian of Norwich)”. The other three sessions take place on Wednesday 28 May, 4 June and 11 June. For more information, see the poster at the back of the church (or ask Melvyn!).

Meditation workshop

Meditation is a universal practice. It can be found in all the great religions – seeking God in silence and stillness, leaving behind the busy mind and opening to the still centre within. A one-day introductory workshop on Meditation in the Christian Tradition will be held on Saturday 7 June at the Ammerdown Centre near Radstock. It will be led by members of the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM), an ecumenical network of meditators, and include “plenty of time for questions and discussion” as well as meditating together. The cost of the day is £40. For details, visit www.ammerdown.org

Women's ordination

Some thoughts on the history of Anglican women's ministry

Canon Angela Townshend writes “in grateful thanks for the ministry of Angela Berners-Wilson and for all who have followed in her footsteps”

Maude Royden, Elsie Chamberlain, Isabella Gilmore, Betty Ridley, Una Kroll, Christian Howard, Monica Furlong, Florence Li Tim-Oi, Joyce Bennett, Constance Coltman, Margaret Webster... heard of them? Probably not – all were icons in the campaign to get women ordained, but like most women's lives, they are in the “hidden gallery” of history. Elsie Chamberlain was the first female full chaplain in the RAF. Florence Li Tim-Oi was the first female Anglican priest, ordained during the war to serve behind Japanese lines in China. Una Kroll famously shouted, “We asked for bread and you gave us a stone” (a reference to Matthew 7:7-11) when in 1978 General Synod refused to allow women to be ordained, creating the momentum for the Movement for the Ordination of Women to be formed.

First, Constance Todd. Constance was ordained as the first Congregational woman Minister on 17 September 1917. The day before (16 September) her friend Maude Royden had begun her preaching ministry – non-ordained – at the City Temple as she felt that her ministry would never be accepted in the Church of England in her lifetime. Maude remained an Anglican. On 18 September Constance married Claud Coltman and they were appointed as joint Ministers to the Darby Street Mission of the Congregational King's Weigh House Church in the West End of London. Constance had taken a degree course in history at Oxford (not a degree – women were still excluded from degrees at Oxford and Cambridge). She had then trained at Mansfield College, Oxford, and also taken a London BD degree.

Constance and Maude were also involved in the Suffragette Movement and were founders of the Society for the Ministry of

Women in the Church (ecumenical) along with Lady Stansgate, mother of the late Anthony Wedgwood-Benn. Flora Stansgate stressed the fact that as far as Constance and Maude were concerned, it was advocacy of the ministry of women which was their main passion, but they did it *not* for women but for the Gospel. They did it to liberate the Gospel and to proclaim the message of reconciliation, equality and the worth of all. These qualities were paramount in the work and life of Jesus and can be found in the Early Church.

The first English woman to be ordained was Joyce Bennett in Hong Kong in 1971. (In 1975 I took communion from her.)

In 1975 two motions were brought before the General Synod. First that “this Synod considers there are no fundamental objections to the ordination of women to the priesthood”. This was passed. The second, which was to enable the necessary legislation to remove legal barriers, failed.

In 1978 the same motion was brought before the Synod and again it failed but only in the House of Clergy. The Movement for the Ordination of Women (MOW) was formed. After the ordinations in the 1990s it became Women and the Church (WATCH).

In 1984 the Bishop of Portsmouth, Ronald Bowlby, brought the motion again, supported by nine dioceses. It was passed.

The McClean Report was published in 1985 but rather focussed on the needs of those who were opposed than on women. The House of Bishops took over and brought out several reports, and in 1989 the measures were passed. It then took 15 months to draft the legislation and another three years before it was passed.

It was not until 1994, after 50 years of active campaigning, that 1,500 women were at last ordained as priests in the Church of England, the first being Angela Berners-Wilson. In most places they were welcomed, but in some places they met resistance, anger and exclusion. Some were called “witches”

Last month in Christ Church...

and “priestesses”, with the tribal, pagan connotations that that implies.

More than 1,000 priests were expected to leave the Church in protest. In the event 512 left, then 72 subsequently returned. £27.4m in compensation was paid out to clergy who left. The Roman Catholic Church received some of these men as full priests even though they were married and had children.

Churches were allowed to opt out of having a woman as an incumbent, and even to opt for a “flying bishop” if their Diocesan bishop was in favour of women’s ordination.

Forward in Faith UK was founded in November 1992 for those opposed to the ordination of women as priests.

WATCH was formed to promote women’s ministry in the Church of England and provide a national network and support group for women priests and all who are working for an inclusive church. Their priorities are:

- the appointment of women at all levels in the Church (particularly as bishops);
- honesty and openness in all appointments;
- support for women in lay and ordained ministries, and for all who suffer because of their advocacy of women’s ministries.

In the last 15 years WATCH has produced educational and campaigning material and challenged the deliberate and unconscious ways in which women are denied an equal place in the church, at local or national levels.

In July 2006 General Synod momentarily agreed to the Church of England having women bishops. (I was a part of that vote.) We were advised that it would not be acceptable to cheer or make any sort of celebratory noise. We certainly celebrated once we were out of the chamber!

The debate continues. We wait in hope for the General Synod meeting in York in July, where the next opportunity for debate and voting takes place. Please give thanks for the ministry of women and pray that women will be given a full and equal share in the life of the Church of England as bishops.



On Saturday 29 March, Laura Gabe married Peter Adley in Christ Church. We misspelled the surname last issue, so we’re happy to take the opportunity to correct it and also include a photo. Congratulations to Laura, Peter, and Laura’s parents Richard and Rosanne.

And yes, that’s our former Priest-in-Charge Antony Claridge in the photo: he preached at the wedding, and mentioned that he and Tessa had just celebrated their own 40th wedding anniversary. Warm congratulations to them!

On Easter Sunday, 20 April, we also celebrated the christening of Toby Michael Jones. Best wishes and congratulations to him, Timothy, Sarah and Matthew. It was an added pleasure to welcome back some of the Yorkshire branch of the Christ Church family for the occasion.



SHEEPISH CORRECTION: Last month we said that the mural in the ringing chamber was painted by David Kelly. In fact it was his wife Mary Kelly. Apologies for the error!

Meet our new Organist / Deputy Director of Music



Welcome to Keith, our new Organist and Deputy Director of Music, and his fiancée Marie.

Keith Pigot BMus. LTCL, ARCM, CertEd. read music at the University of London, Goldsmiths' College. He has been Director of Music in a number of independent schools in the UK, most recently Clayesmore School,

Dorset, from which he retired in 2012. He held the same post at the United World College of South East Asia, Singapore, where he was also organist and choirmaster at St Andrew's Cathedral, harpsichordist with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and section coach for the Singapore Symphony Chorus. He has conducted many major choral works with choirs and orchestras and given organ recitals in Germany, Singapore, Malaysia and the UK.

Keith enjoys photography, high altitude trekking (mainly in the Himalayas) and supports Manchester United and Wigan Rugby League. Last October he successfully reached the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. Keith lives in Winsley with his fiancée Marie, and teaches piano, organ and theory. In addition, he accompanies singers and instrumentalists.

This month's charity: Julian House



The loose collection in the plate on Sunday 11 May, plus an optional retiring collection for the rest of this month, will go to Julian House.

Julian House is a Bath-based charity that was set up to offer direct support to some of the most marginalised people in society – the homeless. Initially this was limited to offering food and shelter, but over time other projects and services have been developed. According to its website, Julian House's purpose is:

- to eradicate the need for rough sleeping;
- to enable those who are homeless and those who are vulnerable and at risk of homelessness to establish sustainable homes and lifestyles;
- to empower all users of its service to achieve their fullest potential.

Today Julian House operates more than ten projects across Bath and North East

Somerset. Users of its services include rough sleepers, women escaping domestic violence, ex-offenders, the long-term unemployed, and people with learning difficulties and mental health issues. At any time over 100 clients are being helped – men and women who are homeless, have recently been homeless or who are at risk of becoming homeless.

Projects include the Manvers Street Hostel, which provides not only beds but a specialist outreach service and a support service that offers people a pathway out of rough sleeping. Julian House runs the only supported housing project in B&NES to support offenders on release from custody, prevent them falling into homelessness and attempt to break the patterns of substance abuse and other causes of crime. Julian House also runs three social enterprises: Bath Soup Company, Bath Bike Workshop and Turnkey Housing Solutions, which it sees as crucial in enabling “move-on” for clients who may be partially or wholly dependent on benefits or live on a low wage.

For more information about the charity and its work visit www.julianhouse.org.uk

Welcome to the latest edition of *In Focus*, a monthly newsletter from the Church of England. Our aim is to help you keep in touch with the activities of the National Church Institutions. Do have a look at *In Review*, our sister publication, designed as an A3 version for notice boards.

In Focus

£20m repairs fund for Cathedrals

The Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England has warmly welcomed the announcement of a new two-year £20 million fund for repairs to cathedrals, announced in the Chancellor's Budget in March.

Cathedrals are a key part of forming the cultural identity of many of England's cities, and are powerful symbols of our shared history. But this does not mean they are just icons of the past. They are active community hubs and are at the centre of several urban regeneration plans, including Peterborough, Leicester and Blackburn, which are all creating cathedral quarters.

The Church of England's 42 cathedrals welcome more than 11m visitors a year with only 6,000 staff but more than 15,000 dedicated volunteers; demonstrating how much cathedrals contribute to, but also depend upon, the communities around them. CofE Cathedrals generate £350 million for the economy each year.

This has been part of their historical resilience. However despite this admirable support, upkeep and restoration costs often fall disproportionately on these small dedicated local groups. As a result the Church of England predicts a £87m repair funding shortfall over the next five years.

£20m of grants will help meet the costs of urgent repairs to these great buildings and support local fundraising efforts by Church of England and Roman Catholic Cathedrals.

The grant will be available over a two year period for Church of England and Roman Catholic Cathedrals in England. The Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England hopes that this will provide a foundation for further funding to ensure the future of some of this country's finest heritage assets.

For more information:
<http://www.churchcare.co.uk>

A thousand poppies to bloom for Great War Centenary

Poppies will be grown in the grounds of parish churches and Church of England schools across the country as an act of remembrance for the centenary of World War 1.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are both urging church schools and churches to plant poppy seeds with them on April 30 to commemorate the centenary of World War One and help make poppies bloom across the country.

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu said: "I encourage parishes and church schools across the country to join together to make many thousand flowers bloom as a tribute to the sacrifice of past generations Here in the grounds of Bishopthorpe, we too, are getting behind this

community initiative. I have been inspired by the parishes of the new Diocese of Leeds (West Yorkshire and the Dales) and their shared efforts to mark the 100th anniversary of the Great War."

Some dioceses - like Oxford, Exeter, Manchester and the new Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales - have sent packets of poppy seeds to all their churches and/or church schools to create their own memorial gardens or flower pots.

Packs of Flanders poppies are on sale and can be bought at B&Q for £2 with a pound being donated to the RBL.

For more information including a short film and resources for planting poppies:
<http://bit.ly/1mCvYMP>

Archbishops' Evangelism task group meets for first time

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has chaired the first meeting of the Archbishops' Evangelism Task Group at Lambeth Palace.

The group, which comprises about a dozen experts and practitioners in evangelism, has been set up following a debate on intentional evangelism at the General Synod in November. It intends to encourage and equip every church and Christian proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

During its inaugural meeting, the group considered how it can bring influence to bear on the church in the short, medium and long term.

The Archbishop of York, John Sentamu, said: "Next to worship, witness is the primary and

urgent task of the Church. Compared with evangelism everything else is like rearranging furniture when the house is on fire. Making disciples is at the heart of our Christian faith and our Anglican tradition."

The task group has been set up following a debate on intentional evangelism at the General Synod in November, and will be meeting a further four times in its first year.

For more on the intentional evangelism debate at November's Synod:
<http://bit.ly/1kohUqM>

Turning Up The Volume - new initiative to increase senior Minority Ethnic clergy

The Church of England has launched an initiative to address the imbalance in UK Minority Ethnic (ME) clergy in senior positions, with a plan to double numbers within 10 years.

The initiative, called Turning Up the Volume, has been set up by the House of Bishops, and is working on a clear plan to address any issues which may be hindering the appointment of UK ME clergy to senior posts. The Task Group organising the initiative is being led by the Bishop of Rochester, James Langstaff, and includes 12 lay and ordained members of the church.

Bishop James said: "When I was asked to lead this initiative, I was very clear that it is vital not only for the well-being of the Church of England, but also for the credibility of our mission to the nation. For as long as we have a senior leadership

with such a low representation of UK ME clergy, we will not be seen as a church which is for all the people of our nation."

At present, there are fewer than 10 UK minority ethnic people holding senior positions, including the Archbishop of York, one dean and three archdeacons, and while there has been an increase of UK ME ordinands of 20% since 2005, official figures for UK ME clergy still only represent 3% of all stipendary clergy.

The Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns (CMEAC) have two members on the Task Group, Ven Daniel Kajumba and Dr Elizabeth Henry. The committee was established 28 years ago and works to increase inclusion, representation and participation of minority ethnic Anglicans.

Numbers of ME ordinands double in three years

A conference for UK Minority Ethnic ministry enquirers has been held as new stats show almost twice as many ME people being recommended for ordination training.

The figures indicate a rise in those entering training from ME backgrounds from 2.7% in 2010 to 5% in 2013. The rise has been in part as a result of the work of CMEAC and

Ministry Division working together to promote vocations.

In particular, the Minority Ethnic Vocations Strategy Group has been set up to promote vocations through awareness raising exercises, targeting particular dioceses, recruiting and training ME Vocation Champions in Dioceses, and running ME Vocation conferences.

Sir Hector Sants talks Responsible Savings and Credit

Sir Hector Sants, former Chief Executive of the Financial Services Authority, says the church has a role to play in promoting the responsible use of credit and savings in the community, in an interview available online.

The task force for Responsible Credit and Saving, which is headed up by Sir Hector, was set up by the Archbishop of Canterbury and will develop the Church of England's on-going support for local credit unions while working with the wider financial sector to build support for more competitive and community-based financial services.

He asks how the church can help on the ground: "We are very conscious that there's a lot of tremendously good work already going on

in the area of helping people responsibly use credit and responsibly save and we want to make sure we learn and take advantage of all that experience that's out there. And work with all those individuals who are already delivering on the ground on behalf of their communities."

"We want to be seen as a practical group of individuals. We want to focus on things the Church can actually do, and we want to deliver change on the ground. We don't just want to think about it as a wider philosophical question, so the focus will be on action on the ground, action in communities."

The full interview with Sir Hector Sants can be heard at: <https://soundcloud.com/the-church-of-england/sir-hector-sants-talks-about-1>

Archbishop Justin hosts gathering of Religious Communities

The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby welcomed more than 100 members of a broad range of Anglican religious communities to Lambeth Palace to discuss the renewal of Religious Life within the Church.

The conference brought together members of diverse religious communities – some centuries old, others newly emerging – that are bound together by a common commitment to prayer, community living, and a radical service of Christ, often in demanding social contexts.

The event marked a significant early step towards Archbishop Justin's vision for the renewal of prayer and the Religious Life, which he has declared as a core priority for his ministry. The

Archbishop gave a keynote address setting out his vision to explain and encourage those gathered.

The conference, 'Religious Life and Renewal: Exploring Roots and Shoots', had three aims: to give members of religious communities around the country an opportunity to interact with Archbishop Justin's vision for the renewal of Religious Life; to receive affirmation and build vision together; and to seek to reinvigorate and re-imagine connections between religious communities and the church's structures.

You can see Archbishop Justin speaking about Religious Communities at: <http://bit.ly/1ZhCGF>

Call for Ambassadors to join Archbishop Youth Trust

The Archbishop of York Youth Trust Ambassadors has met at Bishopthorpe Palace to be updated on its new 'Youth Trust Partner' scheme.

The Youth Trust, which has now provided more than £90k to 28 youth projects across the North is seeking to recruit more Ambassadors.

The Trust said that it is "keen" to hear from people who feel they could volunteer some of

their time telling people about its work, creating fundraising opportunities and connecting the Trust to schools, businesses and other organisations who may be interested in getting involved.

To find out more about becoming an Ambassador please visit:

<http://www.archbishopofyorkyouthtrust.co.uk/ambassadors/>

Communications Training

Upcoming Courses:

Wednesday 7 May: Social media for the scared
If you don't know your 'likes' from your 'favourites' this is the course for you. You'll learn how to use the main social media platforms and see how it can support your mission effectively.

For more details and booking info: <http://www.churchcommstraining.org/>

Thursday 15 May: Presentation skills
This course will help you get your message across in a clear and concise way. A practical and analytical workshop that will encourage you explore and develop public speaking skills that will inspire, motivate and involve an audience.

First new Diocese for 85 years created on Easter Day

History was made on Easter Day, April 20th, with the creation of the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales, the first new diocese in the Church of England since 1929, and, at 2,425 square miles, the largest diocese in England by area.

The new diocese stretches from Huddersfield and Holmfirth in the south-west to Richmond and the River Tees in the north-east and from Barnsley in the south-east to Bainbridge in the north west. With a population of 2.3 million people served by 656 Anglican churches, it includes the cities of Leeds, Bradford and Wakefield as well as North Yorkshire towns such as Harrogate and Settle.

Marking the end of the three former dioceses of Wakefield, Bradford and Ripon and Leeds, thanksgiving services have been held in each cathedral, and on Easter Day, the Rt Revd Nick Baines the Bishop of Bradford and Rt Revd Stephen Platten the Bishop of Wakefield will lay down their pastoral staffs on the altars of Bradford and Wakefield Cathedrals.

Posters, bookmarks and prayer-cards announcing the new diocese are being distributed to every parish church.

The new diocesan website, www.westyorkshiredales.anglican.org, was launched on Easter Day and carries the latest information, news and the diary of events.

Annual attendance stats released

The Church of England has released its annual statistics for 2012.

Overall in 2012, on average 1.05m people attended Church of England churches each week showing no significant change over the past decade. Figures for all age average weekly attendance show around one in five churches growing, and just over this number declining with 57% remaining stable.

In 2012 the Church of England conducted more than 356,000 services of baptism, wedding and funerals at an average of about 6,700 each week - almost 1,000 per day - marking the rites of pas-

sage in people's lives in communities across the country. Last year the Church of England baptised almost 140,000 people (2,700 per week), performing around 56,000 marriages in (1000 per week) and conducted 160,000 funerals (3,000 per week).

The 2012 figures also show that more than 100,000 young people aged 11 to 25 attended activities connected to the Church in 2012. Around 28,000 adults work voluntarily with young people aged 11-17 and around 2,000 are employed to do.

The figures can be accessed here:
<http://bit.ly/1kPdCYB>

Christ Church calendar May 2014

May	1	Thu	<i>Philip and James, Apostles</i>
	2	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm
	4	Sun	<i>Third Sunday of Easter</i> Christ Church Annual General Meeting (after 10am service) 4:30pm Choral Evensong (TBC)
	7	Wed	11am Holy Communion, followed by coffee
	9	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm
	11	Sun	<i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i> 8am Holy Communion (BCP)
	14	Wed	<i>Matthias the Apostle</i>
	16	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm
	18	Sun	<i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>
	21	Wed	7:30pm First “Awake to God” meeting, Christ Church Mews
	22	Thu	7:30pm Deanery Confirmation service, Christ Church
	23	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm
	24	Sat	<i>John & Charles Wesley, evangelists & hymn writers</i>
	25	Sun	<i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i> 8am Holy Communion (BCP)
	26	Mon	<i>Augustine, Archbishop, & John Calvin, reformer</i>
	29	Thu	<i>Ascension Day</i>
	30	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm
	31	Sat	<i>Visit of Mary to Elizabeth</i>
Jun	1	Sun	<i>Seventh Sunday of Easter</i> 4.30pm Choral Evensong
	6	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm
	8	Sun	<i>Pentecost</i> 8am Holy Communion (BCP)

Prayer Cycle for May 2014

Thursday	1	For all at school
Friday	2	For those in slavery or bonded labour
Saturday	3	For the emergency services
Sunday	4	For all taking on new responsibilities at Christ Church
Monday	5	For those recently baptised or preparing for baptism
Tuesday	6	For the chaplaincies at Bath's Universities
Wednesday	7	We give thanks for those who inspire us
Thursday	8	For our flower arrangers and others who look after the church
Friday	9	For countries in conflict
Saturday	10	For adoptive and foster families
Sunday	11	For all church musicians
Monday	12	For those who work in social services
Tuesday	13	That we may show mercy and compassion
Wednesday	14	For vocations to ministry
Thursday	15	For peace
Friday	16	For the unemployed
Saturday	17	We give thanks for beauty in the world around us
Sunday	18	For clergy taking services at Christ Church
Monday	19	For areas affected by the economic downturn
Tuesday	20	For our own personal ministry
Wednesday	21	For our Local Ministry Group partners
Thursday	22	For the Queen and all heads of state
Friday	23	For all who face tragedy

Saturday	24	For those recently married or preparing for marriage
Sunday	25	For those on the rota and Sarah who draws it up
Monday	26	For journalists and others who work in the media
Tuesday	27	For Christian unity
Wednesday	28	For those who live or work in care homes
Thursday	29	For the Fairtrade movement
Friday	30	For those who are persecuted for their faith
Saturday	31	We give thanks for the blessings of the past month

Long-term Prayer List

Please remember those we've been asked to pray for...

Kay Clark
 Rachel Sillett
 June Metcalfe
 May Palmer
 Cyril Selmes
 Ken Austwick
 Marjorie Nicholson

Rowena Hall
 David Ough
 Ned Townshend
 Sarah Dack
 John Osborne
 Joyce Fairburn
 David Slater

Want to add a name to the prayer list, either long-term or short-term, or remove one? Please use the lists at the back of the church, or let the Verger or one of the Churchwardens know.

Christ Church Link

This magazine is published on the first Sunday of each month. Please send any contributions of news and articles by the 15th of the preceding month to the editor, Alex Soboslay, or by e-mail to magazine@christchurchbath.org

Rotas for May 2014

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
4 May 3rd in Easter	Morny Davison Acts 2:14a,36-41	Judith Anderson 1 Peter 1:17-23	Margaret Heath Luke 24:13-35
11 May 4th in Easter	Sylvia Ayers Acts 2:42-end	Penny Edwards 1 Peter 2:19-end	Bob Siderfin John 10:1-10
18 May 5th in Easter	Judith Bishop Acts 7:55-end	Rebekah Cunningham 1 Peter 2:2-10	Rowena Hall John 14:1-14
25 May 6th in Easter	Sarah Cade Acts 17:22-31	Richard Gabe 1 Peter 3:13-end	Malcolm Wall John 14:15-21
1 June 7th in Easter	Alex Soboslay Acts 1:6-14	Janet Mahto 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11	David Bishop John 17:1-11

Laitry rota, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Chalice assistants	Sidespeople	Intercessions
4 May	Andrew Sillett, Keri Chivers	Iain Barrowman, Rowena Hall	Martin Palmer
11 May	Brenda Wall, Bob Siderfin	Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers	Rebekah Cunningham
18 May	David Rawlings, Janet Mahto	Margaret Silver, Jane Nicholson	Georgina Bowman
25 May	Clive Tilling, Jane Fletcher	Janet Mahto, Margaret Heath	Canon Melvyn Matthews
1 June	Lewis Boyd	Morny Davison, Andrew Sillett	Margaret Heath

Who's who at Christ Church

Priest-in-charge Canon Angela Townshend
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Supporting clergy Revd Cliff Burrows
Preb Angela Berners-Wilson
Canon Melvyn Matthews

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Lay Chair of Church Council
David Rawlings

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Treasurer David Bishop
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Cedar Tree café** Keri Chivers
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Matthew & Sarah Jones
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**Junior Church,
Laitry rotas** Sarah Cade

Prayer cycle Virginia Knight

**United Society,
Traidcraft stall** Rebekah Cunningham

Mothers' Union Margaret Burrows
01225 334743
Sylvia Ayers
01225 463976

Churches Together in Bath Sylvia Ayers
Margaret Heath
01225 428272

Mission to Seafarers Sylvia Ayers

Deanery Synod Reps Morny Davison
Andrew Sillett
Brenda Wall

**Chairs of Committees
& Working Groups**
Liturgy Canon Angela Townshend
Buildings Bob Siderfin
Outreach Andrew Sillett
Hospitality Angela Soboslay



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

About Christ Church

*We're a liberal, inclusive and open church,
seeking God through beauty in our worship, honesty
in our faith and doubt, and support in our community*

Christ Church has an unusual history, out of which has developed a distinctive ministry. It was founded at the end of the 18th century by a group of socially concerned clergy and lay people for those excluded from worship through the system of pew rents. It was probably the first church in England since the Reformation to provide seating for all free of charge. Early supporters included: John Moore, the Archbishop of Canterbury; William Wilberforce, the great evangelical and campaigner against slavery; and Martin Stafford Smith, godfather of John Keble, a founder of the Oxford Movement.

Christ Church is not a parish church and does not have a full-time vicar. This has led to the development of a shared ministry where clergy and laity both make important contributions to worship and church life.

Christ Church is part of the Anglican diocese of Bath and Wells, although it still sits outside the normal Church of England parish system. We see ourselves as a traditional and liberal Anglican church. Worship is led by our clergy, and music is provided by our

robed choir and organist. There is the option of separate activities for children in Junior Church groups during our 10am Sunday service.

As well as worship on a Sunday morning, there are many other activities going on in our community. We support the Genesis Sunday Centre and have our own community café. The musical tradition of the church continues to thrive, and we have an active choir. New singers of all ages are always welcome. Our ecumenical Home Group provides a space for exploration and discussion of faith in an open and non-judgemental setting.

Regular Sunday services

- 8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
On the second and fourth Sunday of every month
- 10am Sung Eucharist with Junior Church activities for children and young people
Every Sunday
- 4:30pm Choral Evensong
Usually the first Sunday of every month, but see website or notice board for details

Baptisms, marriages and funerals by arrangement – please contact us!



Contacting us

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