



Changes at the east end

What's going on with the choir stalls and the altar?

You'll notice changes taking place at the east end of the church. Here are the details from Bob Siderfin, chair of the Buildings Working Group, and others...

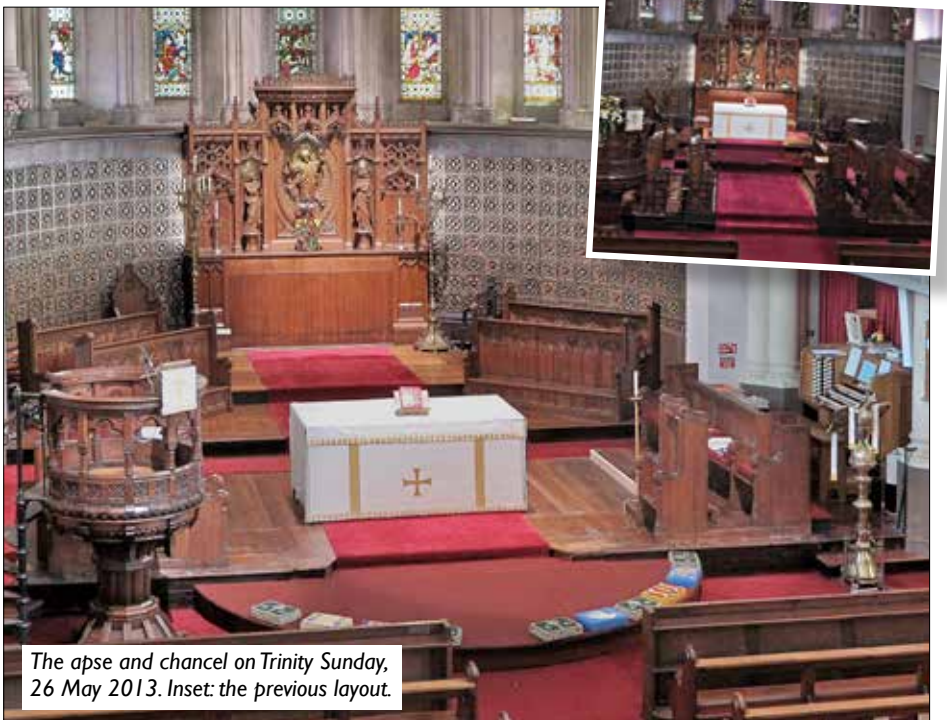
What's changing and why?

One of our serious concerns has been the number of trip hazards there were to negotiate when moving to and from communion. There was also a feeling that the position of the choir in the

chancel separated the congregation from the altar. A way to solve both these problems is to essentially swap places, so the choir moves up into the apse and the altar into the chancel. Communion will be given at the chancel step from a dais which is at a good kneeling height.

Won't this all feel very different?

As Canon Angela points out, the person behind the altar is often called the ▶



The apse and chancel on Trinity Sunday, 26 May 2013. Inset: the previous layout.

Changes continued

“Celebrant” but actually we are all celebrating – celebrating the love of God in Jesus Christ. When we celebrate a birthday or anniversary, we often gather around a table. This is what we want to get the feel of in Christ Church. Despite the size of the building, the “worship space” also felt rather cluttered, and we hope it will now feel more open.

Will we still be able to hear the choir?

The acoustics in the apse are actually exceptional. You’ll not only still be able to hear the choir sing, but should hear them even more clearly – and might even hear the rustling of their papers! This is something we’ll monitor closely during the trial period.

Trial period? It’s not all decided, then?

Changes are being made on a trial basis under a licence from the Archdeacon of Bath which permits us to experiment for a period of up to 15 months, on condition that all the work is completely reversible and nothing is damaged in

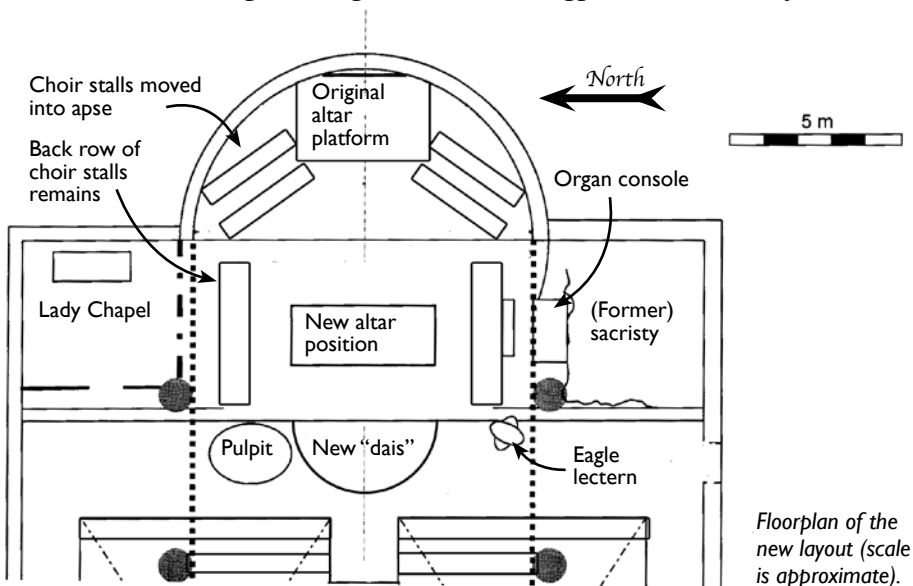
any way. By the end of the pilot scheme, we must restore everything to exactly as it was or else apply for a Faculty (the Church of England equivalent of planning permission) to make permanent changes.

What if other issues arise?

Within the trial period we can try out different arrangements in the apse and chancel, subject to the conditions in the Archdeacon’s licence we’ve mentioned. We are undecided, for example, whether there should be a “high altar” in the apse in addition to the chancel altar, and this is something we might try out.

If we’re spending money on this, does that mean other needs are on hold?

Not at all. While the pilot scheme is running we will also be studying other high-priority options including the porch, a wheelchair-accessible toilet with baby-changing facilities, and wheelchair access to the church. Ideas and suggestions will be very welcome!



Devil's advocate

An alternative view in the interest of stimulating open discussion

For a number of us in Christ Church, liturgical reordering was the one thing that did *not* need doing. Christ Church had a style of worship that was distinctive in the area, not because “we’ve always done it this way” but for good liturgical reasons.

The traditional configuration of a Christian church is a physical expression of the spiritual journey from entry into the Church (at the font) to salvation at the east end (by means of the altar). Our new layout creates a closed circle, looking inward instead of forward. It also destroys any idea of a “sanctuary” space, an area that even unruly toddlers can understand is reserved for holy activities.

What’s more, the new layout separates the choir from the congregation. This is a problem in certain parts of the liturgy – the Peace and the Blessing, for example, which must flow from the priest out to all the assembled People. It’s an even greater problem for services which our choir usually leads, such as Choral Evensong.

As a working church, of course the building needs to serve the practical needs of worship and mission. But there are simpler solutions to the “problems” cited – for example, distributing communion at the chancel step. And exactly *who* felt that the altar was too remote? Did we all – did any of us – crowd into the front pews in a desperate attempt to get closer?

Any decision on change must be a collective one. Our practice must continue to reflect a wide consensus or we become a church not for the whole congregation but for a clique. Similarly, do we agree that this is the priority to spend money on? Our funds are not limitless, and there’s pretty general consensus on what needs work most: the shabby entrance porch, the toilets, the precarious lanterns outside.

The result of this trial is *not* a foregone conclusion, so make your opinions known!

Audrey Sheppard remembered

*Audrey Frances Scarlett Sheppard,
14 March 1915 – 23 April 2013*

Family, friends and a substantial number of the wider Christ Church community turned out on 3 May to farewell Audrey Sheppard, who died peacefully in her sleep at the age of 98. There were more than 150 in the pews for a heartfelt funeral service, which included an address by Revd Preb Marcus Braybrooke.

The Sheppard family have had a long association with Christ Church – we have them to thank for our radiators, for example, which they gifted back in 1972 – and Audrey was a committed member of the congregation for many decades until her increasing frailty made it impossible for her to come to services regularly.

Audrey’s firm but unostentatious Christian faith, strength of character, intelligence and keen sense of humour touched everyone who knew her, and her death leaves a gap in all our lives. Our prayers are with Martin, Peter, Sarah and all their families.



Audrey with Sarah in July 2010.

Farewell to Bishop Peter Price



Everyone in the diocese is invited to say farewell to the Rt Revd Peter Price, who is retiring as Bishop of Bath and Wells at the end of June. A farewell service, open to all, will take place in Wells Cathedral on Saturday 22 June starting at 2pm. Tickets are not being issued,

and loudspeakers will be set up outside so that those who don't fit inside the cathedral can still follow the service.

The service will be followed by a party on the cathedral green with live music – bring a blanket and picnic. The party ends at 5pm.

Bishop Peter, 69, has been Bishop of Bath and Wells since 2002, and before that was Area Bishop of Kingston in the Diocese of Southwark. Prior to that he was General Secretary of the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (USPG) and visited many countries in that capacity. In 2008 he became one of the 24 Anglican bishops who sit in the House of Lords, where fittingly his brief is Defence, Foreign Policy and International Development.

Genesis Trust Garden Party

The Genesis Trust will be holding its first-ever garden party on Sunday 30 June, from 1pm to 5pm. It will be held in a beautiful one-third-acre garden, owned by the founders of the Weston Village Gardening Club, at 9 Church Road, Weston, Bath BA1 4BT.

The entertainment will include a talk by John Tucker from the Prior Park Garden Centre, a plant sale, and music from the Sulis Wind Trio and French Connection Jazz. There will also be a bric-a-brac stall,

a raffle and teas and cakes.

Tickets are £5 and, because of the level of demand, will be available *only in advance, not on the day*. They can be purchased from Bath Abbey Bookshop, The WoodWorks shop (1-3 James Street West) or Weston Fruit Stores (35 High Street, Weston), or contact Michelle Williams by e-mailing michelle@genesistrust.org.uk or phoning 07889 167984. For information about the Genesis Trust and its work, visit www.genesistrust.org.uk

From the editor: communication builds community

Welcome to the first new-style (or should I say "old-style"?) issue of Christ Church Link. Huge thanks to Sarah and Matthew Jones for their great work on the magazine up to now! They've set the bar high, so this is a plea for your contributions. With luck and a following wind, the Link will appear monthly. I hope it

will inform, stimulate thought and discussion, but most of all keep the whole Christ Church community in touch with what's happening. So send me your news, reports and articles. Let me know what you'd like to read and want to know about. This is *your* magazine; help me make it all you want it to be! – Alex

The Bishop's message for June

"A story of hope and trust in the purposes of God"

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

Whatever else the life of a bishop is, it is rarely boring, and that has been borne out by the variety of events that I have had the privilege to be part of over these past few days.

Two of them involved being present at the opening of new school buildings in Yeovil and Highbridge. These are church schools in two of the more challenging communities in the Diocese. The schools were a joy to be at – they were communities where the Christian values of inclusiveness, care and well-being were much in evidence. You could see very clearly that the potential of each and every child really mattered.

I was also involved in leading two services of baptism and confirmation in different parts of the diocese, with candidates ranging from early teens to early 80s! Here were a group of people, each with a different story to tell, but all of them showing the energy and enthusiasm of those who know that however the journey unfolds, it is one that will be sustained and supported by a loving and faithful God.

The final event was a service of thanksgiving for the homecoming of 40th Commando Royal Marines based in Taunton. This tour has seen the loss of one soldier, together with life-changing injuries to others. The chaplain described it as a very tough tour but one in which they had sought to bring some semblance of peace and security to the Afghan people; he knew, however, that the task was not over.

All these events took place in the shadow of Ascension Day, when the Christian church is reminded that although the physical presence of



Jesus may have gone, the work of bringing all humanity into the fullness of God remains and our calling is to be part of that ongoing task: seeking to enable everyone to fulfil their potential; seeking to create within our churches, our communities and our world the things that make for peace, justice and well-being.

Today and every day we need to have the courage given us by God's Spirit, to turn the page in our own journey, continue reading and let the next story begin, and let it be a story of hope and trust in the purposes of God so that we can be true and living witnesses to the good news of Jesus each and every day.

+Peter Taunton

Meet your new churchwarden

Ten things you probably didn't know about Alex Soboslay...



After four years of service, Lewis Boyd has stepped down as churchwarden, and the church AGM held on Sunday 21 April elected Alex Soboslay as his successor. Alex was previously deputy churchwarden, but did you know...

1 Alex's surname is Hungarian (though in Hungarian it's spelled *Szoboszlay*, which looks even more daunting).

2 Although both Alex's parents were Hungarian, they met and married in Australia. Alex was born and raised in Sydney, and he'd never left Australia before coming to Britain to study.

3 Alex had never seen snow before coming to Britain. Or had hay fever, for that matter...

4 Before settling in Britain, Alex studied law but then switched to English language and literature. He was an academic for 15 years.

5 Alex married Angela here in Christ Church in 1990.

6 Both their children, "Lex" and Jenni, were baptised in Christ Church and were active members of the congregation for many years.

7 This isn't the only Christ Church in Alex's life. The first was his college, Christ Church, Oxford. The college chapel, which is also the cathedral of Oxford, happens to be where Angela was confirmed, although at that time she and Alex hadn't met each other yet.

8 Alex works as an editor and writer (currently freelance). He uses a pen-name to make life easier for all involved.

9 Alex's hobby is collecting comic books. He has written books and articles about them, and in the past has also drawn comics semi-professionally. (This means he got paid for it, but never enough to make a living at it.)

10 The Soboslays live in Newbridge. They have no pets – there isn't room for any with all the comics.

Other church officers elected

Among the other business at the church AGM on Sunday 21 April, elections were held for lay representatives on Christ Church Council.

The following were elected to Council: Angela Soboslay, David Rawlings, Margaret Burrows (all to serve until 2016), and Dylan Blackshear (to fill a casual vacancy, to serve until 2014). Yvonne Morris, Janet Mahto and Dylan Blackshear were elected as Assistant Churchwardens. Thanks are due to those

whose terms of office ended this year – Sylvia Ayers, Richard Gabe, Janet Mahto and Keri Chivers – and to Margaret Silver, who has stood down early.

At the first meeting of the new Council, on Tuesday 21 May, David Rawlings was elected Lay Chair and will chair meetings when Canon Angela is absent or wishes not to chair. Malcolm Wall was elected Council Treasurer, and Brenda Wall re-elected Council Secretary.

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.

COMMISSIONERS SUPPORTING MISSION

The Church Commissioners have published their full Annual Report and Accounts for 2012, announcing a 9.7 per cent total return on their investments during the year. This confirms the strong long-term performance of the endowment fund which supports the ministry and mission of the Church across the country.

The Commissioners - who contributed nearly £210 million in 2012 towards the cost of supporting the mission of the Church of England - manage assets valued at £5.5 billion at the end of 2012. More than half of their current distributions meet the cost of clergy pensions earned up to the end of 1997. The generous giving of today's parishioners accounts for around £700m of the Church's annual budget.

The Report and shorter Review illustrate the work (and investments) of the Commissioners.

- Along with the Archbishops' Council, the Commissioners have earmarked £12 million in 2011-13 to help the Church understand better which parts are growing and why, and to seek to develop that growth.
- £3 million has been allocated to learn from and develop existing mission work which is leading to

growth in areas of deprivation. Nineteen projects were chosen to receive a grant of £100,000 each.

- The Commissioners also support dioceses with significant mission challenges and opportunities in new housing and other development areas.
- Parish ministry and mission distributions totalled £42.1 million for 2012 - the money was allocated in grants through the Archbishops' Council.

The Commissioners also meet the costs of the stipend and the office and working costs of bishops and archbishops as well as supplying grants to cathedrals.

Andrew Brown, Secretary to the Church Commissioners, said, "2012 has proved to be a better year for markets following 2011's challenging environment and we have performed very satisfactorily.

"Much of our expenditure, representing 15 per cent of the cost of the Church's mission, is devoted to clergy pensions, but in partnership with the Archbishops' Council we aim also to invest in Church growth and in maintaining a nationwide Christian presence, identifying areas of need and opportunity in all contexts."

LATEST CHURCH ATTENDANCE STATISTICS PUBLISHED

The Church has released its annual statistics for 2011 revealing a strong growing trend for Christmas attendance, an increase in child and adult baptisms and a growing stability in weekly service attendance.

Christmas 2011 drew 14.5% more worshippers to services than the year before, reaching a total of 2,618,030. While one factor for such a high annual increase was the poor weather on Christmas Day in 2010, initial returns from 2012 suggest a further increase in Christmas attendance revealing a growing trend for church going at Christmas.

The number of christenings increased by 4.3% and was accompanied by a rise of just over 5% in adult baptisms. Consequently, the Church conducted an average of more than 2,600 baptisms each week during 2011.

Average Weekly Attendance nationally fell by less than half of one per cent (0.3%) to 1,091,484; a stabilising of figures. Almost half of the Church of England's dioceses saw growth in Church attendance (20 out of 44 dio-

ceses). Nationally there was a 1.2% increase in children and young people attending to 216,928.

Weddings saw a slight decrease of 3.6% in 2011, to 51,880, whilst the number of wedding blessings (Services of Prayer and Thanksgiving following a civil ceremony) was up by 4.5%. The wedding figures confirm the trend of the past decade where the Church of England married an average of 1,000 couples every week.

Clergy and lay ministers conducted 162,526 funerals in 2011, a fall of 2.8% on 2010, reflecting figures from the Office for National Statistics which showed a fall of 1.8% in deaths in England and Wales in 2011. On these figures the Church of England conducted an average of over 3,000 funerals every week in 2011 - more than 400 every day.

"These figures are a welcome reminder of the work and service undertaken by the Church of England annually," says the Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Revd Graham James.

CHOOSING THE PERFECT PRIEST

How to choose the perfect priest is a new DVD for parishes in interregnum. The brain child of Canon Judy Hunt the former Archdeacon of Suffolk, the 45 minute video is a new resource to help parish representatives involved in the process of choosing and appointing a new priest. The film, which started out as a local initiative in the diocese

of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, was embraced by the Archbishops' Council. Thanks to a grant from All Churches Trust, a professional cast was hired and a high-quality, lively and often humorous resource produced. A copy the DVD has been sent to every archdeacon.

churchofengland.org/clergy-office-holders/pcc-information/perfect-priest.aspx

TELLING IT HOW IT IS

The second phase of a national survey exploring the working patterns of clergy is underway.

The *Experiences of Ministry Project* is a five-year research and consultation programme. It aims to build and share knowledge on what best supports and sustains the flourishing of priestly ministry.

The independent research is being conducted by Dr Mike Clinton, a lecturer in Work Psychology at King's College London. Mike is supported by Dr Tim Ling, National Adviser for Continuing Ministerial Development, and Dr Bev Botting, Head of Research and Statistics at Church House.

The central element of the project, is a series of three surveys conducted

every two years. All the clergy in England have been invited to take part.

"In addition to collecting national data, the three surveys will follow a cohort of clergy across the life of the project," says Tim. "Their input will allow us to better understand how their experiences change and the effects these changes have on their lives and work."

The survey covers issues relating to clergy's day-to-day role, their diocese, perceptions of spiritual and numerical growth and their health and well-being. The work is underpinned by a number of established academic theories with regard to healthy and effective working. The 2013 survey was sent to all clergy at the end of May.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

To mark World Environment Day on Wednesday 5th June, *Shrinking the Footprint*, the CofE's national environmental campaign, is calling on parishes across the country to sign up to its national energy audit.

Continuing the Church's commitment to protecting the environment for future generations, the Fifth Mark of Mission, *the Shrinking the Footprint* audit, launched earlier this year, is

already being used by more than 400 churches to reduce energy and save money. A church in Oxford Diocese made significant savings through meter readings after discovering that the heater in the organ blower had faulty wiring and was not turning off. The audit is a free and easy to use online tool and simply requires churches to sign up and submit regular meter readings .

shrinkingthefootprint.smeasure.com.

HELPING PARISHES THRIVE

The newly published *ChurchCare Impact Review 2013* sets out how the Church of England's national resource supporting the people in parishes, dioceses and cathedrals can help you care for and develop your

church building.

The free publication has details of training events, competitions to support new initiatives and perhaps most importantly, Grant schemes.

Email churchcare@churchofengland.org

CREATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENTREPRENEURS

Pump priming business loans of between £2,500 and £7,500 are the centrepiece of the new *Faith in Enterprise Award Fund* launched by Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, at the House of Commons recently. Open to anyone aged 18-30 and especially those nominated by local congregations, this new national initiative is centred on the Portsmouth Cathedral Innovation Centre and has the support of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

In addition to the main Award Fund, new businesses can bid for a number of Chairman's Awards totalling £50,000 in value. These comprise a free start-up office for up to two years anywhere in the country, access to senior business mentors and senior level advisors from government and politics, a £1,000 grant, and an interest-paid loan of £10,000; applications should be in by 30 September 2013 www.cathedralinnovationcentre.com.

"There are many budding young entrepreneurs out there with superb ideas who just need a bit of extra sup-

port to get started," said Eric Pickles, at the launch. "By tapping into the skills of our faith communities, and the energy of volunteers, the Faith in Enterprise Awards are a fantastic way of turning their good ideas into real business ventures that will create the growth and the jobs this country needs."

The Bishop of Portsmouth, the Rt Revd Christopher Foster, said, "In uncertain economic times I am pleased that the Cathedral Innovation Centre, itself launched in and from our diocese, is creating opportunities from which every locality might benefit."

The ground breaking Cathedral Innovation Centre launched from Portsmouth is financed through the sale of community shares. It offers low-cost office space, business mentors, access to seed funding for new start-ups and a programme of leadership development courses for a socially responsible generation of managers. The *Faith In Enterprise Awards* are its first national initiative.

PRAYERS FOR THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CORONATION

Prayers and other service material for the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Coronation of Her Majesty The Queen are now available. A Coronation Anniversary Prayer, in both modern and traditional language, written by the Dean

and Chapter of Westminster Abbey and approved by Her Majesty, is recommended for use by parishes.

The Queen and other members of the Royal family will attend a Service of Thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey on 4 June.

www.coronation.churchofengland.org

Christ Church calendar for June 2013

June 2	Sun	<i>First Sunday after Trinity</i> 4:30pm Choral Evensong
6	Thu	Home Group meeting, 7:30pm
7	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm
9	Sun	<i>Second Sunday after Trinity</i> 8am Holy Communion (BCP)
11	Tue	<i>Barnabas the Apostle</i>
14	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm
16	Sun	<i>Third Sunday after Trinity</i>
20	Thu	Home Group meeting, 7:30pm
21	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm
22	Sat	Farewell to Bishop Peter Price, Wells Cathedral
23	Sun	<i>Fourth Sunday after Trinity</i> 8am Holy Communion (BCP)
24	Mon	<i>Birth of John the Baptist</i>
28	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm
29	Sat	<i>Peter and Paul, Apostles</i>
30	Sun	<i>Fifth Sunday after Trinity</i> Christ Church rostered to assist at Genesis Sunday Centre Genesis Trust Garden Party, 1pm–5pm
July	3	Wed <i>Thomas the Apostle</i>
5	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm
7	Sun	<i>Sixth Sunday after Trinity</i> 4:30pm Choral Evensong

Got something you want to let everyone know about? Pop a note in the “Magazine Editor” pigeonhole at the back of church or send an e-mail with all the details to magazine@christchurchbath.org. For the weekly notice sheet, e-mail notices@christchurchbath.org

Prayer Cycle for June 2013

Saturday	1	For children and their families
Sunday	2	For those choosing our new Bishop
Monday	3	For the emergency services
Tuesday	4	For peace
Wednesday	5	For those who work in dangerous conditions
Thursday	6	For our neighbours at St. Mary's Catholic Church
Friday	7	For those who use food banks in Bath and elsewhere
Saturday	8	We give thanks for family and friends
Sunday	9	For Angela and Ned
Monday	10	For those in the legal profession
Tuesday	11	That we may hunger and thirst after righteousness
Wednesday	12	For Matthew who manages the website
Thursday	13	For the Trustees of Christ Church
Friday	14	For those forced to flee their homes
Saturday	15	For the work of Julian House
Sunday	16	For Churches Together in Bath Central Zone
Monday	17	For those who work in the transport industry
Tuesday	18	We give thanks for the fruits of the earth
Wednesday	19	For the Fairtrade movement
Thursday	20	For the Home Group, meeting tonight
Friday	21	For the lonely and depressed
Saturday	22	For our own personal ministry
Sunday	23	For our Junior Church

Monday	24	For our government and politicians
Tuesday	25	For Sylvia and the Mothers' Union
Wednesday	26	For those who work in medicine
Thursday	27	For those on our Church rotas
Friday	28	For countries in conflict
Saturday	29	We give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy
Sunday	30	For Bible scholars and theologians

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
 Margaret Warren
 Marjorie Nicholson
 Andy Quarren-Evans
 Cynthia Claridge
 Jason Batup

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 magazine@christchurchbath.org

Rotas for June 2013

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
2 June Trinity 1	Mark Elliott 1 Kings 18:20-21, 30-39	Jane Fletcher Galatians 1:1-12	Morny Davison Luke 7:1-10
9 June Trinity 2	Sylvia Ayers 1 Kings 17:8-16	Matthew Jones Galatians 1:11-24	Margaret Heath Luke 7:11-17
16 June Trinity 3	Bob Siderfin 1 Kings 21:1-10, 15-21a	Rebekah Cunningham Galatians 2:15-21	Rowena Hall Luke 7:36 - 8:3
23 June Trinity 4	Judith Anderson 1 Kings 19:1-4,8-15a	Margaret Burrows Galatians 3:23-29	Bev Pont Luke 8:26-29
30 June Trinity 5	Judith Bishop 2 Kings 2:1-2,6-14	Penny Edwards Galatians 5:1,13-25	Rosanne Gabe Luke 9:51-62

Laitry rota, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Chalice assistants	Sidespeople	Intercessions
2 June	David Rawlings	Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers	Canon Angela Townshend
9 June	Andrew Sillett, Keri Chivers	Margaret Heath, Janet Mahto	Martin Palmer
16 June	Brenda Wall	Andrew Sillett, Margaret Silver	Revd Cliff Burrows
23 June	Bob Siderfin	Morny Davison, Jane Nicholson	Penny Edwards
30 June	Jane Fletcher, Bev Pont	Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers	Mark Elliott

Who's who at Christ Church

Who to contact, and how – those vital contact details

Priest-in-charge Canon Angela Townshend
01225 464194
angela.townshend@christchurchbath.org

Supporting clergy Revd Cliff Burrows
Preb Angela Berners-Wilson

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David Rawlings

Secretary to Church Council Brenda Wall
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Treasurer David Bishop
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**Safeguarding officer,
Home Group leader** Lewis Boyd
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Organist David Wrigley
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**Concert bookings,
Weekly notice sheet** Judith Bishop
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notices@christchurchbath.org

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Publicity coordinators
Matthew & Sarah Jones
01225 443284
sarah.jones@christchurchbath.org

**Junior Church,
Laity 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

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 very welcome. Our ecumenical Home Group provides a space for exploration and discussion of faith in an open and non-judgmental setting.

Regular Sunday services

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

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



Contacting us

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(answer phone)
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Website: www.christchurchbath.org

