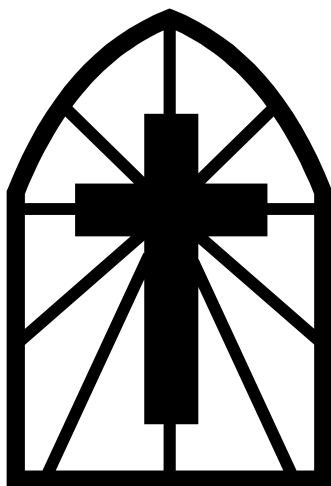


CHRIST CHURCH CHALLENGE



March 2005

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

There is amplification to assist the hard of hearing

CHOIR

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

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

BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, FUNERALS

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

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

As we approach Holy Week, here's an interesting fact:

Did you know that the word 'Maundy' relates to the medieval practice of foot washing? The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ

The opening words of a typical service on this day are based on the words of Jesus recorded in John 13: 'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.' In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis' The word 'maundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command).

Page 7 of this month's magazine carries full details of our services for Holy Week and Easter - services of quiet reflection and of joyful celebration. The Editorial Team wishes you a peaceful and a happy Easter.

Forum...



"He is not here. He has risen."

The Easter story is not an easy story to understand or explain. There are no step-by-step directions for what it means to us. It is a roughly edited story. This resurrection story is filled with jagged moments of lost opportunity and is held together by the thinnest thread of credibility and authenticity. Above all, it seems unfinished.

Three of Jesus' friends went to the tomb early in the morning. Mary went there as dawn broke on the day after the Sabbath. She saw that the stone had been rolled away and was frightened. Assuming that the body had been stolen, she went to her friends, John and Peter. They returned with her to the tomb and stooped to look in. When they saw the tomb was empty, it is reported that John saw and believed, but Peter entered the tomb and checked every detail. The two men returned to their homes and we might feel that their role in the story is unfinished and disappointing.

Mary has her own story to tell. She remains at the tomb weeping because Jesus is not there. Understandably she may have thought that she needed some time alone to collect her thoughts and prepare herself for a future without her Lord. Then, dimly, through the veil of her tears she sees a gardener. He speaks, and she recognizes him when he speaks her name.

She would touch him but Jesus says, "Do not hold me, but go and tell my friends that you have seen me." Mary's response is one of instant obedience, which seems to mean she understands that he is not on his way back to be what he was. In one sense this is admirable but were there not things she could have asked him rather than leave her part of the story unfinished?

Our problem is that we also choose to stay at the tomb, brought to a halt by the fear, struggle, defeat, and despair in our lives. Rather than choosing to live an Easter faith, we take root by the dead stones, bewildered by the absence of the body and paralysed by our losses. We live as it were in a Good Friday world; a world where violence, suffering, greed, and death are sovereign.

If faith, hope and love really are our watchwords it is up to us to finish the story. The world in which we live is still a world which needs the

salvation which Jesus died to bring. Each one of us has the ability to finish the story in a different way. We don't have to walk away in bewilderment or stand at the tomb weeping. We are changed by the resurrection story as much as the first disciples were changed.



My old school friend, David Catchpole, latterly Professor of Theology in the University of Exeter, wrote in his book *Resurrection People* *: -

"He has been raised" means that we have been raised. The resurrection people are not just those who align themselves to what the dramatis personae in the Gospel traditions saw, they actually participate in the risen Christ, and in the new era, the future made present, which he embodies".

Happy Easter!

Antony

**Resurrection People. Studies in the Resurrection Narratives of the Gospel. Darton Longman & Todd (2000)*

A Friend



In Deed

The Christ Church Friends in Deed scheme is designed to provide a network of good neighbours, called Area Wardens. These Area Wardens have volunteered to do the neighbourly things we used to do for each other when we lived closer together. When the need arises, they are prepared on request to:

- make friendship visits or telephone calls
- do shopping at times of illness or infirmity
- offer or find sources of advice
- handle occasional non-specialist odd jobs

All areas in which church members live are covered by the Friends in Deed scheme. If you need or know of someone else who needs help, you should in the first instance contact the Friends in Deed Co-ordinators, Jane Fletcher (01225 463758) and Yvonne Morris (01225 425555). They will then get in touch with the Area Warden best able to provide the help that is needed.

Church Calendar for March

Mar	2	Wed	11.00am	Holy Communion - Rev Antony Claridge followed by Lent Lunch at St Mary's
	6	Sun	MOTHERING SUNDAY	
			6.30pm	Choral Evensong
	7		8.00pm	"Meet Up Monday" Social Evening in the Hare and Hounds, Lansdown. All welcome!
	9		11.00am	Holy Communion - Rev Antony Claridge followed by Lent Lunch at Christ Church
	13	Sun	PASSION SUNDAY	
			5.00pm	Said Evening Prayer
	16		11.00am	Holy Communion - Rev Antony Claridge followed by Lent Lunch at St Mary's
	20	Sun	PALM SUNDAY	
			5.00pm	Said Evening Prayer
Details of Services for Holy Week appear on Page 7				
	27	Sun	EASTER SUNDAY	
			5.00am	Service for the Break of Day
			8.00am	Holy Communion
			10.00am	Family Communion
			5.00pm	Said Evening Prayer
Apr	3	Sun	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (LOW SUNDAY)	

Laity Rota for March

Readers	OT Readers	NT Readers	Gospel
March	6	Junior Church	
	13	No reading	Audrey Sheppard Martin Palmer
	20	Rosanne Gabe	No reading Dramatised
	27		Junior Church
April	3	No reading	Sarah Jones Judith Anderson
	10	Margaret Burrows	Judith Bishop Audrey Sheppard

Chalice Assistants

March	6	Margaret Burrows	Chris Graham
	13	Rev Sandy Munday	Cyril Selmes
	20	Jane Fletcher	Penny Edwards
	27	Bob Siderfin	
April	3	Margaret Burrows	Bob Siderfin
	10	Rev Sandy Munday	Chris Graham

Intercessors

March	6	Junior Church
	13	Antony Claridge
	20	Georgina Bowman
	27	Junior Church
April	3	Penny Edwards
	10	David Marles



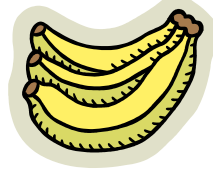
Sidespeople	8am	10am	
March	6	Barbara Hayward	John and June Metcalfe
	13	Esther Hewlett	Chris Tanner Ann Charman
	20	Clive Tilling	Tessa Claridge Jean Ferguson
	27	Elizabeth Iden-Hart	Margaret Silver Frank Twissell
April	3	Arthur Jones	Ken & Sylvia Ayers
	10	Dorothy Twissell	David Marles Joan Bunkin

Services for Holy Week & Easter			
21	Mon	7.30pm	Eucharist for Holy Week
22	Tue	7.30pm	Eucharist for Holy Week
23	Wed	11.00am onwards	Holy Communion - Rev Antony Claridge followed by Lent Lunch at Christ Church. The lunch will be followed by a joint service of Thanksgiving for Healing
		7.30pm	Eucharist for Holy Week
24	Thur	MAUNDAY THURSDAY	
		7.30pm	Eucharist for Maundy Thursday with Washing of Feet
25	Fri	GOOD FRIDAY	
		10.30am	Cross Walk Service at Bath Abbey
		12.30pm	Good Friday Journey - family service
		1.15pm	Music and Meditations for Good Friday
		2.00pm	An Hour at the Cross
26	Sat	EASTER EVE	
		7.30pm	Service for Easter Eve followed by Paschal Vigil
27	Sun	EASTER DAY	
		5.00am	Service at the Break of Day
		8.00am	Holy Communion
		10.00am	Family Communion followed by the Great Christ Church Easter Egg Hunt
		5.00pm	Evening Prayer (said)

140 MILLION BANANAS

Do you know what makes the greatest sales in British supermarkets?

First: Petrol
Second: Lottery Tickets
Third: Bananas



With 140 million eaten each week, bananas are now Britain's most popular fruit, and the world's fifth most important agricultural commodity. Supermarket sales of bananas are their highest value grocery item.

Bananas have become successful because the market is dominated by a handful of giant international corporations. These companies can beat down the prices they will give the growers to as low as 3p per pound, which doesn't even cover costs. As a result many growers live in poverty. Furthermore, in order to promote bumper crops of banana the growers have to use excessive amounts of pesticides - Caribbean plantations use ten times the amount of active chemicals than are used in farms in our country.

Can we do anything to help growers get a fairer price for growing bananas *for us*? There are alternative buyers that market under the name of "Fairtrade". These companies offer guaranteed access to global markets, a steady demand and a minimum price for a season's crop. In return, farmers must produce high quality fruit, promote safe working and fair pay, and prevent forced or child labour. Many supermarkets are getting the message and Fairtrade products are on most of their shelves, but they will not stock more *unless we buy them*.

And it is not only bananas that need to be traded fairly. Coffee farmers in Kenya are not bothering to harvest their coffee beans because they cannot get a price that covers their costs. But if we bought Fairtrade coffee, tea, sugar and biscuits as well as bananas, the farmers would be able to make a livelihood.

The Fairtrade Foundation was established by Christian aid organisations in order to bring justice to international trade. They want to encourage farmers in developing countries to do more trade, so that they will need less aid.

This year, "Fairtrade Fortnight" runs from 1st to 13th March 2005, during which time churches are especially invited to publicise the movement and encourage shoppers to check out Fairtrade products. You can find more information on www.fairtrade.org.uk.

Lectionary for March

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
Mar 6	Mothering Sunday		
	No reading	Colossians 3.12-17	John 19.25b-27
13	Passion Sunday		
	No reading	Romans 8.6-11	John 11.1-45
20	Palm Sunday		
	Isaiah 50.4-9a	No reading	Passion story of Matthew
27	Easter Day		
	No reading	Acts 10.34-43	John 20.1-8
Apr 3	Low Sunday		
	No reading	Acts 14a, 22-32	John 20.19-31

Mothers' Union News

First, may I thank everyone for your prompt response to my annual request for subscriptions. All have now been sent off, and a receipt given to each of our eight Branch members, as required by law.

In February, instead of holding a separate Wave of Prayer Service, we were able to include our own intercessions in the Ash Wednesday Communion Service. This also gave us the opportunity to give our thanks for the life of Emmie Broackes, a long time MU member and one time Branch Leader, who had died on the previous day. We send our thoughts and love to Emmie's sister Hilda at this sad time. Owing to members' prior commitments, it will not be possible to hold our Overseas Bring and Buy with Coffee in April as previously proposed, but we hope to fit it into our programme later in the year. We also plan to have our 'Refuge' Appeal in October as usual.

Our next meeting will be a Corporate Communion followed by the Lent Lunch in St. Mary's on Wednesday March 9th. We do hope that all members will be able to attend, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Sylvia M. Ayers (MU Secretary)

A decorative border made of musical notes and stems surrounds the central text.

Bath Baroque presents

"Teutonic Titans"

Masterpieces from the two greatest composers of the age

The challenge from the pen of Herr Bach:

First suite

Brandenburg 5

Violin Concerto in A major

The riposte of Mr Handel:

The Overture to Messiah

Arrival of the Queen of Sheba

Organ Concerto: The Cuckoo and the Nightingale

Concerto: Alexander's Feast

At Christ Church at 7.30pm, March 12th 2005

Tickets £10, £9 and £5 (children)

Bath Symphony Orchestra Family Concert

Thursday 17 March 2005, 7.30pm

The Forum Bath

Humperdinck: Overture - Hansel and Gretel

Prokofiev: Peter and the Wolf

Quilter: A Children's Overture

Tchaikovsky: Concert ballet suite "The Nutcracker"

Tickets £10 for adults and £4 for children/students
available from Nicky Gladstone or Sarah Hiscock.

Retiring Collection in aid of Babe's Big Appeal.

A farewell to Emmie Broackes

Tributes paid to a remarkable woman



People at Christ Church were saddened by the news of the death of Emmie Broackes in her 95th year. Emmie was the widow of the Revd Ronald Broackes a former incumbent of Christ Church and headmaster of St Stephen's School.

A Requiem Mass was offered on Monday 21st February, before committal at Haycombe and a large congregation representing many aspects of life in Bath came to pay tribute and say farewell to Emmie.

In his sermon, Cliff conveyed sympathy on behalf of us all to Emmie's sister Hilda and other members of her family. He recalled that after training as a pharmacist, Emmie joined the Edinburgh Medical Mission. This, he said, was a sign of her faith in action. She was also a pharmacist in a hospital in Damascus and, during the war, served as a Sister in a Nazareth hospital. It was in the Middle East that she met her husband. She became his tower of strength in his work both as a headmaster and a priest.

She was, Cliff declared, "a remarkable woman, an outstanding wife, a wise counsellor, a compassionate human being... Above all she was an example of what happens when Christ takes hold of a person who then becomes his disciple."

Emmie's mind remained lively and acute to the very end. It never ceased to amaze people who visited her that she could still demonstrate knowledge of drugs and their side effects.

Before he died, her beloved Ronald "instructed" her to remain cheerful. "And so", Cliff reminded us, "she did in spite of a succession of blows sufficient to test the most phlegmatic individual. Quite simply, she lit up any visit for her visitors; her faith shone through".

It could not be said that Emmie Broackes looked forward to death but she was eagerly awaiting the next stage of her journey of faith and reunion with her husband. Cliff ended his sermon by saying, "Emmie, we thank you for your friendship, counsel and Christian witness. May your soul rest in the peace of God"

Christian Aid Spotlight on Africa

This is a crucial year for Africa in the UK. The Africa Commission, appointed by Tony Blair, is due to report back this month. Meanwhile, a whole season of African cultural events started in February with the Tree of Life, a moving weapons-into-art exhibition from Mozambique at the British Museum.

The Tree of Life sculpture, commissioned by Christian Aid and the British Museum, weighs half a tonne and is made from dismantled guns and other decommissioned weapons. It was created by Mozambican artists as a means to use their art to promote peace.

There are still millions of guns hidden throughout Mozambique, a legacy of the 16 year civil war that ended in 1992. During this brutal war many young boys on their way to school were conscripted at gun point. Those who tried to escape were shot. "Soldiers used to kidnap boys to boost their army and then they often took them back to their villages and forced them to kill someone from their family or friends to prove that they were brave enough for fighting," says Grace Naca, who works for Christian Aid in Mozambique on a weapons amnesty programme.

Thirteen years after the peace agreement was signed, millions of weapons are still lying in what are often barely concealed arms caches throughout the country. With more than three-quarters of the population living on less than \$2 a day, Mozambique is one of the poorest countries in the world. Boys who were forced to fight were not able to go to school and were not taught the skills needed to earn a peaceful living once the war had ended.

Extreme poverty and lack of education can fuel crime. As long as the guns left from the civil war are still usable there is a danger that they could be used by the hungry and desperate – either to be sold to criminals for cash or to rob people.

Bishop Dom Dinis Sengulane, who was involved in the peace negotiations between the Frelimo government and the Renamo rebels in 1992, came up with an idea for a weapons amnesty project that would help people give up their guns. He called the project 'Transforming Arms into Tools' (TAE). In exchange for their guns, former combatants are offered building materials, tools and equipment such as sewing machines, bicycles and ploughs. One village received a tractor for handing in 500 weapons.

The Bishop says "I tell people that sleeping with a gun in your bedroom is like sleeping with a snake – one day it will turn around and bite you. We tell them

"We are not disarming you. We are transforming your guns into ploughshares, so you can cultivate your land and get your daily bread." He has created a scheme that takes the venom from war – the tools of death are swapped for the tools for making a living.

After being chopped up and dismantled by TAE staff, these tools of war begin their new life in the hands of Mozambican artists who create sculptures out of them. Their unique pieces of art are exhibited all over the world and include birds of peace, saxophones, chairs, monkeys and even jazz bands.

The project has been so successful that other African governments are now considering implementing similar schemes, including Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Hilario Nhatugueja, one of the four sculptors of the Tree of Life, says "We want artists to turn the situation around, change the story. Changing these instruments of death into hope, life and prosperity. This tree symbolises life, symbolises a future, symbolises hope."

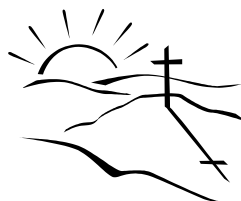
The Christian Aid supported project has helped many Mozambicans to make a living. Filipe Tauzene, a former soldier, was shot through the mouth during the war and now talks with difficulty. "The life I have now is much better as before I didn't have the bicycle to move and go to town and sell things in my shop. I didn't have iron sheets to cover my house. I have been given very useful things, which means I can get on with my life."

Jenny Wright, Christian Aid Representative

Easter

I got me flowers to strew Thy way,
I got me boughs off many a tree;
But Thou wast up by break of day,
And brought'st Thy sweets along with Thee.

Yet though my flowers be lost, they say
A heart can never come too late;
Teach it to sing Thy praise this day,
And then this day my life shall date.



George Herbert (1593 - 1633)

A Thought for all Seasons

Because of his boundless love, He became what we are
In order that He might make us what he is.

Irenaeus (c 130 to 200AD)

A group of us went to see “The Passion of the Christ” last Good Friday as part of our observation of Holy Week - it isn't a film to watch for entertainment. It starts in the Garden of Gethsemane and follows the story through to the crucifixion.



The Passion of the Christ **Mel Gibson**



Mel Gibson himself put a lot of his own money, not to mention his reputation, on the line for this film. It seems that he felt it was his duty and his calling to make the film and that he was prepared to lose every cent he put in and be labelled as a religious nutcase by mainstream American film-makers. In fact the film was a huge commercial success and had a fair critical reception as well.

It is not, as has been claimed, a simple retelling of the Gospel Passion - there is no such thing. It incorporates the Stations of the Cross and has a very simple message: Jesus' last hours were violent in a way that we, in our cosy Western world, can scarcely imagine. And he went through it because of us and our sins.

Its aim is to make us realise what Jesus suffered for us and it does this by showing us in detail what the Gospels describe.

It reminds us that behind the bare words of the Gospels - they spat on him, and used the cane to beat him about the head... and he had Jesus flogged and handed him over to be crucified... two bandits were crucified with him - is the protracted, politically motivated torture and execution of a charismatic young man.

The violence is not, as far as I can tell, wildly exaggerated. It was not common practice to beat a convict before crucifixion and the Romans, not following the Jewish law, would beat a man severely until they deemed him close to death.

And so, the film is largely successful in demonstrating the agony of Jesus, however this is a limited aim. Focussing on the violence of the Passion does not move me to repentance. The incarnation, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus are the central events in human history, possibly of the whole of creation and a single film cannot hope to encompass their full meaning. This is a very deep subject, and in watching the film, one feels that there is something missing.

There are moments when it does touch on something deeper such as the scene in which Jesus falls under the cross and says to his mother, “Behold, I am making all things new.” We see on screen a man beaten almost to death on his way to his execution, but his words reveal God incarnate in his moment of triumph.

The film contains some horrific violence, but seeing the familiar events through a modern medium is a refreshing and invigorating experience. It is a powerful film, especially during Holy Week.

David Marles

Churches Together in Bath News

The Central Zone Annual General Meeting was held at the Salvation Army Citadel on February 15th. The meeting opened with Prayers from the Chairman, Major Gary Chatburn. The election of Officers was followed by the Annual Financial Report which showed the funds to be in good heart. In his comments, the Chairman said that the number of Churches in Bath who have signed up for CTB has risen by 2 to 18 during the past year, and more will be encouraged to join in the future. The recent Mayor's Call to Prayer, the CTB Epiphany Services and the Mayor's Multi-Faith event were all successful, well attended events. The Open Christmas at Kingswood School was also pronounced a success, with about 200 guests and 150 helpers present.

Events for 2005 were then discussed:

Services for the **Women's Day of Prayer** on Friday 4th March, arranged by the Polish Church, will be held at 10.30am at the Salvation Army Citadel; at 1pm at St. Michael's Church; and at 7.30pm at the Friends' Meeting House in York Street.

Plans are going ahead for the usual three Central **Good Friday Cross Walks** on March 25th. An Ecumenical service will be held in the Abbey at 10.30am, and the Bishop of Bath and Wells, the Right Reverend Peter Price, will give the address at the Service in Abbey Churchyard at 11.10am which rounds off the ceremonies. Similar events will also take place in other zones in Bath.

The **Ecumenical Service** which is incorporated in the Annual Victoria Park Flower Show will be held on Sunday May 1st at 6.30pm.

Christian Aid Week 2005 will be during the third week of May, and the opening service will take place at the Central URC on Sunday May 15th at 6.30pm, when the Speaker will be Mary Bradford.

The annual **Service of Remembrance at Haycombe Cemetery** will be on Sunday 19th June at 3.15pm, during the Crematorium's Open Day. The speaker will be Major Cliff Bradbury from the Penzance Salvation Army.

Instead of holding monthly services in the Parade Gardens in the Summer, it was decided to have one special OPraise in the Parkm on Sunday July 17th.

Further details of these events will be published in the Church Notices in due course. On Sunday February 3rd, when the Travelling Light was delivered to Christ Church, we were all pleased to see Margaret Heath and Julia Moss from Bath Abbey, who performed the ceremony together. The Light passes to St. Mary's, Julian Road on March 6th.

Sylvia M Ayers, Christ Church joint CTB representative.

Prayer Cycle for March

- Tue 1** For those who work behind the scenes to assure the smooth running of our church
- Wed 2** For the work and witness of our branch of the Mothers' Union
- Thur 3** For countries of the Third World which suffer through the selfishness of richer nations
- Fri 4** For Mark our Director of Music, David our Organist, and the Choir
- Sat 5** For success in the struggle against the distribution of drugs
- Sun 6** For all members of the congregation who are away from Christ Church today
- Mon 7** For those who work for the Emergency Services
- Tue 8** For Angela and Chris, our Churchwardens. For our Church Council as it meets this evening.
- Wed 9** For journalists and all those who work in the media, that they will be mindful of their responsibilities both to those whom they inform, and those about whom they report
- Thur 10** For the work of USPG in general, and especially for St Anne's Hospital, Lake Malawi
- Fri 11** For the work of the Children's Society, and for Jenny Wright, our Children's Society Representative
- Sat 12** For engaged couples as they prepare for their marriage; for all who are responsible for helping and advising them
- Sun 13** We pray for the week ahead, and think especially of those who are unhappy or frustrated in their work.
- Mon 14** For the homeless; for the work of Shelter and Genesis
- Tue 15** For respect and concern for our environment
- Wed 16** For the work of the Mission to Seafarers
- Thur 17** For our Altar Servers
- Fri 18** For our colleagues, in particular any who are difficult to work with
- Sat 19** For our HR Group for young people and for their leaders

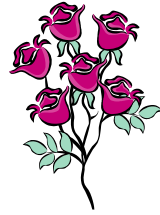
-
- Sun 20** On this Palm Sunday we offer the week ahead to God
- Mon 21** For our Government and opposition parties. For responsible decision-making in all national and international affairs.
- Tue 22** For all doing voluntary service overseas
- Wed 23** For the Lent Lunch today at Christ Church. For John and June.
- Thur 24** Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. Let us offer ourselves in service to one another
- Fri 25** We reflect on Jesus' sacrifice for us. We pray for all involved in today's Cross Walks, that they will be an effective act of Witness
- Sat 26** For Antony, Cliff and Sandy, and for their families
- Sun 27** Jesus Christ is risen today! Alleluia!
- Mon 28** For those who are lonely on this Bank Holiday. For all who are using our roads today
- Tue 29** For those considering a vocation to the priesthood or religious life
- Wed 30** For those suffering from depression, and for those who love them; that they will find the strength to seek the help which they need.
- Thur 31** Let us give thanks for the blessings of the month now ending, and offer the new month to God
- April**
- Fri 1** For children being bullied at school. For parents who worry about them and do not know how to help
- Sat 2** For the Trustees of Christ Church; for Yvonne, their Chairman
- Sun 3** For all who suffer persecution for their faith
- Mon 4** Let us pray for the congregation as a whole, and for the success of tonight's "Meet Up", that we may all benefit from the fellowship found there
- Tue 5** For David our Treasurer
- Wed 6** For Sarah Hiscock as she draws up the new Laity Rota. For all our readers, chalice assistants, intercessors and sidespeople.
- Thur 7** For the people of St Mary's Roman Catholic Church
- Fri 8** For Rowan our Archbishop and for Peter our Bishop
- Sat 9** For those who are hungry, both abroad and close to home
- Sun 10** For all new members of our congregation: for all visitors
-

From the Church Registers

Funerals

10 February Edward McGaul, aged 70

21 February Alice Emily Broackes, aged 94



Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with the saints: Where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

High Days and Holidays: 17th March - St Patrick's Day

Patrick was born the son of a town councillor in the west of England, between the mouth of the Severn and the Clyde. But as a young man he was captured by Irish pirates, kidnapped to Ireland, and reduced to slavery. He was made to tend his master's herds. Desolate and despairing, Patrick turned to prayer. He found God was there for him, even in such desperate circumstances. He spent much time in prayer, and his faith grew and deepened, in contrast to his earlier years, when he "knew not the true God".

Then, after six gruelling, lonely years he was told in a dream he would soon go to his own country. He either escaped or was freed, made his way to a port 200 miles away and eventually persuaded some sailors to take him with them away from Ireland. After various adventures in other lands, including near-starvation, Patrick landed on English soil at last, and returned to his family. But he was much changed. He had enjoyed his life of plenty before; now he wanted to devote the rest of his life to Christ. Patrick received some form of training for the priesthood, but not the higher education he really wanted.

But by 435, well educated or not, Patrick was badly needed. Palladius' mission to the Irish had failed, and so the Pope sent Patrick back to the land of his slavery. He set up his see at Armagh, and worked principally in the north. He urged the Irish to greater spirituality, set up a school, and made several missionary journeys. Patrick's writings are the first literature certainly identified from the British Church. They reveal sincere simplicity and a deep pastoral care. He wanted to abolish paganism, idolatry, and was ready for imprisonment or death in the following of Christ.



Patrick remains the most popular of the Irish saints. The principal cathedral of New York is dedicated to him, as, of course, is the Anglican cathedral of Dublin.

WHO'S WHO?**OFFICIATING MINISTER**

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

ASSISTANT CLERGY

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

The Rev Sandy Munday, 18 Chestnut Walk, Saltford, BS31 3BG. Tel 342740

READERS

Tom Slade, 42 Rockcliffe Road, Bathwick, BA2 6QE. Tel: 465864

Cyril Selmes, 10 Daffords Buildings, Larkhall, BA1 6SG. Tel: 420039

CHURCHWARDENS

Chris Gladstone, 16 Croft Road, Fairfield Park, BA1 6JJ. Tel: 444938

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HON SECRETARY

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CHRIST CHURCH, JULIAN ROAD

DIOCESE OF BATH AND WELLS IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

PAST HISTORY

Christ Church was built at the end of the 18th Century by the socially concerned clergy and lay people for those excluded from worship by the system of pew rents. It was probably the first church of that time to provide seating free of charge. Early supporters included the Archbishops of Canterbury and York; the great evangelical campaigner against slavery, William Wilberforce; Philip Pusey, the father of E B Pusey; and Martin Stafford Smith, the godfather of John Keble, who were both founders of the Oxford Movement. The building was designed by the famous Bath architect John Palmer, who was responsible for the completion of the Great Pump Room, Lansdown Crescent and St Swithin's, the parish church of Walcot. In November 1998, the congregation, friends and well-wishers from all over the world celebrated the bicentenary.

MINISTRY

Christ Church is unusual in not being a parish church. Much of the vitality of its life and worship derives from the fact that the congregation comes from all areas of the city and the surrounding districts. Whilst there is no full-time paid vicar, there is a non-stipendiary priest-in-charge, who leads a ministerial team of ordained and lay people. Worship at Christ Church largely reflects the traditions of those responsible for its foundation and the rich diversity of the Church of England as a whole. Thus, preaching and Bible-based teaching is firmly set within a liturgical setting which is best described as liberal and catholic.

SERVICES

The 8am Holy Communion is either Book of Common Prayer (1662) or Common Worship. At 10am the Eucharist is celebrated according to Common Worship. On the first Sunday of each month, there is a full Choral Evensong. A Junior Church and a Crèche cater for the children and young people who attend the 10am service. We hold special all-age services once a month and at festivals such as Easter, Christmas, Mothering Sunday and Harvest.

There are a variety of mid-week activities including Holy Communion at 11am every Wednesday during Lent, followed by lunch). The notice board and the weekly notice sheet provide details of discussion and prayer groups which are held at different times throughout the year. An all-age choir, which rehearses on Friday evenings maintains the much-admired music tradition at Christ Church.

CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS

Published on the first Sunday of every month, Christ Church Challenge brings news of the church locally, in the Diocese, and throughout the world. Our website is constantly updated and can be found at www.christchurchbath.org

**The Editor *beseches* you to submit articles by the
15th of the month preceding the publication date**