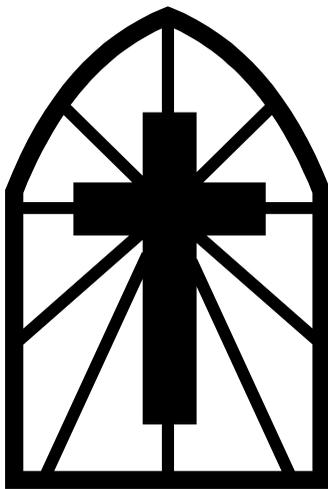


# CHRIST CHURCH CHALLENGE



May 2006

**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.*

**In this month's issue:**

Sandy writes about Dietrich Bonhoeffer in this month's Forum article, and on page 4 there are details about a day conference to celebrate the centenary of his birth.

On page 7, our Calendar Correspondant provides yet more fascinating information about little-known personages. At the time of writing this, the subject is unknown, but it's bound to be worth a look.

Cyril provides us with a botanical teaser this month, and Chris Graham begins what we hope will become a series on Deans he has known.

We are most grateful to all our contributors –they ensure that our magazine is not just downloaded information, but rather more personal and “in-house”.

Thank you so much to you all.

## *Forum...*



This year marks the centenary of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's birth. A prominent theologian and noted pacifist, he was implicated in a plot to kill the Fuehrer and was executed at Hitler's personal orders 11 days before Americans liberated the concentration camp where he was held.

Ordained aged 25 after studying at Tuingen, Berlin and New York, Bonhoeffer was also influenced by a visit to Rome and two years as a pastor in London. He realised what it meant, especially for the church, that people of the Jewish faith were being persecuted. He wrote that the church has to be committed to the victims of society even when they do not belong to the Christian community.

After the Nazis came to power in 1933, some German Protestants thought Hitler was a stabilising force. Ironically, they wanted to prevent non-Aryans from holding office in the church! Bonhoeffer was a founder of the Confessing Church, a rival to the officially sanctioned Reich Church. When Hitler became Chancellor, Bonhoeffer compared, on the radio, the attributes of a leader ("Fuehrer") and a mis-leader ("Verfuehrer"). His broadcast was cut off mid-flow.

Bonhoeffer's book "Ethics" includes his wrestling with the question: when assaulted by evil, what should a Christian do? He concludes that a failure to act is simply to condone evil, and that Christians must, therefore, oppose any evil assaulting them through taking direct action. When he learned of the Nazi death camps, he could no longer sit by while millions suffered because of Hitler's evil. He joined the resistance even though it went against his pacifist beliefs, and later he joined a plot to kill Hitler.

We might ask how Bonhoeffer's intention to kill differs from that of others who kill in the name of their faith. Christian pacifists tend to reject Bonhoeffer's ideas because he was prepared to resist evil with violence. Others are inspired by his faithful practice of what he believed to be right. He is one of ten 20<sup>th</sup> century martyrs whose statues are in the West Front of Westminster Abbey. In 2002, the then Dean of Westminster, Dr Wesley Carr, said: "The word martyr literally means a witness, and for Christians a martyr is a witness to Jesus Christ. Martyrs are not seeking to attract attention to themselves or

their own case, but like John the Baptist they point to Jesus as the one who gives himself fully and freely for the redemption of the world.”

During May, we move through the season of Easter towards the Ascension. Bonhoeffer's words from “Letters and Papers from Prison” may give us food for thought: “It is ... from the resurrection of Christ, that a new and purifying wind can blow through our present world. ... If a few people really believed that and acted on it in the light of their daily lives, a great deal would be changed. To live in the light of the resurrection – that is what Easter means. Do you find, too, that most people do not know what they really live by?” Bonhoeffer's last recorded words indicate that he knew exactly what he really lived by: “this is the end, and, for me, the beginning of life.”

*Sandy*

**The Way To Freedom:  
A Day Conference to celebrate the  
centenary of the birth of**

**DIETRICH BONHOEFFER  
1906-1945**

**Saturday 20th May 2006  
St John the Baptist Church  
Northend, Batheaston, Bath**

**Guest Speaker: Peter King  
(Author of “Dark Night Spirituality” etc)**

**Talks—Discussion—Video Material—Worship  
SPCK bookstall—good disabled access & facilities**

**Cost for the day £2.50  
For a booking form, please contact Sarah Sheppard  
01225 421580 email [bernina@fish.co.uk](mailto:bernina@fish.co.uk)**

# Church Calendar for May

<b>May</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	
			11.00am	Confirmation Service at St Stephen's
			6.30pm	Choral Evensong
	<b>8</b>	<b>Mon</b>	JULIAN OF NORWICH, Spiritual writer - 1417	
	<b>14</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	
			5.00pm	Said Evening Prayer
			6.30pm	Christian Aid Service at St Mary's, Bathwick
	<b>15</b>	<b>Mon</b>	MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE	
	<b>18</b>	<b>Thu</b>	11.00am	Holy Communion followed by lunch
	<b>19</b>	<b>Fri</b>	DUNSTAN, Archbishop - 988	
	<b>21</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	
			5.00pm	Tea and Taize
	<b>22</b>	<b>Mon</b>	ROGATION DAY	
	<b>23</b>	<b>Tue</b>	ROGATION DAY	
	<b>24</b>	<b>Wed</b>	ROGATION DAY	
	<b>25</b>	<b>Thu</b>	ASCENSION DAY	
	<b>26</b>	<b>Fri</b>	AUGUSTINE, Archbishop - 605	
	<b>28</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION DAY</b>	
			5.00pm	Said Evening Prayer
	<b>30</b>	<b>Tue</b>	JOAN OF ARC, Visionary - 1431	
	<b>31</b>	<b>Wed</b>	VISIT OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY TO ELIZABETH	
<b>Jun</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>PENTECOST - WHIT SUNDAY</b>	
			6.30pm	Choral Evensong

# Laity Rota for May

Readers		OT Readers	NT Readers	Gospel
<b>May</b>	7	John Metcalfe	Eileen Selmes	Martin Palmer
	14	Lloyd Grosvenor	Nicky Gladstone	Bob Siderfin
	21	Penny Edwards	Georgina Bowman	David Bishop
	28	Chris Graham	Mark Elliott	Jane Fletcher
<b>June</b>	4	Margaret Burrows	Chris Munday	Matthew Jones
	11	Rosanne Gabe	Judith Anderson	Ann Kemp
	18	Sarah Hiscock	Audrey Sheppard	Judith Bishop

## Chalice Assistants

<b>May</b>	7	Chris Graham	Ann Kemp
	14	Jane Fletcher	Penny Edwards
	21	Bob Siderfin	Tessa Claridge
	28	Rosanne Gabe	Margaret Burrows
<b>June</b>	4	Janet Mahto	Chris Graham
	11	Ann Kemp	Jane Fletcher
	18	Penny Edwards	Bob Siderfin

## Intercessors

<b>May</b>	7	Penny Edwards
	14	Bev Pont
	21	David Marles
	28	Rev Cliff Burrows
<b>June</b>	4	Chris Graham
	11	Georgina Bowman



Sidespeople		8am	10am	
<b>May</b>	7	Dorothy Twissell	David Marles	Joan Bunkin
	14	Barbara Hayward	John & June Metcalfe	
	21	Clive Tilling	Chris Tanner	Ann Charman
	28	Elizabeth Iden-Hart	Tessa Claridge	Jean Ferguson
<b>June</b>	4	Dil Jones	Nicky & Joshua Gladstone	
	11	Dorothy Twissell	Margaret Silver	Frank Twissell
	18	Barbara Hayward	Ken & Sylvia Ayers	

# Lectionary for May

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
<b>May 7</b>	<b>Easter 4</b>		
	Acts 4.5-12	1 John 3.16-24	John 10.11-18
<b>14</b>	<b>Easter 5</b>		
	Acts 8.26-40	1 John 4.7-21	John 15.1-8
<b>21</b>	<b>Easter 6</b>		
	Acts 10.44-48	1 John 5.1-6	John 15.9-17
<b>28</b>	<b>Easter 7</b>		
	Acts 1.15-17,21-26	1 John 5.9-13	John 17.6-19
<b>June 4</b>	<b>Pentecost</b>		
	No reading	Acts 2.1-21	John 15.26-27, 16.4b-15

## Our Calendar Correspondent Explains... "ROGATION DAYS" (22nd, 23rd & 24th May)

**Rogation days** are the three days immediately before Ascension Thursday. The word "Rogation" comes from the Latin verb *rogare*, meaning "to ask," and was applied to this time of the liturgical year because the Gospel reading for the previous Sunday included the passage "Ask and ye shall receive" (John 16:24). The Sunday itself was often called *Rogation Sunday* as a result, and marked the start of a three-week period (ending on Trinity Sunday), when Roman Catholic and Anglican clergy did not solemnize marriages (two other such periods of marital prohibition also formerly existed, one beginning on the first Sunday in Advent and continuing through the Octave of Epiphany, or 13 January, and the other running from Septuagesima until Low Sunday, the Sunday after Easter).

The faithful typically observed the Rogation days by fasting in preparation to celebrate the Ascension, and farmers often had their crops blessed by a priest at this time, which always occurs during the spring (in the Northern Hemisphere). Purple vestments, in contrast to the white associated with the rest of the period from Easter were used at church services conducted during these three days.

A common feature of Rogation days in former times was the ceremony of 'beating the bounds', in which parishioners would process around the boundary of their parish and pray for its protection in the forthcoming year.

The calendar reforms adopted by the Second Vatican Council in 1970 officially eliminated the Rogation days from the church calendar, and the Sunday preceding Ascension Thursday is now known simply as the Sixth Sunday of Easter. Churches of the Anglican Communion reformed their liturgical calendar in 1976, but continue to recognize the three days before Ascension as an optional observance.

## 10 ways to read the Bible

How well do you know your Bible? If you would like to know it better, but find it daunting, here are some tips to get you started:



- 1. Study with others** Find a friend or two and agree to read the same section of the Bible each week. Make notes, and when you meet for coffee, be that weekly or whatever, chat about what you have read. Try it!
- 2. Talk to God** Start with the gospels or the Psalms and make your reading a dialogue with God. When you read a verse that touches you, tell him. Worship him as you go along. If you can't understand something, stop and tell him. And so on.
- 3. Write your own Bible** Read a passage and then try saying the same thing in your own words.
- 4. Use a system** There are some excellent daily Bible reading notes around – sample a few and see how you get on. Any Christian bookshop will stock them.
- 5. Verse on the move** When you read, be on the lookout for a verse or verses that mean something special to you in your situation. Copy them out onto a card, and carry them about with you. Memorise them. Let them sink into your soul.
- 6. Respond in your own way** If a passage moves you, draw a picture of it, write a poem about it—use your imagination!
- 7. Create a sense of place** Sometimes having a set place in which to meet God can help us. A certain chair, the kitchen table, whatever. You can enhance this with an icon or candles – anything to help focus you down on the spiritual side of things.
- 8. Vive la difference** Vary the way you read the Bible. Sometimes, read a whole book through at once. Other times, follow a character like David or Peter. Or, with the help of a concordance, work on a biblical theme such as gentleness, grace, prayer, or whatever.
- 9. Be honest about yourself** When are you most alert? Give that time of day to God. Don't give God the part of the day when you are at your most sleepest.
- 10. Listen** You can listen to the Bible – ask for tapes or CDs at your Christian bookshop.

**GO NUTS FOR FAIRTRADE!**

You can now buy Fairtrade nuts in the supermarket for the first time ever: Brazil nuts at branches of Tesco and roasted, salted peanuts at the Co-op nationwide. This new addition to the range of Fairtrade marked products will contribute to Fairtrade's key objective of improving the lives of some of the world's most disadvantaged farmers and gatherers – nut producers and their families. Consumers are also able to buy Fairtrade brazil nuts from independent stores, thanks to fair trade co-operative Equal Exchange. These organic-Fairtrade nuts from Peru were the first nuts ever to be awarded the FAIRTRADE Mark. Gathering Brazil nuts from the heart of the Amazonian rainforest is an exhausting task, but provides a vital source of income to the hundreds of farming families in Bolivia who are supplying Tesco, and will now be guaranteed a fair return for their hard work.

Meanwhile, peanut (groundnut) farmers in Malawi will also benefit from the independent guarantee of a fair deal provided by the FAIRTRADE Mark. The growers' organisations supplying the supermarkets have been certified Fairtrade thanks to the on-going technical assistance and support work of Twin Trading, the alternative trading company behind leading hot drinks firm Cafédirect, the Day Chocolate Company and fresh fruit pioneers AgroFair UK. This has been facilitated by the long-term partnership between TWIN and the Fairtrade Foundation. "These are the first steps towards opening up the mainstream market for Fairtrade nuts in Europe," says Duncan White, a Director of Twin Trading. "For the first time these nut gatherers and farmers will have a real say in the trading relationships and supply chains that they are involved in. These are great quality nuts and we hope UK nut lovers will also buy them knowing that they will be helping the people who harvested the nuts on the other side of the world lift their lives outside of the poverty trap."

Significant market opportunities exist with these products - both because of the ever increasing popularity of Fairtrade and because of the huge rise in purchasing of nuts. Sales of Brazil nuts have reportedly increased by 30% year on year. The peanuts are the world's first to carry the FAIRTRADE Mark and are sold in 50g bags under the Co-op's own label. This comes at a vital time for the Malawian growers where production has been badly hit by the devastating droughts in Southern Africa. The Brazil nuts are from the Pando region of Bolivia, from the Amazon Rainforest region and are a vital part of attempts to save the rainforest, providing local communities with a way to earn their living which does not involve cutting down precious timber resources. The nuts will be sold in 150g bags at Tesco under the supermarket's own brand One nut gatherer from the COINACAPA co-operative Benedicto Gonzalez says, "Since we started the co-operative it's as if we've gained our freedom. It feels like we're not slaves any more. We have more income, more work and more dignity."

**Church of England opens virtual door on its documentary heritage**

Information on the rich documentary heritage of the Church of England is now only a click away with the launch of a dedicated Libraries and Archives section on the Church of England's popular website.

Information about Lambeth Palace Library, the Church of England Record Centre and the Library of the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division, as well as links to the major ecclesiastical libraries and archives throughout England, have been brought together in the new section, creating a single portal to the documentary heritage of the Church of England.

While many of these libraries and archives have run their own websites for some time, only now can users visit a central starting point, appropriately hosted on the Church's main website that currently handles an average of more than 20,000 requests for pages of information each day.

Information on how to access a diverse range of material - from medieval texts such as the 12th century Lambeth Bible, through to documents on church architecture, or the history of free education in England - can all be accessed via the new section.

"I hope that these pages will provide a gateway to the many and varied collections in the Church," said Declan Kelly, Director of Libraries, Archives and Information services.

The new section is available at: <http://www.cofe.anglican.org/about/librariesandarchives/>

**The Return of "Joke of the Month"...**

We encouraged our 18-year-old daughter to find a job to help pay for her college education. One day she came home with five applications, and later that evening we read them.

Under 'Previous Employment', she listed 'Baby-sitting'.

And under 'Reason for Leaving' she wrote, 'They came home'.

## MOTHERS' UNION NEWS



It was good that members could enjoy the fellowship of the Wednesday Lent Services, and were able to use the Mothers' Union Prayer at one of them. We will next meet at 11am on Thursday 18th May for our Mid Week Corporate Communion which, hopefully, will be followed by a "Metcalfe" Lunch. Our grateful thanks go to Antony, John and June, who all give up so much of their valuable time for us.

Our small number of Branch members and friends enjoy the fellowship of these occasions, which are doubly important to us because of the current cancellation of our afternoon get-togethers. Of course, members can always attend the Meetings of other MU branches, while still belonging to Christ Church, so we do urge you all to consider this option.

We must also pray for our dear friend and fellow member Betty Spreadbury while she is being cared for in Hospital.

*Sylvia M Ayers, MU Secretary*

## Mission to Seafarers Commended

The work of The Mission to Seafarers over 150 years was commended in an Early Day Motion recently put down by the Shadow Minister for Shipping, Julian Brazier. It was on March 28th, the day that the society held its service of thanksgiving in Westminster Abbey for its 150th anniversary.

Mr Brazier said: "... this House salutes the Mission to Seafarers in its 150th anniversary year; notes the many travails and traumas suffered on a regular basis by merchant seafarers and is especially concerned at the dramatic increase in piracy and crew abandonment on the High Seas; commends the Mission and its chaplains for their sterling work looking after the physical, mental and spiritual welfare of seafarers, be they British or foreign, of any faith or none; recognises their efforts in improving the lot of seafarers through work at the United Nations, the International Maritime Organisation and the International Labour Organisation and wishes them every success in the coming century." The society, which was founded in 1856, now works in 230 ports around the world.

**DO YOU KNOW...**

...the common name for the tree which, in Somerset, is called the macey tree; bears fruits called Jove's nuts (another Somerset name); and is important in Perambulation and on Rogation Sunday?



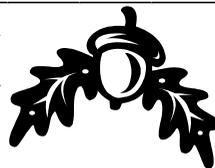
The Somerset name for the fruits, Jove's nuts, suggests this tree has a long history: indeed, it was known as a sacred tree, growing in sacred groves, throughout Europe, long before the Roman Empire. It was often associated with gods of thunder, including Zeus and Thor, perhaps because it has a reputation for being frequently struck by lightning. It also has a reputation for strength and durability, being used in many different building projects throughout the world.

In this country the vast woods have disappeared and the ones that remain rarely produce any young saplings: it seems that a caterpillar which lives on the leaves of adult trees also floats down and eats the leaves of any young plants; and this is usually fatal. So new trees are found in isolated places where the maceys have been taken by other animals. Individual trees are often venerated for their age, often five hundred years, and their height, at least 120 feet. Even some which have been burned or partially felled have been preserved by the local inhabitants, especially if the tree has been used to mark a crossroad, or the boundary of a field, or even become a local landmark. Unfortunately some of these trees have been ill-treated as Wishing trees: coins are hammered into the tree and a wish is made: but when the number of coins reaches thousands, the trees die of copper poisoning.

These trees also become involved in various celebrations. One of the oldest is shick-shack (or chick-chack) day which comes near the end of May. The name comes from the galls that grow on this tree: when removed to play marbles shick-shack is the sound they make when banged together. According to Geoffrey Grigson, you were expected to wear a gall and a leaf from this tree in the morning of this day; replace it with an ash leaf in the afternoon; and if you were careless enough to wear these in the evening, you deserved to be whipped with nettles. This day is still celebrated but under a different name.

As these trees are often used to mark boundaries, they are involved

in Perambulations where members of a parish walk its boundaries to confirm its rights to those limits. It's also known as Beating the Bounds as ash or willow wands were used to beat the boundaries. These customs occurred at Rogationtide, the fifth week of Easter leading up to Ascension Day.



Rogation Sunday is officially recognised as the day when crops may be blessed and we pray for the welfare of the countryside in all its aspects; and Perambulations often took place on that day. George Herbert, a powerful cleric in the seventeenth century, gave up his positions to become Rector of Bemerton, a tiny church on the outskirts of Salisbury. He thought the benefits of the ceremony included "a blessing of God for the fruits of the field; Justice in the preservation of bounds; Charitie in living walking and accompanying one another."

On these Perambulations it was also the custom to stop at these boundary-marking trees to read extracts from the gospels: so they were known as gospel oaks; that is, the Common oak or English oak. (Maceys are acorns, and the galls are oak apples).

*Cyril Selmes*

## A Friend



## In Deed

The Christ Church Friends in Deed scheme is designed to provide a network of good neighbours who 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 local contact best able to provide the help that is needed.

**DEANZ MEANZ ?**

In a recent number of Christ Church Challenge, I wrote about two Deans I had met recently. This has prompted me to write about some earlier Deans of my acquaintance – and something of what they taught me.

First of all, what is a Dean? In church terminology, a Dean is appointed by the Crown to run a cathedral or perhaps a royal foundation such as Westminster Abbey. He (or these days she, I believe) chairs the Chapter – the Canons Residentiary – and rules the roost. Even the Bishop has to acknowledge the Dean's primacy, so far as the cathedral and its services are concerned. In the Barsetshire novels of Anthony Trollope the Dean is a worldly figure. Some years ago, BBC TV's *All Gas And Gaiters* comedy series made the Dean highly sinister and very much the villain of the piece. Such Deans as I have encountered, by contrast, have only ever been dedicated and charming.

The first Dean I am thinking of was all of that, but he was also a highly controversial figure. Dr Hewlett Johnson was known as the Red Dean. I thought that was because of his red Doctor of Divinity gown which he used to wear with a very full surplice and a big pectoral cross (two, in fact) - as if to compensate for not being a Bishop, I have since thought. In fact, he was called the Red Dean by the popular press because he was a sort of communist and certainly very well disposed to Stalinist Russia and to Chairman Mao's China. He had erected above the Deanery front door a large placard proclaiming 'Christians ban nuclear weapons' in big italic lettering. I was never clear whether this was a statement of fact or an exhortation. The boys of the King's School used regularly to mount night time raids and whitewash the placard. This was not very brave since everybody knew their headmaster and the Dean, although colleagues on the Chapter, did not see eye to eye. I can't imagine anybody got punished. And then the placard would be repainted and fun would begin again.

Hewlett Johnson had been Dean for a lot longer than anyone could remember, having been appointed on the recommendation of Ramsay MacDonald. An inscription on a screen in the cathedral nave recorded the date of its dedication sometime in the 1930s 'Hewlett Johnson being then Dean.' Thirty years later he still was. It was said he swore by a particular patent medicine that prolonged life. He certainly was very old. When he was finally persuaded to retire, I and some other boys helped with the move. In an upper room of the Deanery, I came across a supply of Dr So-and-Sos life preserving tablets. Of course, he might just have been sent them by the company as free samples.

Another thing I remember about Dean Johnson was that he was very considerate to us choristers who had to stay over Christmas and were away

from our families until New Year. The Dean used to organise a wonderful Christmas Party with games of Murder in the Dark in his rambling medieval home. There was also an elaborate game involving a table, two candlesticks and a lot of hats and coats. You had to defend your lighted candle while attempting to blow out your opponent's, all the while getting dressed in coat and hat. My mental image of the Very Rev Hewlett Johnson, DD, Ph. D., Th. D., BSc, is of an old man with flowing white locks wearing a silly hat and old gardening coat, with his hand round his candle flame, determinedly huffing and puffing in the direction of his opponent's guttering light. Since everybody was concerned to do something special for the poor boys away from home, Christmas has never been so much fun since.

As a democrat, Hewlett Johnson gave priority to the 6.30PM Sunday evening service, when the Lay Clerks were allowed off and the singing involved the more junior boys, supplemented by a Sunday Evening Choir of local men and women. Invariably, the Dean preached and the service always ended with the hymn 'The Day Thou Gavest Lord is ended', sung in procession. 'The sun that bids us rest is waking our brethren 'neath the Western sky ...' We knew it as 'Matins in Australia'. The result of very frequent repetition, and the need to watch were one was going, means that I know this favourite hymn by heart. I thought then it was about the world turning and night following day – and the Empire on which the sun never set. I now see that it's as much about death and life. Which is why it is such a good funeral hymn.

When Dr Johnson's successor was installed, we choristers had to swear a Latin oath of obedience: 'Domine Decane, promito debitam obedientiam tanquam Decano.' It's one of those very English constitutional formulations: I promise you due obedience as Dean. In other words, only what is due to you, and only so long as you stick to your job description. It's a two-way thing.

The new Dean taught my confirmation class that there are two sides to the Communion service: God's side, on which you can always rely, and what you bring, which is often hit and miss. When things don't seem to click, it's not God's fault. He's always there. But are we always there? God's commitment to us is unconditional. Ours to God, a bit like that Canterbury oath, is often a grudging and calculated affair.

Chris Graham

As a post-script to this article, when MI5 made their most recent release of Security Service Files to the National Archives at the end of February this year, one of the most notable personal files included in the release was that of Doctor Hewlett Johnson.

# Prayer Cycle for May

- Mon 1** For Angela and Chris, our Churchwardens, and for Frank and Yvonne, our Deputy Churchwardens
- Tue 2** For the departed who have shared their earthly pilgrimage with us
- Wed 3** For all who are coming to terms with the death of a loved one; for those who are bearing a grief which they cannot share
- Thur 4** For those moving house or looking for a new home, that God's peace will touch them at this stressful time
- Fri 5** For our Clergy Team, past and present; for Marcus Braybrooke, Vaughan Roberts and Marianne Atkinson
- Sat 6** For those suffering from depression, and for those who love them; that they will find the strength to seek the help which they need
- Sun 7** For members of our congregation who can no longer attend church due to illness or infirmity
- Mon 8** For David, our Treasurer
- Tue 9** For those people we find difficult, that we will remember that God loves them as much as he loves us
- Wed 10** For intelligent interfaith dialogue; for all those affected by acts of terrorism
- Thur 11** For the homeless and the work of Genesis.
- Fri 12** For the work of the Mission to Seafarers
- Sat 13** For all doing voluntary service overseas
- Sun 14** For all who were confirmed at last week's service. For our Local Ministry Group and the people of St Stephens and St Mary's, Charlcombe
- Mon 15** For all members of our Church Council
- Tue 16** For those who are lonely or feel uncared for
- Wed 17** For Emma who compiles our weekly notice sheet
- Thur 18** For John and June who organise the Lunches after our Midweek Communion Service
- Fri 19** For all who work for the Emergency Services

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- Sat 20** For those mourning the death of loved ones: for those mourning the death of a child or children
- Sun 21** For the Tea and Taize service tonight, that it will be a time of peace at which people can feel refreshed
- Mon 22** For those facing redundancy, for those who are unemployed
- Tue 23** For countries of the Third World which suffer through the selfishness of richer nations
- Wed 24** We pray for the University Chaplaincy Centre, for Angela the University Chaplain, and for all the chaplains
- Thur 25** For those who work in all branches of the media, that they will be mindful of their responsibilities both to their audience and to those about whom they report
- Fri 26** For school children breaking up for half term: For those children and parents for whom holidays are a time of stress and conflict
- Sat 27** For Cyril, Mark and Tom our Readers; for Sarah's ministry at Batheaston
- Sun 28** For those who make coffee for us to enjoy after the 10am Communion service
- Mon 29** For the work and witness of the Mothers' Union: for all the members of the Christ Church branch
- Tue 30** For the Trustees of Christ Church, and Yvonne, their Chairman
- Wed 31** We give thanks for the blessings of the month now ending, and offer the coming month to God
- June**
- Thurs 1** For the work of Churches Together in Bath, and for Sylvia and Margaret, our Representatives
- Fri 2** For Mark, David, Mike and the choir. We thank God for the gift of music and its role in our worship
- Sat 3** For those coming to terms with terminal illness. For their families and all who care for them
- Sun 4** For our children and young people and for our Junior Church leaders
- Mon 5** For those in prison for whatever reason. For those spending time in young offenders' institutions, and their families

# Big Questions, Little Answers

*Chris Graham has a lot of important roles, but we love him best of all for his intercessions, his articles for this magazine, and his namechecks in Private Eye...*

**Where were you born?** Guy's Hospital, Southwark – so I'm a cockney.

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**What are your hobbies?**

Historical research, when I get the time for it (which isn't often).

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**What car do you drive?**

I don't. Sometimes I get to drive Christine's Audi A4, but mostly I do public transport and taxis

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**What is your favourite film, and why?**

*Citizen Kane* – because it represents three things that have dominated my career to date – journalism, politics and documentary.

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**What is your favourite kind of music?**

Put me in a box at the Proms and I'll try anything. Better still, a box at Covent Garden.

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**What is your favourite kind of meal / food?**

Something French in France.

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**What has been your proudest moment?**

Has to be being named the 152<sup>nd</sup> most powerful man in Britain by GQ magazine (as Director General of the Advertising Standards Authority). The Abp of York was the 176<sup>th</sup>.

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**What is the most amazing place you have visited?**

The monastic peninsula of Mount Athos in Northern Greece. Strictly no women allowed.

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**What famous person, dead or alive, would you like to meet?**

Charles James Fox (d. 1806), because he'd have interesting things to say about preserving liberty in time of war and reaction – and because he knew how to party.

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**What's your pet hate?**

BBC reporters saying 'may' when they mean 'might'

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**What's your favourite book?**

Anthony Trollope's *Can You Forgive Her?* – the first of the Palliser series of political novels.

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**Tell us a little-known fact about yourself**

Twice failed parliamentary candidate – but I was Britain's youngest-ever city councillor at the age of 21.

---

**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**

Mark Elliott, 32 Charlcombe Lane, Larkhall, BA1 6NS. Tel: 445360

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

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

**CHURCHWARDENS**

Chris Gladstone, 5 Westwoods, Box Road, Bath BA1 7QE Tel: 859969

Angela Soboslay, 285 Newbridge Road, BA1 3HN. Tel: 333297

**HON SECRETARY**

Nicky Gladstone, 5 Westwoods, Box Road, Bath BA1 7QE Tel: 859969

**HON TREASURER**

David Marles, 5 Westwoods, Box Road, Bath BA1 7QE Tel: 859969

**CHAIRMAN of the TRUSTEES**

Yvonne Morris, 3 Summerhill Road, Sion Hill, BA1 2UP. Tel: 425555

**DIRECTOR of MUSIC**

Mark Elliott (see above)

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BATH**

Sylvia Ayers, 5 Forester Avenue, Bath BA2 6QD. Tel: 463976

**CHRISTIAN AID/CHILDRENS' SOC**

Jenny Wright, Flat 2, 7 Raby Place, Bathwick Hill BA2 4EH Tel:465331

**JUNIOR CHURCH**

Sarah Jones, 2 Emet Grove, Emersons Green BS16 7EG. Tel 0117 9572106

**BOOKINGS AND CALENDAR**

Sylvia Ayers (see above)

**USPG & MISSIONARY COMMITTEE**

Adrian Pegg, 68 London Road West, Bath BA1 7DA. Tel: 858809

**MOTHERS UNION BRANCH DEANERY**

Margaret Burrows, Stonecroft, Entry Hill Drive, BA2 5NL. Tel: 334743

**SECRETARY / TREASURER**

Sylvia Ayers (see above)

**MISSIONS TO SEAFARERS**

Sylvia Ayers (see above)

**ORGANIST**

David Wrigley, 3 Haydon Gate, Radstock, BA3 3RB. Tel: 01761 439355

**MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTOR**

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

**LAITY ROTAS**

Sarah Hiscock, 1 Julier House, Pera Road, BA1 5PA. Tel:

# ***CHRIST CHURCH, JULIAN ROAD***

## **DIOCESE OF BATH AND WELLS IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**

### **PAST HISTORY**

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

### **MINISTRY**

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

### **SERVICES**

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

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

### **CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS**

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

**The deadline for articles for the magazine is the  
15th of the preceding month.  
Thank you.**