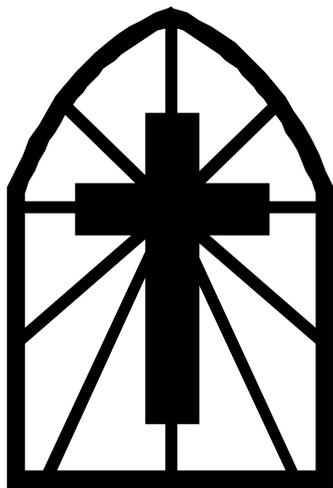


CHRIST
CHURCH
CHALLENGE



October 2003

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

There is amplification to assist the hard of hearing

MID-WEEK SERVICE

11.00am Thursday	Holy Communion
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CHOIR

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

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

BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, FUNERALS

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

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

This month's magazine contains important information about the discussion groups which will meet to consider further the Archbishops' video "Restoring Hope in Our Church".

Page 18 will provide all the information which you need to become involved in this important issue.

Two other important areas which need our involvement are featured on page 9 (Mission to Seafarers) and page 10 (Genesis). Let's all do everything we can to support these vital projects .

Forum...

Rural Values or Harvest Values



I'm not a great fan of that TV series called *Midsommer Murders*. All the stories are set around a cluster of idyllic villages. Here, in the heart of soft-focus England it is always sunny. But appearances are deceptive, for behind the hearty, bucolic façade murder lurks.

Two things particularly irritate me about *Midsommer Murders*. The first is that I don't really like comedy thrillers; murder is not funny. The second is that it is full of rural stereotypes - villages made up of forelock tugging yokels, country squires, people with rather too much money and, yes, slightly sinister inbred farming folk. The trouble is that the *Countryside March* in London and a recent documentary film about a Wiltshire vicar and his country parishes will have done little to dispel these stereotypes.

I don't mean that the several thousand marchers were not each sincere in their concerns - rather that the march itself presented so many mixed messages that it was easier for most city folk to latch onto the particular images that suited them. There were farmers highlighting the pressures and problems of making a living; ordinary village people pointing to the loss of shops, post offices, schools, bus services and so on. However, it was the hunting and shooting brigade protesting the loss of their traditional pastimes who caught the media attention. So far as the media was concerned the march was about fox hunting - thus undermining the concerns of the thousands on the march who don't hunt and who believe that there are more fundamental issues at stake than fox hunting.

Harvest Festival should remind us that there are values at stake here - but far more fundamental ones than those associated with warm beer and hunting horns. These values are suggested in the parable you can read in Luke 12.16-30 which about what to do with harvest. In the story a rich man has stuffed his barns. The problem in his behaviour is not his hedonistic desire to enjoy his possessions - God gives us good things to enjoy. Rather it is that he has no thought of sharing what he has, he is living only for himself. He would certainly not come to our Harvest Festival.

It is too easy to forget that the food we enjoy each day on our plates has had to be produced somewhere. Modern Harvest Festivals ask us to appreciate food producers worldwide and to think about the commercial



values that bind us to them. Increasingly, there seems to be an exploitative relationship between farmer and consumer whereby we pay very little for what they work so hard to produce. But Harvest does not and cannot stop there. Harvest reminds us to be grateful also to God.

Harvest Festival is a recognition of God's care for us and it is fundamentally an expression of continuing trust in God. It belongs as much in the cities as in the villages. In Deuteronomy 28 1-14, we read that true life consists in being in a relationship of commitment and loyalty to God. In this relationship all blessings flow - all things that really matter. However, whereas Deuteronomy seems to be concerned still with material prosperity, implying that somehow if we do everything God wants we will be rich, happy and successful, Jesus points out that ultimate values are not to do with this at all. He calls us to be rich in the things of God, to store up treasure where it really matters. "Come, ye thankful people, come"

Antony Claridge

WALCOT CHILDREN LOOK IN

A class of children from St Andrew's School visited Christ Church recently. Together with their teachers and the Revd Antony Wilson they came to study Christian signs and symbols.

Our Antony was there to welcome them and he and Antony Wilson found that it is not only a name they share; both lived were educated in Cheltenham. Walcot parish is Antony Wilson's first appointment and it was good that he made contact with us so early in his ministry. Members of the 8 o'clock congregation were delighted to meet him at the Eucharist early last month.

Following the visit Antony received a lovely, beautifully written letter from one of the pupils and in it she said;

I am writing to thank you for a most enjoyable morning yesterday.

When I first entered the church my eyes were drawn to the amazing windows with all the beautiful coloured glass.

I particularly enjoyed the activity of exploring the church feeling and listening and looking. When we lit our candles I felt as though I was being held in Jesus's arms all warm and happy.

I say THANK YOU again for a most wonderful morning.

Church Calendar for October

Oct 5 Sun HARVEST FESTIVAL AND GIFT DAY

3.00pm Choral Evensong

9 Thurs No service

12 Sun THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

16 Thurs 11.00am Holy Communion
followed by lunch and group discussion of the
film "Restoring Hope in our Church"

18 Sat 10.00am Mothers' Union Coffee Morning until 12

19 Sun THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

5.30pm Evening Prayer (said)

20 Mon 7.15pm "Restoring Hope" group discussion

21 Tues 7.30pm "Restoring Hope" group discussion

23 Thurs 11.00am Holy Communion

7.30pm "Restoring Hope" group discussion

26 Sun THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10.00am Eucharist for One World Week

3.00pm Holy Baptism—Layla Lewis

29 Wed 7.30pm Church Council

30 Thur 11.00am Holy Communion

Nov 2 Sun ALL SAINTS' DAY

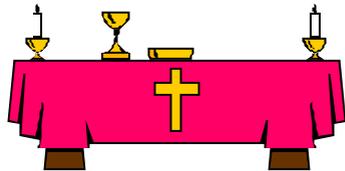
6.30pm Sung Evensong of All Souls

Service Rota for October

	8 am	10 am	Evening
		Celebrant	Leader
		Preacher	
Oct	5 Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Antony Claridge Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Antony Claridge
	12 Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Cliff Burrows Rev Antony Claridge	
	19 Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Cliff Burrows Dr Cyril Selmes	
	26 Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Antony Claridge Rev Antony Claridge with the Junior Church	
Nov	2 Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Cliff Burrows Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Antony Claridge

Thursday Services at 11.00 am

Oct	16 Rev Antony Claridge
	23 Rev Antony Claridge
	30 Rev Antony Claridge
Nov	2 Rev Antony Claridge



Laity Rota for October

Readers	OT Readers	NT Readers	Gospel
October	5	<i>Junior Church to read to read</i>	
	12	Mr J Metcalfe	Mrs P Edwards
	19	Dr D Marles	Miss J Fletcher
	26	Lady Heath	Mr M Jones
November	2	Mrs E Selmes	Mrs A Kemp
	9	Mr M Palmer	Ms J Anderson
		Mr M Elliott	Mrs M Burrows

Chalice Assistants

October	5	Miss J Fletcher	Mrs P Edwards
	12	Mrs J Metcalfe	Mr R Siderfin
	19	Mrs M Burrows	Mr C Graham
	26	Lady Heath	Dr C Selmes
November	2	Miss J Fletcher	Mrs P Edwards
	9	Mrs J Metcalfe	Mr R Siderfin

Intercessors

October	5	Junior Church
	12	Mr R Vince
	19	Mr M Elliott
	26	Mrs P Edwards
November	2	Mr B Pont
	9	Dr D Marles



Sidespeople	8am	10am	
October	5	Mr A Jones	Mrs A Charman
	12	Mrs D Twissell	Mrs C Tanner
	19	Mrs B Hayward	Mr & Mrs Metcalfe
	26	Miss E Hewlett	Dr D Marles
November	2	Mr C Tilling	Mrs J Bunkin
	9	Miss E Iden-Hart	Mrs T Claridge
		Mr & Mrs Olney	Mrs J Ferguson
		Mrs M Silver	Mr F Twissell

Lectionary for October

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
Oct 5	Harvest Festival and Gift Day		
	Harvest Readings		
12	The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity		
	Amos 5.6-7,10-15	Hebrews 4.12-16	Mark 10.17-31
19	The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity		
	Isaiah 53.4-12	Hebrews 5.1-10	Mark 10.35-45
26	The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity (One World Week)		
	Exodus 13.17-22	Hebrews 13.1-9	Mark 10.46-52
Nov 2	All Saints Day		
	Isaiah 25.6-9	Revelation 21.1-6a	John 11.32-44

Bath Interfaith Group Presents...

Thursday 23 October 7.30pm
Prior Park College, Ralph Allen Drive, Bath



The Prior Park College Memorial Lecture

Ethics and Globalisation: The Inter-religious Challenge

Rev Prof John Pawlikowski OSM,
President of the International Council of Christians and Jews

Entry by ticket, available from: Fr Bill, SS Peter and Paul
112 Entry Hill, Combe Down
Bath BA2 5LS (SAE please)

MISSIONS TO SEAFARERS



I have recently received a letter from the Mission Chaplain of Dubai, the Reverend Stephen Miller, describing the sad state of affairs in the Gulf, and including an Appeal for our help. Stephen says that despite the war being over, the situation for seafarers is still urgent. Their lives have been thrown into turmoil, and as is expected in a time of crisis, they have turned to the Mission for help. His letter is on the Church Notice Board, and, in part, he writes:

"The impact of the war has been immediate: whenever there are problems in the shipping industry, it is always the ordinary seafarer who is the first to suffer. Some ports have been closed and non-military vessels are being stopped and checked by US and British Military. Trade is not yet back to normal and some ship owners are panicking, fearing that they will go bankrupt. They are refusing to supply their crews with food or to pay them their back wages. There is no safety net for seafarers and no welfare state to help when things go wrong, and it is not just they who are suffering. Their wives and families are relying on them to send money to their homes, which are often in the poorest parts of India, Pakistan, the Philippines and Eastern Europe. I am getting many more requests to go aboard ships to hold prayer services or bible readings. Sometimes the most valuable help I can offer is to spend a few minutes with a seafarer, listening to their worries and praying with them. I cannot remember such a hectic time: I am getting calls every day from both crews and owners facing these problems.

The Mission has launched a special Appeal for donations of £15 to buy fresh fruit, meat and vegetables for a crew with nothing to eat; or £25 to cover the cost of an on-board Prayer Service. Our current support is of course much appreciated, but if anyone would like to do more, I will be happy to receive any contributions which members of our Congregation might wish to give.

Sylvia M Ayers

USPG News

I'd like to thank all those helpers and supporters of the USPG Book Fair held at Christ Church which raised the sum of £335. This topped the figure of £309.40 for last year's—so well done everyone. That was quite an achievement. All monies raised go to our project at St. Anne's Hospital, Lake Malawi. [*There is an update from the hospital on page 11 of this magazine.*]

May I thank especially Chris and Nicky Gladstone, Dorothy Twissell and Margaret Silver for help on Friday in setting everything up and continuing to help on Saturday. It was a great result.

Adrian Pegg



Genesis Vouchers
Now Available at Christ Church

I'm sure that many of the congregation will have found Paul Solly's recent sermon on the work of the Genesis Trust very interesting and will be pleased to hear that the Genesis vouchers about which he talked are now available from Christ Church. These vouchers, which cost 50 pence each, are designed to be given to those in need as an alternative to cash. They can be used to buy a lunch at the Genesis Sunday Centre or Genesis Lunch Box, or for overnight accommodation at Julian House.

I will be co-ordinating the sale of Genesis vouchers at Christ Church and hope to arrange a team of people who can ensure the vouchers can be purchased throughout the Christ Church week – keep an eye on the notice sheet for further details.

I hope you will feel able to make use of this simple scheme to extend our community outreach, one of the key principles promoted in the *Restoring Hope In Our Church* video recently shown at Christ Church.

Matthew Jones



Update from USPG Project 128 St Anne's Hospital, Nkhotakota in Malawi

Looking back, looking forward

The centenary celebrations seem a long time ago now but we are still enjoying all the benefits from that wonderful celebration at St Anne's last year, especially having such a beautifully painted hospital. We have also been able to add to the number of mosquito nets above patients' beds, allowing bite-free sleep for more than half of all our patients. We still have some way to go however, especially as at present, it is the most intense period of the malaria season.

News in brief

USPG has helped to provide a new water pump at the back of the antenatal ward, where mothers await their deliveries. This is so useful since the regional supply is unreliable.

A new project has started at St Anne's—home based care for terminally ill HIV/AIDS patients and also for those with chronic diseases such as tuberculosis and chronic heart and kidney failure.

The project hopes to acquire some transport, not only to reach patients but also to transport maize from collection points out into the villages to relatives, as they cannot tend their gardens while caring for the sick.

Nkhotakota is experiencing an outbreak of conjunctivitis but the usual suppliers of antibiotic eye drops have run out. The pharmacy staff are coping by concocting their own.

USPG has helped to pay for staff training. The hospital is feeling the benefit of their upgraded staff.

In 2003, USPG is giving £9,800 to support St Anne's Hospital, Nkhotakota. With your help, we can maintain and increase this level of funding in years to come.

USPG is an Anglican mission agency working in partnership with the church in more than 50 countries, exchanging people, resources and training for mission.

SIGNS & SYMBOLS

Just look up



What could be more English than a country church with a tower? You only have to see a painting with one in and you just know what country you're looking at - real Constable country. And yet church towers aren't English at all. Their whole design, structure and position on the church buildings are the traditions brought over with our conquerors from other countries - Saxony, Denmark and the other Norse lands.

Towers were originally used to live in. They were seen as 'safe' places because of their height and the fact that they could be easily protected. They also worked well as landmarks in the daytime and lit as beacons in the dark. The earliest church tower is thought to have been built in 674 in Northumbria. Towers come in all sorts of shapes and sizes and have been built over different parts of the church building. Some churches even have more than a one.

Like most things where they are placed and their shape depend more on when they were built, the state of building materials available in that place as well as the skills of the local builders at that time than any deep thinking. For example, there are 120 round towers in Norfolk and in Essex, where stone was scarce, there are many brick built towers.

But what do they tell us about God? Well, what they're not doing is pointing to a God with a beard who sits on a cloud in the sky! For me, they make me look up; to lift my sights, to look around me. And some days that's not always easy.

Mothers' Union News

The Autumn is a busy time for the Mothers' Union: our Branch Corporate Communion and mid-week lunch will be on October 16th, and our Coffee Morning for the Women's Refuge Appeal, is on the 18th. This will be held in Church from 10am to 12 noon and we invite everyone to bring us at least one item, and enjoy a cup of our delicious coffee and biscuits. If you think you can donate something for our Appeal, but cannot come on the actual day, please would you let me have it beforehand. A full list of items was printed in last month's Magazine, and this time the Refuge Workers have also asked for pillows and jeans in addition to their regular 'Wants List'.



The MU Indoor Members' Service for St. Luke's Day will also be held on the 18th at 2.30pm at Holy Trinity, Combe Down, so we do hope that some members will be free to attend.

Our AGM will be on Tuesday November 4th, and members should note that this is again one week earlier than the normal date. There is also a Quiet Afternoon being held at Abbey Church House on November 7th which some of us hope to attend.

Sylvia M Ayers (Secretary)

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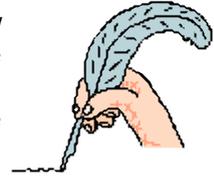
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to carry out the normal activities of daily life.*

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OUR BIBLE CONSULTANT WRITES...

The Gospel according to Mark was written about thirty years after the death of Jesus and its structure suggests that both Matthew and Luke used it when composing their own gospel. Both Matthew and Luke also had access to another document which appears to have contained many of the sayings of Jesus. In addition they both had access to different traditions which also influenced the content of their writing. It seems reasonable to suppose that these three gospels came from different churches and traditions: in those early days the need for more than one gospel was unlikely. Each gospel probably replaced a simple account of the life and death of Jesus and a record of his sayings. The writings of Paul established the idea of a gospel, the Good News, and the idea of evangelism.



For me, St. Mark's gospel is a model of simplicity and straightforward storytelling. In the first paragraph (of the translation I'm reading) we find: a prediction about the Messiah, taken from the book of Isaiah; the description and story of John the Baptist; the idea of repentance and the forgiveness of sins, a description of John baptizing people in the river Jordan; and a prediction that He who follows John will "baptize you in the Holy Spirit". And this rather breathless pace continues to the very end, even though there are times of peace and tranquility when Jesus is praying, talking to individuals or teaching his disciples. From the very beginning Mark portrays the Pharisees and Scribes as issuing challenges to Jesus by the questions they ask: why do you cure people on the Sabbath? why do you and your disciples eat grain and work on the Sabbath? who gives you the authority to preach and cast out demons? All these questions and challenges are answered in ways which make them appear to be wrong to have such petty regulations which have nothing to do with the laws of Moses. Most of these challenges occur in the early part of Mark's gospel, but Jesus has already referred to himself as the Son of Man, a phrase which Paul and later writers believe is Jesus claiming to be from two worlds, this world and the kingdom of God.

Another strong impression is the strength of Jesus' attraction: wherever

he went multitudes came and followed him, both in the cities and the countryside; the feeding of two multitudes, 5000 and 3000, are not just miracles but indicators of his power to attract followers. I'm not even sure it was Jesus' teaching that was the main attraction: we know very little about what he said to the multitudes; it was often in the form of parables and, in many cases, Jesus did not seem to expect the crowds to understand them. Indeed, much of his explanation of parables and other teaching was restricted to the disciples. Jesus certainly taught about the need to follow God's laws and ignore petty regulations, but his main attraction seems to be his curing of the sick, the lame, the deaf, the blind and the banishment of evil spirits.



Finally, I am left with a feeling that Mark is describing reality, what was real for him. This is what happened, there is no room for sentimentality. Even when the disciples failed to stay awake in the garden of Gethsemane, when Peter denied he knew Jesus, when Pilate tried to set Jesus free; all these, and many other events, have the ring of reality and truth.

Cyril Selmes

Some of the great whys and wherefores of life

Why are buildings called buildings when they are finished? Shouldn't they be called built?

Why is abbreviated such a long word?

Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?

Why is it that when you tell people there are 400 billion stars they will believe you, but when you tell them there's wet paint they have to touch it?

Prayer Cycle for October

- Wed* 1 Let us give thanks for the vast varieties of foodstuffs now available to us from all parts of the world
- Thur* 2 For guidance for those of us who cannot or do not go out now that the darker evenings are upon us
- Fri* 3 That more regard may be paid to providing a reliable system of public transport
- Sat* 4 For those who work in the Social Services
- Sun* 5 For our Clergy Team and their families
- Mon* 6 For victims of torture
- Tue* 7 For children in difficulty at school
- Wed* 8 For the work of “CRUSE” in caring for the bereaved
- Thur* 9 For all agencies working for peace in Iraw; for understanding between Israel and the Palestinians
- Fri* 10 For our Junior Church and those who care for its members
- Sat* 11 For one-parent families: for schoolgirl mothers
- Sun* 12 For all who minister at Christ Church
- Mon* 13 For victims of physical assault within the family circle
- Tue* 14 For Mark, our Director of Music, David, our Organist, our Choir and all who contribute musically to our worship
- Wed* 15 For the Primates of the Anglican Communion under the leadership of Rowan, our Archbishop, discussing the threat of disunity
- Thur* 16 For our branch of the Mothers’ Union
- Fri* 17 For all who suffer under corrupt governments
- Sat* 18 For those who have borrowed money unwisely and are now in difficulty

-
- Sun 19** For our clergy team and their families
- Mon 20** For those who suffer any form of mental illness and their families, that they may find attitudes towards them sensitive and helpful
- Tue 21** That our Police Forces may receive full co-operation from all members of the public in the discharge of their duties
- Wed 22** For Readers Tom and Cyril and for Sarah in her ministry at Batheaston
- Thur 23** For all who mourn, especially parents mourning the death of a child or children
- Fri 24** For the work of the Mission to Seafarers
- Sat 25** For the United Nations Organisation
- Sun 26** For Peter and Andrew, our Bishops and our Clergy Team and their families
- Mon 27** For students coping with new opportunities and temptations
- Tue 28** That those who have left home may keep the families they have left informed of their whereabouts and condition of life
- Wed 29** For Chris and Angela, our Churchwardens, David our treasurer, Emma our information officer and much occupied Nicky
- Thur 30** For our National Health Service, our hospitals and nursing homes and our local surgeries
- Fri 31** Let us give thanks for the blessings of the month now ending
- November**
- Sat 1** For all who live alone and find it difficult and those who can help them
- Sun 2** That all congregations may be more “Missionary Minded”
- Mon 3** For a change of heart in those who believe hatred to be a virtue and who plan terror attacks on others
- Tue 4** For fair trading systems between rich and poor nations
- Wed 5** That those using fireworks may use them safely
-

Restoring Hope in our Church

**"I know the plans I have for you...
to give you a future and a hope" Jeremiah 29:11**

It was good to see so many people at the screening of the film "*Restoring Hope in our Church*" after the Eucharist on Sunday 14th September. The issues raised in the film are so important for Christ Church and the church as a whole there will be repeat screenings and an opportunity for discussion in smaller House Groups.

Too often people are heard to say that house groups are only for "the clever ones with a lot to say". This is not so. The Archbishops have asked that everyone should be given the chance to say, in their own way, what sort of church they want for the future. The house groups will be very relaxed and informal and we have provided times, dates and venues in an attempt to suit everyone.

Please sign up for a group and, remember, it is not necessary to have been present at the first screening of the film.

Dates, Times and Places

1. **Thursday 16 October**
In Church
1 pm (following the 11am Holy Communion & lunch)
2. **Monday 20 October**
62 Cranwells Park
7.15 pm
3. **Tuesday 21 October**
Stonecroft, Entry Hill Drive
7.30 pm
4. **Thursday 23 October**
17 Lorne Road
7.30 pm

A leaflet will be given out on Sunday 5 and 12 October so that everyone can choose the group they would prefer to join.

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

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

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

HON SECRETARY to Church Council

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

HON TREASURER

David Marles, 21 Camden Crescent, Bath BA1 5HY. Tel: 461159

CHAIRMAN of the TRUSTEES

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

DIRECTOR of MUSIC

Mark Elliott, 32 Broadmoor Lane, Weston, Bath BA1 4JY Tel: 445360

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BATH

Margaret Heath, St Lawrence, Lansdown Road, Bath BA1 5TD Tel: 428272

BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP

Roy Vince, 7 Southlands, Bath BA1 4DX. Tel: 428928

JUNIOR CHURCH and CRECHE

Emma Elliott, 32 Broadmoor Lane, Weston, Bath BA1 4JY Tel: 445360

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (CofE)

Ann Kemp, 23 Belvedere, Bath BA1 5ED Tel: 313417

USPG & MISSIONARY COMMITTEE

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

MOTHERS UNION BRANCH DEANERY

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

SECRETARY / TREASURER

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

MISSIONS TO SEAFARERS

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

ORGANIST

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

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTOR

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

MAGAZINE EDITOR: Nicky Gladstone. Email: magazine@christchurchbath.org

CHRIST CHURCH, JULIAN ROAD

DIOCESE OF BATH AND WELLS IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

PAST HISTORY

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

MINISTRY

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

SERVICES

The 8am Holy Communion is either Book of Common Prayer (1662) or Common Worship. At 10am the Family Eucharist is celebrated according to Common Worship. On the first Sunday of each month, there is a full Choral Evensong. A more informal discussion-based service is held on the third Sunday of the month. A Junior Church and a Crèche cater for the children and young people who attend the 10am service. At festivals such as Easter, Christmas, Mothering Sunday and Harvest, our special services, designed for the whole family, are very popular.

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

THE CHURCH MAGAZINE

Currently published on the first Sunday of every month, Christ Church Challenge brings news of the church locally, in the Diocese, and throughout the world.

Articles or news items MUST be with the Editor by the 15th of the month preceding the publication date