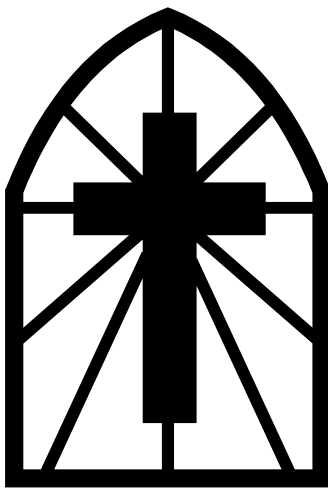


# CHRIST CHURCH CHALLENGE



October 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

*Angela and John, 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.*

**A Prayer for Harvest**

O God, pour out on us the water of life  
 that we may quench our thirst  
 and draw our strength from you.  
 Help us to stand alongside those  
 who struggle daily for clean water  
 so that all may be refreshed and renewed by your love.

Water for Life, Christian Aid; Harvest for the World compiled by Geoffrey  
 Duncan. Published by Canterbury Press 2002, 2004 p.73

# Forum...



## THEN I SHALL KNOW

“Do you think those children understand what they are singing?” The question was posed in a loud, rather county voice in the rush for the car park following the inaugural Compline of this year’s Edington Festival of Music in the Liturgy. ‘Those children’ were experienced cathedral choristers from all over England and I suspect they knew very well what they were at. ‘I will sing with the Spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also’ is after all the motto of the Royal School of Church Music.



I was tempted to answer the lady’s question: “I am pretty sure that the seed sown now will bear fruit many years hence. If you know the tune, the words are difficult to forget. And if you really know the words, their meaning will become clearer to you with familiarity.

What you do not fully understand aged 12 becomes a lot clearer 40 years on. But some of what you thought you understood at school becomes a lot less clear later on. Now we know in part. We are all of us ‘seeing as through a glass darkly’ – you included, madam! What is more, is it not written ‘Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings, hast Thou ordained strength?’”

Good manners and good sense - and a healthy respect for the Wiltshire establishment - made me keep my thoughts to myself. But I am sharing them with Forum readers this month because of a number of small incidents at Christ Church that have set me thinking recently.

The first occurrence is the promotion to the choir of a young man who has sat in the pew in front of me for the past few years. What does our most junior treble know? If he is anything like me, he will get to know the repertoire very thoroughly – and, many years later, things that are perfectly familiar will speak to him in startlingly new ways.

Sunday by Sunday, I find myself surprised by words I have been singing or saying for half a century. Which rather begs the question ‘do any of us really understand?’



Grown ups, even choirmasters, can get things quite wrong. I remember Dr Sidney Campbell asking for more expression in the psalm;

*They made a calf in Horeb and worshipped the golden image;  
Thus they turned their glory into the similitude of a calf that eateth hay.*

*Psalm 106, 19-20*

"I want to hear the *similitude*," insisted the eminent Master of the Choristers. He seemed to think 'similitude' meant something to do with shame and humiliation. I think that, even aged 10, I knew he was wrong. A modern translation would probably read 'likeness'.

What else at Christ Church recently has made me think and understand more about familiar things? Psalm 15. I know it more or less off by heart. I think it was Psalm 15 we were doing in the parish church choir when I first joined and needed to learn about 'pointing' – the system that tells you which bit of the verse goes with which bit of the tune (or chant). My father was very helpful in reading the psalm with me over and over again. He was clearly very fond of it. I was so fixated on the pointing that I missed the message of the psalm itself on the theme of 'what doth the Lord require of thee?' Only when singing it again in church very recently did I see it as a description of Christian citizenship – and realised what my Dad had been trying teach me all that long time go. For him, that was the point – not the pointing.

Final incident. Our new junior chorister's young sister has a favourite reading book about the Little Red Hen. I do not remember ever hearing the story myself, but I do remember my mother very frequently remarking "Then I will, said the Little Red Hen" – as it seemed to me, for no particularly reason. Those who know the story, as I now do (having read it upside down from the pew behind), will realise that my mother was making a point about thoughtlessness and selfishness – in the nicest possible way. She had three children and she could have done with more help.

The fact that I completely missed her point at the time only underscores its validity. Only many years later has the penny dropped. That is going to be the cause of some tears and much laughter at the point when 'I shall know even as I also am known.'

*Chris Graham*

# Church Calendar for October

<b>Oct</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>	
			6.30pm	Harvest Festival Evensong
	<b>4</b>	<b>Wed</b>	FRANCIS OF ASSISI, Friar and Deacon - 1226	
			11.00am	Holy Communion followed by lunch
	<b>6</b>	<b>Fri</b>	WILLIAM TYNDALE, Translator and Martyr - 1536	
	<b>8</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>	
			5.00pm	Said Evening Prayer
	<b>10</b>	<b>Tue</b>	PAULINUS, Bishop and Missionary - 644	
	<b>11</b>	<b>Wed</b>	ETHELBURGA, Abbess - 675	
	<b>13</b>	<b>Fri</b>	EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, King - 1066	
	<b>15</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>	
			5.00pm	Tea and Taize
	<b>17</b>	<b>Tue</b>	IGNATIUS, Bishop and Martyr - 107	
	<b>18</b>	<b>Wed</b>	LUKE THE EVANGELIST	
	<b>22</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>	
			Christ Church Genesis Lunch Duty	
			5.00pm	Said Evening Prayer
			Start of "One World Week"	
	<b>26</b>	<b>Thur</b>	ALFRED THE GREAT, King - 899	
	<b>28</b>	<b>Sat</b>	SIMON and JUDE, APOSTLES	
	<b>29</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>	
			6.30pm	Said Evening Prayer
	<b>31</b>	<b>Tue</b>	MARTIN LUTHER, Reformer - 1546	
	<b>5</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>ALL SAINTS SUNDAY</b>	
			6.30pm	Choral Evensong

# Laity Rota for October

Readers	OT Readers	NT Readers	Gospel	
October	1	Junior Church		
	8	Sarah Hiscock	Mark Elliott	Jane Fletcher
	15	Chris Munday	Ann Kemp	Judith Anderson
	22	Emma Elliott	Margaret Burrows	David Marles
	29	Sylvia Ayers	Judith Bishop	Richard Gabe

## Chalice Assistants

October	1	Tessa Claridge	Rosanne Gabe
	8	Margaret Burrows	Janet Mahto
	15	Chris Graham	Ann Kemp
	22	Jane Fletcher	Penny Edwards
	29	Bob Siderfin	Tessa Claridge

## Intercessors

October	1	Junior Church
	8	The Rev Antony Claridge
	15	Mark Elliott
	22	Penny Edwards
	29	Bev Pont



Sidespeople	8am	10am		
October	1	Elizabeth Iden-Hart	Tessa Claridge	Jean Ferguson
	8	Arthur Jones	Nicky and Joshua Gladstone	
	15	Dorothy Twissell	Margaret Silver	Frank Twissell
	22	Clive Tilling	Ken & Sylvia Ayers	
	29	Elizabeth Iden-Hart	David Marles	Joan Bunkin

# Lectionary for October

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
Oct 1	<b>Trinity 16 - Harvest Festival</b>		
	Joel 2. 21-27	No Reading	Matthew 6. 25-33
10	<b>Trinity 17</b>		
	No Reading	Hebrews 1.1-4, 2.5-12	Mark 10. 2-16
17	<b>Trinity 18</b>		
	No Reading	Hebrews 4. 12-end	Mark 10. 17-31
24	<b>Trinity 19</b>		
	Isaiah 53. 4-end	Hebrews 5. 1-10	Mark 10. 35-45
Oct 1	<b>Last After Trinity</b>		
	Jeremiah 31. 7-9	Hebrews 7. 23-end	Mark 10. 46-end

## Our Calendar Correspondent Explains...

### "PAULINUS OF YORK" (10th October)

Paulinus was a monk at St Andrew's Monastery in Rome, when, in 601, Pope Gregory I sent him to England. He was in Kent until 625, when he was consecrated as bishop by Justus. He then accompanied Æthelberg, the sister of King Eadbald of Kent, to Northumbria where she was to marry King Edwin.

Paulinus eventually convinced Edwin to convert to Christianity, baptizing him and many of his followers at York in 627. Gregory desired York to be England's second metropolitan see. So Paulinus built a wooden church there and, with the support of Edwin, he greatly expanded the church throughout Northumbria.

When Edwin was killed in battle in 633, Paulinus took the queen and her children to Kent, where he spent the remainder of his life as Bishop of Rochester. Edwin's defeat led to a decline of Christianity in Northumbria. Paulinus' deacon, James, remained in the North and struggled to rebuild the Roman mission, but it was monks from the rival Celtic tradition who re-established Christianity in the region.

A legend states that as the saint was riding an ass along an ancient trackway that runs near the town of Caister, he met a man sowing corn. Paulinus asked for some grain to feed his ass; the man replied that he had none. Spotting a sack in the field, Paulinus asked the man what it contained. "That is no sack," the man lied, "but only a stone." "Then stone it shall be," the saint replied. The stone is now known as *Fonaby Stone*, which sits upon *Fonaby Top*, and any attempt to move, displace, or damage is said to result in dreadful misfortune.

The festival of Saint Paulinus is formally observed by English Roman Catholics on 10 October, the anniversary of his death. Five ancient churches in England were dedicated to him, and there were cults of him at Canterbury and Rochester.

*Some months ago, a former member of the Christ Church congregation telephoned Antony. His name was Graham Phillips and he and a friend came to Bath to look around the church where they were welcomed by Frank and Dorothy Twissell. Frank and Graham were contemporaries and shared many memories and it was a very happy visit. Graham sent a generous gift to mark his visit and told Antony how important Christ Church had been in his life. And so we are delighted that Graham has responded to our request for an article about his Christ Church days.*

### **THE CHRIST CHURCH OF MY TIME**

#### ***Graham Phillips recalls his 19 years in Julian Road***

Christ Church, its clergy, its people and its building formed me. I am grateful for the years 1938 to 1957 when I was a member of the congregation. I was eight years old when my parents moved to Bath and took me to my first service which must have been 1662 Book of Common Prayer. After that I was to join the choir and later to be a bell ringer, Sunday School teacher, trainee Reader, Church Lads' Brigade officer, Hall and Youth Club Secretary.

Ivor, my father, was a member of the PCC while my mother, Martha, was a devoted member of the Mothers' Union. They were both brought from their flat in Rivers Street for their funerals which were conducted by Christ Church clergy.

I recall the clergy of the time; Arnold F Judd (who later moved to Nunney) and Edgar L Millen (who went to Kelston). Both these incumbents lived in a flat at 21 Rivers Street after the "vicarage" moved from Sion Hill during the war. Dr Judd prepared me for confirmation but I must confess that all I can remember was that he was adept at swinging his pocket watch around his fingers only to catch it in his waistcoat pocket! Although, what he said to us must have stuck.

Barbara, my wife of 52 years, died recently. After our marriage in the church in 1952 she, too, became a regular member. Three of our four sons were baptised in your font.

In my time there was a Sunday School of about 100 children presided over by Miss Case (we never knew or used her Christian name), who was also Headteacher of the infants' school next to the church. Other



stalwarts I remember were the churchwardens EE Lavis and Frank Read who served under Basil Sheldon who was secretary to the Trustees.

Faithful among the choirmen were Roy Wilkins, John Fenning and John Harper. Also, there was Harry Lockett who used to walk four times each Sunday from Beechen Cliff even in his seventies. He was famed for arriving in a great state of perspiration two minutes before the service began.

Peter Cobb was organist in those days except when he was away on war service when his deputy Peter Tullet took over. On my recent visit to Christ Church it was good to see that their names and mine are still on the plaque in the vestry.

In the fifties we had Saturday night dances in the adjoining hall. We had a regular live band and so many wanted to attend we had to restrict the numbers to 200. Ticket and refreshment sales made a good profit and on one occasion we bought the silver vases which still stand on the altar.

All through the forties and fifties there was a strong company of the Church Lads' Brigade with a well supported drum and bugle band. The officer in charge was Captain CE Francis who was succeeded by his son, Norman. The company chaplain was the church's curate, the Revd HG Cole.

In 1957 I moved from Bath to be Assistant Diocesan Secretary at Canterbury. After this I became secretary in the dioceses of Ely and Rochester. My final appointment was at Winchester from which I retired in 1994. In that year I honoured by the Queen with an MBE for my services to the Church of England and I also received my Master's degree in Canon Law at the University of Wales in Cardiff.

With a very happy marriage, four sons, eight grandchildren and two great-grandsons I owe so much to Christ Church, its priests and its traditions on which I have tried to base my life's journey. To you who work and support Christ Church today I send good wishes and prayers for all that lies ahead.

On we go! Alleluia!

## MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

Although this still seems far too early, the MU Christmas items, ordered at the beginning of August, have now arrived. I do hope CW everyone is pleased with their purchases, and I must again thank Margaret and Jean for taking your orders while I was away from Bath.

Members will be aware that John and June have changed the day of their Midweek lunches, so to take advantage of this, our next Corporate Communion will be at 11am on Wednesday October 4th. The annual St. Luke's Tide Indoor Members' Holy Communion Service and MU Tea will be held on the *18th* at 2.30pm at St. Barnabas Church, Southdown. This will be led by their Vicar, Rev David Burleigh, and our own Indoor Members, Betty Lacey and Audrey Green, have already been invited. All members are very welcome to attend, but if you do want to go, please let me know now, so that I can notify the organisers.

On *Sunday October 22nd*, as mentioned last month, we invite everyone to bring us at least one item from our *MU Women's Refuge Appeal "Wants" List*. There is an on-going need for cleaning materials, e.g. scourers, disinfectant, toilet cleaners, washing-up liquid, washing machine, scouring, and dishwasher powders, cloths, dusters, polish, etc., and also such basic items as light bulbs, tinned goods, pasta, coffee, tea and sugar. If *you* use it at home, *they need it too!* We are sure that you will all want to support this worthwhile endeavour, so we invite each member of the congregation to give us at least one item either in cash or kind either on that Sunday, or during the following two weeks. Be assured that *every* gift is very warmly welcomed by the Refuge operators, so please be generous.

Sylvia M Ayers (Secretary)

## Churches Together in Bath—Future Events

**3rd October:** Start of City-wide Alpha Course. This year's theme is "Christianity—Boring, Untrue and Irrelevant?"

**9th November:** The Rt Hon Baroness Shirley Williams will give a Lecture in Bath Abbey entitled "War, Peace and Christian Attitudes". Tickets, priced £5 from Bath Abbey Bookshop.

**30th November:** World Aids Day Vigil at 7pm at Holy Trinity Church, Queens Square.

**7th January 2007:** CTB Epiphany Service at 6.30om at Nexus Church, Walcot.

**21st January:** Opening event of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, also at Nexus Walcot. Further details on the Church Noticeboard.

## Churches Together in Bath Update

A committee meeting took place on 5th September. The Rev Kieran Bourne opened the meeting with prayer, and a general discussion took place on the fall in the number of those regularly attending meetings, which was often due to prior engagements. The dates for the next twelve months were then arranged in the hope that a longer notice would result in better attendance. The CTB meeting on Thursday November 16th will be held at Central URC, Grove St.

Some problems have been experienced with their operation of the Travelling Light rota this year. It appears that one or two churches are not interested in taking part, and as the ship was lost for a time, others missed their turn. Those who did receive it reported that very good contacts had been made between participating churches, and that they wished for the Rota to continue. A new rota was proposed, allowing each member church to hold the light for a month. Named representatives would then contact the next on the list to arrange the hand-over at a suitable Service on the first Sunday of the following month. It was hoped the various Clergy would agree with this, as it was pointed out that it was often difficult for the laity present to make informed decisions without first consulting their congregations.

Finally, your prayers are asked for the new part time vicar of Widcombe parish, the Revd Katie Windle who is due to give birth to twins as this magazine goes to print.

*Sylvia Ayers*

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.

**Excuse me, I'm even more Lost...**

Episode 2/11: Some pointless backstory tells us how Jack's marriage came to break up (he worked too hard at being a miracle-working surgeon, bless). A search for Michael who's run off to find his son Walt brings Jack, Locke and Sawyer into contact with The Others, whose leader warns them not to venture further into the jungle, and tells them that they are only living on the island because The Others allow it. No progress made there then, and Michael is still missing. Remember this fact.



Episode 2/12: Charlie behaves increasingly erratically, still unsettled by the fact that Claire will not allow him near her and baby Aaron. It's not clear whether or not he's been dipping into the secret heroin stash from the plane, but I don't think so.

Episode 2/13: Sawyer pulls a "long con" trick, enabling him to be in control of all the guns and all the medicine by the end of this episode. Tensions are high between Kate and Jack, Jack and Locke, and Sawyer and everyone, but he pretends not to care, in that long-haired shirtless way that makes him so very watchable to 50% of the audience.

Episode 2/14: The excitement moves up a gear. Rousseau (the mad Frenchwoman who roams the island, apparently undeterred by The Others, the polar bear and the faceless Evil Presence) has captured someone! She's sure he's An Other, and hands him over to the Castaways. We find out that Sayid was an expert in torturer during his army days, an experience which has left him emotionally scarred, but not so badly that he can't beat up the new guy. The new prisoner is called Henry Gale, and he says that he and his wife were flying around the world in a hot air balloon when he crashed on the island, and that he most emphatically is not one of The Others. Sayid beats the living daylights out of him, just in case.

Episode 2/15: Locke's relationship with Jack deteriorates still further, and matters are not helped by the captive, Henry, who fans the flames of Locke's discontent by trying to turn him still further against Jack. Whether or not Henry's one of The Others, he's not much fun to have around.

I've watched ahead, this month, and let me tell you now that next month is really going to be worth reading—honestly! Bet you can't wait....

NG

## **Knit a Smoothie Hat for Age Concern!**

### **What's a Smoothie Hat?**

You may be familiar with Innocent Smoothies, a lunchbox favourite in many homes. This winter the Innocent Smoothie company is re-running a campaign which raises money for Age Concern, so if anyone fancies some knitting for a good cause (now that the Teddies for Tragedies are no more), you may like to consider the following:

### **Instructions:**

1. Using double knitting yarn and some small needles (3 1/4mm-ish), cast on 28 stitches.
2. For the first two rows knit 1, purl 1 to end.
3. When you have done your first two rows, switch to stocking stitch for 12 rows (knit one row, purl one row). If you can, experiment with as many different patterns, colours and stitches as you like.
4. To make the hat narrower at the top when you get to the 15th row, knit two together to the end of the row (giving you 14 stitches) and then purl together to the end of the row (giving you 7 stitches).
5. Cut the yarn thread at about 25 cm and thread it through a sewing needle. Thread the needle and wool through the remaining 7 stitches, remove the knitting needle. Tighten the thread and sew the little hat together at the side. Once finished, turn it inside- out so that the seam you've just sewn runs up the inside.
6. Sew a little bobble onto the top of the hat. If you don't have any bobbles, get in touch with Innocent, and they'll even send you some. Or just send the hats minus bobbles and they will sew them on for you. (They say that they promise to choose a nice colour!)
7. Send your hats to :

**little woolly hats  
innocent  
3 The Goldhawk Estate  
Brackenbury Road  
London  
W6 0BA**



Innocent, Sainsbury's and EAT will give 50p per bottle sold to Age Concern. More information at [www.innocentdrinks.co.uk](http://www.innocentdrinks.co.uk). Other smoothies are available :)

Two plants often associated with Bath this month...

**DO YOU KNOW** the small one which has greenish, star-like petals, a name which reminds us of the birthplace of Jesus and whose flowering shoots are eaten in May instead of the "real thing"? And **DO YOU KNOW** the large, popular and widespread tree which was imported from Turkey in the 16th century, whose name has become part of the English language and is a favourite with children of all ages?

The flowering plant is found in seven areas of England, including Wiltshire, Somerset and Gloucestershire, but mainly in Bath and its environs, the Avon valley and the plain of Bradford-on-Avon. As the plant is also found in the Mediterranean there has been speculation that it came to the Bath area with the Romans. One suggestion is that it may have been included in the earth balls which the Romans used to transport their vines. Other botanists believe it is too abundant to be an imported plant: in some woods in Wiltshire it is said to be more plentiful than bluebells. Indeed, when its bluish-green and fragile-looking leaves



push through the soil they might be mistaken for them. But it was when the flowering shoots developed in May that shops and market traders in Bath harvested the plants so that these shoots might be cooked and eaten. Geoffrey Grigson did write that no moral field biologist would be able to force such food into the stomach. According to Richard Mabey the custom died out several years ago, "except for a few locals". I wonder if any of my readers is one of the locals? One name for this plant is the Spiked Star-of-Bethlehem: have you guessed the other one yet?

The tree is well-known for its spreading foliage, offering shade to horses, cattle and people, for its "cackey monkeys," and lantern-like flowers, as well as its brown fruits. Although it is now widespread and abundant, common in cities, towns and villages, the first one in this country grew in the South London home of John Tradescant, a member of the plant collecting family who dominated the plants imported into this country for several generations. This tree was present in 1606 and its seeds originally came from Turkey. Its appearance was so admired that creators of large estates and landscapes soon used it in a big way: Capability Brown, for example, planted 4,800 in Tattenham Park in Wiltshire. Oxford colleges have been planting such trees for at least 200 years. Another long avenue of trees was planned by Sir Christopher Wren in Bushey Park, north of Hampton Court, and was planted in 1699. It was intended as a driveway for William III but, when Queen Victoria opened Hampton Court to the public in 1838, the Avenue became a popular meeting place: one Sunday in May became a day when thousands of people went to promenade and picnic under the trees. The custom died out in the 1920s but was revived in 1977: on the

Sunday nearest to 11th of May everyone is invited to enter the Teddington Gate at 12.30pm, to walk down the Avenue to the Diana Memorial and have a picnic. By the beginning of the nineteenth century these trees were being planted in spa towns like Bath and Cheltenham and, from 1838, in the new parks being constructed in the large industrial cities. Many open spaces and village greens became the site for such a tree: nowadays they have become naturalised and seem to establish themselves in fields and hedgerows. The name of the tree, has penetrated the English language: perhaps most noticeably in a dance craze of the 1930s and the accompanying song which many will remember seeing film of the then Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, and their children, perform at a Scout Jamboree. The name is also common as part of a street name: in London alone there are at least 56 streets which include this name. It is also now known as a colour for horses and a colour for hair. And "conk" has become slang for bash and head, which may also be known as your nut. Old conkers and old jokes have become "old chestnuts".



Although conkers, using the glossy, red-brown nuts of the Horse Chestnut tree, is said to be the most popular and widespread children's game in this country, the first record of it was in 1848 on the Isle of Wight. As we know that similar games were played with both hazel nuts and snail shells in earlier times, it seems strange that it took over 200 years before the game was described. For those whose knowledge of conkers may be rusty, there are several stages: in the autumn the chestnuts may be collected from the ground, but everyone knows the best ones are at the top of the trees so sticks and stones have to be launched to encourage their descent. Then the nuts are extracted from their spiky and green cover, pierced through the centre by a skewer and then threaded on string, white if possible. The object of the game is to strike the opponent's conker with yours, and smash it to pieces. Many ways of hardening the conker are used to make it a champion: baking in an oven or microwave, soaking in vinegar - but in this case aficionados know they must be washed in water to get rid of the smell, as some will not play against artificially hardened nuts. The canny ones lock their nuts in a drawer until the following autumn! When your new conker breaks another it becomes a 1-er. If it then breaks a 10-er, it becomes an 11-er, and so on. When BBC TV ran a competition in 1952 to find the champion conker, it was a 7351-er. And since 1965 a World Conker Competition has been organised in Ashton, Northamptonshire, on the second Sunday of October. Since then, according to Richard Mabey, only one person from outside this country has won the competition: he was a Mexican, R. Ramirez, in 1976.

The Spiked Star-of-Bethlehem is also Bath Asparagus.

*Cyril Selmes*

# Prayer Cycle for October

- Sun 1** For members of our congregation who can no longer attend church due to illness or infirmity.
- Mon 2** For those who use our roads; for all who are travelling.
- Tues 3** For all parents, step-parents and godparents. For foster parents and all who care for children.
- Wed 4** For our Church's Trustees, who meet today, that they may hear God's word and act upon it. For Yvonne, their chairman.
- Thurs 5** For those mourning the death of loved ones; for those mourning the death of a child or children.
- Fri 6** For Rowan our Archbishop and for Peter our Bishop. For all Anglican Bishops and Primates.
- Sat 7** For countries of the Third World which suffer through the selfishness of richer nations.
- Sun 8** We pray for the week ahead, and think especially of those who are unhappy or frustrated in their work.
- Mon 9** For the work of USPG in general, and especially for St Anne's Hospital, Lake Malawi.
- Tues 10** For those who feel that no-one appreciates or cares about them.
- Wed 11** For Emma who compiles our weekly notice sheet.
- Thurs 12** For our brothers and sisters in the Roman Catholic Church, and especially for St Mary's RC Church.
- Fri 13** For those who make coffee for us to enjoy after the 10am Communion service.
- Sat 14** For Dorothy, our cleaner; for those who arrange the flowers.
- Sun 15** For all who organize our church services; for all attending the Tea and Taize service.
- Mon 16** For Angela, our verger. For all who work behind the scenes to assure the smooth running of our church
- Tues 17** For Angela and John, our Churchwardens, and for Frank and Yvonne, our Deputy Churchwardens.
- Wed 18** On the feast of St Luke, we pray for our hospitals, nursing homes and local surgeries and for those who work for the emergency services.



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- Thurs 19** For all members of our Church Council.
- Fri 20** For our Altar Servers, Intercessors, Sidespeople, Chalice Assistants, Readers, and all who assist in any way at our services.
- Sat 21** For those facing redundancy, for those who are unemployed.
- Sun 22** For Genesis and the work of the Sunday Centre.
- Mon 23** For our next-door neighbours; for our colleagues at work.
- Tues 24** For those coping with terminal illness. For their families and all who care for them.
- Wed 25** For our LMG partners St Stephen's and St Mary's Charlcombe.
- Thurs 26** For Cyril, Mark and Tom our Readers; for Sarah's ministry at Batheaston.
- Fri 27** For those who suffer in body, mind or spirit: for those who care about them and worry about them.
- Sat 28** For all those who have no safe home to go to.
- Sun 29** For our Clergy Team.
- Mon 30** For David, our Treasurer.
- Tues 31** We give thanks for the blessings of the month now ending, and offer the coming month to God.
- November**
- Wed 1** We give thanks for all who have encouraged and inspired us in our walk with Christ.
- Thurs 2** For the departed who have shared their earthly pilgrimage with us.
- Fri 3** For the Cedar Tree project; for our local community.
- Sat 4** For young people in prison for whatever reason; for all who work with them
- Sun 5** For Mark, David, Mike and the choir. We thank God for the gift of music and its role in our worship.

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# Big Questions, Little Answers

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*He's apparently "quite keen" on cricket, but how much else do we know about our incumbent?*

*Antony's in the spotlight this month...*

**Where were you born?**

Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

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**What are your hobbies?**

Reading, cricket, National Hunt racing, theatre, cinema, gardening, cooking, and railway history.

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**What car do you drive?**

Rover 75

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

Hannah and her Sisters. For its witty observations on American angst, but mostly for Hannah and her sisters!

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

Baroque, and English composers of the late 19th, and 20th century

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

French cooking—especially fish and seafood.

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**What has been your proudest moment?**

Being received by the Prime Minister at a Downing Street reception.

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

Le Puy de Velay, France

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

Benjamin Disraeli

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**What's your pet hate?**

Shopping malls.

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**What's your favourite book?**

The Woman in White, by Wilkie Collins.

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

I am a recently-reformed flying phobic.

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**WHO'S WHO?**

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**LAITY ROTAS**

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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](http://www.christchurchbath.org)

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