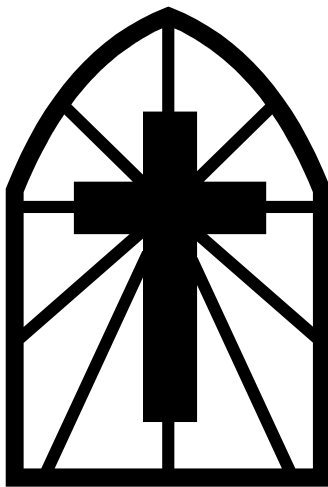


CHRIST
CHURCH
CHALLENGE



April 2008

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

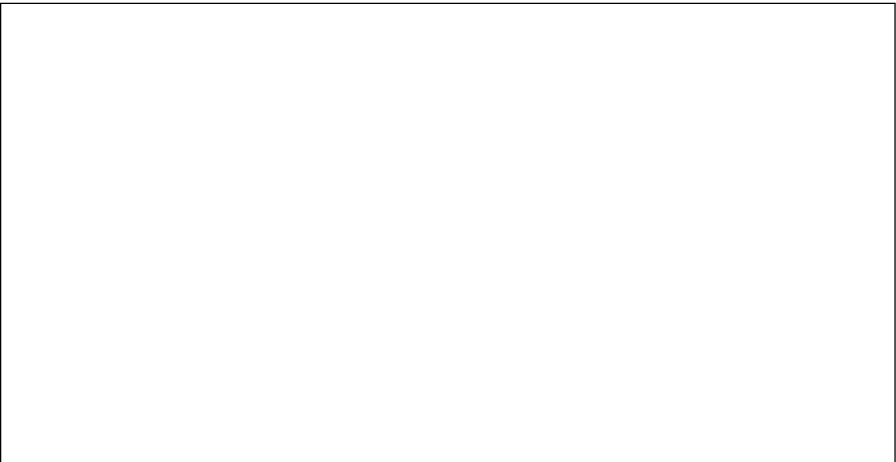
Junior Choir Practice	Friday 6.30pm - 8.00pm
Adult Practice	Friday 7.30pm - 9.00pm

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

BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, FUNERALS

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

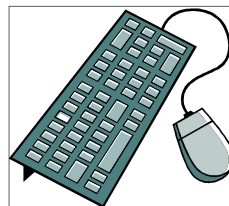
Angela and Chris, the churchwardens, would like to know about people who are ill, or of any circumstances in which the ministry of the Church would be welcome.



Forum...

What is it to be human

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill will shortly come before Parliament. The Prime Minister is determined to pass this legislation, which will allow the creation of part-human, part-animal embryos for medical research.



Gordon Brown has come under attack from some of his own ministers and senior members of the Catholic Church with Scottish Cardinal Keith O'Brien saying the bill would allow "grotesque procedures" which would "attack the sanctity and dignity of human life". In his Easter sermon, the cardinal said the legislation would allow experiments of "Frankenstein proportion". Cardinal O'Brien was fiercely criticised by leading fertility scientist Lord Robert Winston who told the Daily Telegraph he thought the cardinal's statements were inaccurate. He said: "They are misleading and I'm afraid that when the Church, for good motives, tells untruths, it brings discredit upon itself. I have huge respect for the Catholic Church, which does great good, but it will be destroying its probity with overblown statements of this kind."

The Archbishop of Cardiff, Peter Smith, called for a "calm, reasoned debate based on the facts" whilst the Bishop of Durham, clearly disturbed by the issue, accused ministers of pushing through legislation from "a militantly atheist and secularist lobby." In his Easter sermon he spoke of the irony of a secular utopianism based on a belief in an unstoppable human ability to make a better world which also seems to believe that "we have the right to kill unborn children and surplus old people, and to play games with the humanity of those in between".

Most of the headlines suggest that science and religion are diametrically opposed on this issue. However, an article in the magazine *New Scientist* opens with the statement that "scientific evidence alone cannot provide the basis on which to judge the morality of research on human embryos". The writer would seem to be at one with the Archbishop of Cardiff in his plea for calm, reasonable debate on the ethics of an issue which, in the end, may come to define our notion of what it means to be human.

Throughout history the human embryo has been given profound moral respect on the basis of its potential to develop into a human being. However, Tertullian in the third century and St Augustine in the fourth gave permission for early stage abortions if it could be shown that the

greater good was served by saving the life of the mother. Nearly a thousand years later, Aquinas wrote about the “ensoulment” of the foetus. He claimed the foetus first possessed a vegetative soul, then an animal soul, and finally—at approximately 40 days for male foetuses and 80 days for female foetuses—a fully formed, rational soul.

Christian and non-Christian people must take part in this debate and ensure that MPs are aware of the wide range of views which exist in all sections of society. It is a complex issue but no good will come if we just rant and rage at each other. I find my self profoundly affected both emotionally and in terms of my belief in the sanctity and divinity of human life. In prayer and discussion I invariably find myself alongside those who are caring for loved ones in the grip of incurable diseases. I take note of the scientific view that embryo research may provide insights leading to the alleviation of suffering and I remember Jesus as he faced vitriolic criticism from the Pharisees, those ardent makers and defenders of the law. They were enraged when they saw him performing acts of compassion on the Sabbath. In the light of this, I ask myself if, in the healing of the sick, there is not a divine imperative which supersedes the law.

Antony

Lectionary for April

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
Apr 6	Easter 3		
	No reading	Acts 2 14a, 36 – 41	Luke 24.13-35
13	Easter 4		
	No Reading	Acts 2 42 - end	John 10.1-10
20	Easter 5		
	No reading	Acts 7. 55-end	John 14. 1-14
27	Easter 6		
	No reading	Acts 17. 22-31	John 14. 15-21
May 4	Sunday after Ascension		
	No reading	Acts 1. 6-14	John 17.1-11

Church Calendar for April

Apr	6	Sun	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	
			6.30pm	Choral Evensong
	11	Fri	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	13	Sun	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
	18	Fri	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	19	Sat	ST ALPHEGE of CANTERBURY, Archbishop, Martyr	
			1.00pm	Marriage of Hazel Turner and Lewis Boyd
	20	Sun	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
	21	Mon	ST ANSELM of CANTERBURY, Archbishop, Teacher	
	23	Wed	ST GEORGE, Patron Saint of England	
	25	Fri	ST MARK, Evangelist	
			11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	27	Sun	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
	28	Mon	ROGATION DAY	
	29	Tues	ROGATION DAY	
			7.30pm	Climate Change Debate at Bath Abbey
	30	Wed	ROGATION DAY	
May	1	Thur	ASCENSION DAY	
			11.00am	Holy Communion followed by lunch
			7.30pm	Sung Eucharist See Weekly Notice Sheet for details
	4	Sun	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
			6.30pm	Choral Evensong

Laity Rota for April

		OT Readers	NT Readers	Gospel
April	6	Bev Pont	David Marles	Eileen Selmes
	13	Nicky Gladstone	Bob Siderfin	Martin Palmer
	20	Penny Edwards	David Bishop	Georgina
	27	Jane Fletcher	Mark Elliott	Chris Graham
May	4	Margaret Heath	Sylvia Ayers	Margaret Burrows
	11	Ann Kemp	Judith Anderson	Judith Bishop

Chalice Assistants

April	6	Andrew Sillett	Tessa Claridge
	13	Bev Pont	Margaret
	20	Margaret Heath	Janet Mahto
	27	Chris Graham	Ann Kemp
May	4	Jane Fletcher	Penny Edwards
	11	Bob Siderfin	Andrew Sillett

Intercessors

April	6	Georgina Bowman
	13	Rev Antony Claridge
	20	Mark Elliott
	27	Penny Edwards
May	4	Bev Pont
	11	David Marles



Sidespeople

		8am	10am
April	6	Arthur Jones	Ken and Sylvia Ayers
	13	Clive Tilling	Joan Bunkin Jean Ferguson
	20	Arthur Jones	Margaret Heath Andrew Sillett
	27	Clive Tilling	Tessa Claridge Janet Mahto
May	4	Arthur Jones	Margaret Silver Frank Twissell

MOTHERS' UNION NEWS



As mentioned last month, our After-Service Collection for the Mothers' Union Overseas Fund will be during Coffee Time on Sundays April 13th and 20th. For various reasons, we were unable to have a collection in 2007, so we are now asking for your support in the hope that this year you will make our total a bumper one. The amount that was raised in this country for the Worldwide Fund last year was £33,750, but if they are to continue to operate at their present level, all MU programmes continually require further funds.

The MU Relief Fund, which is one of the most important, responds to appeals for help after disasters of various kinds. For example, when an earthquake struck Peru last August, and more than 540 people were killed and over 30,000 homes destroyed, local Christians applied to the MU Relief Fund for help. They were then able to feed more than 5,000 each day, and to give basic supplies to homeless families.

As well as keeping the flag flying in this country, the Mothers' Union supports projects in other parts of the world, where MU members are not so fortunate in material things as we are in Britain. One which is currently being extended, is the Literacy and Development Programme, which was set up in 2000 in Burundi, Malawi and Sudan. The underlying thought is that "The reduction of poverty is closely linked to the full participation of women in Society". There are now 25 literacy trainers who manage 1100+ facilitators in the three countries. More than 38,000 learners have taken part and as a result, over 24,000 women and men have become literate and numerate. These skills enable them to take on better, more rewarding jobs, bringing in more money to give their families a better life. The Mothers Union would like to increase the number of literacy trainers, but to do so of course requires a cash input, which is where we come in. There will be a plate at the back of Church for your contributions on both these Sundays, and we do ask that you give generously towards this important work of the MU.

Sylvia M. Ayers (MU Secretary)

PASS IT ON

On my office wall I have a calendar for 1969. A Chinese calendar, in fact. Nothing to do with this being the Year of the Rat. It's an official Communist Party calendar, dating from the Cultural Revolution. The picture for March shows earnest Red Guards waving the Little Red Book of The Thoughts of Chairman Mao

Tse Tung. The text urges us to oppose those taking the Capitalist Road. April shows a determined little girl with her hair in bunches writing improving slogans in big Chinese characters, and the theme for the month is something to do with the importance of Correct Revolutionary Art. It seems an appropriate way to mark the coming Beijing Olympics; but my work colleagues are fearful that it may encourage a change from my usually consensual management style – towards purging Counter-Revolutionary Elements, ie anybody who doesn't agree with the boss.

I found the Chairman Mao calendar among some old papers I was sorting from my student days. If things get even nastier in Tibet, it may become an embarrassment rather than a harmless exercise in nostalgia for my 'Make Love, Not War' days. But the real reason it is on display is a practical one. From March onwards – 1969 not being a Leap Year – the dates and days work precisely for 2008. When will that happen again, I wonder? Armed with my Chairman Mao calendar, I know precisely to the day what I was doing in my Gap Year.

Between school and university, apart from working in the Cash Office at Broadcasting House filling pay packets (with the pre-decimal money of pounds, shillings and pence – ten bob notes, half crowns, and all) I spent a lot of time in Italy, learning the language, understanding the pictures, and seeing the sights. Sunday 6 April – Easter Day – found me in the Basilica of San Marco in Venice. The New Fire was kindled by the Patriarch himself in the Piazza outside the West Front and the Pascal Candle was carried into the dark of the great church, with much chanting. As the light spread from candle to candle, the golden mosaics of the Byzantine interior began to glow. Like kids on Christmas Eve, the Venetians could not wait for the light to be transferred, frustratingly slowly, from the original source - and so they got out their cigarette lighters. Soon the church was ablaze with candle light and reflecting gold. And then the great bell of the Campanile began to toll like the Last Trump.

In the garden at St Mary's Charlcombe this Easter, we met in the dark of a bitterly cold Easter Morning. The owls were still hooting. The Pascal Candle was lit from a blazing fire as we heard the story of the Children of

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Israel passing safely through the Red Sea. A firework rocketed into the lightning sky. And our Pascal Candle was lit from the Easter Fire – and, one by one, our candles were lit from the central light. No lighters in evidence. We remembered our baptisms with the water from the Holy Well, dipping in a finger or two to make the sign of the Cross. ‘Luckily, we don’t do total immersion,’ commented one whose sense of humour was awake, despite the hour and the freezing cold. A few degrees colder still and Jonathan would have had to break the ice.



On Easter Saturday, I'd seen what I took to be a party of Druids performing a Rite of Spring in the grove of plane trees in the middle of The Circus. I've seen it before, so I wasn't unduly surprised. Their ceremony, presumably to mark the Vernal Equinox, was cut short by an unseasonable snow flurry, and they adjourned to the pub. Later in the day, the beautiful Easter Vigil at Christchurch began with the lighting of a brazier outside the West Door. (This year, we managed to avoid having the Fire Brigade called out by concerned neighbours.) More candles, and our beautiful new lighting scheme, illuminated the prayerful interior.

On the Friday before Holy Week, I was invited to a rather smart dinner at the Athenaeum in London – the club for Bishops and scientists. It was for the launch of an appeal for Cuddestone theological college. Presiding was David Stancliffe, the Bishop of Salisbury, who was our bishop before we moved to Bath ten years ago this month. The Bishop spoke about the importance of an open and inclusive Church. He said the reactions to the experience of the Tower of Babel and of Pentecost showed very different responses to superficially similar phenomena. One could either be upset and confused by change and difference, or delighted and energised by it.

In the garden at Charlcombe, the Pascal Candle went round the circle clockwise. As I contemplated my lighted candle and fought to stop it being blown out by the biting wind, I was lost in my own thoughts and concerns – and quite forgot to turn to my neighbour on my right and pass the light the other way. Then I remembered, a bit too late, that the Easter message and the gift of the Holy Spirit are for sharing and not for keeping to ourselves.

Being without wheels that weekend, I had booked a taxi to get me to the church for 5.30AM. My taxi driver Maggie and I have a date for the next time Easter falls this early – 2064. Same time, same place. I shall be 114, just twice my present age. And if I can't be with you in person, I'll be there in spirit. I wouldn't miss it for the world.

AΩ

Chris Graham

The two articles on these pages were accidentally deleted from the March edition of Christ Church Challenge during typesetting. We do hope that no-one has been unduly inconvenienced by their late publication.

Churches Together in Bath: Some important dates

- † A major debate on Climate Change will take place in Bath Abbey at 7.30pm on Tuesday 29th April 2008. The Debate will be chaired by the Rev Roger Nunn. Leaflets and a Poster are now in Church.
- † The Flower Show Service in Victoria Park will be held on Sunday May 4th at 6.30pm. There will be free entry from 6pm.
- † The Christian Aid Week Service will be on Sunday May 11th at 6.30pm at St Michaels by Waitrose.

Your prayers are asked for the Congregations of Widcombe Benefice, who are again looking for a new Priest-in-Charge. The current Incumbent has now resigned, as, after having twins last year, she feels that she cannot cope with running two Churches.

Donations totalling £40 were received from Christ Church Congregations towards Open Christmas 2007. Very many thanks to all our generous friends.

Sylvia Ayers

Deanery Synod met on 11 February at St Bartholomew's, Oldfield Park

This church is actively engaged in mission to students, other young people and families. It is also the venue for the South West Gospel Partnership Ministry Training Course.

The Bishop has approved our interim report and is eager we push ahead with mission. The deanery is allocated 21 full-time stipendiary clergy and we have until 2015, not 2010 as previously, to consider how to reduce by ONE post. It was agreed that for administrative and environmental reasons the Standing and Pastoral committees be combined.

In the break for coffee I did a nice drop of networking. It is important to know the other representatives, as there will be a vote for lay representatives for the new combined Committee, although the lay composition of Deanery Synod is likely to be different in the new triennium.

The Rural Dean spoke of Mission and asked that it be on the agenda of every PCC, and we are asked to report back BY 30 JUNE.

We were then asked to pool ideas in small groups, preferably with people from our neighbourhood. I worked with St Mary's, Charlcombe and St Stephen's, joined by St Thomas, Widcombe. This latter is currently without a Vicar, full of positive plans but frustrated. St S is enjoying working on "living stones" rather than fund-raising for repairs.

Projects mentioned included the success of the new Library at St S.'s, the Quiet Garden at Charlcombe, our Cedar Tree and the need, perhaps, for more prayer and study groups.

Each Deanery is invited to send a group to Wells to attend Evensong, have refreshments and a guided tour of the Cathedral which I gather is having a lot of work done. Our day is MONDAY 12 MAY, COACH TO WELLS TO ARRIVE 5.15 , LEAVE TO RETURN ABOUT 8.30pm. Places are allocated on a first come first served basis but not too many from one parish. PLEASE TELL ME IF INTERESTED IN GOING. THE COST OF THE COACH MAY BE MET BY THE DEANERY.

Poor JEREMY KEY PUGH, our Lay Chair, still has no Secretary. A new Chaplain is also sought for St Mark's, as Maggie has resigned on marriage.

PCC Secretaries have been notified of the number of lay reps their church should elect and are asked to notify names ASAP.

Margaret Heath

Prayer Cycle for April

April

- Tues 1** For all who feel lonely. For those with no-one to turn to.
- Wed 2** For Nicky, our Magazine Editor.
- Thurs 3** For those facing redundancy, for those who are unemployed.
- Fri 4** For the work of USPG in general, and especially for St Anne's Hospital, Lake Malawi. For Adrian Pegg, our USPG representative.
- Sat 5** For our children and young people and for our Junior Church leaders.
- Sun 6** For all who are travelling. For safety on our roads and railways.
- Mon 7** For Judith, who prepares our weekly notice sheet.
- Tues 8** For all who are caring for the sick; that they may be given peace and strength.
- Wed 9** For our next-door neighbours; for our colleagues at work.
- Thurs 10** For Emma, Margaret and Sarah, our Deanery Synod representatives.
- Fri 11** For the Cedar Tree project; for Nicky and all the helpers; for our local community.
- Sat 12** For members of our congregation who can no longer attend church due to illness or infirmity.
- Sun 13** For Cyril and Mark our Readers; for Sarah's ministry at Batheaston.
- Mon 14** For our Clergy Team.
- Tues 15** For the Mothers Union. For those who raised us and for those who care for us today.
- Wed 16** For Angela and Chris, our Churchwardens; for Frank and Yvonne, our Deputy Churchwardens.
- Thurs 17** For couples experiencing difficulties in their relationship. For the work of Relate.
- Fri 18** For Mark, David and the choir. For a spirit of joy in our worship of the Lord.

- Sat 19** On St Alphege's Day, we pray for the witness of Christians in the city of Bath.
- Sun 20** For everyone connected with Christ Church. For a successful Annual General Meeting.
- Mon 21** For all our readers, chalice assistants, intercessors and sidespeople. For Sarah, who draws up the Laity Rotas.
- Tues 22** For David, our Treasurer.
- Wed 23** For all caught up in wars and areas of conflict.
- Thurs 24** For the leaders of our country, that they may follow paths of peace and righteousness.
- Fri 25** On the feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist, we pray for all teachers of the faith, for those who bear witness with their lives and for all martyrs.
- Sat 26** For Angela, our Verger.
- Sun 27** For those awaiting trial, for prisoners and their families.
- Mon 28** For our LMG partners, St Stephen's and St Mary's Charlcombe.
- Tues 29** For intelligent interfaith dialogue; for all those affected by acts of terrorism.
- Wed 30** We thank God for the blessings of the month now ending.
- May**
- Thurs 1** On this Ascension Day, we pray for ourselves, that we may always be prepared, ready for when Jesus returns.
- Fri 2** That rich countries may wake up to the disproportionate damage their societies do to the earth.
- Sat 3** For those who make coffee for us to enjoy after the 10am Communion service.

Recipe of the Month!

Rich Chocolate Brownies

- 375 g soft unsalted butter
 - 375 g best quality dark chocolate
 - 6 large eggs
 - 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
 - 500 g caster sugar
 - 225 g plain flour
 - 1 teaspoon salt
 - 300g Minstrels
1. Preheat the oven to 180C.
 2. Line an 33 x 23 x 5 1/2cm brownie pan with foil or baking paper. (I use a roasting tin)
 3. Melt the butter and chocolate together in a large heavy based saucepan.
 4. In a bowl beat the eggs with the sugar and vanilla.
 5. Measure the flour into another bowl and add the salt.
 6. When the chocolate mixture has melted, let it cool a bit before beating in the eggs and sugar mixture, and then the nuts and flour.
 7. Beat to combine and then scrape out of the saucepan into the lined brownie pan.
 8. Bake for about 25 minutes
 9. When it's ready, the top should be dried to a paler brown speckle, but the middle still dark and dense and gooey.
 10. Keep checking the brownies as they cook; remember that they will continue to cook as they cool.
 11. Cut into squares. You can get 48 small brownies, I tend to cut them slightly larger, but it makes loads either way.

Nicky Gladstone (with much help from Nigella)

Officiating Minister	The Rev Antony Claridge, 62 Cranwells Park, Weston, Bath BA1 2YE 01225 427462
Assistant Clergy	The Rev Cliff Burrows, Stonecroft, Entry Hill Drive, Bath BA2 5NL 01225 334743
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Reader / Magazine Distributor and Editor Emeritus	Cyril Selmes, 10 Daffords Buildings, Larkhall, Bath BA1 6SG 01225 420039
Churchwarden	Chris Gladstone, 5 Westwoods, Box Road, Bath BA1 7QE 01225 859969
Churchwarden / Verger	Angela Soboslay, 285 Newbridge Road, Bath BA1 3HN 01225 333297
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Deanery Synod / Laity Rotas / Junior Church	Sarah Hiscock, 2 Mortimer Close, Bath BA1 4EN 07983 556759
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CTB / MU Secretary & Treasurer / Missions to Seafarers / Calendar	Sylvia Ayers, 5 Forester Avenue, Bath BA2 6QD 01225 463976
USPG	Adrian Pegg, 68 London Road West, Bath BA1 7DA 01225 858809
Christian Aid / Children's Society	Your name here? Speak to Chris or Angela!
Organist	David Wrigley, 3 Haydon Gate, Radstock, BA3 3RB 01761 439355
Magazine Editor / Secretary to the Trustees	Nicky Gladstone, 5 Westwoods, Box Road, Bath BA1 7QE 01225 859969
Concert and Bookings Co-ordinator / Weekly Notices	Judith Bishop, 01225 869409 Email concerts@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 Eucharist is celebrated according to Common Worship. On the first Sunday of each month, there is a full Choral Evensong. A Junior Church and a Crèche cater for the children and young people who attend the 10am service. We hold special all-age services once a month and at festivals such as Easter, Christmas, Mothering Sunday and Harvest.

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

CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS

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

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