

# CHRIST CHURCH CHALLENGE



December 2007



**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.*

The run up to Christmas is often fraught, but please remember our LMG friends at St Stephen's who will be dedicating their restored tower and bells this month.



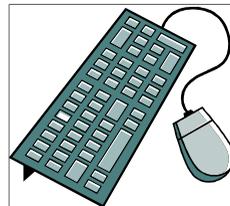
On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30 pm, there will be a service of thanksgiving by the Bishop of Bath and Wells, and Revd Jonathan LLOYD and the people of St Stephen's have extended a warm invitation to all at Christ Church.



We wish all our readers  
 a peaceful Christmas  
 and a blessed New Year.

## Forum...

### Singing and dancing in Bethlehem



So many carols, ancient and modern, take us singing and dancing into Bethlehem. In reality, there will be little in the way of singing and dancing in the Bethlehem of 2007. With their economy shattered and their buildings bearing the scars of conflicts ancient and modern, the citizens of that divided city will have little to celebrate. And yet, we should still sing of Bethlehem and dance with its name in our hearts. Hidden in the awfulness of then and now is the child who is for all time the evidence of the wise and loving purposes of God. "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight." Early on Christmas Eve the shops will shut. Later on, the pubs and clubs will also close and the world will turn in hope to Bethlehem.

In the familiar words of the scriptures, we recall shepherds who were resolved to "go and see this thing that the Lord has made known to us". In their confusion – and they can be forgiven – they misheard what the angel said to them. The angel told them that they would "*find* the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger". The point is: were they to see and then find or was it a matter of finding and then seeing?

Certainly, the baby is there for the shepherds and all of us to behold in him the glory of the only begotten Son full of grace and truth. The shepherds, however, seem not to have spent much time in their beholding. They soon turned from that straw littered divine space to return to their own world. And as they went they praised God and told all who would listen about all that they had seen. They were the first to realise that to meet Jesus, to worship him is to be claimed by him in the name of love and to become loyal subjects of his kingdom.

In the birth of the baby, God himself reaches out of heaven to embrace us as his own. It is the ultimate act of divine humility as God enters our world of dirt and pain and hopelessness. He assumes our weakness so that we may be strengthened. As John Donne wrote:

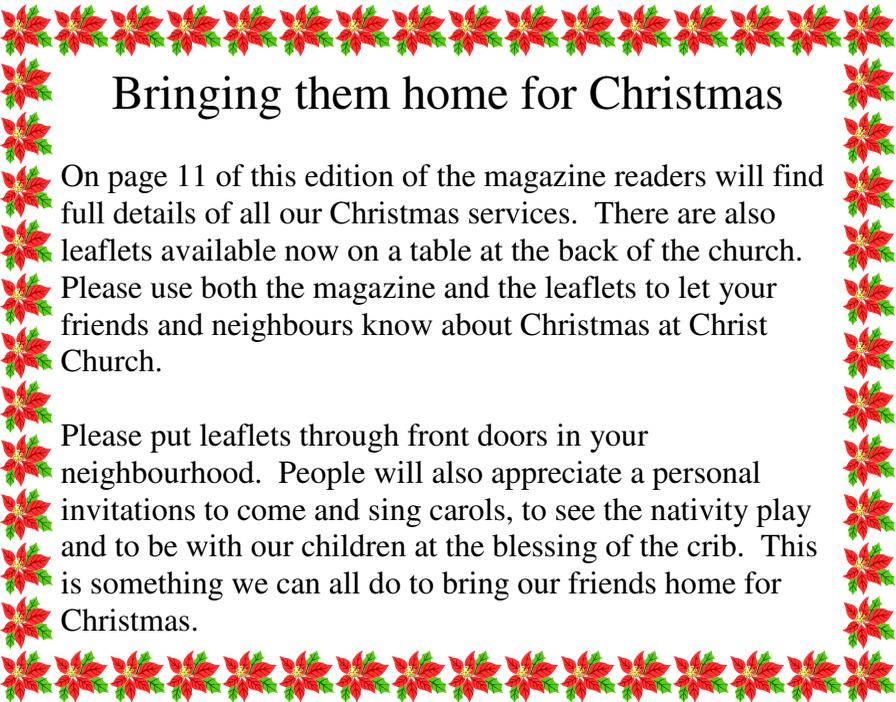
*Immensity cloistered in thy dear womb,  
Now leaves His well-belov'd imprisonment,  
There He hath made Himself to His intent  
Weak enough, now into the world to come;*

And so, at Christmas, God having crossed the threshold of our lives waits for us to bend low to touch the mystery and enter his heart. Before we

can do anything for Bethlehem or for our world we need to offer ourselves to the Christ child. Encased in all the joy and silliness of our celebrations is the new world of God and the fresh possibilities he opens up for us. When all the singing and the seeing is done we, like the shepherds, must begin the search with that courage and lightness of heart of which George Herbert wrote:

*I will go searching, till I find a sun  
Shall stay, till we have done;  
A willing shiner, that shall shine as gladly,  
As frost-nipped suns look sadly.  
Then will we sing, and shine all our own day,  
And one another pay:  
His beams shall cheer my breast, and both so twine  
Till ev'n His beams sing, and my music shine.*

*Antony Claridge*



## Bringing them home for Christmas

On page 11 of this edition of the magazine readers will find full details of all our Christmas services. There are also leaflets available now on a table at the back of the church. Please use both the magazine and the leaflets to let your friends and neighbours know about Christmas at Christ Church.

Please put leaflets through front doors in your neighbourhood. People will also appreciate a personal invitation to come and sing carols, to see the nativity play and to be with our children at the blessing of the crib. This is something we can all do to bring our friends home for Christmas.

# Church Calendar for December

<b>Dec</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>ADVENT SUNDAY</b>	
			Year A Readings begin	
			Church Duty at Genesis Lunchbox	
			6.30pm	Advent Carol Service
	<b>3</b>	<b>Mon</b>	8.00pm	Meet Up Monday at the Hare and Hounds
	<b>7</b>	<b>Fri</b>	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	<b>9</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	
	<b>13</b>	<b>Thur</b>	ST LUCY OF SYRACUSE	
	<b>14</b>	<b>Fri</b>	ST JOHN OF THE CROSS	
			11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	<b>16</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	
			6.30pm	St Stephen's Bells Dedication (see page 2)
	<b>19</b>	<b>Wed</b>	11.00am	Holy Communion and Christmas Lunch
	<b>21</b>	<b>Fri</b>	ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE	
			11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	<b>23</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	
—See page 11 for details of all our Christmas Services—				
	<b>24</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>	
	<b>25</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	
	<b>26</b>	<b>Wed</b>	ST STEPHEN, Deacon, First Martyr	
	<b>27</b>	<b>Thur</b>	ST JOHN. Apostle and Martyr	
	<b>28</b>	<b>Fri</b>	THE HOLY INNOCENTS	
			No Cedar Tree Community Café	
	<b>29</b>	<b>Sat</b>	ST THOMAS A BECKET, Archbishop and Martyr	
	<b>30</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS</b>	

Keep up to date with the latest events on our website.

# Laity Rota for December

		OT Readers	NT Readers	Gospel
<b>December</b>	2	Sarah Hiscock	Margaret Heath	Sylvia Ayers
	9	Judith Anderson	Margaret Burrows	Ann Kemp
	16	Emma Elliott	Richard Gabe	Judith Bishop
	23	Eileen Selmes	Bev Pont	David Marles
	30	Martin Palmer	Nicky Gladstone	Bob Siderfin
<b>January</b>	6	Georgina Bowman	No reading	David Bishop

## Chalice Assistants

<b>December</b>	2	Jane Fletcher	Penny Edwards
	9	Bob Siderfin	Andrew Sillett
	16	Tessa Claridge	Bev Pont
	23	Margaret Burrows	Margaret Heath
	30	Janet Mahto	Chris Graham
<b>January</b>	6	Ann Kemp	Jane Fletcher

## Intercessors

<b>December</b>	2	Georgina Bowman
	9	Rev Antony Claridge
	16	Mark Elliott
	23	Junior Church
	30	Penny Edwards
<b>January</b>	6	Bev Pont



## Sidespeople

		8am	10am	
<b>December</b>	2	Clive Tilling	Margaret Heath	Andrew Sillett
	9	Arthur Jones	Tessa Claridge	Janet Mahto
	16	Clive Tilling	Margaret Silver	Frank Twissell
	23	Arthur Jones		Ken and Sylvia Ayers
	30	Clive Tilling	Joan Bunkin	Jean Ferguson

# Lectionary for December

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
<b>Dec 2</b>	<b>Advent Sunday</b>		
	Isaiah 2.1-5	Romans 13.11-14	Matthew 24.36-44
<b>9</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>		
	Isaiah 11.1-10	Romans 15.4-13	Matthew 3.1-12
<b>16</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>		
	Isaiah 35.1-10	James 5.7-10	Matthew 11.2-11
<b>23</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>		
	Isaiah 7.10-16	Romans 1.1-7	Matthew 1.18-25
<b>24</b>	<b>Midnight Mass</b>		
	Isaiah 52.7-10	Hebrews 1.1-4	John 1.1-14
<b>25</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>		
	Isaiah 9.2-7	Titus 2.11-14	Luke 2.1-20
<b>30</b>	<b>First Sunday of Christmas</b>		
	Isaiah 63.7-9	Hebrews 2.10-18	Matthew 2.13-23
<b>Jan 6</b>	<b>Feast of the Epiphany</b>		
	Isaiah 60.1-6	No reading	Matthew 2.1-12

## Our Calendar Correspondent Explains...

### “SAINT LUCIA” (13th December)

**Saint Lucy's Day** (*Sankta Lucia*, also known as Saint Lucia's Day etc) is the Church feast day holiday dedicated to St. Lucy and is observed on December 13. It marks, together with Advent, the beginning of the Christmas season. Traditionally an important feast day in all of Western Christendom, it now retains traditional forms of celebration mainly in Scandinavia and southern Europe. It is celebrated in Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Italy, Bosnia, Iceland, and Croatia. Before the reform of the Gregorian calendar in the 16th century, St. Lucy's Day fell on the winter solstice on the Northern Hemisphere.

In Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland, Lucy (called *Lucia*) is venerated on December 13 in a ceremony where an elected girl, portraying Lucia, walks, with a crown of candles, ahead of a procession of other women holding a candle each. The candles symbolize the fire that refused to take her life.

## DO YOU KNOW...

### The answers to this short Christmas Quiz?

1. What kind of tree flowers near Christmas in a churchyard near Glastonbury Tor? A spray of these flowers is sent to the Queen each year.
2. Baldur the Beautiful was killed by a spear made from wood on which this plant was growing. It usually has a more friendly association.
3. Which tree is our commonest evergreen? It often grows in groups to make a wood; individual trees may reach 35 feet; but some lie flat on the land.
4. This plant was known since medieval times to kill grapevines, so extracts from its leaves have been used to cure drunkenness. It is also our only liana, capable of growing anywhere.
5. Which plant is also known as The Myrrh and is said to flower on Old Christmas Eve, January 5th?
6. These flowers were known as bulbous violets, but their commonest name is closely related to the winter months. They are also a symbol of Candlemas, February 2nd.
7. Which carol is suggested by the two evergreens in questions 3 and 4?
8. Lammas land is meadows left as hay from Lammas Day until August. This encourages the growth of one attractive species. You might find the answer in an earlier magazine.
9. What kind of tree(s) is/are paraded by several men into a church near Lancaster on a Sunday near Christmas?
10. Devise this question for yourself and try it on me!

Keep your answers in a safe place ready for the next magazine.  
Please put your question 10s in my pigeonhole in church.

*Cyril Selmes*

## **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BATH: DATES TO NOTE**

The CTB Epiphany Service will be held on January 6th 2008 at 6.30pm at St John's Bathwick.

The Mayor's Call to Prayer will be on Tuesday January 8th.

The dates of the Annual Pulpit Exchange between Central Zone Churches are January 20th or 27th 2008.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will run from 18th to 25th January 2008. The main service will be held at 11am on Saturday 19th at St John's RC Church, when the Speaker will be Nicholas King SJ, whose theme will be "Pray without Ceasing." It is promised that the Service will be over by 12 noon, so aficionados may attend the Bath Rugby Match as well!



### **Missions to Seafarers**

As we get ever nearer to Christmas, you cannot fail to notice all the potential presents in the shops; and of course the splendid array of cards which are on sale in Church: you probably buy quite a few yourself to send to family and friends. Following this, of course you will expect to receive a much increased post through your letter box, all suitably adorned with attractive Christmas Stamps. Of course, the cards will find a ready home on your mantelpiece, but what about the envelopes?

Before consigning them to your Green Box, please take a moment or two to carefully cut off the pictorial stamps with a pair of scissors, leaving a half inch border all round, (if you just tear them off, the stamps are apt to get damaged). Foreign stamps are equally welcome, BUT, I have been advised that only the HIGHER VALUES of the ordinary British "Queen's Head" stamps, from 50p upwards are now required. Please label your parcel for the Missions to Seafarers, and leave it in the "A" pigeon hole in Church. I do most sincerely thank those regular, of anonymous, contributors to this cause who continue to leave me their lovely parcels during the year.

*Sylvia M Ayers*

## **Deanery Synod Meeting—November 8<sup>th</sup>**

### **Hope 08**

The Deanery Synod Meeting on November 8th provided an opportunity for James Vaughton from Bath Youth for Christ to introduce the Hope 08 project to Synod. He began his talk by explaining a little of the background to Hope 08. Hope 08 is an ecumenical outreach programme that originally grew out of youth work organisations such as Youth for Christ but has since been taken on by a range of Christian organisations and denominations. James was keen to point out that the aim of Hope 08 is to bring the Kingdom of God alive and encourages us to “Do more, Do it together and Do it in word and deed”. The projects set up under Hope 08 are not designed to be short term projects but a way of building sustainable mission.

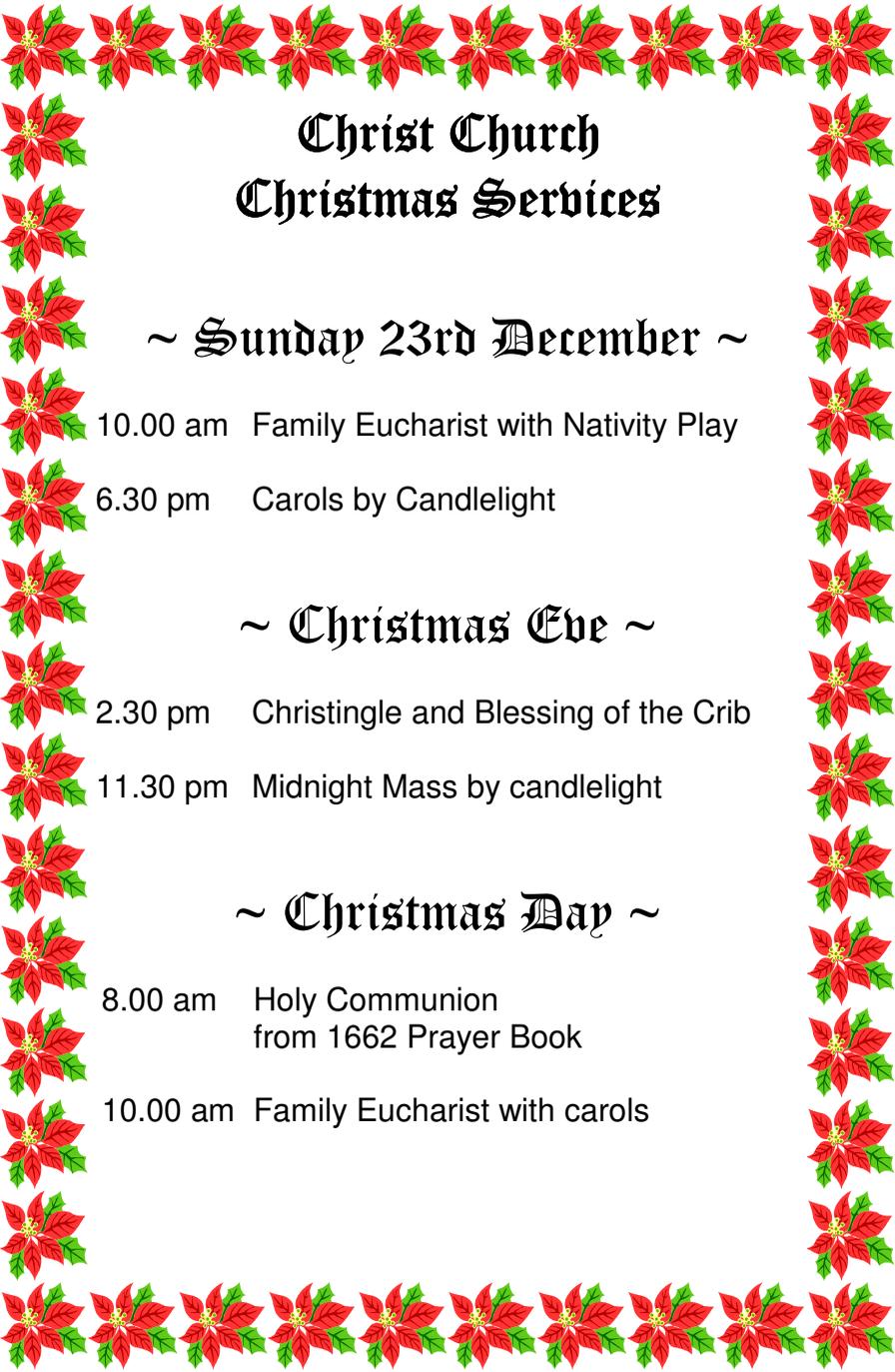
James had a number of suggestions of how we could all get involved in Hope 08. He pointed out that part of the objective is to provide a public witness to the people of Bath which includes publicising all the things we already do. He also suggested the idea of Bath’s biggest BBQ where every church or youth group in Bath will be encouraged to hold a BBQ on the same day in July next year. James finished his talk by reminding us that the best way to spread the Good News is to be focused, set clear goals, plan what we’re going to do thoroughly and to make the best use of the resources we have available.

### **A vision for the Deanery**

The other main item on the agenda for Synod to consider at the meeting was the draft paper ‘A Vision for Bath Deanery -2012’. The paper aims to move on from the difficult decisions required to reduce the number of clergy posts within the Deanery and to establish a vision for mission in the Deanery in the future. The paper included a number of targets for growth including growth in membership of our churches, growth in the number of people training for ordained and lay ministry, planting new congregations and developing mission strategies for ‘un-reached groups’ within the Deanery.

The discussion which followed highlighted some significant concerns about the paper including the omission of mention of the homeless and those who have moved away from the Church. It was also noted that there was no mention of the excellent work that is being undertaken as part of Hope 08. It was suggested that rather than Synod setting (somewhat arbitrary) targets for the Deanery it would be better for local groups to talk about what they can do and to then pull these ideas together to direct the Deanery objectives. The hope of this approach would be that each group will then have objectives that they can really get involved in and which fit the needs of their area. This is a subject which will clearly be discussed again at future meetings and we will let you know the outcomes of those discussions.

*Sarah Hicock, Joint Deanery Synod Rep*



**Christ Church  
Christmas Services**

**~ Sunday 23rd December ~**

10.00 am Family Eucharist with Nativity Play

6.30 pm Carols by Candlelight

**~ Christmas Eve ~**

2.30 pm Christingle and Blessing of the Crib

11.30 pm Midnight Mass by candlelight

**~ Christmas Day ~**

8.00 am Holy Communion  
from 1662 Prayer Book

10.00 am Family Eucharist with carols

## SONGS OF PRAISE

Glancing at the hymn board one Sunday, I was alarmed to see 'Psalm 119' posted. What all of it? I thought. All 176 verses? Luckily, it was only an eight verse section of the psalm which, in its entirety, occupies two and a half days of Morning and Evening Prayer in the Prayer Book. It's as if to compensate for the shortest psalm of all which precedes it almost directly. Psalm 117 only has two verses, but even so it is not very memorable.

*And will Man alone be dumb  
Till that glorious Kingdom come?  
No, the Church delights to raise  
Psalms, and hymns and songs of  
praise.*

When I was a chorister at a place that prided itself on offering a sung service every day of the year we got to know the psalms very well. Half way through August there had to be a change from Boarder Choir to Day Boy Choir. As ill luck would have it, the last day of Boarder Choir fell on 15<sup>th</sup> August – and the psalm appointed for the 15<sup>th</sup> Evening, Psalm 78, all 73 verses of it, is by far the longest of any of the psalms to be sung at one go. It is a splendid story of triumph and disaster, but for us the disaster was that the London train left at 6.35pm and Evensong was at 5.30pm.

I then witnessed a splendid piece of lobbying by our very political headmaster. The canon in residence, the Archdeacon of Maidstone, was invited for lunch at the Choir School. Our problem was explained to him. Miraculously, both the First and Second Lessons were cut down to Psalm 117 proportions and we were able to perform the whole sorry story of the Children of Israel and their repeated falls from grace and still get to the station on time.

There are three ways of singing psalms (four if you include plain chant). First, there is the way I was taught to do it - and the way our choir leads us every Sunday – the traditional Anglican chant. This is by no means easy to follow and you have to concentrate to get the words to fit the notes. Even with the pointing marked in the pew sheet it is easy to change the note in the wrong place.



Secondly, there is the more Catholic style of a Responsorial Psalm. A cantor sings the verses and the congregation joins in with a repeated chorus verse. These choruses are easily learned and everyone can join in. A lot of good music has been written for these responsorial psalms over the past 40 years or so (Post Vatican II), a lot of it French.

The third way of singing psalms is the Scottish style of metrical psalms. The most famous of these must be:

*The Lord's my shepherd. I'll not want  
He makes me down to lie  
In pastures green, he leadeth me  
The quiet waters by*

That's Psalm 23 – and much easier to sing that way than

*The Lord is my Shepherd:  
therefore can I lack nothing  
He shall feed me in a green pasture:  
and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.*

Some of our best hymns, by some of our best poets, are based on psalms. George Herbert and John Addison, for example, also penned metrical versions of Psalm 23. But lots of the other 149 psalms have been turned into good hymns. Here are just a few off the top of my head:



- † *Through all the changing scenes of life* (Psalm 34)
- † *As pants the hart for cooling streams* (Psalm 42)
- † *The Lord will come and not be slow* (Psalms 85 and 86)
- † *O God our help in ages past* (Psalm 90)
- † *All people that on earth do dwell* (Psalm 100)
- † *O worship the King all glorious above* (Psalm 104)
- † *Let us with a gladsome mind* (Psalm 136)
- † *Give to our God immortal praise* (ditto)
- † *Praise the Lord! Ye heavens adore him* (Psalm 148)

Isaac Watts and John Milton are just two more of the masters of this particular genre.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries, metrical versions were how the Church of England sang the Psalms. A recent BBC radio programme celebrated the 'West Gallery music' recalled for us in Thomas Hardy's *Under the Greenwood Tree*. This tells the story of the conflict between the traditional 'psalmody' of West Country parishes – mixed choirs, an odd assortment of instruments, and metrical psalms – and a stern Tractarian vicar keen on a male only choir, robed and in the chancel, with a pipe organ.

Finding a middle way that promotes musical excellence while allowing the congregation the chance to sing something worth singing depends on the careful choice of hymns. Well structured hymns that read as well as they

sound provide the key. Although I can forgive some pretty ghastly words if the tune is interesting, all too often sound theology and classic poetry are let down by the uninspiring dirges to which they are set.

I didn't try to join in singing verses 89 to 96 of Psalm 119, set to a chant I didn't know, pitched a bit high for the congregation. But the blessings we enjoy from our really good choir were demonstrated later in the same service with a beautiful Communion motet, Charles Standford's ethereal *Beati quorum via* - which, it turns out, is a setting of the first verse of that same Psalm 119.



But we shouldn't leave all the singing to our choir. After all, one way of looking at life itself is as one big choir practice:

*Saints below, with heart and voice.  
Still in songs of praise rejoice;  
Learning here, by faith and love,  
Songs of praise to sing above.*

Chris Graham

## Centenary remembrance

*The life of Walter Burt recalled*



When dear Walter Burt died, the church was full for his funeral. For so many people Walter was Christ Church. He gave the church a lifetime of service as chorister and vergers.



On 15<sup>th</sup> December, Walter would have been 100 years old. His son David, recently appointed Reader in Gloucester diocese, contacted Antony to ask if he could speak of Walter at the 10 am Eucharist on Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> December. And so we shall be delighted to welcome David and share memories of his father.



**The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association – Forces Help**

The national charity helping serving and ex-Service men, women and their families, in need.

Another New Year and the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan continue to demonstrate to us on a daily basis the need for us to care for the soldiers, sailors and airmen who are serving us and serving their country.

Furthermore, the lives of many of those who are returning from these theatres of war, having sustained physical injury, emotional trauma or both may be altered forever.. and so too the lives of their families.

The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) Forces Help is committed to helping and supporting those who serve in our Armed Forces, those who used to serve, reservists, National Servicemen and the families of all these people. We provide a reliable, caring and caring service to more that 50,000 people each year

Our network of 7,000 volunteers provides practical and financial assistance, emotional support and a wide range of services to ensure that SSAFA Forces Help makes a real difference whenever anybody turns to us for help.

All enquiries from those seeking help will be dealt with confidentially. Volunteers may direct veterans to other organisations, whilst offering low-level emotional support, such as a friendship visit when the need for support is specialised. There is also a great need for volunteer help – whether that may be as a fully trained caseworker, treasurer or fundraiser. Please think about helping SSAFA Forces Help – you will be welcomed!

The Somerset Branch of SSAFA Forces Help can be contacted on 01984 624564 or [homeshaw@btopenworld.com](mailto:homeshaw@btopenworld.com) and our national website is at [www.ssafa.org.uk](http://www.ssafa.org.uk).

# Prayer Cycle for December

## *December*

- Sun 2** That we may spend this Advent wisely to prepare ourselves for Christmas. That we may be given the same wisdom to prepare for the Lord's return.
- Mon 3** For all who have lost their way or their hope. For all feeling forsaken and alone.
- Tues 4** For all parents, step-parents and godparents. For foster parents and all who care for children.
- Wed 5** For our branch of the Mother's Union.
- Thurs 6** For Angela, our Verger.
- Fri 7** For engaged couples as they prepare for their marriage; for all who are responsible for helping and advising them.
- Sat 8** For Angela and Chris, our Churchwardens; for Frank and Yvonne, our Deputy Churchwardens.
- Sun 9** For those suffering from depression, and for those who love them; that they will find the strength to seek the help which they need.
- Mon 10** For our Trustees, meeting tonight; for Yvonne, their chairman, and for all offer so many hours of service to our church.
- Tues 11** For our Clergy Team.
- Wed 12** For our Local Ministry Group; that it may be a light in the city of Bath.
- Thurs 13** For David, our Treasurer.
- Fri 14** For Emma, Margaret and Sarah, our Deanery Synod representatives.
- Sat 15** For Nicky, our Magazine Editor.
- Sun 16** For our friends at St Stephen's, as they rededicate their tower and bells.
- Mon 17** For Judith, who prepares our weekly notice sheet.
- Tues 18** For Rowan our Archbishop and for Peter our Bishop. For all Anglican Bishops and Primates.

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- Wed 19** For Cyril and Mark our Readers; for Sarah's ministry at Batheaston .
- Thurs 20** For all our readers, chalice assistants, intercessors and sidespeople.  
For Sarah, who draws up the Laity Rotas.
- Fri 21** For the Cedar Tree project; for Nicky and all the helpers; for our local community.
- Sat 22** For children being bullied at school. For parents who worry about them and do not know how to help.
- Sun 23** For Mark, David and the choir. For a spirit of joy in our worship of the Lord.
- Mon 24** We pray that this night, and always, we will watch and pray, for he will come like a thief in the night
- Tues 25** Awake and rejoice! The Saviour of the world has come!
- Wed 26** For those persecuted for their faith; for all who have this year joined the glorious company of martyrs.
- Thurs 27** For all who see no hope for the year ahead. For all alone this Christmas.
- Fri 28** For all children, especially for any caught up in wars or domestic violence.
- Sat 29** For our hospitals, nursing homes and local surgeries and for those who work for the emergency services.
- Sun 30** For the safety of all who are travelling to visit relatives at this time.
- Mon 31** We thank God for all the blessings that he has sent us this past year.

**January 2008**

- Tues 1** We rededicate ourselves, and the coming year, to the service of Jesus.
- Wed 2** That those in authority may be humble, honest and trustworthy.
- Thurs 3** For all who are coming to terms with the death of a loved one; for those who are bearing a grief which they cannot share.
- Fri 4** For intelligent interfaith dialogue; for all those affected by acts of terrorism.
- Sat 5** For the work of the Mission to Seafarers.
- Sun 6** That the Lord may be made known to us, and that we may be faithful in making him known to all we meet.

## Mothers' Union News



We are now permitted to buy Morrisons Vouchers with money given for the Bath Women's Refuge, so £30-worth of Savings Stamps were delivered to the Refuge in November with six large bags containing Food, Cleaning Materials, Toiletries and Clothes. A full list of the donated items is on the MU Notice Board. The ladies at the Refuge very much value all your help and interest in their work of housing and thank all members of Christ Church Congregation very much indeed for their co-operation in our annual Appeal.

We have received an invitation from St. Luke's, Wellsway, Mother's Union, to join once again in their Christmas Celebrations. The Meeting will start at 3pm Tuesday December 4th, and will take the form of a Service with Hymns, Readings and a short address, which will be followed by tea and cakes. Representatives of Christ Church MU have taken part in these celebrations in the previous years, and have enjoyed the opportunity to meet and worship with our fellow members. Please let me know if you would like to visit them again this time.

The Church Christmas Communion and Lunch has been arranged for Wednesday December 19th December, when we hope all members of our Branch will attend. We would once again like to send our best wishes and heartfelt thanks to Antony for the Corporate Communion Services held throughout the year, and to John and June for providing the delicious lunches each time.

*Sylvia M Ayers*  
*MU Secretary*



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.

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Officiating Minister	The Rev Antony Claridge, 62 Cranwells Park, Weston, Bath BA1 2YE 01225 427462
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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.**