

# CHRIST CHURCH CHALLENGE



December 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**

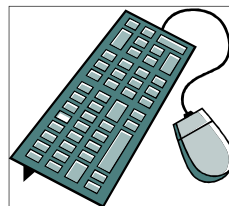
By arrangement. Please 'phone the Vestry 338869 / Officiating Minister 427462

*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...*

### **The Word was made flesh**

We live in a world of words. We depend on them for communication, instruction, entertainment, and our livelihoods. From our radios, televisions and computers words stream in torrents. Some, we have to admit, mean very little. Like the muzak in restaurants and supermarkets and on our telephones as we wait for a reply, they are little more than a background, a kind of audio wallpaper. And yet, we have all experienced the warmth of comfort in a kind word, the radiance of a poetic word, the illumination of a wise word.



As the season of Advent unfolds and we move towards Christmas, we shall hear some beautiful stories; the prophetic word from Isaiah, the annunciation of the angel, the story of the birth of a baby. The prose and the poetry tumble down before us as if from heaven itself. In these dark winter days – the days of much fear and discontent – light shines through these words and stories. When we hear, "do not fear", "great joy", "peace", and "good will" we are impelled to cry out like reformed Scrooges, "Happy Christmas everyone". Yet, we know that if we are not careful, we may hear these words and stories simply as ornaments, well meaning texts, stuffed in between the presents, parties and the fun of yet another Christmas.

This Christmas, it would be good to discover again the word under the words. If we don't at least make the attempt, another Christmas will pass by and we will be left with the string and the paper wrappings in the frosts of another ordinary January. And the fact is life is not ordinary; it is precious, intricate and wonderful.

The words of many of our Christmas poems readings and carols portray us as travellers on the road to Bethlehem. In fact, we make only short journeys to church to remember and once again hold the holiness of words. There in the holy light of candles we may recall the power and possibility of the Word made flesh and dwelling among us full of grace and truth. This year has been full of dreadful and shocking words. We have seen what a harsh and violent war of words and accusations can do to international politics, to our leaders, our national spirit and moral grounding. Words and the war of words have failed us. They have caused us more confusion than clarity, more pain than promise, more hatred than healing.

We come now to Christmas to uncover and hear the Word under all words. The word made of flesh comes alive and can be born again in the deepest regions of our hearts and the hearts and minds of all humankind.

In the beginning, so far as we can imagine, God attended to the mystery in sacred solitude and without words or human form. Then God abandoned the darkness of solitude and silence to come to light in human flesh, to be born in words like love, hope and joy and in people who would embody love, joy, and hope in their own flesh. This is the great mystery of the Incarnation, the very word of Christmas - the Word under all words.

May God bless you all with gentle love in this Christmas. May your lives be filled with an ocean depth of God's joy. May you know the fullness of love contained in the silence of a sleeping child. And may you know that your lives, too, can become a channel for divine mercy to flow out to save the lost, the weary and the suffering.

The Word was made flesh and dwells among us.  
And we see God's glory,  
The glory that is the Only Begotten Child of the Father,  
Full of grace and truth.

*Antony*

## Two new stars

Two of the younger members of our congregation made star appearances on Advent Sunday.

Olivia, who comes from New Zealand was brought to the front by her Dad, Andrew to light the first Advent Candle. She did it very well and thoroughly deserved her chocolate biscuit at the end of the service.



Our next star came all the way from Bathford. It was Eliza making her first appearance as a robed member of our choir. Another chocolate biscuit occasion!

# Church Calendar for December

| Dec | 7  | Sun  | SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT                |   |
|-----|----|------|--|---|
|     | 10 | Wed  | 11.00am                                | Holy Communion followed by Mince Pies     |
|     | 12 | Fri  | 11.00am                                | The Cedar Tree Community Café             |
|     | 13 | Sat  | ST LUCY, MARTYR at Syracuse            |   |
|     | 14 | Sun  | THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT                 |   |
|     |    |      | Genesis Concert at St Mark's           |   |
|     | 19 | Fri  | 11.00am                                | The Cedar Tree Community Café             |
|     | 21 | Sun  | FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT                |   |
|     |    |      | 6.30pm                                 | Carols by Candlelight                     |
|     | 22 | Mon  | ST THOMAS, Apostle                     |   |
|     | 24 | Wed  | CHRISTMAS EVE                          |   |
|     |    |      | 3.00pm                                 | Nativity Play and Blessing of the Crib    |
|     |    |      | 11.30pm                                | Midnight Mass                             |
|     | 25 | Thur | CHRISTMAS DAY                          |   |
|     |    |      | 8.00am                                 | Holy Communion                            |
|     |    |      | 10.00am                                | Christmas Celebration with Holy Communion |
|     | 26 | Fri  | ST STEPHEN, the first Martyr           |   |
|     |    |      | No Cedar Tree Community Café this week |   |
|     | 27 | Sat  | ST JOHN, Apostle                       |   |
|     | 28 | Sun  | THE HOLY INNOCENTS                     |   |
|     |    |      | 3.00pm                                 | Baptism of Olivia Hall                    |
|     | 29 | Mon  | ST THOMAS BECKET                       |   |
|     | 31 | Wed  | JOH WYCLIFFE, Reformer                 |   |
| Jan | 2  | Fri  | 11.00am                                | The Cedar Tree Community Café             |
|     | 4  | Sun  | SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS             |   |

# Laity Rota for December

|                 |           | OT Readers       | NT Readers    | Gospel          |
|-----------------|-----------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| <b>December</b> | <b>7</b>  | Sarah Hiscock    | Matthew Jones | Judith Anderson |
|                 | <b>14</b> | Margaret Burrows | Judith Bishop | Emma Elliott    |
|                 | <b>21</b> | Richard Gabe     | Bev Pont      | David Marles    |
|                 | <b>28</b> | Eileen Selmes    | Martin Palmer | Bob Siderfin    |

## Chalice Assistants

|                 |           |                |                  |
|-----------------|-----------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>December</b> | <b>7</b>  | Penny Edwards  | Bob Siderfin     |
|                 | <b>14</b> | Andrew Sillett | Tessa Claridge   |
|                 | <b>21</b> | Bev Pont       | Margaret Burrows |
|                 | <b>28</b> | Margaret Heath | Janet Mahto      |

## Intercessors

|                 |           |                     |
|-----------------|-----------|---------------------|
| <b>December</b> | <b>7</b>  | Georgina Bowman     |
|                 | <b>14</b> | Rev Antony Claridge |
|                 | <b>21</b> | Mark Elliott        |
|                 | <b>28</b> | Martin Palmer       |



|                 |           | 8am           | 10am                           |
|-----------------|-----------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>December</b> | <b>7</b>  | Clive Tilling | Andrew Sillett Janet Mahto     |
|                 | <b>14</b> | Arthur Jones  | Margaret Silver Frank Twissell |
|                 | <b>21</b> | Clive Tilling | Ken & Sylvia Ayers             |
|                 | <b>28</b> | Arthur Jones  | Margaret Heath Morny Davison   |

# Lectionary for December

|              | Old Testament       | New Testament           | Gospel            |
|--------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Dec 7</b> | Advent 2            |                         |                   |
|              | Isaiah 40.1-11      | 2 Peter 3.8-15a         | Mark 1.1-8        |
| <b>14</b>    | Advent 3            |                         |                   |
|              | Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11 | 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24 | John 1.6-8, 19-28 |
| <b>21</b>    | Advent 4            |                         |                   |
|              | 2 Samuel 7.1-11,16  | No reading              | Luke 1.26-38      |
| <b>24</b>    | Christmas Eve       |                         |                   |
|              | Isaiah 52.7-10      | Hebrews 1.1-4           | John 1.1-14       |
| <b>25</b>    | Christmas Day       |                         |                   |
|              | Isaiah 9.2-7        | No reading              | Luke 21.1-20      |
| <b>28</b>    | Holy Innocents      |                         |                   |
|              | Jeremiah 31.15-17   | 1 Corinthians 1.26-29   | Matthew 2.13-18   |

## The House of Lords

November 18 saw the Introduction of Bishop Peter (Bath & Wells) into the House of Lords as one of the 26 Lords Spiritual. Please remember Bishop Peter – and all our Parliamentarians – in your prayers as they take counsel and enact legislation in these troubled times.

## “Jesus and Psychology”

A review in *The Sign* with this title caught my eye a few months back. Later the book was reviewed in the *Church Times* and *The Tablet* and I bought it and was thrilled.



As Trevor Dennis mentioned in his recent talk at Wells, we have had the Jesus of history, Jesus the Jew, the Bible and Archaeology, more recently, a psychological approach to Jesus. I had been waiting for it.

Psychology has interested me from my far-flung youth, when some of us Perse Cambridge girls went along to Professor Bartlett's lab to be used as guinea-pigs for the students giving intelligence tests. Like solving crosswords, one improves at these tests, at least we did in those early days—which threw my next school as I was a high scorer on the tests but poor at learning lists of subjunctives, so a bit of a mystery. I bought a book called “*The Wonderful Story of You*” and commented to my parents that they were on a plateau but any moment my father might become an old woman and my mother a Brigadier—bit of a lead balloon, that was.

Back to the book. If we take psychology seriously then it seems right to see what insights it can offer to our understanding of the gospels. The series of essays cover topics such as what we bring to the study of the bible—our make-up affects how we read. This seems to me to fit well with the use made of Myers Briggs and the Enneagram in spiritual direction nowadays. Then we consider if enough is known to build up a character study of Jesus. His attitude to healing, with his different approach to suit the needs of the individual is well brought out.

Perhaps I enjoyed most the chapter on taboo-breaking—surely very relevant to current debates. It struck me as excitingly way-out ; the writer was a canon emeritus of Christ Church Oxford. Wow! There were excellent references, it was a scholarly work. I am writing this from memory, to show how the book struck me, and I am no scholar (even if surprisingly good at old style intelligence tests).

The church has seemed to me to ignore psychology at times, indeed a taboo only slowly being broken is discussion of depression and mental health in general. The good Christian, it used to be said, should pull her or himself together; to be ashamed of mental ill-health is not an unknown attitude, alas. Perhaps I was first attracted to the work of Jim Cotter by his book “*Brainsquall*”, about his breakdown. I believe Martin Israel and William Barclay had their bad times too? Jim is also homosexual. His



work on the psalms and some of his prayers among those that really speak to me. When a friend said she longed to visit him in the Llenn peninsula but thought she was too old to go without a co-driver I instantly volunteered. Before we set off she confessed her knee-op would only allow her to drive for twenty minutes and when I said "Never mind, you can navigate" she admitted she and her sister felt sick if they looked at a map. The weather forecast was appalling; other friends advised against going.

In the event the knee was fine, the navigation excellent, the weather, with snow on the hills of the National Park, fine and dry. We'd muddled sleeping arrangements in Jim's self catering accommodation and rather than spoil a friendship by sharing a (small) double bed, I asked at the Spar and landed up with Mattie, a Welsh speaker who provided a big room with sea-view and Welsh breakfast for £25 a night. "Does Mr Cotter like it here, then?" she asked. I said I did not think anyone could fail to like Bardsey.



It has been a place of pilgrimage for centuries. R S Thomas was Vicar of the lovely church perched by the sea. Inside there is a church shop to beat all church shops, Jim's works, free meditation cards (donations welcomed), lots of note cards and postcards and the welcome is great. In the village I took tea and Welsh cakes in a little cottage dating from 1300, where pilgrims had stopped on the way to the island for rest and refreshment. In addition to taking services, which we attended and appreciated, managing a

few rehearsed responses in Welsh, Jim Cotter offers counselling and individual spiritual direction. He is a magnet.

He prefers people to come to him rather than rush around giving talks nowadays, so I failed in my hope of getting him to come to speak on the church and mental health to the Ecumenical Study Fellowship, which meets at Ammerdown. However, he gave me valuable leads. He knew another of my favourite writers, Hare Duke, a psychiatrist whose poems appeal, and Brian Thorne, the Counsellor from Norwich who spoke at Salisbury a few summers back. It is encouraging that there are clergy now who do not take fright at, or ignore, what insights into understanding relationships psychology and psychiatry can offer, in my view.



There are sure to be those reading this who know much more than I do and these are the comments of a very amateur enthusiast, not an expert.

*Margaret Heath*

# Christmas at Christ Church

~ *Sunday 21st December* ~

**10.00 am: Family Eucharist**

**6.30 pm: Carols by Candlelight**

~ *Christmas Eve* ~

**3.00 pm: Nativity Play and Blessing of the Crib**

*All children are invited to come dressed as angels or shepherds*

**11.30 pm: Midnight Mass**

*A sung service which carries us into the first hour of Christmas Day, when we can all share the joy of the Incarnation*



~ *Christmas Day* ~



**8.00 am: Holy Communion**

*A quiet meditative service with the words of the 1662 Prayer Book*

**10.00 am: Christmas Celebration with Holy Communion**

*We hope that this one-hour service with carols will be the icing on your Christmas Cake!*

*Children are invited to bring their best present (so far) to be admired, and it's always worth checking the Christmas Tree for a festive treat*

## Buying your Christmas stamps



It is alleged that Post Office are trying to take religion out of the designs of Christmas stamps. There are two designs this year; one secular and one religious. At the counter you will be asked which you would like. It is said that on the basis of the number sold the Post Office may decide not to have a religious theme in future. This may be conspiracy theory and at the moment there is no way of determining the truth of the matter. However, it might be worthwhile for us all to opt for the religious stamps and refuse the secular version when we prepare to send out our Christmas cards.

## 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 Charity cards which are on sale in St Michael's Church: you probably buy quite a few yourself to send to family and friends. At this time 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). 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, if anonymous, contributors to this cause who continue to leave me their lovely parcels during the year. However, I have been advised that although all "pictorial" stamps, especially those from abroad, are still warmly welcomed, the Mission can no longer sell the ordinary first and second and second class stamps, so unfortunately I now have no option but to throw these away. Although thousands of used Postage Stamps have already come my way, I am nevertheless still appealing for them, so thank you, everyone, for all your help.



*Sylvia M Ayers*

## *Eleven Hundred Years Ago*

Next year will be 1100 years since King Edward the Elder (son of Alfred the Great) ordered the division of the huge Sherborne see into three dioceses. One of them, under Bishop Athelm, was what we now know as the diocese of Bath and Wells.

### *Affirming the role of the church*

As Bishop Peter (BW) has said “the 1100th anniversary of the Diocese of Bath and Wells provides us with an opportunity to make a public affirmation of the role of the Christian Church in Somerset. More specifically still, it provides an opportunity for the Church of England to reaffirm its commitment to the people of the parishes it serves.” It would be very easy for this anniversary celebration to be nothing but a ‘glorious heritage’ jamboree, but everyone is determined that this will not be the case.



There is a place for looking back: there is much in our Christian past to be proud of. There is also plenty of which we should be ashamed. It is hoped that the anniversary will also be an opportunity for us all to take stock of where our churches are today—and to consider where God is leading us in his future.

### *Year-long celebrations—all invited*

The celebrations will begin and end in grateful thanks to, and worship of, our God. We are invited to the **inaugural Eucharist at Bath Abbey** on Saturday 10 January at 2.00 p.m.; and also put in your diary a **closing celebratory act of worship in the Cathedral** on 21 November at 2.00 p.m. In between, the two key events are Peter’s Progress and the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration day at Glastonbury Abbey.

### *Peter’s plans progressing*

Plans for **Peter’s Progress** are advancing well. Over the eight weeks from May 4<sup>th</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup>, Bishop Peter (BW) will be out on the road, walking the diocese. During the Progress Bishop Peter will be leaving the set route each day to engage with local communities. The day-to-day programme will be issued in due course, but it offers a huge opportunity for Bishop Peter to meet and converse with many people and institutions and to engage others in a wide range of events and activities. It will be a significant piece of local mission. The Progress ends at **Glastonbury on Saturday 4 July** with a major day of celebration at the Abbey grounds. The full programme will be published in due course. However, it has already been announced that the Bishop of Reading, the Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell, will be the keynote speaker at the closing of the day’s activities.

## **Churches Together in Bath**

Thursday November 13th at the Salvation Army Citadel

At this Committee Meeting we met the new Secretary of the CTB Executive, who urged Churches to respond to the effects which the Credit Crunch is having on employment and failing businesses. He distributed copies of a Poster advertising the 2008 Open Christmas, mentioned the Cross Walk on April 10th 2009, and the CTB Web Site. He promised to continue publishing the quarterly Newsletter, started by Rev Roger Nunn, the previous Secretary, which is distributed to all Bath Churches. He also reported that the Christian Aid Worker, John James, is retiring, and someone else will have to take over the operation, in time to arrange the Service on April 26th 2009.

On November 2nd Ken and I took the Travelling Light to Holy Trinity, Queen Square, where, unfortunately, no doubt due to their being in an Interregnum, there were only about twenty people present, including our own Marjorie Milton. The Communion Service was taken by Rev Robert Webb, who is a retired cleric. The service ran very smoothly and they sent their very best wishes to Christ Church Congregation.

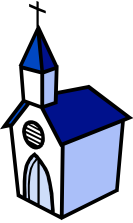
The new version of the Church Listings Leaflet which publicises Church Services throughout the City is now ready, with the outer-Bath Churches listed separately by area. The leaflets are being delivered to Hotels, Guest Houses and B&B's in Bath, and a pack is available on the Church shelf for anyone to take.

Rev Kieran Bourne said that he was coming to the end of his three-year stint as Chairman of the Central Zone, and as he did not wish to carry on in this post, asked that we should consider all the options, and pray that a suitable successor may shortly be chosen before the Central AGM. This event will take place in Christ Church at 7.30pm on Wednesday February 4th 2009, and assistance will be needed to serve coffee before the meeting. Please contact Margaret Heath or me if you could be available on that evening.

*Sylvia Ayers  
Joint CTB Representative*

## Bath Deanery Synod

Wednesday 12th November 2008, St. Luke's, Wellsway



The evening was introduced by the new vicar of St. Luke's, Revd. Matthew Frankum. He began by sharing his views on St. Luke's future and plans, both physically and spiritually. They're currently undertaking a major fundraising campaign to allow the construction of new entrance ways and a rearrangement of the nave. It is hoped that this will help link the church to both the local community, and the community centre in their grounds which is a focus of much of the local community's life.

Their spiritual vision has taken many there by surprise. After spending much time considering Mark 2, they've come to the conclusion that any direction of St. Luke's must be led by the people, and not any sort of top-down reform. Rather fitting, given the nature of the presentation which followed. The Revd. George Kovoor, principle of Trinity Theological College, Bristol, shared his vision for that college and his views on how the Anglican Church must rethink the way in which it trains its clergy, if it is to continue to grow in the UK.



He began by outlining the problem—the number of people attending churches in Britain is at an all time low today, whereas some developing countries are home to some of the largest and fastest growing Christian communities and Churches in the world. Of course, some might argue that focusing on Church size and simply getting number through the doors is a little too narrow. If we are to take the Church and its mission to people in our communities, we must find ways to bring

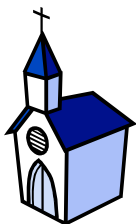
the Church into the centre of those communities, understanding their needs and welcoming people of all backgrounds, race, creed and social groups. A mission call to which Christ Church is perhaps particularly well suited, given its history and current community-focused projects such as the Cedar Tree Café.

The Revd. Kovoor went on to discuss what such a shift in focus for the Church, and in particularly the Anglican Church, might mean in terms of the way in which it should train its next generation of clergy. His comparison of his view of the modern shift from institutional focus towards what he called relational faith to the reformation came as a bit of surprise. Whereas the reformation could be seen as the shift from the priesthood to the scholars, the Revd. Kovoor seemed to be suggesting that the Church should all but drop its study of theology and focus only on interaction with

the community, constituting a shift from the scholars to the missionaries.

So what does this mean for training the clergy? The Revd. Kovoor outlined his vision of a new generation of clergy who are focused on mentoring their communities, as he sees it reflecting the way in which Jesus prepared his disciples for building his Church. Making sure that the clergy were firmly part of the crowd, mirroring Jesus' teaching, not of the then institution, the temple.

It must be said that much of what Revd. Kovoor talked about seemed rather single focused, and at times controversial. Whilst growing Churches are becoming more closely integrated into their surrounding communities, especially breaking through any cultural or social barriers must be part of growing the Church in Britain, it surely should not be the only focus. Creating Church communities of tens of thousands of people may be desirable, but doing so at the expense of narrowing the styles and forms of worship, or indeed by scaring people through the doors with threats of hell and damnation may not be productive, and might even be said to bring us full circle to the days of, as he put it the "priesthood", pre-reformation.



I think Christ Church can take courage from some of his remarks. Clearly everyone, from all walks of life within the Church universal and the Anglican community, recognise that we have much to do in terms of reaching out to our local communities. This, as I have said, has always been a focus of our mission, and long may that continue. As for dropping study and theology, growing our Church to 20,000 or ignoring the institution and liturgy, I hope and pray that Christ Church keeps its focus, and continues to serve its community well.

*Lewis Boyd*

*The next Deanery Synod will be held on Tuesday 24th February, 2009. If anybody has any issues which affect Christ Church they would like to raise, please get in touch with either Margaret Heath, Sarah Hiscock, or Lewis Boyd.*

As they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain.

The Pharisees said to him, 'Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?'

And he said to them, 'Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food?'

'He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions.'

Then he said to them,

'The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.'

# Prayer Cycle for December

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## *December*

- Mon 1** As we enter the season of Advent, may we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ.
- Tues 2** For all who have lost their way or their hope. For all feeling forsaken and alone.
- Wed 3** For all parents, step-parents and godparents. For foster parents and all who care for children.
- Thurs 4** For those sleeping on the streets of Bath this winter.
- Fri 5** For all preparing for marriage.
- Sat 6** For the leaders of our country, that they may follow paths of peace and righteousness.
- Sun 7** As Christmas approaches, that we may be mindful of the dangers of greed in our consumerist society.
- Mon 8** For our LMG partners, St Stephen's and St Mary's Charlcombe.
- Tues 9** For Margaret, Sarah and Lewis, our Deanery Synod representatives.
- Wed 10** For all who help to run our Junior Church, for Sarah who co-ordinates the rota, and for all our children.
- Thurs 11** For David, our Treasurer and magazine editor.
- Fri 12** For the work of the Mission to Seafarers.
- Sat 13** For Judith, who prepares our weekly notice sheet.
- Sun 14** For Rowan our Archbishop and for Peter our Bishop. For all Anglican Bishops and Primates.
- Mon 15** For Chris and Angela, our church wardens.
- Tues 16** For Cyril and Mark our Readers; for Sarah's ministry at Batheaston.
- Wed 17** For Angela, our Verger.



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- Thurs 18** 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 19** For the Mothers Union. For those who raised us and for those who care for us today.
- Sat 20** For all our readers, chalice assistants, intercessors and sidespeople. For Sarah, who draws up the Laity Rotas
- Sun 21** For Mark, our Director of Music and David, our Organist. For our choir.
- Mon 22** For all who will be separated from those they love this Christmas. For all those travelling.
- Tues 23** For the work of the Cedar Tree. For Nicky and all the helpers.
- Wed 24** For those who live under fears and worries; that they may be given hope.
- Thurs 25** *The Word is made flesh and dwells among us, full of grace and truth.*
- Fri 26** For our Clergy Team.
- Sat 27** For the blessings of rest and refreshment for all who are taking a break from their work.
- Sun 28** For all those who, in the midst of the Christmas celebrations, are lonely.
- Mon 29** For all caught up in wars and areas of conflict.
- Tues 30** For the homeless in our country; for the work of Genesis among those in Bath.
- Wed 31** Let us thank God for the blessings of the year now ending.
- January**
- Thurs 1** Let us rededicate our lives to God, to being Jesus' body on earth.
- Fri 2** For our hospitals, nursing homes and local surgeries.
- Sat 3** For all who are caring for the sick; that they may be given peace and strength.
- Sun 4** For those who are ill in countries with poor health facilities.

## Mothers Union News

With money given for the Bath Women's Refuge, we have been able to buy £58 of Morrisons Savings Stamps, and these were delivered to the Refuge 1 November, together with four bags and two large boxes of Food, Cleaning Materials, and Toiletries.

This is the largest amount we have been given for some years, so we do thanks all members of Christ Church Congregation very much indeed for their co-operation in our annual Appeal. The ladies at the Refuge very much value all your help and interest in their work of housing and caring for the desperate women and their children who arrive on their doorstep almost daily. A full list of the donated items is on the MU Notice Board.

The Church Christmas Communion followed by mince pies has been arranged for Wednesday December 10th, 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 (Secretary)*



## Bringing them home for Christmas

On page 10 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.

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|  |   |
|--|---|
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| Assistant Clergy   | The Rev Cliff Burrows, Stonecroft, Entry Hill Drive, Bath BA2 5NL 01225 334743  |
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| Deanery Synod / Churches Together in<br>Bath (CTB)                   | Margaret Heath, St Lawrence, Lansdown Road, Bath BA1 5TD 01225 428272   |
| Deanery Synod / Christian Aid<br>representative                      | Lewis Boyd, 5 Jesse Hughes Court, Lower Swainswick, BA1 7BE 01225 329190  |
| Mothers' Union (MU)  | Margaret Burrows, Stonecroft, Entry Hill Drive, Bath BA2 5NL 01225 334743   |
| CTB / MU Secretary & Treasurer /<br>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  | Your name here? Speak to Chris or Angela!   |
| Organist   | David Wrigley, 3 Haydon Gate, Radstock, BA3 3RB 01761 439355  |
| Concert and Bookings Co-ordinator /<br>Weekly Notices                | Judith Bishop, 01225 869409<br>Email <a href="mailto:concerts@christchurchbath.org">concerts@christchurchbath.org</a> |

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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.**