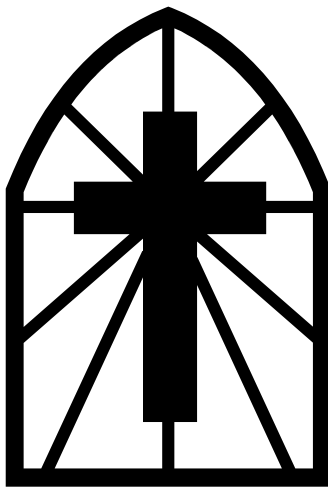


CHRIST
CHURCH
CHALLENGE



January 2009

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

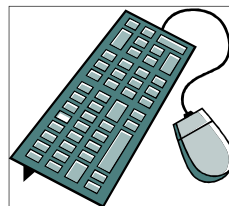
BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, FUNERALS

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...

Happy New Year



By the time you read this, the New Year will be well worn. To be honest, 1st January dawned with news bulletins so horribly familiar that one wondered why on earth we celebrated at midnight at all. The frenzy of the New Year sales in the high streets were bargains for some and redundancy for many. Official figures show that 1.8 million people are currently unemployed in Britain but experts fear the number of jobless could hit 3 million next year as the banking crisis and falling consumer spending drives more firms to the wall.

Most of us have difficulty in understanding the complexities of economic trends and changes. Indeed, even economists fail to agree on either the causes of the current mess or the way to get out of it. It is easy to shrug off theories and arguments until account is taken of the human misery behind the headlines.

Well before Christmas, a survey of 155 local authorities in England provided an alarming measure of the effects of the economic crisis on family life. It revealed a sharp rise in demand for advisory services. In total, 93 per cent of councils said they had seen an increase in demand for debt counselling while 69 per cent had seen more residents seeking housing advice. Half had seen more people asking for employment advice as the number of jobless reaches 2 million. It was also found that 17 per cent have experienced an increase in demand for relationship counselling.

This poll seems to have confirmed earlier predictions that recession would lead to thousands more married couples splitting up. One sociologist put a figure on it, claiming that a 10 per cent drop in property prices would trigger a 5 per cent increase in the divorce rate.

There seems little doubt that the economic recession will touch almost everyone in the UK in some shape or form. Typically, the trauma of redundancy brings a sense of being useless and unwanted. There is a vital role for the church in supporting those in despair and standing alongside the dispossessed.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has said: "What would our life be like if we really believed that our wealth, our treasure, was our fellow-human beings? Religious faith points to a God who takes most seriously and values most extravagantly the people who often look least productive or successful—as if none of us could really be said to be doing well unless

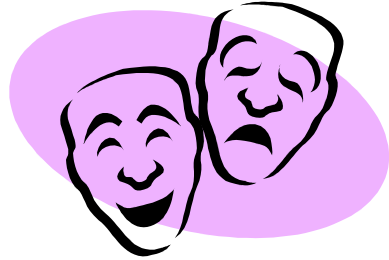
these people were secure.”

A prayer has been written to offer comfort to those who have been sacked as the economy heads into recession, by recognising their fears and suggesting that belief in God can help them cope. It includes the verse: “Hear me as I cry out in confusion, help me to think clearly, and calm my soul.”

The prayer is printed in full on page 11.

Antony

All the world's a stage Christ Church in the limelight



Jenny Soboslay was scarcely off the boards in the run-up to Christmas. She first appeared in her school production of *Grease* and then stepped into the leading role in pantomime at the Kingswood Theatre. She deserved all the applause she received.

Congratulations also go to Edward Gabe who will be sharing the title role in *Oliver!* at the Theatre Royal Bath in April. It runs from Tuesday 21st April to Saturday 25th April, with a matinee performance on the final day. Ticket prices start at £10 and are available now.

Church Calendar for January

Jan	4	Sun	SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	
	6	Tues	EPIPHANY	
	9	Fri	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	10	Sat	WILLIAM LAUD, Archbishop	
	11	Sun	BAPTISM OF CHRIST	
	12	Mon	7.30pm	Christ Church Council
	16	Fri	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	18	Sun	SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY	
	19	Mon	Start of WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY	
	21	Wed	ST AGNES of Rome	
	23	Fri	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	24	Sat	ST FRANCIS de SALES	
	25	Sun	CONVERSION OF ST PAUL	
	26	Mon	SS TIMOTHY & TITUS, companions of St Paul	
	28	Wed	ST THOMAS AQUINAS	
	30	Fri	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	1	Sun	CANDLEMAS	
			6.30pm	Choral Evensong

—See www.christchurchbath.org for latest details of church events—

A Lovely Christmas

We have had a lovely Christmas at Christ Church and this is borne out by the reactions of the many visitors who came to our services. They spoke not only of the beauty of the liturgy but also of the warmth of the welcome they were given. Antony would like to say thank you to all who contributed to the many aspects which combined to make Christmas special in our church.



Laity Rota for January

		OT Readers	NT Readers	Gospel
January	4	Nicky Gladstone	Esme Buss	Morny Davison
	11	Penny Edwards	Georgina Bowman	David Bishop
	18	David Marles	Mark Elliott	Jane Fletcher
	25	Sarah Hiscock	Margaret Heath	Sylvia Ayers
February	1	Matthew Jones	Judith Anderson	Margaret Burrows
	8	Judith Bishop	Emma Elliott	Richard Gabe

Chalice Assistants

January	4	Chris Graham	Jane Fletcher
	11	Penny Edwards	Bob Siderfin
	18	Andrew Sillett	Tessa Claridge
	25	Bev Pont	Margaret Burrows
February	1	Margaret Heath	Janet Mahto
	8	Jane Fletcher	

Intercessors

January	4	Rev Antony Claridge
	11	Penny Edwards
	18	Bev Pont
	25	David Marles
February	1	Rev Cliff Burrows
	8	



Sidespeople		8am	10am	
January	4	Clive Tilling	Tessa Claridge	Andrew Sillett
	11	Arthur Jones	Margaret Silver	Frank Twissell
	18	Clive Tilling	Ken & Sylvia Ayers	
	25	Arthur Jones	Janet Mahto	Margaret Heath
February	1	Clive Tilling	Morny Davison	Tessa Claridge
	8	Arthur Jones	Margaret Silver	Frank Twissell

Lectionary for January

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
Jan 11	The Baptism of Christ (Epiphany 1)		
	Genesis 1.1-5	Acts 19.1-7	Mark 1.1-7
18	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (Epiphany 2)		
	1 Samuel 3.1-10	No reading	John 1.43-51
25	Conversion of Paul		
	No reading	Acts 9.1-22	Matthew 19.27-end
Feb 1	Candlemas		
	Malachi 3.1-5	Hebrews 2.14-18	Luke 2.22-40
8	3rd Sunday before Lent		
	Isaiah 40.21-31	1 Corinthians 9.16-23	Mark 1.29-39
15	2nd Sunday before Lent		
	Proverbs 8.1, 22-31	Colossians 1.15-20	John 1.1-14

Bishops join call for the UK to block EU privileges for Israel

Three Anglican bishops have joined over 200 public figures in a call for the UK government to act against the European Union extending further privileges to Israel while it remains in breach of international law. The current Gaza conflict is particularly cited.

The petition was published in the Guardian newspaper on 5 January. The Church of England bishops signing are from the dioceses of Bath and Wells, Exeter and Winchester.

Listening and learning

Some thoughts on Christian Unity

Two fresh expressions (small “f”, small “e”) which recently came my way are face-mail and receptive ecumenism. Their meanings are somewhat similar. Face-mail seems to mean popping into the next door office and talking to a colleague rather than e-mailing him. It doesn't seem to mean Skype.



Receptive ecumenism implies not just dialogue with someone of a different denomination but attentive listening, with a willingness to learn.

The Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome concluded his talk in the Jerusalem Chamber recently on the warm, appreciative note that while we and the Catholics may have run into difficulties over, for example, the ordination of women, receptive ecumenism flourishes. There are many examples of this; at the Oxford Memorial service for the late Very Reverend Professor Henry Chadwick Cardinal Murphy O'Connor read the prayers. In Cambridge there was an insert in the Order of Service, a message from the President of the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity to the Archbishop of Canterbury, who was giving the address, “the Roman Catholic Church mourns a great scholar, a holy witness to the gospel and a true friend.” The late Pope John Paul II had given Henry a priestly stole. Ever since the second Vatican Council relationships have been cordial at high level; when St John's representatives were at Christ Church to hand over the Travelling Light I mentioned that the Nuncio was celebrating there that evening, again reflecting improved attitudes between fellow Christians.



Then there was a letter to the Times last summer from Lord Hylton, co-founder of Ammerdown, headed “Catholic Church can learn from Lambeth.” He thought the Catholics should discuss, rather than ignore, certain burning issues. I rarely see the
Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8



Times—and my googling skills are rather basic still—so do not know whether any Anglicans listed what we could learn in our turn from Catholics and others.

Certainly at local level we get chances, through Lent Lunches, Genesis, CTB to make friends and to listen and learn. Unity to me does not imply agreement on all things human and divine but a respect and indeed love for those who do not share our views, extended to those of other denominations and indeed those of other faiths.

And indeed to other Anglicans. A friend once said, “if my sister treated her friends as she treats me she wouldn't have any.” Deanery Synod can be as much as a challenge as CTB meetings.



Perhaps this all links in with what Cliff preached about the importance of silence. In mature prayer, not petition but listening to God, other-regarding, not self-regarding there is a link to receptive ecumenism concentrates on learning, not imposing ones own views and wishes. “Forever incomplete”, the talk I heard, concluded with receptive ecumenism, stressing not the differences, nor the obstacles to full communion with the Roman Catholics, but on what is positive and encouraging, so seems a happy fresh expression for Christian unity week?

Margaret Heath

Corrections and clarifications

Jesus and Psychology (December issue)

It was my fault not our patient editor's that BARDSLEY was substituted for ABERDARON. Had I been able to use face-mail this error would not have occurred. Bardsley is the island. See Shell Guide to Wales. Apologies.

Margaret Heath

Week of prayer for Christian Unity 18 –25 January

Reconcile Your People “That they may become one in your hand”

The theme for the 2009 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was selected by a local ecumenical group from South Korea. Members of the group were from the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Korea and the National Council of Churches of Korea. The text they chose for the 2009 celebration is Ezekiel 37:15-19, 22-24a.

God spoke to the Prophet Ezekiel and said
*“They shall be one in my hand...
 They will be my people and I shall be their God.”*

*We pray to you for the unity of all Christians
 According to your will,
 According to your means,
 May your Spirit enable us to experience the suffering caused by
 division
 To see our sin and to hope beyond all hope.
 God, you alone are our hope
 You alone are our hope.*

The Churches in Korea have found that this passage in Ezekiel resonates with their own sense of sadness over the division of their own country since the Korean War and have brought some of the insights they have gained to the worship for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

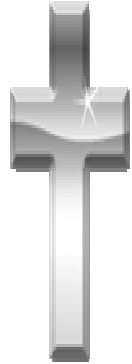
*God of diversity,
 accept our desire for unity;
 reconcile our divisions
 but let us glorify you through our diversity;
 let us know how great you are.
 Amen*

Prayer on being made redundant

'Redundant' – the word says it all -
'useless,
unnecessary,
without purpose,
surplus to requirements.'

Thank you, Heavenly Father, that in the
middle of

the sadness,
the anger,
the uncertainty,
the pain,
I can talk to you.
Hear me as I cry out in confusion,
help me to think clearly,
and calm my soul.
As life carries on,
may I know your presence with me
each and every day.
And as I look to the future,
help me to look for fresh opportunities, for
new directions.
Guide me by your Spirit,
and show me your path,
through Jesus,
the way, the truth and the life.
Amen.



Your magazine!

We are always on the look out for items for Christ Church Challenge.

If you've never submitted a piece, why not send us one? Stories, reviews, comments; local issues, global events. Anything from a sentence or two to a couple of pages is welcome.

Email it to admin@christchurchbath.org or pass a hard copy to the editor or one of the church wardens.

It's your chance, young or old, to become a published writer!

Prayer Cycle for January

January

- Mon 5** For Rowan our Archbishop and for Peter our Bishop. For all Anglican Bishops and Primates.
- Tues 6** For the leaders of our country, that they may follow paths of peace and righteousness.
- Wed 7** For the work of the Mission to Seafarers.
- Thurs 8** For Margaret, Sarah and Lewis, our Deanery Synod representatives.
- Fri 9** For all our readers, chalice assistants, intercessors and sidespeople. For Sarah, who draws up the Laity Rotas
- Sat 10** For the people of Palestine and of Israel; for all civilian casualties of terrorist and military attacks.
- Sun 11** For those starting the year with new challenges to face; a new job, a new house, marriage, bereavement, whatever it may be.
- Mon 12** For our Church Council, meeting tonight.
- Tues 13** For those who are sleeping on the streets or in poor accommodation this winter.
- Wed 14** For all who help to run our Junior Church, for Sarah who co-ordinates the rota, and for all our children.
- Thurs 15** For David, our Treasurer and magazine editor.
- Fri 16** For Mark, our Director of Music and David, our Organist. For our choir.
- Sat 17** For all who are concerned about redundancy, or who are looking for work.
- Sun 18** For Chris and Angela, our church wardens.
- Mon 19** For Christians throughout the world, that with one voice they may proclaim the transforming power of God's love.

- Tues* 20 For the people of the US, and for their new President. For all world leaders grappling with the global turmoil.
- Wed* 21 For Cyril and Mark our Readers; for Sarah's ministry at Batheaston.
- Thurs* 22 For Angela, our Verger.
- Fri* 23 For the work of the Cedar Tree. For Nicky and all the helpers.
- Sat* 24 For our LMG partners, St Stephen's and St Mary's Charlcombe.
- Sun* 25 For the witness of all the churches in the city of Bath.
- Mon* 26 For our Clergy Team.
- Tues* 27 For Judith, who prepares our weekly notice sheet.
- Wed* 28 For the work of Dorothy House, for those benefiting from its care and for their families.
- Thurs* 29 For the work of USPG in general, and especially for St Anne's Hospital, Lake Malawi. For Adrian Pegg, our USPG representative.
- Fri* 30 For our next-door neighbours; for our colleagues at work.
- Sat* 31 Let us thank God for the blessings of the month now ending.
- February*
- Sun* 1 For all preparing for marriage.
- Mon* 2 For those who mourn, that they may be comforted.
- Tues* 3 For those persecuted for their faith.
- Wed* 4 For our hospitals, nursing homes and local surgeries and for those who work for the emergency services.

Mothers Union News

Following donations to the Women's Refuge, I have received a letter of thanks and a Christmas Card from the Managers of the House. Both are displayed on the MU Noticeboard.

In December three members responded to the invitation from St Luke's MU to join them for their Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols which was followed by a splendid tea. We also joined in the December Midweek Corporate Communion, after which June Metcalfe provided us with coffee and mince pies. We would all like to send her our good wishes for a speedy recovery to full health. Hopefully in the new year we can have another Corporate Communion on a Wednesday in January.

The £14.00 MU Subscription for 2009 became due on January 1st. Of this, £7.00 goes towards the upkeep of Mary Sumner House; £5.50 is paid to the Diocese, and 50p pays for our Quarterly Newsletter. The Deanery Fares Fund receives 30p, and we can keep 70p per member. However, as our Branch now consists of only five ladies, perhaps it would be better for us to become Indoor or Deanery members instead, while of course remaining attached to Christ Church. Please would you let Margaret Burrows know your thoughts on this. Meanwhile, may we wish all Christ Church friends a very Happy New Year.

Sylvia M Ayers (Secretary)

1100 years... how it started

The Diocese of Bath and Wells was formed in 909 so this year is its eleven hundredth anniversary. In earlier times, bishops of Sherborne had been the spiritual leaders of all of south-west England.

It was too large an area to care for properly, and so the huge diocese was divided. In 909 bishops were appointed to Wells and Crediton. So for 1100 years the people of Somerset have had their own bishop. They took different titles as they moved their headquarters but they had a common aim: to proclaim God to each generation.

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
Reader / Director of Music	Mark Elliott, 32 Charlcombe Lane, Larkhall, Bath BA1 6NS 01225 445360
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
Church Council Secretary	David Bishop, The Old Tannery, Turleigh, Bradford on Avon, BA15 2HG 01225 869409
Treasurer to the Trustees / Magazine Editor	David Marles, 5 Westwoods, Box Road, Bath BA1 7QE 01225 859969
Chairman of the Trustees	Yvonne Morris, 3 Summerhill Road, Sion Hill, Bath BA1 2UP. 01225 425555
Secretary to the Trustees	Nicky Gladstone, 5 Westwoods, Box Road, Bath BA1 7QE 01225 859969
Deanery Synod / Laity Rotas / Junior Church	Sarah Hiscock, 2 Mortimer Close, Bath BA1 4EN 07983 556759
Deanery Synod / Churches Together in Bath (CTB)	Margaret Heath, St Lawrence, Lansdown Road, Bath BA1 5TD 01225 428272
Deanery Synod	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 / 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	
Organist	David Wrigley, 3 Haydon Gate, Radstock, BA3 3RB 01761 439355
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.**