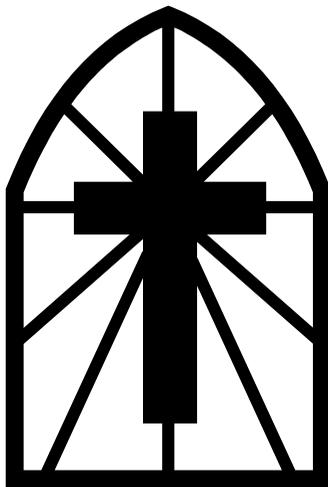


CHRIST
CHURCH
CHALLENGE



January 2010

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 4.30pm
Other Sundays	Said Evening Prayer at 5.30pm

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

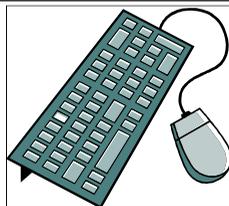
Angela and Chris, the churchwardens, would like to know about people who are ill, or of any circumstances in which the ministry of the Church would be welcome.

Holy Spirit of Freedom
as the poor long
 for abundance shared
 and injustice ended,
and the Church longs for unity;
Challenge us to see these two visions
 as vital threads in a single tapestry;
Sharpen our wit and imagination
 to weave the two together
in the footsteps of Jesus
for the life of the world
to the glory of God!

Carolyn Smyth
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Forum...

Learn to walk and don't look back



By social and political measures, 2009 has not been a good year. The collapse of our economy brought a steep rise in unemployment. The concept of a perpetually rising standard of living was called into question as politicians, many of whom had been seen to have been filling their pockets, spoke of a coming era of austerity. All this was against a background of questions about the morality of the Iraq War and rising casualties in Afghanistan. Looking back we seem to have lost so much; opportunity, trust, national well-being.

The Canadian humorist, Stephen Leacock was in sombre mood when on the eve of the year 1926, he wrote: "How strange is our little procession called life! The child says, 'When I am big...' and then, grown up, he or she says, 'When I am married.' But then the thought turns to 'When I am able to retire.' Then when retirement comes, we look back over the landscape traversed. A cold wind blows over it. Somehow we have missed it all, and it is gone."

Leacock probably voices all our anguish over time wasted and things left undone. A French writer describes our frustrations as coming from the fact that 'we have one foot in the finite and the other in the infinite, and we are torn between two worlds.' Jesus had the ability to relate one with the other he walked with us and yet he was the servant of his heavenly father.

The New Year calls us to do things differently and better with our feet firmly on the earth and yet looking towards heaven. Our minds are drawn to new commitments, or even fresh versions of previous commitments. There is no time to be looking back. All the time we have should be devoted to change rather than regret.

The challenge from the Bible encompasses all of that change. To put it simply, the Bible's message is that we're expected to walk in a different way once we follow Christ. It doesn't matter if we are in a crowd or walking all alone. Walking as a follower of Jesus requires a different step than the rest of the world. If you doubt whether anything you might do would make a difference, take a look at St Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

The story of the establishment of a Christian community in Ephesus is incredibly relevant, despite the fact the words were written nearly 2,000 years ago. The culture of Ephesus had several similarities with our culture. Though their technology was different, their weak points were the

same. They had a tendency to favour sinful practices. They were materialistic to a point of overkill.

And yet, right in the midst of a very difficult environment, a church sprang up. As Paul ministered to this small group of Christians, it became obvious that people were hungry for something real. They wanted something more than what their money could buy, more than that which their lustful imaginations could create. And as they listened, as they considered the life of Jesus, and as they changed their ways, their number began to grow. In fact, they became so influential that the authorities concluded that they were a threat to the established economy of the city and because of this Paul had to leave the city.

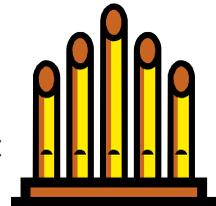
Eventually, long after he had to flee Ephesus in order to save his life, Paul wrote to his church with a simple instruction telling them what he expected of them. He urged them to do what you're probably hoping to do as a new year dawns. He called them to a new way of living or, as we might say, to a new way of walking. "I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, urge you to walk worthy of the calling you have received." (Ephesians 4.1)

Antony

Greetings from India

Restoration progress

We received Christmas greetings Trustees of Christ Church Mussoorie Organ Fund. They also sent a progress report on the restoration 19th century William Hill pipe organ.



Generous response

Christ Church Mussoorie was founded in 1836 and is the oldest Anglican church in the Himalayan foothills. Now part of the Church of North India, it is a vibrant and growing Christian community. Readers will recall that we answered the trustees appeal for £25 from every church in England with the title Christ Church. In fact, through cash collections during July, we were able to send £80 and the trustees were delighted. Once the work is finished we have been promised photographs and a report.

Church Calendar for January

Jan	3	Sun	EPIPHANY	
	5	Tues	Mayor's Call to Prayer	
	8	Fri	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	10	Sun	BAPTISM OF CHRIST	
			6.30pm	CTB Epiphany Service St Mary's Church, Julian Road
	11	Mon	7.30pm	Christ Church Council
	14	Thur	7.30pm	Home Group at 77 Brookfield Park, BA1 4JJ
	15	Fri	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	17	Sun	SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY	
	18	Mon	Start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	
	22	Fri	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	23	Sat	11.00am	Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity St John's Church, North Parade
	24	Sun	THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY	
	25	Mon	CONVERSION OF PAUL	
			End of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	
	27	Wed	7.30pm	Christ Church Trustees
	28	Thur	ST THOMAS AQUINAS, Priest	
			7.30pm	Home Group at 77 Brookfield Park, BA1 4JJ
	29	Fri	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	31	Sun	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY	
Feb	5	Fri	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	7	Sun	SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT	
			4.30pm	Choral Evensong

.org...see our website for latest details...www.christchurchbath.org...see o

Laity Rota for January

		OT Readers	NT Readers	Gospel
January	3	Nicky Gladstone	Esme Buss	Morny Davison
	10	Penny Edwards	Georgina Bowman	David Bishop
	17	Mark Elliott	Jane Fletcher	Sarah Cade
	24	Margaret Heath	Sylvia Ayers	Matthew Jones
	31	Judith Anderson	Margaret Burrows	Judith Bishop

Chalice Assistants

January	3	Andrew Sillett	Tessa Claridge
	10	Bev Pont	Margaret Burrows
	17	Margaret Heath	Janet Mahto
	24	Jane Fletcher	Penny Edwards
	31	Bob Siderfin	Andrew Sillett

Intercessors

January	3	David Marles
	10	Rev Cliff Burrows
	17	Rev Antony Claridge
	24	Mark Elliott
	31	Martin Palmer



Sidespeople		8am	10am	
January	3	Clive Tilling	Tessa Claridge	Emma Elliott
	10	Arthur Jones	Margaret Silver	Frank Twissell
	17	Clive Tilling	Ken & Sylvia Ayers	
	24	Arthur Jones	Andrew Sillett	Janet Mahto
	31	Clive Tilling	Morny Davison	Margaret Heath

Lectionary for January

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
Jan 3	The Epiphany		
	Isaiah 60.1-6	No reading	Matthew 2.1-12
10	The Baptism of Christ		
	Isaiah 43.1-7	No reading	Luke 3.15-17, 21-22
17	Epiphany 2		
	Isaiah 62.1-5	1 Corinthians 12.1-11	John 2.1-11
24	Epiphany 3		
	No reading	1 Corinthians 12.12-31a	Luke 4.14-21
31	Candlemas		
	Malachi 3.1-5	Hebrews 2.14-18	Luke 2.22-40
Feb 7	2 nd Sunday before Lent		
	Genesis 2.4b-9, 15-25	No reading	Luke 8.22-25

Mothers' Union News

I have now been notified that the Annual Tribute—or Subscription—to the Mothers' Union is due on 1st January 2010. If current and potential members could let me have their cheque for £15, made payable to "The Mothers' Union" as soon as possible, I will forward them to the Deanery Treasurer.

This amount comprises £7.50 for Mary Sumner House, £6.00 for MU Bath and Wells, 30p for the MU Bath Deanery Fund, 50p for the Springs Magazine which goes to every member, and the essential 70p per member for us to keep as a float to cover our own expenses. However, if our few remaining members would now prefer to disband our Branch and to join the Bath and District Branch instead for 50p less, I will quite understand. Please would you let me have your decision straight away.



Sylvia M Ayers
 MU Secretary

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

You are witnesses to these things—Luke 24.48

Churches around the world traditionally mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from 18 to 25 January in the eight days between the dates traditionally associated with St. Peter and St. Paul, although some local contexts choose to celebrate it around the Feast of Pentecost.



The global organisers (the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity and the World Council of Churches) of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity asked Scotland to host the week in 2010 to mark the centenary of the first world mission conference that met in Edinburgh. This gathering is traditionally seen as the beginning of the modern ecumenical movement, which seeks the visible unity of the world's divided churches.

Scottish churches are also involved in celebrations for the anniversary of the 1910 conference on the theme, "Witnessing to Christ today". Scotland therefore suggested as the theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2010, "You are witnesses to these things" (Luke 24:48).

Resurrection story chosen as the focus

The resurrection stories in the Gospel have immense power that touch upon so many aspects of human experience: dashed hopes, disappointments, grief and loss. But they also speak of a difficulty to accept change and recognise new realities. The vivid account of Jesus' resurrection will be the worldwide focus of thoughts and prayers about Christian unity.



Continued on page 9



Churches Together in Britain and Ireland



...There are many different Christian churches and denominations, but all have the same basic calling - to worship God, to share the good news about Jesus Christ and to work for the good of all people.

So they often need to work together, as well as co-ordinate the work they each do separately. When they do, they are acting as Churches Together...

Continued from page 8

Called to embrace something new

The unity in Christ that we seek and pray for implies that we are called to embrace something new, something that will change us and the church from something disunited to a Church that is one in Christ. Some commentators have observed that the ecumenical movement is becalmed. If there is a sense in which we are becalmed in our journey towards unity, we might see this not as a cause for mourning but an opportunity for renewal and rekindled hope.



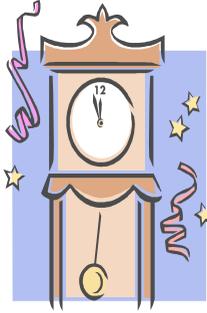
Hope and renewal in Bath

Churches Together in Bath calls all Christians to a week during which renewal in and hope for unity is the focus of personal and public prayer. Christians throughout bath are called to express their solidarity at a service to be held at St John's Church, North Parade on Saturday, 23rd January at 11am.



Happy New Year An ancient celebration

The oldest celebration



“Happy New Year!” That greeting will be said and heard for at least the first couple of weeks as a new year gets under way. But the day celebrated as New Year’s Day in Western culture was not always January the first.

The celebration of the new year is the oldest of all holidays. It was first observed in ancient Babylon about 4000 years ago. In the years around 2000 BC, the Babylonian New Year began with the first New Moon (actually the first visible crescent) after the Vernal Equinox (first day of spring).

The beginning of spring is a logical time to start a new year. After all, it is the season of rebirth, of planting new crops, and of blossoming. The first of January, on the other hand, has no astronomical nor agricultural significance. It is purely a quirk of history.

The Babylonian New Year celebration lasted for eleven days. Each day had its own particular mode of celebration, but it is safe to say that modern New Year’s Eve festivities pale in comparison.



A shifting date

The New Year was still observed in the spring (late March) by the Romans, but various emperors continually tampered with their calendar so that the calendar eventually became out of synchronization with the sun.

In order to set the calendar right, the Roman senate, in 153 BC, declared January 1 to be the beginning of the new year. But tampering continued until Julius Caesar, in 46 BC, established what has come to be known as the Julian Calendar. It again established the first of January as the new year. But in order to synchronize the calendar with the sun, Caesar had to let the previous year drag on for 445 days.

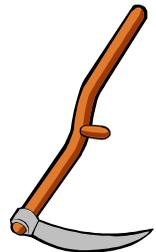
Of course, we do still have one New Year in the spring, although not one that is generally well celebrated—the start of the Tax Year. Until 1752, the new year in Great Britain started on 25 March, the Feast of the Annunciation. When we finally adopted the Gregorian calendar the calendar moved, but the tax inspectors didn't, pushing the new tax year into early April, where it remains to this day.

The church's view of new year celebrations

Although in the first centuries AD the Romans continued celebrating the new year, the early Catholic Church condemned the festivities as paganism. But as Christianity became more widespread, the early church began having its own religious observances.

Still time to make a resolution

There is still time to make a New Year's resolution. If you make one, you will be part of a tradition that dates back to the early Babylonians. Popular modern resolutions might include the promise to lose weight or be nicer to the vicar. The early Babylonian's most popular resolution was to return borrowed farm equipment.



Prayer Cycle for January

January

Sun 10 We pray for all who are suffering in the cold and icy weather.

Mon 11 We pray for all members of our Church Council, meeting tonight.

Tues 12 For Margaret, Andrew and Lewis, our Deanery Synod representatives.

Wed 13 For those starting the year with new challenges to face; a new job, a new house, marriage, retirement, bereavement. Whatever life may bring, may we always look to the Lord for guidance and strength.

Thurs 14 We pray for all forms of fellowship in our congregation, particularly the Home Group, meeting tonight.

Fri 15 For Mark, our Director of Music and David, our Organist. For our choir.

Sat 16 For all our readers, chalice assistants, intercessors and sidespeople. For the witness they bear. For Sarah, who draws up the Rotas.

Sun 17 In the Churches Together in Bath rota, we pray for the Seventh Day Adventists and the Religious Society of Friends.

Mon 18 At the start of this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we pray for all Christians in Bath, around the country and throughout the world.

Tues 19 For all the children in our congregation. For those who lead the Junior Church.

Wed 20 For Rowan our Archbishop and for Peter our Bishop. For all Anglican Bishops and Primates.

Thurs 21 For David, our Treasurer and magazine editor.

Fri 22 For Chris and Lewis, our church wardens.

Sat 23 For Cyril and Mark our Readers.

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- Sun 24** For Judith, who prepares our weekly notice sheet.
- Mon 25** We give thanks for the life and witness of Paul. We pray for courage and fortitude in following Jesus in our own lives.
- Tues 26** For our Clergy Team.
- Wed 27** We pray for our Church Trustees, meeting tonight, and give thanks for the time and care they offer. We pray for Mark, their chairman.
- Thurs 28** For the staff, pupils and governors of St Andrew's and St Stephen's schools.
- Fri 29** For the work of the Cedar Tree. For Nicky and all the helpers.
- Sat 30** For Angela, our Verger.
- Sun 31** Let us thanks God for the blessings of the month now ending.

February

- Mon 1** For the work of Dorothy House, for those benefiting from its care and for their families.
- Tues 2** For our LMG partners, St Stephen's and St Mary's Charlcombe.
- Wed 3** For clarity and honesty in British politics, as we approach the General Election.
- Thurs 4** For all being mistreated or suffering injustice. For all prisoners who are held without trial or without the protection of legal systems.
- Fri 5** For all in a long term relationship; that God may bless and strengthen them and bring them joy.
- Sat 6** For the University Ecumenical Chaplaincy Centre, for Angela the University Chaplain, and for all the chaplains.
- Sun 7** For those who are depressed, or wrestling with other mental health problems. For those who love and watch over them.

O Lord hear my prayer

A home group at Christ Church is still in its infancy. We meet once a fortnight for a time of socialising, discussion, Bible study and we close in prayer.

In the few weeks running up to Lent there will be three sessions and we will be reading the book of Ezra.

The group meets in the home of Sarah and Matthew Jones:

77 Brookfield Park, Weston, BA1 4JJ
Thursday 14th January, 21st January, 11th February
7.30pm—9.00pm

We hope the group provides space for fellowship outside of Sunday worship. You do not have to commit to attending every session, they will be designed to stand alone as well as forming a series of three.

All are welcome.

Christmas past



There are so many good things to recall about Christmas at Christ Church; the colourful invitation cards and posters, music, decorations, candle-light, mulled wine, beautiful readings. We had a lovely time of worship and reflection 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, the warmth of the welcome they were given. Thanks are due to all who contributed to the many the aspects which combined to make Christmas special in our church.

It was a time of outreach as well as celebration. It was a delight to welcome the children and teachers from King Edward's Pre-Prep School who came to us for their annual Christingle Service, which has been held at Christ Church for the last nine years. A new arrival in Julian Road was Norland College who came to us for their Carol Service for the first time. Both King Edward's and Norland were generous in their support of our commitment to Open Christmas. Their contributions, added to our own, enabled us to send a cheque for £1,105 to Churches Together in Bath who ran the event.



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 / Chairman of the Trustees / 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 / Christian Aid / Deanery Synod	Lewis Boyd, 5 Jesse Hughes Court, Lower Swainswick, BA1 7BE 01225 329190
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
Deanery Synod / Laity Rotas / Junior Church	Sarah Cade, 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	Andrew Sillett
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
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.**