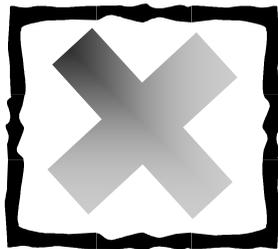


CHRIST  
CHURCH  
CHALLENGE



June 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 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

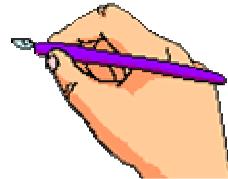
*New singers always welcome - please contact Director of Music 01225 445360*

**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.*

After a nervous moment when we had no articles with a fortnight to go, I'm delighted to be able to thanks all those who have flooded me with features for this month.



If you fancy writing a paragraph or a page on some topic that interests you, please send it to [admin@christchurchbath.org](mailto:admin@christchurchbath.org).

In the meantime, why not take a few moments to relax and enjoy our special bumper edition.

## Forum...

### ***A time for speech and a time for silence***

We have just celebrated Pentecost. We heard of the disciples “speaking about God’s deeds of power” in words that everyone around them could understand.

Then, there were the giggles and squeals of delight as our children showered us with fluttering tongues of “fire” from the gallery. So, am I being perverse in writing about “a time for speech and a time for silence”? I don’t think so.

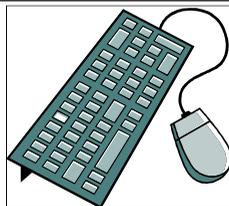
What started me off is something written by a Quaker, Jill Seeger. She heard a fellow Friend recalling an early 19th century forebear of whom it was written: “she was so concerned to speak the truth that she scarcely spoke at all”. Seeger comments: “One cannot help reflecting that this remarkable woman might have been a little difficult to live with. Nonetheless, the concept has a simple integrity which rebukes our culture’s debased and profligate way with words”.

The ability to put thoughts into words is the thing that distinguishes humans from the rest of the animal kingdom. We make jokes with words, create puzzles and give substance to imagination and dreams in stories and poems. Words are both the language of lovers and of leaders who would inspire us to great and noble things. The fact is, though, the corruption and misuse of language breaks hearts and leads nations down pathways of lust and cruelty.

We live an age of incessant communication. As Shakespeare wrote of Prospero’s island in “The Tempest”: “This isle is full of noises”. Time for reflection has become a luxury and words are constantly spun to provide only convenient versions of the truth. It almost seems as if the spin doctors’ black arts are designed to destroy the silence in we might be tempted to think too much. In 1939, WH Auden gave the warning:

*The lights must never go out  
The music must always play...  
Lest we should see where we are...*

The old advice “engage brain before you speak” seems particularly relevant. In the silence of heart and mind the best words are chosen and assembled to communicate truth, comfort and the light of hope. There have been times when all many of us may have used words to boost our own egos, to wound others, to deceive or to gain the upper hand. In doing so, we debase the beauty of language, which is our crowning glory and we undermine the concept of using words to speak what is good and true.



William Blake in "Songs of Innocence and Experience" said:

*A Truth that's told with bad intent,  
Beats all the lies you can invent.*

How was it then, the first disciples were able to speak with such confidence? I have no doubt that, as did Jesus, they spent time in contemplation and silence. They also had the honesty to share things in common and they pray together. Above all, they opened their hearts and gave themselves in love and fidelity to the man who was "the Word made flesh" who gave them, and offers us, the Spirit of all truth.

*Antony*

## Lectionary for June

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
<b>Jun 7</b>	Trinity Sunday		
	Isaiah 6.1-8	No reading	John 3.1-17
<b>14</b>	Trinity 1 (Proper 6)		
	Ezekiel 17.22-end	2 Corinthians 5. 6-10, 14-17	Mark 4.26-34
<b>21</b>	Trinity 2 (Proper 7)		
	Job 38.1-11	2 Corinthians 6.1-13	Mark 4.35-41
<b>28</b>	Trinity 3 (Proper 8)		
	Wisdom 1.13-15; 2.33-24	2 Corinthians 8.7-15	Mark 5.21-43
<b>July 5</b>	Trinity 4 (Proper 9)		
	Ezekiel 2.1-5	No reading	Mark 6.1-13
<b>12</b>	Trinity 5 (Proper 10)		
	Amos 7.7-15	Ephesians 1.3-14	Mark 6.14-29

# Church Calendar for June

<b>Jun</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>TRINITY SUNDAY</b>	
	<b>8</b>	<b>Mon</b>	THOMAS KEN, Bishop of Bath & Wells	
	<b>9</b>	<b>Tue</b>	ST COLUMBA	
			10.00am-12.00pm	Bring & Buy Sale in support of Water Aid Herne House, Weston Road, Bath
	<b>11</b>	<b>Thur</b>	ST BARNABAS, Apostle	
	<b>12</b>	<b>Fri</b>	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	<b>13</b>	<b>Sat</b>	7.30pm	Home Farm Trust Welsh Choir, St Stephens
	<b>14</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>	
	<b>16</b>	<b>Tue</b>	ST RICHARD OF CHICHESTER	
	<b>19</b>	<b>Fri</b>	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	<b>20</b>	<b>Sat</b>	6.00pm	Free Choral Festival, Wells Cathedral
	<b>21</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>	
			Church Genesis Duty	
			3.15pm	Haycombe Open Day
	<b>22</b>	<b>Wed</b>	ST ALBAN, First British Martyr	
	<b>23</b>	<b>Tue</b>	ST ETHELDREDA, Abbess of Ely	
	<b>26</b>	<b>Fri</b>	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	<b>28</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>	
<b>Jul</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Fri</b>	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	<b>4</b>	<b>Sat</b>	Bath and Wells 1100th Anniversary Glastonbury Abbey	
	<b>5</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>	
			11.00am	LMG Service at St. Stephen's Church
			4.30pm	Choral Evensong

.org...see our website for latest details...[www.christchurchbath.org](http://www.christchurchbath.org)...see o

# Laity Rota for June

		OT Readers	NT Readers	Gospel
<b>June</b>	<b>7</b>	Martin Palmer	No reading	Esme Buss
	<b>14</b>	Nicky Gladstone	Morny Davison	Penny Edwards
	<b>21</b>	Georgina Bowman	David Bishop	Mark Elliott
	<b>28</b>	Jane Fletcher	Margaret Heath	Matthew Jones
<b>July</b>	<b>5</b>	Judith Anderson	No reading	Judith Bishop
	<b>12</b>	Emma Elliott	Sylvia Ayers	Richard Gabe

## Chalice Assistants

<b>June</b>	<b>7</b>	Margaret Heath	Margaret Burrows
	<b>14</b>	Janet Mahto	Jane Fletcher
	<b>21</b>	Penny Edwards	Bob Siderfin
	<b>28</b>	Andrew Sillett	Tessa Claridge
<b>July</b>	<b>5</b>	Bev Pont	Margaret Burrows
	<b>12</b>	Margaret Heath	Janet Mahto

## Intercessors

<b>June</b>	<b>7</b>	Georgina Bowman
	<b>14</b>	Rev Antony Claridge
	<b>21</b>	Mark Elliott
	<b>28</b>	Martin Palmer
<b>July</b>	<b>5</b>	Penny Edwards
	<b>12</b>	Bev Pont



Sidespeople		8am	10am	
<b>June</b>	<b>7</b>	Clive Tilling	Margaret Heath	Tessa Claridge
	<b>14</b>	Arthur Jones	Margaret Silver	
	<b>21</b>	Clive Tilling	Ken & Sylvia Ayers	
	<b>28</b>	Arthur Jones	Andrew Sillett	Janet Mahto
<b>July</b>	<b>5</b>	Clive Tilling	Morny Davison	Margaret Heath
	<b>12</b>	Arthur Jones	Tessa Claridge	Emma Elliott

## **Churches Together in Bath Notes from Meeting on April 28th**

The meeting opened with a reading and a prayer, and the Treasurer then reported that he now has total funds of £998.26 in hand. He also pointed out that the annual Subscription of £25 from member Churches is now due.

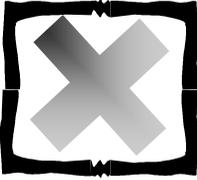
Comments made on recent events: The three Services for the Women's World Day of Prayer on Friday March 6th were all well attended. For the Cross Walk, as well as the established routes, two extra branches were added this year, starting from St Stephen's and Weston Methodist. This show of public witness resulted in several people joining in between the recognised halts. Rev Ian Suter gave the address at the Abbey Churchyard Service which was taken by our own Rev Angela, and one of the meeting commented on the very appropriate poems which she had chosen.

The Central Zone Chairman is still very concerned about the effect the Bath Marathon has on Churches on its route. Several depleted congregations faced a "lock-in", as, having arrived extra early for their Services, found they were unable to depart for several hours afterwards. Two suggestions were put forward: that Services could be held on the Sunday afternoon, or that the Marathon should be run on the Saturday. This of course would affect the Supermarkets, although it was pointed out that they already found themselves virtually empty on the Sunday as customers still could not reach them.

The Victoria Park Flower Show Service took place on Sunday May 3rd, with free entry to the Showground from 6pm. The CTB Executive AGM was held on Wednesday May 27th at the YMCA, Broad Street, with Angela Berners-Wilson in the Chair. A report on this meeting will be in the next Magazine. This year's Central Zone representatives are Rev Kieran Bourne and Zone Chairman Rev Tom Gunning.

The annual Open Day and Service at Haycombe Crematorium will be at 3.15pm on Sunday June 21st; and the Central Zone committee will hold its next meeting on July 8th at St Mary, Bathwick.

*Sylvia M Ayers  
CTB Representative  
(Central Zone)*



## Churches Together in Bath Election Time

As of 2009, we are at war. We've been at actual tanks-and-bullets war for years now, in Iraq and Afghanistan. But at the beginning of this year, the public finances went to war. At the end of January, the second Great

Bank Bailout was announced. The Chancellor was asked how much it would cost. Various parts of it had been priced up, and Mr Darling quickly reached a sub-total of £100 billion. Then there was the insurance scheme for the banks' toxic assets. The Chancellor explained that the details of this last part had yet to be worked out. The Prime Minister was later asked the same question. What's the damage? He replied that it would cost a lot less than doing nothing.

This is astonishing! The government announced a major commitment of the public finances, which will not provide a single school or hospital or any other direct benefit, the smaller part of which will cost £100 billion and whose details have not yet been worked out.

What cataclysmic event could cause such an announcement? Surely the enemy must be at our shores.

~~oOo~~

I wonder whether we're becoming anaesthetised to unusual events, because we've seen so many of them. I wonder whether we're forgetting what was normal before 9 August 2007. On that day, a French bank said:

The complete evaporation of liquidity in certain market segments of the US securitisation market has made it impossible to value certain assets fairly regardless of their quality or credit rating. The situation is such that it is no longer possible to value fairly the underlying US ABS assets in the three above-mentioned funds.

We are therefore unable to calculate a reliable net asset value for the funds.

For world shaking announcements, it's a long way from "I have a dream." It meant this:

We can't get away with this any longer. The game's up and we need to come clean. This stuff we've bought... we've no idea how much it's worth, but it's probably a whole lot less than we've been paying for it and in any case, no-one will touch it with a barge pole.

And it really did shake the world. That same day, the global banking system simply stopped working. Today, two years later, if an economic figure wants to be noticed on the rolling news catwalk, it has to be the worst since the second world war or since the great depression or since

## A Right Royal Riot?

The BNP is a racist party. The clue is the number of times they say “we are not a racist party”. I spent a few unpleasant minutes on their website. I think they were telling me that because “our” Grandfathers fought the Germans, Muslim “spongers” shouldn’t be allowed to enter Britain.

The way MPs played the expenses system was occasionally criminal and often inexcusable. Many of them should lose their seats. But the more distressing consequence, helped by the drip feed of the Daily Telegraph into whose lap the story fell, is the boost to the fringe parties, including the BNP. To the MPs who played the system: you took our money, you betrayed our trust, and you made the racists more electable.

A hustings for the European Elections was organised for May 22nd at the Royal Literary and Scientific Institution. The organisers had decided to invite all parties, including the British National Party. Protesters blocked the entrance. Before the night was out, the police had been called and the hustings was all but abandoned in disarray.

We have a myth in the West that we believe in democracy without exception or reservation, but of course we don’t. When Hamas won a majority in the 2006 Palestinian elections, the result was widely criticised. Terrorism, for one, can trump democracy.

So it’s a difficult question whether to share a platform with a BNP speaker.



Which wins, freedom of speech or anti-racism? In Queen Square most parties had agreed not to speak if the BNP did. The result was that none of the major parties addressed the meeting.

Out on Queen Square, a megaphone appeared and the parties delivered their message to the people on the streets.

records began. Car manufacturers and airlines are struggling to survive. Production and trade are falling; unemployment rising...

And the government comes onto Radio 4 to announce an incomplete plan to achieve no easily identifiable public benefit which will take a generation to repay: in effect, to put the national economy on war footing. Never mind the cost, this is a fight for survival.

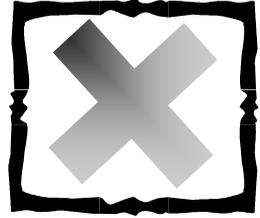
~~oOo~~

As is traditional, Churches Together in Bath organised  
*continued on page 10*



*continued from p9*

a “Meet the Candidates” event the day after the Queen Square event mentioned on p9. It was doubly ill-attended. The Conservative candidate had not responded. None of the three main party candidates were present. Perhaps the other candidates were still recovering from the excitement of the day before or maybe they anticipated a hostile reception from such close contact with the public.



A few parties did attend, each at their allotted table. They were only marginally outnumbered by a handful of the public. Through political apathy, poor advertising, or maybe a simple desire to enjoy the sun, fewer than a dozen people came through the doors that morning.

There were two large displays, one of the Fairtrade coffee stall and the other from the Green Party; and more modest displays of leaflets from the Pensioners Party, the Christian Party/Christian Peoples Alliance and the UK Independence Party.

The total political activity in a weekend of events amounted to a near riot in Queen Square, a megaphoned policy announcement, and a few leisurely coffees with the Greens, UKIP and a couple of fringe pressure groups.

~~oOo~~

Some visitors from outside Bath were surprised at CTB’s involvement in the event, but the question of whether politics and religion mix is a tired one. A less frequently asked question is whether they can be told apart.

As the Green Party candidate’s wife straightened some leaflets—“I’m an expert at setting up stalls”—a thousand Christmas Fairs and Jumble Sales came to mind.

The similarities were obvious. Outsiders might expect politics to be about making laws and religion to be about worship. In both, large amounts of time are consumed in making table displays look nice, worrying about funds, giving arms a friendly twist, attending meetings, dealing with trivia; all the things that naturally come with running any organisation but distract you from the job you came to do.

There are deeper similarities too. They both have beliefs at their centre; and those beliefs are expected to change behaviour. Some beliefs are taken as platitudes: love your neighbour, teach reading in schools. Others can provoke debate: we should forgive people who hurt us, Britain is stronger in Europe than out. Others invite ridicule and exclusion: Jesus died for your sins, we need to plan for a society without cars.

Members may have family and friends who share their beliefs, or maybe

their only comradeship and sense of full belonging is found when they gather together with their party or their church.

The range of acceptable beliefs in religion and politics is very narrow. We are blindfolded, led along a path and told a story of the way the world is, and how it most assuredly is not. "They are heretics, they're not like us. The Bible bashers, the tree huggers, the surrender monkeys, the bleeding heart liberals. Don't think about them. Don't talk to them. Just keep walking, you're on the one true path."

Religious and political beliefs are not polite, they're something you're supposed to keep for the privacy of church and election booth.

~~oOo~~

I found the Christian Party/Christian People's Alliance unsettling. On the face of it, a party which explicitly takes your religious beliefs into a political setting sounds both enticing and efficient—two beliefs for the price of one.

However, it must feel excluding to non-Christians. This is made explicit in their refusal to countenance Turkey's admission to the EU. Their "key priority" is to promote Christ values in a Christian Europe, but I'm not exactly sure what values they're referring to. Just because someone is acting on Christian beliefs, doesn't mean they'll come to the same political conclusions. I could pick a few words from their election leaflet: trust, higher standards, truth, freedom, respect. If a politician or religious leader says one thing, it's worth thinking if they might have said the opposite. If they wouldn't, they haven't really told you anything. Let's see, might they have campaigned on a platform of deceit, mediocrity, lies, slavery and insolence.

~~oOo~~

My own heresies—that if we recover from the current crises, we will hit all sorts of limits to growth that will send us straight into some more—are sometimes hinted at by soundbites from mainstream parties, but not in their policies. Soundbite: reduce carbon emissions by 80%. Policy: build another runway. The only party that takes these heresies seriously is the Green Party, so I was pleased to have had the chance to talk for so long with their local candidate.

Since as a country we have even less enthusiasm for Europe than we do for Westminster, the biggest news will not be the new MEPs, but how badly the result wounds Gordon Brown. If, when you read this, he is still Prime Minister...

*David Marles*



*Margaret Heath has sent us her ideas for the refurbishment of the back of church, following Bob's article last month. If you have ideas, comments or reactions, please do send them in. If you prefer, you can also speak to Bob or to one of his working group, David, Mark, Alice or Martin.*

## **Refurbishing the back of church**

The small things are easy for this old person in the pew - sharp pencils, magazine racks, another notice board or three, regular tidying of library and removal of out of date notices, photographs of choir with names, a display of the NADFAS Church Recorders' beautifully-bound inventory, for example, but the big question, that is how can our space or "plant" be adapted and used to further the Kingdom is much more of a challenge, a far harder question to answer.



In an attempt to consider this I have allowed myself to think the unthinkable; how would I react if I were told the real tennis court [now the Museum of Bath at Work] was to be restored, the museum moved to Christ Church and we to join with St Stephen's? Well, I'd be thrilled about the real tennis, as I feel it's a lack in Bath and wonder who the next man is to be at St Stephen's.

Jonathan is, I understand, not Simeon Trust appointed (that Evangelical wing bought up the right to appoint in many of the Spa towns) and their worship and ours is more similar than it was. To me Christ Church is people, not place, and if I thought we'd make more impact and further the Kingdom combined maybe I'd go for this. But then I have a lot of friends in St Stephen's and I love Charlecombe and both are near so maybe self-interest *has* crept in?

Personalities are involved. We have been so fortunate in Christ Church recently with our priests in charge or NSMs but I note how the emphasis changes with the changing leaders and congregations. My average stay in any one place in my whole life has been 4 years and I have worshipped at Christ Church now for over 20 (with lapses to the Abbey, which my late husband liked and where he latterly needed support). My observations are not judgemental in any way; I appreciate the different strengths and styles. However I realise I must not take for granted, for example, that Christ Church is involved in Inter-Faith or hosts major talks by known theologians; we are now strong on outreach, with the Cedar Tree. Our liberal catholic theology, our friendliness and lay involvement seem constant but otherwise we adapt to differing times, I think.

For example a bookstall used to flourish - a sale or return arrangement meant we made good profits, which were used for building up the library. With the closure of the SPCK shop in Bath then in Bristol and the prevalence of buying through Amazon I doubt whether this would be a starter now. St Swithin's was wary of our getting involved on their parish and fought our having part of it but now we are on much more friendly terms and Cedar Tree has not been greeted with "Keep off our patch" but I think welcomed.

About 20 years ago the then Bishop of Taunton declared we were just a chapel of ease, a sort of overflow barn, to St Swithin's and we took huge pains and did a lot of research in pointing out this was not the case: we are a proprietary chapel and while the incumbent of St Swithin's is ex officio one of our Trustees he was not, as he had been misinformed, our Patron.

Our special contribution, to the mind of this old person in the pew, needs to be reconsidered before we can think clearly about the back of our church. This is for the younger to decide, although we can supply some explanations and history we long service folk are not the future and I for one will be fascinated to learn what is decided.



*Margaret*

*From our Inter-Faith correspondent:*



Marcus Braybrooke, our Priest in Charge 1984-91 and a prolific author, has recently brought out "Beacons of Hope". He has ranked the world's spiritual teachers according to his assessment of their influence and invites the reader to do the same. This sounds promising for those interested in studying other faiths.

**BEACONS OF THE LIGHT** By Marcus Braybrooke  
100 holy people who have shaped the history of humanity  
Published by o-books. RRP £24.99, but available online for less

Marcus is speaking on his new book after the Ammerdown Centre annual Friends' dinner on 2 July.

Guests are welcome, cost for buffet £8.50.

Full details of the Centre, if not of this event, are on our notice board.

## **Genesis Sunday Centre**

The Genesis Sunday Centre is held in the lower ground floor of Nexus Methodist Church on Walcot Street. There is a rota of 8 teams from various churches in and around Bath who run the Centre. Christ Church assists a team who were already a group formed from a combination of Churches and who were finding it difficult to provide sufficient volunteers.

In a recent sermon, Anthony referred to the hapless and helpless in society. The Sunday Centre offers practical help to such people. It is hoped this article will give a clearer insight as to what is involved. Please consider if this is a way in which you could help.

Christ Church therefore helps out once every 8 weeks and we are asked to provide volunteers throughout the day from 11am-5pm.

We help cook a hot meal for up to 60 people which is served between 1-2pm. Other members of the team organise the menu and buying the food. In the morning we also help make sandwiches which are served with cake from 3 p. m. We also make hot drinks for the customers from 1pm when lunch is served, and throughout the afternoon. Drinks are served in the dining area where those helping have the opportunity to talk to the customers.

There is not a charge for the sandwiches and cake but there is a charge of £1 for the hot meal which includes a dessert. The customers can pay with Genesis vouchers. The vouchers have a value of 50p and can be exchanged for food at the Genesis lunch box or Sunday Centre, or for accommodation at the night shelter. The vouchers are a useful way of giving to people in need without handing over cash. The vouchers can be obtained from the Cedar Tree and at the Abbey book shop.

Assisting at the Sunday Centre is a very practical way of helping people who are less fortunate than us. The Centre is attended by a raft of different people. Some are homeless but many come along seeking company or who perhaps, find it too difficult to cook a hot meal.

Generally the sessions pass without incident but occasionally there might be an issue to resolve. More often than not these occur in the area outside the hall rather than within the building.

It is good practice to have a minimum level of support, not only to provide cover should a problem occur but also so there are sufficient numbers to deliver the service we are expected to provide. The day is divided in to four slots ranging from 1 to 1¾ hour. Generally 2 helpers are required for each slot although four are required from 12.45-2.30pm.

The rota is organised by Jane Kirkbride who relies on volunteers signing up on the rota at the back of Church. Christ Church has been brilliant at providing sufficient helpers but occasionally only after much persuading! Whilst it is intended to keep the rota Jane would also like to keep a list of people who would be willing to help, with details of phone numbers and email addresses. Please contact Jane if you are happy for your name to be included on the list, or if you would like any further information.

*Jane Kirkbride*

Tel: 01225 836138, email: [janekirkbride@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janekirkbride@yahoo.co.uk)

## **Lentern Observance**

Oh dear! Lent came upon us so quickly this year so when the perennial question arose, what would our Lentern observance be, we were at a loss. In the past we have followed the conventional pattern of 'giving up' or embarking on a special Lent reading course, but felt that this year something different was necessary – some thing active and positive. Tony came up with the suggestion that we both made a more conscious effort to be helpful to those around us or to complete strangers in need.

It did not take long to identify the needs of people, at the doctor's surgery, at the hospital, shopping or visiting and helping not just friends but acquaintances.

Whilst at Church on 22 February, Jane made an appeal for volunteers to help at the Genesis Sunday Centre on 1 March so we volunteered. We had supported the Genesis project in other ways before, but had never helped out on a Sunday. What an experience it was! Thrown in at the deep end (in hot soapy water) and dishing out generous portions of really appetising food for a continuous line of needy people who were all polite and grateful for the service. So many young people, a fair few of them women, treated with courtesy, dignity and humour.

Through our own experiences of work we realise that help is appreciated but intrusion is unwelcome unless the initiative comes from the person concerned. I struck up a conversation with a lovely young man, who I discovered, was only two years younger than our own son. He was articulate, sensitive and thoughtful. I wondered what had led him to his current situation. The clue came in his questions to me about my family – were we close, did we have a loving relationship?

As the Genesis booklet states, we are able to enjoy our food, our homes, our families, skills, hobbies and opportunities and sometimes take them for granted. Some people, for whatever reason cannot.

Lent this year has opened a new door for us with a wonderful opportunity to help others not just in this important season but throughout the year.

*Esme and Tony*

**Structure Should Follow Mission—CTB AGM—27 May 2009**

Warm tributes were paid to Angela B-W, who has handed over as Chair on completion of her term of office, and to the late Marion Hackett, who ran Open Christmas and was our central zone secretary for years.

Looking ahead, a Passion Play is planned for next Good Friday, with local and audience participation. BBC Songs of Praise is coming to Bath again next year. A new organiser for Christian Aid is urgently needed to succeed John James.

We considered the future role of CTB in the light of the changing patterns of worship and service by member churches and potential member churches and heard two speakers on cooperation and ecumenical activity and a possible shape of a global organisation for Bath.

Stewart Keiller from Bath City Church told us how faith groups' voice was heard by the Council, of Transform and of the partnership between the church in Peasdown and his own church, which was welcomed by the authorities - some of you may have read of this in Grapevine. Stewart stressed the importance of positive relationships between the different denominations. The sum of £5000 has been given for a Faith Audit in B&NES, to find out what churches are doing in the community; the report is likely to be out in 6 months.

Peter Heywood of Genesis spoke clearly of his vision for a God-directed way forward, with new initiatives by inspired individuals given practical and financial back-up. There should be a list of mentors, with experience and skills, networking, funding, encouragement and communication between the zones, publicity, speaking engagements and enabling all operating under church leaders but not another burden placed on them - this should be run by laity. He even suggested a name for the web-site: Springboard Bath - Christians for action together.

In the short time for comments and questions John Rackley spoke. Now you will see why I chose this title, so closely related to the piece I wrote two or three days ago. Music to my ears. John said it was ridiculous that maintenance took up so much clergy time that could be devoted to mission, for example there were four Baptist churches with a joint congregation of around 350 and ministers living on derisory salaries.

CTB, only Angela, Kieren, Father Bill, Father Tom and himself from all Bath. Open Christmas and our other activities did not need CTB. A major rethink was needed. Others thought the Emperor still had his clothes on, for example Father Bill spoke of Churches together in England and referred to the support and presence of other denominations at the recent service in Westminster Cathedral for the new Archbishop.

Food for thought. The meeting was amicable, with stress on how the churches could best meet the needs, above all but not only, the spiritual needs of the people of our city. Sylvia was fortunately able to attend after all, so you were represented by two in a group of a mere 30 odd, and Angela was in the Chair until she handed over.

*Margaret Heath*

**I'm** not much of a daredevil, and I don't like flying either, so when I signed up to do a charity skydive most people thought I was crazy!

In fact, I had suspicions about that myself! It was only when I got an email confirming my skydive booking that I realised what I was getting myself into.

Nevertheless I went around collecting sponsorship, convincing myself that I would be "alright on the night" and pushing my fears to the back of my mind, preferring to focus on the generosity of my friends and family.

And it is this amazing kindness that kept me going. I have been overwhelmed by the way in which people (some of whom I have never even met) dug deep into their pockets and gave donations to me: a crazy girl jumping out of a perfectly good aeroplane!

So thank you all, from the bottom of my heart, for having the faith in me to spur me on, even when I was on the verge of a panic attack walking to my doom (getting on the plane). With your help I managed to raise approximately £1,700 for Diabetes UK, a charity close to my heart.

How was the jump, I expect you are asking? Well on a scale of 1 to 10 for fear, I'd say at the point I jumped (or fell) out of the plane I was on a definite 10, a feeling of genuine terror! But afterwards, and ever since, I felt a strong sense of pride, and a kind of serenity, a contentment with myself. Perhaps it was the tranquillity I experienced whilst descending through the clouds, or maybe it's that feeling of invincibility?

Perhaps I really can achieve anything, just like my father said?! Now,



onto my next challenge. I hear bungee jumping is fun (calm down Dad!).....

*Vicky Claridge*

**Mothers' Union News**

Recently, we received an invitation from our Mothers' Union friends at St Luke's, Wellsway to attend their Annual Coffee Morning and Sale on June 6th. As their Branch now has two of our former members among their number, we feel we should support their efforts as much as we can. The Sale will take place in their Upper Hall, and the proceeds will go to the work of the Mothers' Union Worldwide.

Following this, we plan to hold our own After-Service Collection for the same Fund during Coffee Time on Sundays June 14th and 21st. Although we no longer have enough members ourselves to stage a Bring and Buy Sale, we will still really appreciate the Congregation's generous contributions. In 2208 we collected £85.00 for the MU Relief Fund and the Literacy Programme, so we are again asking for your support in the hope that we can make it another bumper total this year. Margaret Burrows will give you more information on the Fund's current needs than is possible at the time of writing.

We are still trying to hold Corporate Communion once a month. Unfortunately, it is not possible to announce definite dates in advance, and we ask you to consult the Magazine and the weekly Notices for confirmation of the date when it is decided.

*Sylvia M Ayers*  
*Secretary*

**From the Church (Fully Clothed) "Calendar Girl"**

During the last three years I have been producing the monthly Church Calendar. Because the Magazine Editor needs the details by the 15th of the preceding month, I have to print it BEFORE the planned details of forthcoming events are communicated to me. Therefore, by the beginning of the relevant month, when I put it on the notice board beside the Kitchen door, it is often already out of date.

All I need to make my offering accurate and useful, is to ask that planners should PLEASE let me have the dates of their events at least one month in advance if at all possible, or AS SOON AS THEY ARE DECIDED: I do not require any further details, but only just DATE and TIME, and also the location if they do not take place in our Church.

However, perhaps this task is no longer needed, as it seems that in these days of the E-Mail, few people actually look at the printed Calendar. Maybe it has become surplus to requirements, so I would welcome your comments.

*Christ Church "Calendar Girl"*  
*SMA*

**~ Bath & Wells celebrates 1100 years ~**

- ✚ Continuing to 4th July  
Peter's Progress—Bishop Peter (Bath & Wells) will walk the bounds of the Diocese.
- ✚ Saturday 20th June, Wells Cathedral  
6pm - Choral Festival  
Over 300 singers from about 40 choirs, with the cathedral choir. The music will reflect 1100 years of daily worship in the diocese.
- ✚ Saturday 4th July  
A Day of Celebration in and around the grounds of Glastonbury Abbey. Free entry.
- ✚ 16th September  
1100th Anniversary Lecture at Bath Abbey from Mrs Mary Robinson, former President of the Irish Republic and UN Human Rights Commissioner.
- ✚ Saturday 19th September  
Sponsored Walk to Wells, in aid of Zambia Link projects and The Children's Society. Open to all.
- ✚ Monday 21st September  
Diocesan Cricket Match at Taunton's County Ground. A special Clergy XI v President's XI to which everyone is invited.
- ✚ Friday 25th September  
Radio 4's Any Questions from Wells. Don't forget to tune in!
- ✚ Saturday 21st November, 2.00pm  
Songs of Praise at Wells Cathedral, a service to formally bring to a close our year of celebration.



# Prayer Cycle for June

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## *June*

- Sun 7** For our AGM this morning; for everyone who makes Christ Church a warm and welcoming place.
- Mon 8** For those who grieve, as we give thanks for all who have cherished us and whom we see no more.
- Tues 9** For those who do not have access to clean water.
- Wed 10** For Cyril and Mark our Readers; for Sarah's ministry at Batheaston.
- Thurs 11** For the staff, pupils and governors of St Andrew's and St Stephen's schools.
- Fri 12** For our newly elected church wardens.
- Sat 13** For all our local, national and European elected representatives.
- Sun 14** For Angela, our Verger.
- Mon 15** For our Clergy Team.
- Tues 16** For Judith, who prepares our weekly notice sheet.
- Wed 17** For Mark, our Director of Music and David, our Organist. For our choir.
- Thurs 18** That we may cherish the earth and its fruitfulness, and recognise and give thanks for the plenty around us.
- Fri 19** For David, our Treasurer and magazine editor.
- Sat 20** In the Churches Together in Bath rota, we pray for the clergy and congregation of St Mary's and St John's, Bathwick.

- Sun* 21 For the Genesis Sunday Centre, for those from Christ Church offering their time there today, for those who will find food and friendship there.
- Mon* 22 For our LMG partners, St Stephen's and St Mary's Charlcombe.
- Tues* 23 For those who have lost their job or home in the recession. For those who fear for the future.
- Wed* 24 For Rowan our Archbishop and for Peter our Bishop. For all Anglican Bishops and Primates.
- Thurs* 25 For all who help to run our Junior Church, for Sarah who co-ordinates the rota, and for all our children.
- Fri* 26 For the work of the Cedar Tree. For Nicky and all the helpers.
- Sat* 27 For all our readers, chalice assistants, intercessors and sidespeople. For Sarah, who draws up the Laity Rotas.
- Sun* 28 For our Deanery Synod representatives.
- Mon* 29 For those suffering from depression. For those who care for them, that they may be given fortitude and patience.
- Tues* 30 Let us thank God for the blessings of the month now ending.
- July*
- Wed* 1 For the work of Bath Alcohol and Drugs Advisory Service.
- Thurs* 2 For the work of USPG in general, and especially for St Anne's Hospital, Lake Malawi. For Adrian Pegg, our USPG representative.
- Fri* 3 That leaders of the rich nations will realise that endless growth can't happen in a finite world.
- Sat* 4 For the countless Christians who have borne witness in this diocese down the centuries.
- Sun* 5 For Jonathan, for his ministry at the University and St Stephen's, for God's blessing on his work.

## From the Church Registers



### Renewal of Marriage Vows

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2009 The Revd Preb. Angela Berners-Wilson  
and Andrew Sillett

### Holy Matrimony

30<sup>th</sup> May 2009 Peter James Gladstone and Jennifer Edith Wright

## COLIN'S BACK! - UK Tour '09

Those readers who are young or young in heart and sound in wind and limb will be delighted to know that Colin is back. Sponsored by St Barnabus' Church, Bath, Australia's number one kids' Christian artist will be performing at Widcombe Baptist Church on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June. Tickets are available from St Bart's Church Office (01225 427428) and the show begins at 5.30 pm.

### A Friend



### In Deed

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
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 / Christian Aid	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
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 <a href="mailto:concerts@christchurchbath.org">concerts@christchurchbath.org</a>

# ***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.**