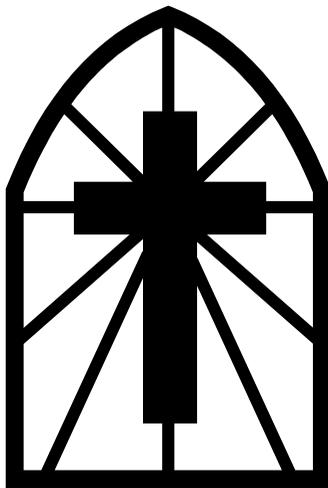


CHRIST
CHURCH
CHALLENGE



March 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.

From the Church Registers

Holy Baptism

1 February Rose Lynn Taylor

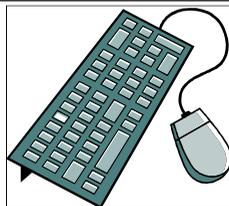
Funerals

28 January Jean Lowe aged 96
 17 February Elaine Charmian Veitch aged 82



Forum...

Drinking the good wine



There have been a lot of articles on wine in magazines and newspapers over the past couple of weeks. All very interesting but a bit insensitive if you have given up the stuff for Lent. And it's not been very good reading either for people in the wine trade. Vineyards all over the world are struggling to sell their products in this time of recession. Prices are falling and jobs are at stake. I feel great sympathy for people in any industry supplying a shrinking market. Whatever the product, there are sad stories behind the statistics and the headlines.

Now, I don't whether it was a deliberate ploy to encourage wine-buying but the articles I read gave me a new interest in the subject of wine production. It seems the environment in which the vines are grown (what the French call the *terroir*) is of supreme importance. The soils, the climate, the geology, the quality of the water all give each bottle of wine its unique character. You need to know all about this plus a bit of physics and chemistry if you are going into the wine business.

None of this should come as much of a surprise. Especially, when you turn to the next page of most newspapers to find discussions about the society in which we live and the kind of people we are seen to be. We come from and are formed by our *terroir*, for good or for ill. It is there in the way we speak, the stories we tell, the relationships we form, the attitudes and motives that drive us, our sense of what right and wrong, in short, how we live. Good education acknowledges this and teachers and parents are engaged in providing good soil and conditions in which our children may take root and grow. Jesus told a parable about good and bad soil and the weeds and thistles that choke growth. The possibilities of good life and growth are set before us in the story of his life, death and resurrection.

The process of being formed as Christians and disciples is a lifelong adventure and as we approach Easter it might be a good idea to test our discipleship and recall our baptism with a sense of seriousness and purpose. It's all about cultivating a good *terroir*, a spiritual ecology that will re-focus passion for God, prayer and participation in communal life.

The most precious expression of our community life is the sharing of a cup of wine, the fruit of the vine which becomes the cup of our salvation. This is the cup of those who turn away from sin and turn to Christ. Its goal is Easter and the resurrected life that promises not only the transformation of our own selves but the renewal of the whole of creation.

Antony

Laity Rota for March

		OT Readers	NT Readers	Gospel
March	1	Esme Buss	Morny Davison	Penny Edwards
	8	Georgina Bowman	David Bishop	Mark Elliott
	15	Jane Fletcher	Margaret Heath	Sylvia Ayers
	22		Junior Church	
	29	Judith Anderson	Margaret Burrows	Judith Bishop
April	5	Emma Elliott	Richard Gabe	Bev Pont

Chalice Assistants

March	1	Bev Pont	Margaret Burrows
	8	Margaret Heath	Janet Mahto
	15	Jane Fletcher	Penny Edwards
	22	Bob Siderfin	Andrew Sillett
	29	Tessa Claridge	Bev Pont
April	5	Margaret Burrows	Margaret Heath

Intercessors

March	1	Mark Elliott
	8	Martin Palmer
	15	Penny Edwards
	22	Junior Church
	29	David Marles
April	5	Rev Cliff Burrows



Sidespeople		8am	10am	
March	1	Clive Tilling	Margaret Heath	Morny Davison
	8	Arthur Jones	Tessa Claridge	Andrew Sillett
	15	Clive Tilling	Margaret Silver	Frank Twissell
	22	Arthur Jones		Ken and Sylvia Ayers
	29	Clive Tilling	Janet Mahto	Margaret Heath
April	5	Arthur Jones	Morny Davison	Tessa Claridge

Church Calendar for March

Mar	1	Sun	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	
			St DAVID, Patron Saint of Wales	
			4.30pm	Choral Evensong
	2	Mon	St CHAD, Bishop	
	6	Fri	Women's World Day of Prayer Three City Church Services	
			11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	8	Sun	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	
	13	Fri	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	15	Sun	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	
	17	Tues	St Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland	
	18	Wed	7.30pm	Church Council
	20	Fri	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	21	Sat	Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury	
	22	Sun	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT	
			MOTHERING SUNDAY	
	25	Wed	The ANNUNCIATION of our Lord to Mary	
	27	Fri	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	29	Sun	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	
	31	Tues	JOHN DONNE, Priest	
	3	Fri	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
Apr	5	Sun	PALM SUNDAY	
			4.30pm	Choral Evensong

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

Lectionary for March

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
Mar 1	Lent 1		
	Genesis 9: 8-17	1 Peter 3: 18-22	Mark 1: 9-15
8	Lent 2		
	Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16	Romans 4: 14-25	Mark 8: 31-38
15	Lent 3		
	Exodus 20: 1-17	1 Corinthians 1: 18-25	John 2:13-22
22	Mothering Sunday		
	No reading	Colossians 3: 12-17	John 19.25b-27
29	Lent 5		
	Jeremiah 31: 31-34	Hebrews 5: 5-10	John 12: 20-33

Family News—Mother's pride



Many of you will have had the pleasure of meeting Beatrice Varma, a regular member of our congregation. What you may not know is that she is the proud mother of Indira Varma, the actress currently playing Olivia opposite Derek Jacobi's Malvolio in the Donmar Warehouse production of Twelfth Night now playing at Wyndham's Theatre.

Charles Spencer, writing of the production in the *Daily Telegraph* said: "Rarely, very rarely, you step inside a theatre and find that you are being enveloped and enthralled by a show that comes as close to perfection as makes almost no difference". In *The Independent* Michael Coveney referred to "the elegance and bewitching beauty of [Indira's] Olivia."

Indira went to Hayesfield School in Bath and has appeared in a string of successful plays films and television productions. Beatrice can be justly proud of her daughter's career.



If you enjoy the doctor as well as the bard, you may recently have seen Indira in BBC's Torchwood. Ed.

I've been given a Prebend. What should I do now?

A party of supporters from Christ Church travelled to Wells last month to see Angela installed into the Prebend of Combe XII.

This is an ancient seat. On 20 July 1499, Master Thomas Beamounte was "installed in person in the provostship and the prebend of Combe XII thereto annexed, pursuant to mandate of the bishop" and records go back further than that. At that time, a prebend was a parish or some other estate that would provide an income. Prebends are all now disendowed, and Angela will not be knocking on doors asking for tithes.



Although now honorary, the Prebend is still an honour. It



is a literal seat: Angela has her own stall in the Cathedral Quire. She is also has a seat amongst the College of Canons and thus a voice and a vote in their counsels, including the election of bishops. The Chapter, a body drawn from the College and including the Dean, the Precentor and the Archdeacon of Wells, is directly responsible for the running of the cathedral.

Wells refers to the holders of Prebends as Prebendaries, although most cathedrals use the word Canon. A canon was originally a yard-stick and came to represent a rule to live by. The Canons belong to a body that lives by such a rule, of worship and service. Although the Canons were never monks, the life of the cathedral would have given their lives a similar regular rhythm as a monastic life.



We offer our thanksgiving and prayers for Angela's ongoing ministry.

Much of this information was gleaned from the surprisingly informative service sheet.

Deanery Synod at St Michael and All Angels, Twerton

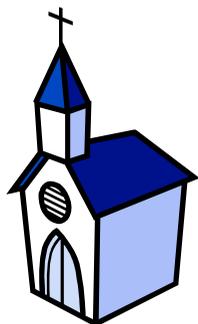
The Rector, the first of three speakers for the evening. spoke about his background and his work. The Rev Richard Wilson came from middle-class suburbia and considered becoming a theatre designer but heard a talk at which a tattered bible was held up, demonstrating how little was left after all the references to the poor had been cut out. Richard then took up social work and later became ordained. He enjoys working in an Urban Priority Area, is people-orientated and sees the need for the church to welcome and embrace those who could be outcasts. I caught whiffs of Jean Vanier, founder of L'Arche, at times.

The Rev Nigel Done is from outside the Deanery, having a parish with six churches, one of which is Norton St Philip. He was an amusing speaker; "Deanery Synod is a group of people wondering how soon they can go home". He got off to a good start. He found in rural ministry many non-church goers were happy to be involved in, for example, looking after the church and he, too, thought it important to be welcoming rather than critical. He also needed to avoid overstretching himself, so encouraged laity to take their own services. He briefly mentioned the prize-winning "hub" in Norton St Philip's church, adapting the church for greater use by the community. You remember Antony wrote on Roy Strong's book on the topic in this magazine.

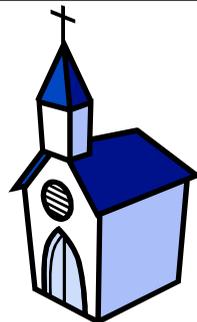
Our final speaker was the chaplain of St Mark's school, who had been a Thatcher and youth worker. He told us his mission was not only to the pupils (has this word gone out now?) - "if in doubt send them to Jerry" was displayed- but also to the staff and parents. He longed to start courses for parents of children of all ages and was full of ideas and enthusiasm. The other speakers, as he observed, had over run their time!

It was encouraging, I think I could say exciting, to hear about the adaptation of "mission" to different circumstances. If you wish to read a lot more on the topic of mission I suggest Bosch: "Transforming Mission—Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission", which I have just borrowed. It is not an easy read.

Margaret Heath



Churches Together in Bath Notes from Meeting on February 4th



On a cold wintry evening, we welcomed CTB members to Christ Church for the Central Zone AGM and Committee meeting. Many thanks to Margaret Silver and Janet Mahto for serving coffee and biscuits before the meeting.

Only 15 people were present instead of the usual 25-30. The annual Report from the Treasurer showed us to be comfortably in the "black", and, having been previously circulated, the Chairman's Report was accepted by the meeting. He reported that as yet no-one has volunteered to take over the Bath Christian Aid operation from John James, who has now retired. He also highlighted the successful Churches Listing Leaflet, which is being delivered to Hotels and Guest Houses in Bath. *A supply of these are on the Church shelf for visitors, friends and neighbours to take.*

At the ordinary Meeting, dates and venues for the 2009 committee meetings and 2009/2010 events were confirmed. We all rejoiced that after a long interregnum, a Vicar has now been appointed for Holy Trinity Queen Square: the Induction of Rev Michael Stuart Hart was on March 3rd. The Victoria Park Flower Show for 2009 had not been confirmed, and so no Service was arranged. Events for the 2010 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the annual Pulpit Exchange, both normally held in January, were then discussed, but no firm decision was reached. Further details will be published in this magazine in due course.

The Rev Kieran Bourne then said that in July he would come to the end of his two-year stint as Chairman of the Central Zone. Various names were put forward, and it seemed like an answer to prayer, when, at the end of the evening, late-comer Rev Tom Gunning from St John's South Parade, accepted the post, and agreed to take over the job straight away. We wish him well in his new position.

*Sylvia M Ayers
CTB Representative
Central Zone*

*At the time of going to press, the B&NES website reported that the Flower Show will take place May 2nd to 4th.

An event to celebrate 200 years since the birth of Charles Darwin

A conversation at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History

Professor Richard Dawkins and Lord Harries of Pentregarth
(former Bishop of Oxford)

The invitation was irresistible—and free. “The Creation” in the Sheldonian, a conversation between Professor Dawkins and Lord Harries, former Bishop of Oxford, in the Natural History Museum and “drinks among the dinosaurs.”

Jeremy Paxman was between the two Richards and reminded the audience of the famous Huxley/ Wilberforce debate which had taken place at the same venue in 1860. Bishop Wilberforce, aka “soapy Sam”, was the third son of our William Wilberforce and is said to have asked Huxley, a Darwinite, whether he was descended from an ape on his grandmother’s or grandfather’s side. Huxley allegedly replied rudely implying he’d rather be descended from an ape than a Bishop. High drama: googling tells me a lady fainted and had to be carried out.

It was not quite like that last night although we enjoyed a few gentle digs. Haydn’s Creation, suggested the Bishop, was performed so the Professor could hear some Bible passages: the retort came that not even Haydn could make the banal words of Genesis appeal. Dawkins was endearing as a person and adamant that science held the answer to everything answerable. He thought that it was unnecessary to search for Bible support for moral decisions, such as our responsibility for the earth. The love of music and poetry and love itself were functions of the brain and needed no supernatural explanation. Darwin’s great contribution was to show that complexity had arisen from simplicity.

Dawkins was aghast that there were still so many creationists about, and thought that preachers should speak out against a literal acceptance of Genesis.

The bishop said there were many different forms of literature in the Bible including poetry, myth, allegory. Religion attempted to answer different questions from science. The hard core of our faith, that the resurrection did in some very real way happen, remained but Anglicanism adapted to new discoveries (we mustn’t be smug, isn’t the Vatican about to celebrate Galileo now? roving correspondent). He thought it was not evolution but the cruelty of evolution which posed problems for Christians but belief in a loving God was not undermined.



This was a conversation, not a debate, and both speakers remained utterly convinced of their own beliefs.

None of us could hear the questions but we played a happy game of trying to guess what they were by watching the amazed and appalled expressions on Jeremy Paxman's face! He said very little, allowing those we had come to hear speak. Others had come from a way, I found, and we all thought the evening worthwhile. I gather the Guardian pod and the Oxford University website carry the full discussion so try these if my personal impressions have whetted your appetite for more.

Margaret Heath

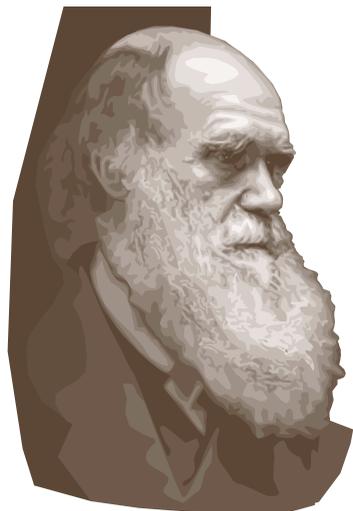
The following is an extract from a hymn by Thomas H. Troeger, suggested by Margaret to accompany her article. It was written in 1994 and, if it fails to reach the majesty or quiet awe of our favourite hymns, it does at least try to express the common source of science and faith, and acknowledge that both call us to praise and wonder. It is sung to Hyfrydol.

Praise the source of faith and learning
who has sparked and stoked the mind
with a passion for discerning
how the world has been designed.

Let the sense of wonder flowing
from the wonders we survey
keep our faith forever growing
and renew our need to pray:

As two currents in a river
fight each other's undertow
till converging they deliver
one coherent steady flow,
may we blend our faith and learning
till they carve a single course
and our seeking and our yearning
join in praising you their source:

Praise for minds to probe the heavens,
praise for strength to breathe the air,
praise for all the beauty leavens,
praise for silence, music, prayer,
praise for justice and compassion
and for strangers, neighbours, friends,
praise for hearts and lips to fashion,
praise for love that never ends.



Prayer Cycle for March

March

- Sun 8** For those who mourn, that they may be comforted.
- Mon 9** We give thanks for those who have loved us, led us and held our hands.
- Tues 10** For those who have lost their job or home in the recession. For those who fear for the future.
- Wed 11** For our LMG partners, St Stephen's and St Mary's Charlcombe.
- Thurs 12** That we may cherish the earth and its fruitfulness, and recognise and give thanks for the plenty around us.
- Fri 13** For the work of the Cedar Tree. For Nicky and all the helpers.
- Sat 14** For the work of USPG in general, and especially for St Anne's Hospital, Lake Malawi. For Adrian Pegg, our USPG representative.
- Sun 15** In the Churches Together in Bath rota, we pray for the clergy and congregation of Cntral URC and Living Springs Metropolitan Community Church.
- Mon 16** For Mark, our Director of Music and David, our Organist. For our choir.
- Tues 17** For our next-door neighbours; for our colleagues at work, college or school.
- Wed 18** For Chris and Angela, our church wardens.
- Thurs 19** For our Clergy Team.
- Fri 20** For Angela, our Verger.
- Sat 21** For Cyril and Mark our Readers; for Sarah's ministry at Batheaston.

-
- Sun* 22 For the work of the Mothers' Union. For our own mothers and all who have cared for us.
- Mon* 23 For Margaret, Sarah and Lewis, our Deanery Synod representatives.
- Tues* 24 For Rowan our Archbishop and for Peter our Bishop. For all Anglican Bishops and Primates.
- Wed* 25 For all who help to run our Junior Church, for Sarah who co-ordinates the rota, and for all our children.
- Thurs* 26 For Judith, who prepares our weekly notice sheet.
- Fri* 27 For all our readers, chalice assistants, intercessors and sidespeople. For Sarah, who draws up the Laity Rotas.
- Sat* 28 For David, our Treasurer and magazine editor.
- Sun* 29 For those who suffer, in body, mind or spirit.
- Mon* 30 For all our local and national elected representatives.
- Tues* 31 Let us thank God for the blessings of the month now ending.
- April*
- Wed* 1 For those who are struggling to retain or restore their relationship; for their families.
- Thurs* 2 For members of our congregation who can no longer attend church due to illness or infirmity.
- Fri* 3 For the lonely; for those who see no solution to their problems.
- Sat* 4 For those suffering from depression, and for those who love them; that they will find the strength to seek the help which they need..
- Sun* 5 We pray for the safety of those who are travelling.
- Mon* 6 That the Holy Spirit may guide all our prayers and meditations this Holy Week and prepare us for Easter.
- Tues* 7 For those who dedicate their lives to the service of others.

**Volunteer to lead the Shoe Box Appeal
Can you help?**

Pat and David Dawson write:

We are registered volunteers with the International Christian Relief Charity, Samaritan's Purse and have been joint Bath District Coordinators for their Operation Christmas Child project for the past three years. Last year 6,300 gift filled shoe boxes were donated by supporters from the Bath District then collected, checked and packed by about 150 volunteers, ready for distribution to disadvantaged children in Bosnia, Serbia and Ukraine. This year we are seeking help, as we need someone (or another couple) to work with us, with a view to taking over the District Coordinator role in 2010.

The role requires the ability to communicate by email and, because of the need to contact supporting schools, churches, businesses, individuals and Samaritan's Purse Head Office, the District Coordinator should be available during normal working hours on at least some days of the week. Thus the role would suit, for example, active retired people.

If you are interested, we can assure you that it is very rewarding to be so closely involved with the wonderful Operation Christmas Child project. Please contact us, Tel: 01225 311546

Mothers Union News

At Christ Church on March 22nd, we relax our Lent observance to celebrate Mothering Sunday, which is an important day for all Mothers and especially for our MU members, who are pledged to help those whose family life has met with adversity. Our theme for 2009

is "Make a Mother's Day", and this year, an MU catalogue of special ethical gifts has been produced: a copy, and a selection of "Flyers" are on the Church Table. These suggest that you give a mum or a carer a Mothering Sunday Gift, and so help a family in tough circumstances. Even if you do not give anything, it will still be good to see all mothers and their children at the 10am Service on that day.

For our MU members: On March 20th, please remember the Spring Archdeaconry Council in your prayers. This is being held at St Paul's Weston-super-Mare at 10.15am, and after the business meeting, they will hear about the work of the Street Pastors, with the title "Streets Ahead". All members are welcome to attend this meeting.

Sylvia M Ayers, MU Secretary



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.**