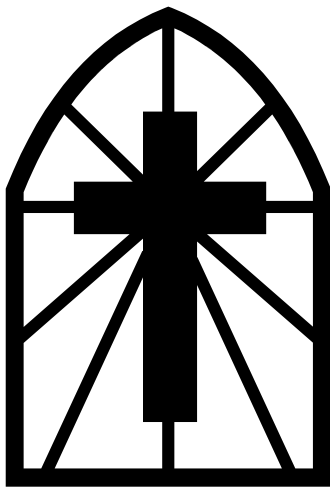


CHRIST
CHURCH
CHALLENGE



May 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.

**Lent Lunches in aid of
Dorothy House**

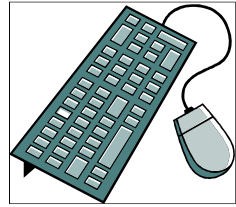


Our thanks and congratulations to all who organised, attended and in any way supported the services, lunches and collections over Lent. Together with our friends at St Mary's, we raised £750 towards the work of Dorothy House.

Dorothy House, based at its hospice in Winsley, offers physical, psychological, social and spiritual care to patients and their families facing life threatening illness, death or bereavement.

Forum...

On the Sundays after Easter the readings tell the story of the disciples during the first post-resurrection days. They meet the risen Lord, they eat with him and he teaches them from the scriptures. In this way they grow in confidence and understanding and they, the first resurrection people, are changed. They also become strong enough to realise that things will never be same again.



This year we celebrate the resurrection in a time of economic recession. Thousands of people are anxiously coping with reduced working hours and in many cases, redundancy. Politicians speak of the “green shoots of recovery “ whilst around us the coming of spring brings in the greening of the countryside and new growth is to be seen everywhere.

Whatever the reasons for the current economic turmoil one plain fact remains: we must change our way of life and re-order our priorities. The Archbishop of York has said “the blind pursuit of profit has to end, with our wealth and economic power used in the service of a greater social purpose”. He quoted Rabbi Abraham Heschel who tells us that “in a free society all are involved in what some are doing. Some are guilty, all are responsible.” At Easter we are offered the death and resurrection of Jesus as the opportunity to begin anew, for our debts to be forgiven and for the beams of self-indulgence to be removed from our eyes by God.

One of the benefits of my recent illness has been the kindness of people who have given me interesting and entertaining things to read. One little book was put into my hands and, I must say, it is one which in normal circumstances I would not have picked up. In a collection of extracts from wartime diaries edited by Martin Wainwright there is a record of how country people coped with the crises and privations of the war years. There are many references to “the old ways,” “hope for the future” and “a new world” even in the darkest times. One entry in particular caught my eyes because it seems to be a kind of parable both of Easter and of the recession. It was written in November 1940 and describes the explosion of a bomb in a woodland copse.

“A large number of beech saplings had had their heads cut cleanly off [whilst] the larger tree had the misfortune to find themselves in the path of shell splinters... Already the damaged trees have received first-aid treatment at the hands of their owner. With a sharp chisel and hammer, he cut away all the jagged edges and smoothed over the cavity with a pruning knife. The largest holes he filled with cement to keep out the rain and painted the

exposed parts with Stockholm tar. With the coming of the spring the bark will gradually heal over the ugly scars and the trees should revive.”

So it was that among all the devastation, the owner of the copse found the means and the promise of revival and new life.

In the post resurrection experiences of the disciples there is evidence that it is possible for us to be part of the life-changing purposes of God. This is a reality for us as individuals, as churches and communities. Life lurks even now in the deadly debris of our economy if we know how and where to look and are not afraid to adapt. In the doom land of despair hope is eternal for “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

Antony

*Wartime Country Diaries edited by Martin Wainwright
published by guardianbooks at £12.99*

Lectionary for May

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
May 3	Easter 4		
	Acts 4.5-12	1 John 3.16-24	John 10.11-18
10	Easter 5		
	Acts 8.26-40	No reading	John 15.1-8
17	Easter 6		
	Acts 10.44-48	1 John 5.1-6	John 15.9-17
24	Easter 7		
	Acts 1.15-17 21-26	1 John 5.9-13	John 17.6-19
31	Pentecost		
	Acts 2.1-21	No reading	John 15.26-27, 16.4b-15
Jun 7	Trinity Sunday		
	Isaiah 6.1-8	Romans 8 12-17	John 3.1-17

Church Calendar for May

May	3	Sun	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
			4.30pm	Choral Evensong
	4	Mon	Start of Peter's Progress—see page 15	
	8	Fri	Mother Julian of Norwich	
			11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	10	Sun	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
	14	Thur	St Matthias, Apostle	
	15	Fri	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	17	Sun	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
	18	Mon	Rogation Day	
	19	Tues	Rogation Day	
	20	Wed	Rogation Day	
	21	Thur	FEAST OF THE ASCENSION	
	22	Fri	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	24	Sun	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
	25	Mon	The Venerable Bede	
	27	Wed	7.30pm	CTB District AGM
	28	Thur	Lafranc of Canterbury	
	29	Fri	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	31	Sun	PENTECOST SUNDAY	
Jun	7	Sun	TRINITY SUNDAY	
			4.30pm	Choral Evensong

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

Laity Rota for May

		OT Readers	NT Readers	Gospel
May	3	David Bishop	Jane Fletcher	Margaret Heath
	10	Mark Elliott	Sylvia Ayers	Matthew Jones
	17	Sarah Hiscock	Judith Anderson	Margaret Burrows
	24	Judith Bishop	Emma Elliott	Richard Gabe
	31	Bev Pont	David Marles	Eileen Selmes
June	7	Martin Palmer	Bob Siderfin	Esme Buss

Chalice Assistants

May	3	Bev Pont	Margaret Burrows
	10	Margaret Heath	Janet Mahto
	17	Penny Edwards	Jane Fletcher
	24	Andrew Sillett	Bob Siderfin
	31	Bev Pont	Tessa Claridge
June	7	Margaret Heath	Margaret Burrows

Intercessors

May	3	Martin Palmer
	10	Penny Edwards
	17	Bev Pont
	24	David Marles
	31	Rev Cliff Burrows
June	7	Georgina Bowman



Sidespeople		8am	10am	
May	3	Arthur Jones	Morny Davison	Margaret Heath
	10	Clive Tilling	Margaret Silver	Frank Twissell
	17	Arthur Jones	Tessa Claridge	Andrew Sillett
	24	Clive Tilling	Ken & Sylvia Ayers	
	31	Arthur Jones	Janet Mahto	Morny Davison
June	7	Clive Tilling	Margaret Heath	Tessa Claridge

~ Bath & Wells celebrates 1100 years ~

- ✚ 4th May - 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.



Celtic Journey to Durham

The increasing attraction of the Celtic saints and the emergence of Celtic Christianity will feature in a Celtic Pilgrimage at St Chad's College, Durham in August.



Canon Martin Warner, of St Paul's Cathedral, London, will lead the week-long course which will run from 3rd-10th August and costs £438 (half board) in a university standard room.

Participants register at the Durham College for a week of Christian pilgrimage and teaching focussing on the Celtic saints of Hilda, Aidan, Cuthbert and Cedd.

Those taking part visit Holy Island and Bamburgh as well as taking in Bede's World, Whitby, Lastingham and Durham Cathedral.

"Each day consists of talks, services and many of the day include a trip out to a well know site including a highly memorable pilgrimage to Lindisfarne itself," said Canon Warner this week.

He is an experienced pilgrimage leader and is also Master of the Guardians of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk.

Brochures are available on 01482 662 721 or from www.ukltg.com.

Planned itinerary

Monday	Durham
Tuesday	Whitby and Lastingham
Wednesday	Durham Cathedral
Thursday	Holy Island and Bamburgh
Friday	Celtic Quiet Day
Saturday	Bede's World and Monkwearmouth
Sunday	Durham Cathedral
Monday	Departure

Nearer My God to Thee?

No, I am not writing about the Titanic, nor about churches being full of "old ladies cramming for their finals" (not, I think, true of Christ Church) but of spirituality. Perhaps the Diocesan "Deeper into God" would have been better than the title I had chosen before I read theirs.

This is on the flyer for the next EXPLORING SPIRITUALITY course in Wells. (Details are available on the board at the back of church.) Part one aims at exploring one's spiritual journey, and maybe becoming holier, though certainly not than thou. I did the daytime course in 2005/6 and found it enriching and supportive and others echo this. The course is instructive, for example there may be a day on Franciscan or Ignatian spirituality, but there is fellowship, sharing, participation in all sorts of ways and a helpful, encouraging attitude on the part of the course team.

We keep in touch with reunions at Wells. There was one a couple of days back; a wonderful chance to catch up and learn more. We used odd objects to enter into prayer such as a teapot or a postcard; it may sound strange, but wasn't. We concentrated on the moment. We had silent reflection and Lectio Divina, then pooled our thoughts in small groups. A "Bring and Share" lunch followed a Eucharist round the groaning table. Guests were welcome and seemed appreciative as we others.

If you can't manage a whole course there are plenty of other opportunities to learn more about spirituality. The Ammerdown Centre, near Radstock, has a day, "What is this thing called Spiritual Direction?" on June 6, free for first time visitors to the Ecumenical Study Fellowship. One of the speakers is my own Spiritual Director, a friend of Antony's, and this promises to be a very good topic. People shy away, perhaps as "spiritual" can suggest one has to start very holy, and "direction" that one might be instructed, criticised, found wanting? It is not like that. Indeed the "director" is more of a trained friend for the journey. Part one of our Wells course can be followed by a further year training to become a Spiritual Director oneself, but not all are called to pursue this.

Sarum College is another place to go for honey: 19 The Close, Salisbury, SP1 2EE, or the St Theosevia Centre in Oxford. Both are easy to reach from Bath by train and Sarum also has an excellent religious bookshop. So, we are spoilt for choice. Funny that twenty five years or so ago we hardly heard the word "spirituality" - Mark and I were quite startled when an American told us he had majored in the subject - but now we are lucky indeed to have so many opportunities to pursue it for ourselves.

Margaret Heath

Working Group for Possible Church Improvements

As you may have heard, your Council has set up a small working group to make recommendations for possible Church improvements (particularly for the back of the Church) that will not only improve facilities but will also help to 'grow' our congregation.

Now that Council has agreed suitable terms of reference, the working group plans to meet in May to review suggestions. We already have input from David Bishop's study from several years ago, and I know Chris and Angela, our Church Wardens, also have some ideas to put forward. But, we need to know what **you, our churchgoers**, think we need and to tell us about concerns you may have with our facilities.

Our Working Group of David Bishop, Mark Elliott, Alice Pont and Martin Palmer have extensive knowledge of the Church, and also many ideas of their own, But this is your opportunity to let us know **your** views. Please tell us, either by contacting me personally or in writing via e-mail or the pigeon holes at the back of Church or of course, one of the Working Group.

Thank you,

Bob Siderfin

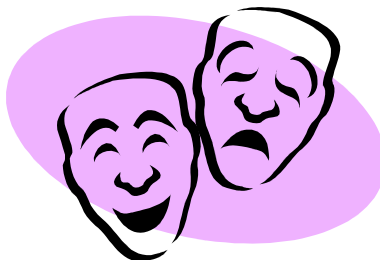
01225 429536

siderfins2@yahoo.com



Oliver!

As we mentioned in our January edition, Edward Gabe took the title role in the Royal Theatre's production of *Oliver!* last month. Edward brought a tear to many an eye with "Where is Love", but he was not the only member of our congregation treading the boards. Sophie Smith featured as the Strawberry Seller, one of the quartet singing over the top of the chorus in the beautiful "Who Will Buy".



Here are some comments from the local press and one comment (see if you can spot which) from a young fan.

Here every last one of them up there on stage gives it everything they've got, and more, for one solid week of performances.

On Tuesday we saw Edward Gabe as Oliver, a star in the making if ever there was one.

Really, really nice and a lot of singing. Ed and Sophie were both really good and I brought Lara with me too and we got Haribo and jelly babies.

Edward Gabe, who took the role of Oliver on the first night, stunned the audience with his first big number, *Where is Love*.

Why bother travelling to London when you can get a performance of this quality right on your own doorstep?

We're all very proud of them. What can we say apart from, please, sir, we want some more.

Our congratulations also go to Edward on his recent confirmation in the chapel of Monkton School.

The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith. Amen.

Prayer Cycle for May

May

- Sun 3** For the work of the Mission to Seafarers.
- Mon 4** For those suffering from depression, and for those who love them; that they will find the strength to continue each day.
- Tues 5** That leaders of the rich nations will realise that endless growth can't happen in a finite world.
- Wed 6** For Bishop Peter as he walks around the diocese. For all he will meet, for all the places on his route.
- Thurs 7** For the staff, pupils and governors of St Andrew's and St Stephen's schools.
- Fri 8** For Angela, our Verger.
- Sat 9** For the love and support we receive from our families and friends.
- Sun 10** At the start of Christian Aid week, we pray for their work amongst the poor and oppressed.
- Mon 11** For our Clergy Team.
- Tues 12** For the work of Bath Alcohol and Drugs Advisory Service.
- Wed 13** For Mark, our Director of Music and David, our Organist. For our choir.
- Thurs 14** For the work of Dorothy House, for those benefiting from its care and for their families.
- Fri 15** For David, our Treasurer and magazine editor.
- Sat 16** For all our readers, chalice assistants, intercessors and sidespeople. For Sarah, who draws up the Laity Rotas.
- Sun 17** In the Churches Together in Bath rota, we pray for the clergy and congregation of Holy Trinity.
- Mon 18** For our church Trustees, meeting this evening.

- Tues* 19 For Cyril and Mark our Readers; for Sarah's ministry at Batheaston.
- Wed* 20 For Chris and Angela, our church wardens.
- Thurs* 21 For Judith, who prepares our weekly notice sheet.
- Fri* 22 For the work of the Cedar Tree. For Nicky and all the helpers.
- Sat* 23 For our LMG partners, St Stephen's and St Mary's Charlcombe.
- Sun* 24 For all who help to run our Junior Church, for Sarah who co-ordinates the rota, and for all our children.
- Mon* 25 For our emergency services. For all who are working this Bank Holiday weekend.
- Tues* 26 For the work of USPG in general, and especially for St Anne's Hospital, Lake Malawi. For Adrian Pegg, our USPG representative.
- Wed* 27 For Churches Together, holding their AGM this evening.
- Thurs* 28 For Margaret, Sarah and Lewis, our Deanery Synod representatives.
- Fri* 29 That we may cherish the earth and its fruitfulness, and recognise and give thanks for the plenty around us.
- Sat* 30 For Rowan our Archbishop and for Peter our Bishop. For all Anglican Bishops and Primates.
- Sun* 31 Let us thank God for the blessings of the month now ending.
- June*
- Mon* 1 For those who have lost their job or home in the recession. For those who fear for the future.
- Tues* 2 For those who wrestle with God and their faith; for those who bear witness to them; for the work of the Holy Spirit in spreading the Gospel.
- Wed* 3 For the leaders of the nations, that they may be directed in the ways of justice and of peace.

Peter's Progress

Bishop Peter will begin his 300+ miles walk around the perimeter of the diocese at Glastonbury Tor on Bank Holiday Monday, 4th May. Everyone is invited to join the walk up the Tor with Bishop Peter and children from St Benedict's School in Glastonbury.



It would be great to get the Progress off to a good start and to wave Bishop Peter on his way with our good wishes (and a packet of blister plasters). It is planned to start the walk up the Tor at 10am. Please also think about joining the Bishop on his Progress at other locations.

Bishop Peter will be walking from Freshford Station to Batheaston on May 6 and from Batheaston to North Stoke on May 7. All the walk days and details are on the Diocesan website www.bw1100.org.

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.

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 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.**