



**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Good Shepherd Sunday**

**Welcome!**

Dear friends of Christ Church,

Welcome to this week's bulletin. We hope that you are finding it useful in keeping you in contact with our community in Christ Church in this most difficult time. We welcome contributions from anyone who has a message to give, be it serious or maybe a little humorous. We all need to be able to smile in the face of challenge.

This bulletin will be emailed out to those on our email list. As always, material for inclusion should be emailed by Tuesday evenings to Jude Bishop at [notices@christchurchbath.org](mailto:notices@christchurchbath.org)

Please forward this bulletin to anyone to whom you think it would be of interest. We will print a few paper copies and post them to those who are not on email.

We're still following government guidelines by not showing on-line services from inside church and hopefully you are managing to join in from your living room. A reminder of how you can do this is [here](#), and for the moment we will do that from the tiny chapel Colin and Lore have created at home. To make it more of a Christ Church community we would love you to send photos of yourself and these can put up in the chapel as a visible sign that we are all worshipping together. They can come by email to Lore, [lore.chumbley@me.com](mailto:lore.chumbley@me.com) or by post to Christ Church.

Also, do please email or post or text prayer requests and we will try to include them week by week. But be aware that the service will be online and so be careful of the confidentiality of friends and loved ones.

The May Link is being prepared during this week and will be ready for next weekend. If you are not on the internet you will receive a copy in the post. The weekly reading are to be found in the Link.

If you have any articles you wish to be included in future copies please email Alex at [alexs@christchurchbath.org](mailto:alexs@christchurchbath.org).

All copies of the Link can be found on the website [here](#).

## **Revd Professor Cliff Burrows**

You will have heard the sad news that Cliff Burrows died of Covid-19 on 19<sup>th</sup> April. His funeral is Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 3:15pm. Because of our current restricted movements, access to his funeral will be limited to close family. We will have a celebration for his life in the future. Here is a Church of England [Simple Reflection](#) at home on the day of a funeral you can't attend or from the Methodist Church, [here](#).

The family has asked that any donations go to support research into Alzheimer's disease. You can donate [here](#) or copy this link into a browser <https://professorcliffordburrows.muchloved.com>.

## **Reminder from the Priest-in-charge**

**IMPORTANT!** Don't let Coronavirus spoil the young people's Easter egg hunt! Please do buy up small Easter eggs with a reasonably long sell-by date, so that when we get back into Christ Church we can have a delayed but spectacular egg hunt.

**If you are experiencing financial problems**, Christ Church may be able to help in small ways with day to day needs. Contact the Priest-in-charge in confidence.

## Sermon for April 30th

*Acts 8: 26-end*

### **An angel of the Lord said to Philip – ‘get up and go towards the south to the Road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’**

The very earliest missionary journeys, like Philip’s to the Ethiopian eunuch, were made possible by the ‘cutting edge’ technology of the day, the new Roman roads which made travel relatively fast and safe. The eunuch had travelled from Ethiopia to worship in the temple at Jerusalem and was returning as Philip joined him. That Bible study in which Philip explained how Jesus has overcome death as the carriage made its jolting way forwards, would have been impossible on anything less than the smooth paved Roman roads of the day. It is perhaps a nudge to remind us of how we have to move and change with the times and embrace new technology. The good news would, in the next few decades, travel all over the Mediterranean along the new Roman roads in a way which would simply not have been possible a few decades earlier.

Not that the early Christians were initially particularly keen to embrace the new technology. Luke tells us elsewhere in Acts that they stayed in Jerusalem, praying and sacrificing in the Temple and breaking bread together in their homes.

But then Stephen was martyred and the new Christians began to be persecuted - so that it was no longer safe to attend the Temple or meet together. As a result the Apostles were spread far and wide - so Philip ended up on the wilderness road from Jerusalem to Gaza and met the Ethiopian eunuch who would take Christianity to Ethiopia.

There is a parallel with our own times. As a church, we haven’t rushed to embrace our own cutting edge technology. We have hesitated to stream services, but now when it is no longer safe to meet to pray and worship together, we are pushed into new ways of worshipping, praying, and communicating. It may be that streaming our services, which has been forced upon us, is a way in which our worship can be shared with those who would never usually step inside our church - because they are a hundred miles away, or have to work on a Sunday morning and are catching up on video - or because they came across Christ Church by chance while browsing the internet.

Whatever the reason, it is wonderful to have names from the past and new names checking in to our online services. The story of the Acts of the Apostles is really the story of the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit blows where it will. In the first century the Holy Spirit used wave of persecution and the new Roman roads to spread the news of faith and eternal life throughout the Roman empire. In our times, our isolation and frustration at being unable to meet may be offset by the spread of Christian worship through the airwaves. Let your friends and family have the details of our services - they may visit out of curiosity but with our help the Spirit can, in our age, use technology to spread the good news of the resurrection, throughout the virtual world.

## Sunday 3rd April – Fourth Sunday of Easter

### **Today’s service**

**10am**

Genesis 7

Psalm: 23

Acts 2: 42-end

John 10: 1-10

### **Next week**

There will be an online Eucharist at 11am on Thursday

The readings will be:

Acts 13: 13-25

Psalm 89: 1-2, 20-26

John 13: 16-20

Let’s also keep the gesture going on Thursdays, applauding the NHS, teachers, carers and those who are keeping our society functioning. We are all from different places of Bath and the surrounding area, but we report back to each other that the applause is getting louder. Let’s put lit candles in our windows at 7 pm on Sundays as a sign of Jesus, the Light of the World.

‘The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.’ (**John 1:5**)

## Progress on the building works a message from the Priest -in-charge



Last week the heavy oak Victorian pulpit was moved northwards and westwards to its new position. It all fits! The staircase spirals neatly round its foot & there is access for a preacher to ascend into it to preach. The framing of the new curved platform is in place with its curved step on which we shall kneel at the communion rail. The choir stalls and associated sanctuary items have been sold raising a further £2,000 towards the project. As a result, the south chapel is now clear, and the area at the west end of church where choir stalls have been stored for a couple of years is opened up. Once again

we will be able to access the books in the glass fronted bookcases and have a little more room to socialise with coffee after church.



In the meantime, **congratulations** if you have recently joined us for online services or Bible studies! Janet Mahto and Del have bravely taken the plunge and I have just hosted my first zoom meeting. I had been relying on the technological expertise of younger and more technically-able friends. If I can learn, we all can! If you would like to have your hand held through the process of accessing Facebook or Zoom so that you too can join us online, do phone or write - or even email.

USPG'

...is the charity for this month, with particular interest in the Malawi project where the charity attempts to inspire girls to return to education through motivational talks in communities. This is done by, improving access to schooling and provide girls with educational materials, including hostels for girls at secondary boarding schools; installing girl-only toilets in schools; promoting sexual health services to reduce early pregnancy; and taking education for girls into communities and educate via the radio. Although the contribution from Christ Church is not available through the collection plate please feel free to donate on-line [here](https://www.uspg.org.uk/worldwide/malawi/), or copy this link into a browser <https://www.uspg.org.uk/worldwide/malawi/>.

## Social action in Bath and Sustainable Food Partnership

As you have probably heard by now, the Compassionate Community Hub is now operational across the whole of B&NES, with large numbers of volunteers who are being asked to provide support to people in need in their local areas.

If anyone needs support with buying food or medicines, and there is no local group that they can turn to, then they should send an email with the subject "Support" to [compassion@3sg.org.uk](mailto:compassion@3sg.org.uk) and the team will pick up your query within 24 hours.

Alternatively, telephone the **Banes Covid/Compassionate Community helpline 0300 247 0050**.

People wanting to register as a volunteer with Compassionate Community Hub should complete the form via this link: <http://bit.ly/communityvolunteersignup>.

3SG & the Sustainable Food Partnership have produced a list of local providers offering food to people across Bath and north east Somerset. You can find a comprehensive list [here](#).

## Urgent appeal for chest freezers

B&NES Council urgently need to borrow chest freezers to store freshly prepared meals for distribution to vulnerable families and older people across B&NES. If you can help, please contact Peter Heywood, [peter@heywood.co](mailto:peter@heywood.co) 07976 241545



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

Please tell your older friends about **DAILY HOPE**. Daily Hope is a response to the nearly 3 million older people living in the UK who cannot access the internet and who now find themselves

even more isolated and cut off from those around them. Many are struggling with anxiety and fear. Please tell older people who you know about Daily Hope. It's for people with no access to the internet. It's a FREE phone line so that they can listen to hymns, prayers, daily reflections, and a choice of church services. When you phone, the call is answered by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Try it now! Thank you.





## A letter from the Make Lunch team

Individuals from Christ Church have been supporting the Make lunch initiative since last year. This is what the team wrote last week:

We're so pleased that from next week, we're going to be able to deliver weekly food parcels to Make Lunch families and others (depending on capacity) for May – July inclusive. We're working in

partnership with the Salvation Army in the city centre who are kindly offering their city centre café to us for storing and refrigerating food that will be supplied to us from FareShare South West. Waitrose have also generously donated bags and some ambient food, so we're confident we now have everything we need to get going... apart from volunteers! Every week we're going to need a team of volunteers to pack and prepare the food parcels. We're also going to need driving volunteers with access to their own car who will be willing to deliver up to 5 food parcels each week.

Can you help us? If you can, please email us back as soon as you can with details of your availability (which days and times you can do) and how you'd like to get involved – packing/preparing or driving/delivering. I'm sure you'll agree that this is going to be a lifeline for many of our families, and we've already been overwhelmed by the speed and the size of the response. We need as much help as possible and we're also going to be taking on new temporary volunteers just for this project, so do spread the word to anyone you know who might be able to help us. It might be that you want to involve members of your household too and this is something we'd love to see children and young people getting involved in.

Thanks in advance for your help and ongoing support of Make Lunch. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Make Lunch Team ([makelunch@oasisbath.org](mailto:makelunch@oasisbath.org))

## Bath 24/7 Prayer

There has never been a need to unite together in pray for our city, nation, our world like now. Cover BATH in prayer 24 hours a day FOR 50 DAYS FROM EASTER TO PENTECOST. Sign up for a slot for virtual 24-7 prayer by clicking this link [bit.ly/50DOP](http://bit.ly/50DOP).



## Scrub Hubs

Some of us at Christ Church have responded to the call to sew for the NHS - laundry bags, caps, and "scrub suits" - the pyjama outfits that used to be restricted to operating theatre wear but are now appearing more and more. GPs are wearing these too, at the moment, when they have to do home visits. We've had permission to recycle duvet covers etc. for this, so scrubs are being created in florals, stripes and even dinosaur prints which hopefully will bring a smile to the faces of hard working NHS staff. If you'd like to know more about this contact Rebekah by phone 07821 251956 or email [rebekah.spanner@gmail.com](mailto:rebekah.spanner@gmail.com).

## Finally, as you clap on Thursday nights, say this prayer:

### Give thanks at all times

God of compassion and of love,  
we thank you for those who are working to protect, serve and care for us during this crisis.  
We pay tribute to those who have lost their lives doing so  
and we pray that the Holy Spirit, the Comforter might be with their loved ones and friends.  
We ask you to strengthen - in body, mind and spirit - all who strive in these difficult circumstances  
to keep us safe and healthy.  
In the name of Jesus, our Redeemer and Friend. Amen.