



A Happy and a Holy Christmas to all!



Christ Church *Link*

December 2024 ● Number 152 ● 50p where sold

Appointment announced

Our new Priest-in-Charge will join us in February

From the Trustees of Christ Church:

The Trustees are delighted to announce that, subject to a satisfactory DBS disclosure, our new Priest-in-Charge will be the Revd Heather Smith, who will come to us from Rowde and Bromham in Wiltshire. Heather brings a range of experience and skills which fit well with our ethos and aspirations.

While we are delighted with this news, we need to be aware that the news of Heather's departure will be received very differently in her present benefice.

Please pray for Heather as she prepares to move here, for her present parishes as they come to terms with what her departure means to them, and continue to pray for Christ Church as we prepare to welcome Heather and the rich ministry that she will bring to us.

The Trustees are truly grateful to everyone who has been involved in so many different ways in maintaining and sustaining our worship and outreach during the vacancy. We look forward to welcoming Heather and her husband, Jeremy, to Christ Church and to working and growing together in serving Christ in Bath.

Heather's Licensing by Bishop Ruth Worsley will take place in Christ Church on Tuesday 4 February at 7pm. All are very welcome.

A prayer from our Festal Eucharist service on the feast of Christ the King:

We give thanks and praise for the vision of the founders of this church and for the faithful witness of congregations over more than two hundred years.

Give to this church, O God, a daring faith and a vision for our future; that guided by your spirit we may share your love with all who worship here, welcome in Christ's name all who turn to us for help, and seek the Spirit's guidance for our future ministry.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and king. Amen.



A nativity set carved in olive wood, an example of the hand-crafts available at the Bethlehem Christmas stall – see page 2.

Crafts from the Holy Land for Christmas

Djemila Cope writes:

As part of the Bath Christmas Market, a Christmas stall from Bethlehem is running until Sunday 15 December at BRLSI (Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institute), 16-18 Queen Square, Bath BA1 2HN.

The Holy Land Cooperative had a chalet in the Christmas Market many times until Covid. People came every year to look for it and add to their collection of Nativity figures, replace a lost baby Jesus, or add an extra angel or a camel and donkey. Now they can find all their much-loved figures again and plenty of traditional Palestinian embroideries, mother-of-pearl religious items, decorative ceramics and jewellery as well.

The Holy Land Handicraft Co-operative Society promotes the work of small-scale craftsmen and women from Bethlehem and surrounding villages, who are finding it very hard to bring their goods to market in the midst of the current Middle East conflict, when tourists are no longer visiting.

Come and discover the magic of olive wood carvings and other unique gifts from Bethlehem, while also supporting craftspeople when times are hard.



The Holy Land Co-operative Society supports approximately 2,000 individual craftspeople including local Women's Enterprise groups and organisations supporting people with disabilities. It also provides a vital sales outlet for small-scale producers. Photos courtesy of Djemila Cope

120 people confirmed

From the Diocese of Bath and Wells:

On the last Sunday in November, Wells Cathedral was filled with joy and celebration as more than 120 people from across the diocese were confirmed.

The candidates, from a diverse range of ages and backgrounds, were joined by a large congregation of family members, friends and church community supporters who travelled from near and far to share this special moment in their faith journey.

You can find details of the confirmation service, photos and links to the stories of some of the candidates on the Diocesan website at <https://bit.ly/wells-confirmations-2024>.



Photo: Jason Bryant / Diocese of Bath & Wells

Our seasonal services

- Advent Carol Service – 6:30pm, Sunday 8 December
- LGBT+ Affirming Carol Service – 5pm, Sunday 15 December, St Stephen's, Lansdown
- Eucharist with Nativity Play – 10am, Sunday 22 December
- A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas – 6:30pm, Sunday 22 December
- Candlelit Crib Service – 4:30pm, Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24 December
- Midnight Mass – 11:30pm, Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24 December
- Christmas Morning Eucharist – 10am, Christmas Day, Wednesday 25 December

Thoughts on the Makin report

Virginia Knight writes:

Safeguarding may be, and in some respects has to be, a largely unseen ministry and activity of Christ Church, but recent events in the Church of England have shown just how important it is. I was an early signer of the petition urging the Archbishop of Canterbury to resign, because I felt he had lost credibility in the secular world which still looks to the Church to uphold moral standards, to say nothing of the confidence of large parts of the Church of England itself.

The failings which led to his resignation (and at the time of writing may lead to others) appear to have been in the upper levels of the hierarchy rather than at the grass roots, where safeguarding procedures and standards have also improved overwhelmingly in recent decades. There still remain weak areas, such as varying levels of provision and support across dioceses, as documented by the Jay Report earlier this year. I believe that here in Bath and Wells we have one of the better diocesan safeguarding teams, both in numbers and in their experience.

The duties of safeguarding officers have also changed greatly even within the last few years (and are likely to continue to do so in the near future), and now include training congregations to identify people coming into our church who may be experiencing abuse elsewhere. Worthy though this is in itself, I wonder whether it may be in part an attempt to deflect attention from the possibility of abuse occurring within the Church. Certainly there has been a culture of covering up and protecting reputations and networks.

Churches around Bath are adapting to the increased safeguarding workload, and I have been making a survey of how they are doing this. I hope to present my findings to our new incumbent when she arrives, with a view to reforming how we distribute this workload in Christ Church.

Virginia Knight, Safeguarding Officer
christchbathsafeguarding@gmail.com

Stamps for Seafarers

Sylvia and Steven Ayers write:

This is our usual autumn request for your used Christmas stamps. At this time of year, most of us still receive a much increased post through the door, all adorned with attractive Christmas stamps. There is still a market for these stamps, even when they have been used to post items to you. They can be any value except for the ordinary first and second class stamps, which even this year will not be welcomed by collectors.

Please would you therefore cut AROUND the used stamps, leaving a two centimetre frame, and leave them in the marked box on the table at the back of the church. I can then send them on to the Missions to Seafarers office in London, who can sell them to collectors to raise funds.

We do thank you all for responding to our request, and hope that you will all have a very Happy Christmas.

Bishop Ruth to return



From the Diocese of Bath and Wells:

Bishop Ruth Worsley, who has been serving as interim Acting Diocesan Bishop in the Diocese of Coventry since November 2023, will be returning to Bath and Wells in 2025. The news follows the announcement in November that the Rt Revd Sophie Jelley will be the next Bishop of Coventry.

Bishop Ruth will leave Coventry at Christmas and, after a break, return to her role as Bishop of Taunton around the end of January.

Narinder honoured

Revd Prebendary Narinder Tegally, Lead Chaplain at the RUH and Interfaith Adviser for the Diocese of Bath and Wells, is one of five people newly appointed Deputy Lieutenants to support the Lord-Lieutenant, His Majesty's personal representative in Somerset.

The other four are: Caroline Boddington, Senior Non-Executive Chapter Member of Wells Cathedral and a trustee of the Ammerdown Centre; Ali Vowles, best known as a presenter and reporter for BBC TV and radio, also active in charity work in the region; David AJ Brown OBE, chief executive of The Bristol Port Company and Chair of Governors at Wells Cathedral School; and Richard Swallow, a solicitor, advocate for mental health awareness, and mentor to students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are looking to join the legal profession.

Warm congratulations to Narinder, a long-standing friend of Christ Church, and all five.

Appointment to the office of Deputy Lieutenant is in recognition of distinguished service to the community, country or county.

Although military in origin, the role of Deputy Lieutenant no longer has any military significance. Each Deputy Lieutenant undertakes to assist the Lord-Lieutenant in performing any duties that may be required, including representing the Lord-Lieutenant at formal functions, award ceremonies and citizenship ceremonies or Remembrance Day services.

Find out more about the role of the Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset and his deputies at <https://somersteliutenancy.com>.



December can feel like chaos – lots of social events, services, presents to buy, never-ending to-do lists and the pressure to create the perfect Christmas. But in the midst of this chaos, our churches can offer an opportunity to find peace during this busy time.

The Church of England's theme for Advent and Christmas 2024 is *Follow the Star: Calm and Bright*. Throughout Advent, it will focus primarily on how to find *Calm* during this busy period, with reflections offering people a chance to pause during the busy season and tips on how to prepare for a calm Christmas.

Then through Christmas, it will focus particularly on *Bright*, with a series of daily reflections from Christmas Day to the Eve of Epiphany (5 January) by Sammi Tooze, Discipleship Adviser for the Diocese of York.

It will also share reflective content throughout Advent and Christmas for those who find this time of year difficult, with some Blue Christmas resources.

Find more details and links to resources at <https://bit.ly/calm-and-bright-2024>. You can also sign up at <https://www.churchofengland.org/node/37792> to receive daily Christmas reflections by e-mail, with Bible readings, short reflections and a practical challenge, as well as prayers linked to weekly themes.

Lore's sermons

There are still some copies available of the selection of Lore Chumbley's sermons titled *Stories from Julian Road*. Suggested donation £10 per copy, by cash or card. If you can't get to Christ Church to buy a copy, please get in touch. Many thanks to Mornay Davison for sponsoring this project.

Bishop's Message for December

“Jesus, the Light of the World”



**From the Rt Revd Michael Beasley,
Bishop of Bath and Wells**

“All is calm, all is bright” may not be the words that many of us would use to describe our experience of either the run-up to Christmas or the feast itself. Presents to buy and wrap, food to order and cook, events and church services to be part of. And that’s before we’ve negotiated the big day itself. I saw one website recently that claimed Christmas is considered as one of the six most stressful life events, along with divorce, moving house and changing jobs!

In the midst of such chaos, our churches offer an opportunity to find peace during this busy time – stillness, quiet and the opportunity to stand back from all the pressures that the season contains. This year, the Church of England’s theme for Advent and Christmas is *Follow the Star: Calm and Bright*. The theme draws on some of the lyrics of the famous carol, *Silent Night*: “Silent Night! Holy Night! All is calm, all is bright...”

To be calm and bright is to be invited into the still centre of the Christmas story. It’s to contemplate Mary holding the new-born Jesus, the Light of the

World. It’s to open ourselves to the joy of the angels as they tell the shepherds “Do not be afraid – fear not!” It’s to encounter the wonder of the wise men as they discover that the gift of this child is for the whole world.

May your Christmas 2024 be “Calm and Bright”!

+Michael

Coming events

The Handful: In Terra Pax

What is it? A winter concert featuring Gerald Finzi’s Christmas cantata *In Terra Pax* and Poulenc’s exuberant Gloria, plus music from Byrd, Berlioz, Vivanco and Miškinis. Under the direction of Vicente Chavarría, with Peter King (organ) and soloists Josephine Goddard (soprano) and Dominic Felts (baritone). The Handful is a vibrant chamber choir based in Bath and founded over 20 years ago. Find out more at <https://thehandful.org>.

When is it? Saturday 7 December, 7:30pm

Where? Christ Church

Tickets from Bath Box Office, 01225 463362 or <https://bathboxoffice.org.uk>. For a special discount exclusively for the Christ Church congregation – £15 (£5 for Under-25’s) – use the code HANDFUL24.

Christmas Carols in the Circus

What is it? The Circus Area Residents Association (CARA) invites everyone to enjoy the Christmas magic in the Circus and join in the carols, with the Salvation Army providing the music. There will be a collection, with all profits going to the Salvation Army Fund.

When is it? Friday 13 December, 7pm

Where? The Circus, Bath

All are welcome!

Christ Church calendar Dec. 2024

1	Sun	<i>The First Sunday of Advent</i> 10am Eucharist
5	Thu	11am Eucharist Christ Church Trustees meeting, 7:30pm
6	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
8	Sun	<i>The Second Sunday of Advent</i> 10am Eucharist 6:30pm Advent Carol Service
12	Thu	11am Eucharist Pilgrim Group Feast, 7:30pm
13	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
15	Sun	<i>The Third Sunday of Advent</i> 10am Eucharist LGBTQ+ Affirming Carol Service, St Stephen's, 5pm
19	Thu	11am Eucharist
20	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
22	Sun	<i>The Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 10am Eucharist with Nativity Play 6:30pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
24	Tue	<i>Christmas Eve</i> 4:30pm Crib Service 11:30pm Midnight Mass
25	Wed	<i>Christmas Day</i> 10am Eucharist
26	Thu	<i>Boxing Day / Stephen, the first martyr</i> 11am Eucharist (TBC)
27	Fri	<i>John, Apostle and Evangelist</i> Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
28	Sat	<i>The Holy Innocents</i>
29	Sun	<i>The First Sunday of Christmas</i> 10am Eucharist
Jan	1	Wed <i>New Year's Day / The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus</i>
	2	Thu 11am Eucharist
	3	Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

5 Sun *Epiphany / The Second Sunday of Christmas*
10am Eucharist

6 Mon *The Epiphany*

9 Thu 11am Eucharist

10 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

12 Sun *The First Sunday of Epiphany / The Baptism of Christ*
10am Eucharist

Our Sunday 10am Eucharist, and other services as advertised, continue to be live-streamed at www.facebook.com/christchurchbath/live
and www.youtube.com/@ChristChurchBath1798/streams

This month's charities: for Bath's vulnerable

The loose collection on the second and fourth Sundays of this month – 8 and 22 December – plus other collections at services this month as notified will be divided between Julian House and The Genesis Trust. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.)

As a Christian charity, Genesis works with local churches and volunteers in the wider community in Bath and the surrounding area to help disadvantaged and vulnerable individuals and families to change their lives. Offering immediate practical help with food, clothing and furniture, as well as long-term opportunities, training and work experience, Genesis supports people on their journey from crisis to independence.

For more information on the charity's activities, visit <https://genesistrust.org.uk>.



For more about its Christmas appeal, plus links to ways to donate and ways to buy the Genesis Christmas cards or Calendar, visit <https://genesistrust.org.uk/christmas-gifts>.



Julian House is a Bath-based charity working across the South West supporting vulnerable and at-risk individuals including men, women and young people experiencing homelessness, women and children escaping domestic abuse, adults with learning difficulties and people who need support after leaving prison.

The charity says: "Homelessness doesn't take a break, especially during the festive season. For our Christmas appeal we want to raise awareness of the reason why the people we support have fallen into difficult circumstances. These can include domestic abuse, mental health issues, family breakdown, childhood trauma and addiction." Find out more or donate online at www.julianhouse.org.uk.

Prayer Cycle for December 2024

Sunday	1	For Angela our Verger
Monday	2	For Bible scholars and theologians
Tuesday	3	For all in hospital
Wednesday	4	For good relationships between different faiths
Thursday	5	We give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy
Friday	6	For those who work in dangerous conditions
Saturday	7	For our Church Council
Sunday	8	For our neighbours at St Mary's Catholic Church
Monday	9	For the emergency services
Tuesday	10	For those who live and work in the streets around Christ Church
Wednesday	11	For victims of violence
Thursday	12	That we may be good stewards of creation
Friday	13	For those who lack food, warmth or water
Saturday	14	For peace
Sunday	15	For Jane and Jonathan our churchwardens
Monday	16	For scientists and engineers
Tuesday	17	We give thanks for those who enrich our lives
Wednesday	18	For those on our long-term prayer list
Thursday	19	For carers
Friday	20	For the homeless
Saturday	21	That we may have the gift of kindness
Sunday	22	For our servers and others who assist at the altar

Monday	23	For those who work in the hospitality industry
Tuesday	24	For our charities of the month, Julian House and Genesis
Wednesday	25	Thanksgiving for the Incarnation
Thursday	26	For the lonely and depressed
Friday	27	For those in slavery or bonded labour
Saturday	28	For those on our church rotas
Sunday	29	For our Local Ministry Group partners
Monday	30	For prisoners and prison workers
Tuesday	31	We give thanks for the blessings of the past year

Long-term Prayer List

Please remember those we've been asked to pray for...

Geoff	Chris & David
Daniel	John
Milo	Win
Naomi	Chris
Frankie	Ken
John & Sheila	Christine
Peter & Margaret	Larry
Sheila W	Joanna
John & Jean	Kat
Stewart & Lillian	
AJ	

Want to add a name to the prayer list, either long-term or short-term, or remove one? Please use the lists at the back of the church, or speak to the Verger or one of the Churchwardens.

Cedar Tree is open

The Cedar Tree community café is open every Friday from 11am to 1:30pm. All are welcome! If you live or work in the area, do consider dropping in for a chat, a cup of coffee, home-made cake or a light snack, to support this important part of our outreach to the local community. If you can help on a Friday or make a cake we can sell, then please contact Jenny Hesketh. Your offers will be very gratefully received.



Rotas for December 2024

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
8 Dec Second Sunday of Advent	Malcolm Wall Baruch 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4	Robin Kerr Philippians 1:3-11	Judith Anderson Luke 3:1-6
	Intercessions: Simon Tatton-Brown		
15 Dec Third Sunday of Advent	Richard Gabe Zephaniah 3:14-20	Angela Soboslay Philippians 4:4-7	Rachel Preston Luke 3:7-18
	Intercessions: Peter Bowes		
22 Dec Fourth Sunday of Advent	Nicky Mathiason Micah 5:2-5a	Mark Elliott Hebrews 10:5-10	Graham Reaper- Brown Luke 1:39-45
	Intercessions: Beryl Bowes		
24 Dec Midnight Mass	TBC Isaiah 52:7-10	Beryl Bowes Hebrews 1:1-4, [5-12]	Georgina Bowman John 1:1-14
	Intercessions: Jonathan Stead		
25 Dec Christmas Day	Jude Bishop Isaiah 9:2-7	Simon Tatton- Brown Titus 2:11-14	Brenda Wall Luke 2:1-14
	Intercessions: Mark Elliott		
29 Dec First Sunday of Cristmas	Angela Soboslay 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26	Jonathan Stead Colossians 3:12-17	Peter Bowes Luke 2:41-52
	Intercessions: Georgina Bowman		
5 January Epiphany	Graham Reaper- Brown Isaiah 60:1-6	Beryl Bowes Ephesians 3:1-12	David Bishop Matthew 2:1-12
	Intercessions: Simon Tatton-Brown		

Who's who at Christ Church

Priest-in-charge	(Vacant)	Event/concert bookings, weekly notice sheet	Judith Bishop 01225 858816 concerts@christchurchbath.org notices@christchurchbath.org
Supporting clergy	Revd Canon Simon Tatton-Brown 01225 835404 simon.tatton-brown@christchurchbath.org	Deanery Synod Reps	Brenda Wall Pauline Swaby-Wallace
Reader, Director of Music	Mark Elliott 01225 445360 mark.elliott@christchurchbath.org	Tower Captain, Ringling Master	Will Willans
Churchwarden	Jane Nicholson 07990 552413 jane@janemnicholson.com	Tower Secretary	Maggie Willans 07773 244024 maggiewillans@hotmail.com
Churchwarden	Jonathan Stead jonathanstead20@gmail.com	Steeple Keeper	David Guy
Verger	Angela Soboslay 01225 333297 angela.soboslay@christchurchbath.org	Cedar Tree café organiser	Jenny Hesketh jenny.hesketh@me.com
Chair of Trustees	Nick Wells 07774 104584 chair@christchurchbath.org	Junior Church	Emma Elliott
Treasurer	Zoë Bushell zoe.bushell@christchurchbath.org	Laity rotas	Judith Bishop
Organist and Assistant Director of Music	David Winters david.winters@christchurchbath.org	Prayer cycle	Virginia Knight
Christ Church Link editor	Alex Soboslay 07769 655927 alexs@christchurchbath.org	Charitable Giving co-ordinator	Jonathan Stead
Safeguarding officer	Virginia Knight 07896 916840 christchbathsafeguarding@gmail.com	Mission to Seafarers	Sylvia Ayers

Christ Church Link

This magazine is published on the first Sunday of each month. Please send any contributions of news and articles by the 15th of the preceding month to the editor, Alex Soboslay, or by e-mail to magazine@christchurchbath.org



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

About Christ Church

*We're a liberal, inclusive and open church,
seeking God through beauty in our worship, honesty
in our faith and doubt, and support in our community*

Christ Church has an unusual history, out of which has developed a distinctive ministry. It was founded at the end of the 18th century by a group of socially concerned clergy and lay people for those excluded from worship through the system of pew rents. It was probably the first church in England since the Reformation to provide seating for all free of charge. Early supporters included John Moore, Archbishop of Canterbury, and William Wilberforce, the great evangelical and campaigner against slavery. We must recognise, however, that much of Bath's wealth at the time derived, directly or indirectly, from the trafficking and exploitation of enslaved human beings, so that inevitably some of the funds donated ultimately derived from this source.

Christ Church is not a parish church and does not have a full-time vicar. This has led to the development of a shared ministry where clergy and laity both make important contributions to worship and church life.

Christ Church is part of the Anglican diocese of Bath and Wells, although it still sits outside the Church of England

parish system. We see ourselves as a traditional and liberal Anglican church. Worship is led by our clergy, and music is provided by our robed choir and organist. New singers of all ages are always very welcome.

As well as worship on Sundays and Thursdays, there are many other activities going on in our community, including our weekly community café every Friday. Our ecumenical Pilgrim Group provides a space for exploration and discussion of faith in an open and non-judgemental setting. Visit the website to check service times and events.

Regular Sunday services

- 8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) – *Suspended while we are in Vacancy*
- 10am Sung Eucharist with Junior Church activities for children and young people – *Every Sunday – also streamed at www.facebook.com/christchurchbath*
- 4:30pm Choral Evensong – *Usually on the third Sunday of each month*
- 5pm Contemplative Quiet Service (Iona) – *On the fourth Sunday of every month*

Baptisms, marriages and funerals by arrangement – please contact us!

Contacting us

Christ Church,
Julian Road,
Bath BA1 2RH
Phone: 01225 338869
(answer phone)
Email: admin@christchurchbath.org
Website: www.christchurchbath.org

