

## From police personnel to peers

*Our Curate reflects on the world of bell ringing*

**Revd Kara Maylor writes:**

What do Jo Brand, Ed Balls and Victoria Wood all have in common? What skill can be acquired by all ages across the generations simultaneously? What can connect you into a new community without feeling like a “blow-in”? What can introduce you to your soul mate? Three years ago I would have laughed if you had answered “bell ringing” to these questions, and I would never have spent time reflecting on just what is so brilliant about the sound of bells and bell ringing.

Maggie Willans, our tireless, enthusiastic, skilled bell ringing tutor, has been ringing since the age of 10 – a bonus was that 16-year-olds would talk to her! She has rung bells all over the world, and has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the skills and the world of bell

ringers. Her favourite place to ring is her home tower of Washington Cathedral. Christ Church comes a close second. She and her husband Will met whilst on a bell ringing outing in Chesterfield (see, who needs dating apps!), and were delighted when they were able to begin bell ringing at Christ Church in 2015 – no more climbing the 122 steps to the ringing floor in Bath Abbey. Ian Hay Davison masterminded the mammoth fundraising effort to facilitate the renewal of the bells at Christ Church. He is sorely missed.

Favourite things about bell ringing mentioned by ringers are: funny little rituals, being part of the iconic sound of a city, beautiful buildings, being part of an interesting mixed community, learning a completely new skill, and

*Continued on page 2*



*Our bell ringers photographed after ringing for St. George’s Day. They are holding red roses given to them by John Cope in his capacity as a vice-president of the Royal Society of St. George. The ringers are, left to right, Sophie Sikorsky, Anna Parry-Jones, Maggie Willans, Andy Manister, Will Willans, Ines Laidler, Julie Perkins, and Hazel Spence.*

## Police, peers and bells

*Continued from page 1*

▶ lingo to match that enables you to completely zone out.

I'm constantly amazed at how one of my fellow ringers, 10 years old, can manoeuvre and control a half-ton bell. It's not down to your physical heft, which is finite, but the skills you learn to get the most out of the bell.

I have really struggled to master it. However, Maggie reassures me that the physical aspect of learning and controlling the bell is complex, considering you are only controlling one note amongst others; and some struggle at the start but it can lead to extreme proficiency. I live in hope and persist!

If this appeals to you, contact me and I can put you in touch with Maggie.

## Christ Church ACM

The Annual General Church Meeting of the Christ Church congregation will be held on Sunday 12 May after the 10am service – so starting at about 11:30am. Come along to elect Churchwardens and members of Church Council, and receive reports on the activities of all the groups in the church. Anyone can attend, but you must be on the Electoral Roll of Christ Church to vote.

The booklet of reports is available in advance – do pick up a copy and take it home to read before the meeting. There's a large-print version for anyone who'd like one – please ask if you want one. You'll also find the booklet on the website, so you can read it online or download it to read at your leisure. Visit [christchurchbath.org](http://christchurchbath.org), click on Church Life, then Church Council, scroll down the page, and click on Church Council Minutes.

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## Bishop's Zambia visit

Bishop Michael has been making his first visit as Bishop of Bath and Wells to Zambia. He began in Ndola, then visited rural churches and communities in Zambia's Central Diocese. "I've experienced amazing welcomes and generous hospitality," he said, "almost all accompanied by the extraordinary singing of Zambian choirs. I've visited churches, schools, health centres and community projects. It's been a privilege to encounter the remarkable mission work of the diocese here." See more at <https://bit.ly/bishop-michael-zambia-2024>.



Photo: Diocese of Bath and Wells

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## Celebrate lay ministry

The Diocese's annual Celebration of Lay Ministries event takes place at St Paul's, Weston super Mare, on Saturday 22 June at 2pm. It is an opportunity for both lay and ordained to come together to be valued, affirmed and thanked for the unique contribution each makes to church and community.

This year's theme is *Harmony*, recognising that we all have a voice and together we can make harmony.

The event will include a Celebration Service during which we will hear a range of different voices as people share how they have heard God's call and responded. There will also be a marketplace of stalls where we can see and explore the variety of ministries that are on offer.

Early booking is advised. To book a place or find out more, visit [www.bathandwells.org.uk/ministry/celebration-of-lay-ministries/join-the-celebration-of-lay-ministries](http://www.bathandwells.org.uk/ministry/celebration-of-lay-ministries/join-the-celebration-of-lay-ministries).

If you have any queries, please contact Charmain Gilmour, the diocesan Ministry Training Team Administrator, by e-mailing [charmain.gilmour@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:charmain.gilmour@bathwells.anglican.org).

## Rutter at Bath Abbey

*What is it?* “An unforgettable evening of beautiful music” featuring talented members of the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra, with renowned composer and conductor John Rutter conducting a programme of his own works and others. The programme includes Rutter’s “For the Beauty of the Earth,” “A Clare Benediction,” “Look at the world,” “Mass of the Children,” and “O Be Joyful in the Lord” as well as Mozart’s Exultate Jubilate and Poulenc’s Organ Concerto, each a masterpiece in its own right. The concert will feature Soprano Soloist Lucy Cox, Baritone Soloist Jonathan Brown, and Organist Huw Williams, as well as participating choruses from around the world.

*When is it?* Wednesday 26 June, 7pm

*Where?* Bath Abbey, BAI 1LT

*More information and tickets* [www.bathabbey.org/whats-on/john-rutter-2](http://www.bathabbey.org/whats-on/john-rutter-2)



*Photo: johnrutter.com*

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## Daily Morning Prayer

One of the impacts of being without a Priest-in-charge is that there will be no 8am Sunday morning service at Christ Church during the Vacancy. However, a group of us meet on Zoom at 8am every day, Monday to Friday, to pray Morning Prayer together. This will continue through the Vacancy. If you would like to join us please contact Simon Tatton-Brown on [simon@tattonbrown.myzen.co.uk](mailto:simon@tattonbrown.myzen.co.uk) or 07891 898472 and he will send you the link.

## This month



*Jane Hoe took this photo last weekend of Peter and Robin on the bench that Robin has kindly donated to our church Eco garden. It will enable even more people to enjoy the garden, just to the north of the church, which offers a biodiversity-friendly green space in this otherwise very densely built up area. To find it, walk around the back of the church, with the choir vestry to your right, and through the gate straight in front of you.*

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## Wells Cathedral pass

Last month, as we reported, Wells Cathedral introduced a new £14 admission charge for adult tourism visitors. However, there is no charge for people who wish to come into the Cathedral to pray, attend a service or light a candle. Free passes are also available to local residents and to anyone on the Electoral Roll of any Anglican church in the Diocese of Bath and Wells, including Christ Church.

There’s a form that needs to be signed by your church’s Churchwarden. We have copies of the form, which either of our Churchwardens, Jane and Jonathan, will be glad to sign for you. Please speak to one of them or to Angela, the Verger. To secure a pass, take your completed form with you and present it at the welcome desk at the Cathedral.

# Join the global wave of prayer

Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost – this year, 9-19 May – for more people to come to know Jesus.

Since it began in May 2016, TKC has grown into a movement that unites more than a million Christians in prayer worldwide, across 85 different denominations and traditions.

Individuals, households and churches are encouraged to pray during the 11 days in

their own way. There are lots of resources on offer for church communities to use and events for people to engage with.

This year there is a pocket-sized Prayer Journal, which explores different ways to pray from Ignatian Spirituality to Praying in Song, Prayer Walking to Contemplative Prayer. Each day there will also be an accompanying video.

On Pentecost Sunday young people in particular are invited to come together either online or in person at Locking Castle Church, Weston super Mare, at 5pm. There will be contributions from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, among others. Find out more at <https://www.wearemovement.net/events/2024/05/19>.

*“In praying ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities”* – Archbishop Justin Welby.

Find out about this year’s resources and events at [www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global).



## Empowering young people

### **From the Diocese of Bath and Wells:**

We are all called to live and tell the story of Jesus. For young adults this calling can sometimes be challenging – they often encounter indifference or even hostility. In Bath and Wells we strive to support our young people and encourage them to trust in the power of the Holy Spirit to guide and empower them.

One of the things on offer is Movement Worship Night gatherings, hosted in multiple locations across the diocese, offering young people a chance to come together and con-

nect with God through worship, bible exploration and prayer. We’re also in the process of developing a Young Leaders Learning Hub. This aims to help equip young people with basic leadership skills and offer mentorship so they can serve and have a greater impact in their local church and communities.

This year we’re collaborating with some of our schools chaplains across the diocese in taking young people on pilgrimage to the Taizé Community in France.

60 to 80 young people from all corners of Bath attend monthly A2 gatherings held at St Matthew’s Church, Widcombe. A2 doesn’t seek to replace local church youth groups, but to foster unity and broader connections in the city, with a city-wide Alpha Course for young people to explore their faith in depth.

Find out more about resources and support for young people in Bath and Wells at [www.bathandwells.org.uk/ministry/children-young-people/children-and-young-people](http://www.bathandwells.org.uk/ministry/children-young-people/children-and-young-people).



# Bishop's Message for May

*A challenge offered*



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

There's a fascinating exercise I've often undertaken with roomfuls of church members. I've asked them the question "To what age do you trace back the beginnings of your Christian faith?" The results are almost always the same. About 40% of us think that our Christian journey started at some point before the age of four. Another 20% of us trace the beginnings of our faith back to when we were younger than eleven. A further 20% say before we were eighteen. Only 20% – one in five – report having embarked on the journey of faith as adults.

The findings I've described should give us all pause for thought. For most people, the start of our Christian journey (even if we've dropped out for a while in adolescence and early adulthood) starts in childhood.

So if we want to grow our churches and transform our communities, this suggests that it's into the faith development of children and young people that we should be putting our energies, priority and resources.

Our data suggests that more than half our churches have no young person worshipping with them on a Sunday morning. I realise, of course, how hard it is for churches to compete with the demands of football, seeing the extended family, or doing any of the many things that are otherwise crowded out of busy family lives. Yet experience shows that when we offer worship at other times and in formats that are attractive to children, young people and families, they do come.

This year I'm challenging all our benefices to grow their average weekly attendance by one child (net). If we could sustain such an achievement over a number of years, the impact would transform our churches, our lives and our experience. The support services of our diocese offer extensive assistance to enable local churches to think what could work with the resources you have, the passions and skills you possess and the reality of the situation where you are. Do ask for their help.

Are you willing to take up the challenge I've offered?

**+Michael**

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## Prayer for young people

**From the Diocese of Bath and Wells:**

Over the first week of July this year, 1-7 July, the Bath and Wells "Go Team" are hosting a Week of Prayer for Children and Young People and are inviting churches across the diocese to join in. A Prayer Guide for the week will be available on the diocesan website, [www.bathandwells.org.uk](http://www.bathandwells.org.uk). There will be themes for each day plus creative prayer ideas for using at home, in small groups and in church services.

# Celebrate 30 years of women priests

## **From the Diocese of Bath and Wells:**

All are welcome to attend a Eucharist at Wells Cathedral at 5:15pm on Tuesday 14 May 2024 to celebrate 30 years of the ordination of women priests.

The service is an opportunity to celebrate the gifts and richness brought to ordained ministry by all women priests who have served in Bath and Wells in the last 30 years. After the service there will be an opportunity to share stories and enjoy refreshments.

In order to aid the planning of the celebration, those planning to attend are requested to register using the booking form at <https://bit.ly/30-years-women-priests>.

Anyone who has any stories or pictures to share about the ministry of women priests can share them ahead of the day (contact [comms@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:comms@bathwells.anglican.org)). Alternatively, they can be shared on the day, when they will be collated and used to mark this anniversary year in Bath and Wells.



Photo courtesy of the Diocese of Bath and Wells.

## May's charity: Combe Down Holiday Trust

*The loose collection on the second and fourth Sundays of the next two months – 12 and 26 May, then 9 and 23 June – will go to the Combe Down Holiday Trust. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.)*

Combe Down Holiday Trust is a local charity providing holidays, short breaks or days out for disabled people and/or their carers and families living in the Bath and North East Somerset area.

The Trust's aim is to support disabled people, both those with permanent disabilities

and those disabled through illnesses such as cancer, enabling them, their families and/or carers to have a short break, holiday or respite care, or to simply have a day out.

The overwhelming majority of clients are on low incomes or state benefits, or are pensioners with small occupational pensions that preclude them from benefits. This leaves them very disadvantaged financially. The Trust also has a number of clients who have mental health problems and are also on very limited incomes – often barely enough to live on.

For families and particularly carers, exhausted by the demands on them, the need for a break is often great. For carers it is a chance to recharge their batteries, which can be vital in ensuring their ability to carry on with their caring role.

Find out more about Combe Down Holiday Trust at <https://www.cdht.org.uk>.



# Christ Church calendar May 2024

1	Wed	<i>Philip and James, Apostles</i>
2	Thu	11am Eucharist Pilgrim Group meeting, 7:30pm
3	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
5	Sun	<i>The Sixth Sunday of Easter</i> 10am Eucharist
9	Thu	<i>Ascension Day</i> 11am Eucharist
10	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
12	Sun	<i>The Seventh Sunday of Easter</i> 10am Eucharist Christ Church Annual Church Meeting (about 11:30am)
14	Tue	<i>Matthias the Apostle</i>
16	Thu	11am Eucharist Pilgrim Group meeting, 7:30pm
17	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
19	Sun	<i>Pentecost (Whit Sunday)</i> 10am Eucharist 4:30pm Choral Evensong
23	Thu	11am Eucharist
24	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
26	Sun	<i>Trinity Sunday</i> 10am Eucharist 5pm Iona Contemplative Service
30	Thu	<i>Corpus Christi</i> 11am Eucharist
31	Fri	<i>The Visitation (Visit of Mary to Elizabeth)</i> Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
<b>Jun</b> 2	Sun	<i>The First Sunday after Trinity</i> 10am Eucharist

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

# Prayer Cycle for May 2024

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>1</b>	For those recently baptised or preparing for baptism
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>2</b>	For the chaplaincies at Bath's Universities
<b>Friday</b>	<b>3</b>	For all who face tragedy
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>4</b>	That we may have the gift of kindness
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>5</b>	For all clergy taking services at Christ Church
<b>Monday</b>	<b>6</b>	For those who work in the legal profession
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>7</b>	We give thanks for those who inspire us
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>8</b>	For our plans for the appointment of a new priest-in-charge
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>9</b>	For countries affected by drought
<b>Friday</b>	<b>10</b>	For those who live or work in care homes
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>11</b>	For our bell-ringing team
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>12</b>	For Angela our Verger
<b>Monday</b>	<b>13</b>	For those who work in local government
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>14</b>	For our young adult Lighthouse group
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>15</b>	For those on our long-term prayer list
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>16</b>	For our neighbours at St Mary's Catholic Church
<b>Friday</b>	<b>17</b>	For those with addictions
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>18</b>	For peace
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>19</b>	That we may have the grace of the Holy Spirit
<b>Monday</b>	<b>20</b>	For Bible scholars and theologians
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>21</b>	For the mentally ill
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>22</b>	We give thanks for beauty in the world around us
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>23</b>	For our charity of the month, Combe Down Holiday Trust



<b>Friday</b>	<b>24</b>	For those who have been forced to flee their homes
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>25</b>	For all who produce publicity for Christ Church
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>26</b>	For vocations to the ministry
<b>Monday</b>	<b>27</b>	For those who work in the transport industry
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>28</b>	For Kara our Curate
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>29</b>	For our link Dioceses in Zambia
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>30</b>	We give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy
<b>Friday</b>	<b>31</b>	For the ministry of the Cedar Tree

## Long-term Prayer List

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

Geoff  
 Joyce  
 Daniel  
 Milo  
 Naomi  
 Frankie  
 John & Sheila  
 Peter & Margaret  
 Sheila W  
 John & Jean  
 AJ

**Our prayer lists have been reset, as they are from time to time to keep them current. If you 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 May 2024

*Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist*

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
<b>5 May</b> Sixth Sunday of Easter	<b>Robin Kerr</b> Acts 10:44-48	<b>Georgina Bowman</b> 1 John 5:1-6	<b>Brenda Wall</b> John 15:9-17
	Intercessions: <b>Beryl Bowes</b>		
<b>12 May</b> Seventh Sunday of Easter	<b>Simon Tatton-Brown</b> Acts 1:15-17,21-26	<b>Peter Bowes</b> 1 John 5:9-13	<b>Jane Hoe</b> John 17:6-19
	Intercessions: <b>Jonathan Stead</b>		
<b>19 May</b> Pentecost	<b>Jonathan Stead</b> Acts 2:1-21	<b>Ben Elliott</b> Romans 8:22-27	<b>Nick Wells</b> John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15
	Intercessions: <b>Simon Tatton-Brown</b>		
<b>26 May</b> Trinity Sunday	<b>Kara Maylor</b> Isaiah 6:1-8	<b>Angela Soboslay</b> Romans 8:12-17	<b>Zoë Bushell</b> John 3:1-17
	Intercessions: <b>Georgina Bowman</b>		
<b>2 June</b> First Sunday after Trinity	<b>David Bishop</b> 1 Samuel 3:1-10	<b>Alex Soboslay</b> 2 Corinthians 4:5-12	<b>Morny Davison</b> Mark 2:23 – 3:6
	Intercessions: <b>Beryl Bowes</b>		

# Who's who at Christ Church

<b>Priest-in-charge</b>	(Vacant)	<b>Organist and Assistant Director of Music</b>	David Winters david.winters@christchurchbath.org
<b>Curate</b>	Revd Kara Maylor 07749 614613 kara.maylor@btinternet.com	<b>Deanery Synod Reps</b>	Brenda Wall Pauline Swaby-Wallace
<b>Supporting clergy</b>	Revd Canon Simon Tatton-Brown 01225 835404 simon@tattonbrown.myzen.co.uk	<b>Christ Church Link editor</b>	Alex Soboslay 07769 655927 alexs@christchurchbath.org
	Revd Beryl Bowes Revd Dr Peter Bowes	<b>Tower Captain, Ringing Master</b>	Will Willans
<b>Reader, Director of Music</b>	Mark Elliott 01225 445360 mark.elliott@christchurchbath.org	<b>Tower Secretary</b>	Maggie Willans 07773 244024 maggiewillans@hotmail.com
<b>Churchwarden</b>	Jane Nicholson 07990 552413 jane@janemnicholson.com	<b>Steeple Keeper</b>	David Guy
<b>Churchwarden</b>	Jonathan Stead jonathanstead20@gmail.com	<b>Cedar Tree café organiser</b>	Jenny Hesketh jenny.hesketh@me.com
<b>Verger</b>	Angela Soboslay 01225 333297 angela.soboslay@christchurchbath.org	<b>Junior Church</b>	Emma Elliott
<b>Chair of Trustees</b>	Nick Wells 07774 104584 chair@christchurchbath.org	<b>Laity rotas</b>	Judith Bishop
<b>Treasurer</b>	Zoë Bushell zoe.bushell@christchurchbath.org	<b>Prayer cycle</b>	Virginia Knight
<b>Event/concert bookings, weekly notice sheet</b>	Judith Bishop 01225 858816 concerts@christchurchbath.org notices@christchurchbath.org	<b>Charitable Giving co-ordinator</b>	Jonathan Stead
<b>Safeguarding officer</b>	Virginia Knight 07896 916840 christchbathsafeguarding@gmail.com	<b>Mission to Seafarers</b>	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](mailto: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](http://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,  
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Phone: 01225 338869  
(answer phone)  
Email: [admin@christchurchbath.org](mailto:admin@christchurchbath.org)  
Website: [www.christchurchbath.org](http://www.christchurchbath.org)

