



Welcoming Heather

From our new Priest-in-Charge...

Revd Heather Smith writes:

What a wonderful welcome I received from Christ Church on 4 February!

Since I accepted the offer to be your Priest-in-Charge I had been living in a liminal space – the time when you're moving from one state or place to another, neither wholly the thing you are leaving nor yet the thing you are moving on to.

It can be a hard place to be. I had to say goodbye to dear friends I had worked with for five years, and cope with the sadness of leaving them. I needed to think about how my working life would be in the future – what could

I keep and what must I let go of? And I could only imagine what my new life would be like, hoping I was right to embark on this new venture, based on my experience of the people I'd met and the things they'd told me.

Here at Christ Church you had been living in your own liminal space, and a vacancy is hard work for everyone.

Then came the day! A good beginning is important – and it certainly was a good beginning.

We were blessed with Bishop Ruth to lead the service. She did it with both enthusiasm and attention to welcome

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Bishop Ruth anointed Heather before office-holders and clergy from Christ Church and the deanery.

Welcoming Heather

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▶ and care of me, and she encouraged everyone to look forward to the new. The Christ Church community had worked hard to create a service that was accessible to everyone who came. The music was fabulous, the choreography was perfect, and the welcome and refreshments were wonderful. We are also blessed with bell-ringing to add to our celebrations, and those who work in the background to ensure sound and IT work as they should. Both Trustees and Council, I know, worked hard throughout the vacancy and in the run-up to my licensing. The whole community truly acted as the body of Christ, each with their own role.



Bishop Ruth handed Heather her Licence, which officially authorises her as Priest-in-Charge.



The Archdeacon formally (and literally) installed Heather, leading her to the Priest's "stall."

My family, friends and previous congregations were full of praise for how joyful the service was and how friendly the people of Christ Church are. It's a tribute to all involved that everyone felt comfortable and able to join in the general rejoicing, whatever their beliefs.

As we move on from a time of transition, it's exciting to wonder what God has in store for us in this next phase of the life of Christ Church. I look at the photographs of previous priests on the wall and wonder about the concerns of their day. We live in a different world from those who were here many years ago, but God is a constant presence – the golden thread running through the years – who will do a new thing in every generation.

■ *Apologies to those watching the service of installation online that the live-stream failed on YouTube and dropped before the end on Facebook. The full service – just missing a few minutes in the middle – is now available both at www.facebook.com/christchurchbath/live and www.youtube.com/@ChristChurchBath1798/streams*



Heather was formally presented to Bishop Ruth by Nick Wells, chair of our Trustees, with Jane Nicholson and Jenny Hesketh, Churchwarden and acting Churchwarden respectively, and commended by Michael Cornwell from her previous benefice of Rowde and Bromham.

Ten years of ringing

Maggie Willans writes:

February began with the ringers celebrating ten years of service ringing on the present bells at Christ Church. The actual anniversary was on Saturday 1 February, when we had our usual practice and an AGM, after which we reflected ruefully that we were missing Ian Hay Davison's ability to charge through the agenda items at speed. The meeting was followed as usual by coffee and cake, but with welcome additions supplied by Djemila Cope, including a rather luscious Lebanese treat called Namoura (semolina, almonds, rose petals, sugar syrup...).

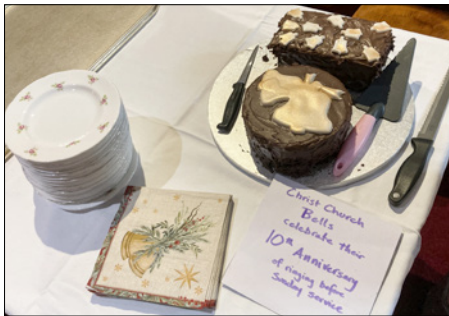
It seemed a pity to leave the congregation out of the celebrations, however, so on 9 February we contributed two extremely gooey chocolate cakes to the refreshments served after Heather's first Sunday service: the first cake being rectangular and the second cake being circular, they made up a "10". In retrospect, ten cakes of any shape would have been a better choice, but we hope you all got a taste!

The bells were rung after the service as well as before, just to celebrate the new Priest-in-Charge. The occasion (and the cake) got a really nice mention on the church's Facebook page, both Virginia Knight and Canon Angela Townshend making graceful mention of those who enabled bells to ring again at Christ Church. We thank you for celebrating with us.



Some of our present-day bell-ringers, pictured in the ringing chamber.

Last month...



The chocolate cakes generously shared by our bell-ringers on 9 February, with appropriately bell-related motifs on both cakes and napkins.



At her first Sunday service as Priest-in-Charge, Heather was formally welcomed and presented with various symbols of her ministry with us.



Another symbolic act was tolling the bell (with Maggie's aid), to proclaim her arrival and invite everyone to come to worship in Christ Church.

Time for everyone to rejoin the Electoral Roll

From Matthew Jones, Christ Church Electoral Roll Officer:

Over the next two months we will be renewing our church Electoral Roll. This is an important process for our church community and everyone needs to take part, even if you've been on the roll for a long time.

What is the Electoral Roll?

The Electoral Roll is a list of names and addresses of every person who can vote at our annual general meeting (AGM). Being on the roll is a way of saying "I belong" and is an important part of our church's governance.

Why is renewal necessary?

Every six years, a complete renewal of the Electoral Roll is required by Church of England rules. At this time, everyone who wishes to be on the Electoral Roll must make an application, even people who have been on it for decades. This ensures that our records are up-to-date and accurately reflect our active membership. The last renewal was in 2019, so 2025 marks the start of the next cycle.

Who can be on the Electoral Roll?

To be on the Electoral Roll, you must meet the following criteria:

- Have been baptised
- Be aged over 16 years old
- Consider yourself a member of the Church of England
- Have "habitually attended" services at Christ Church over the past six months. Church Council interprets this as meaning at least once a month, either in-person, online, or via receipt of home communion or a regular pastoral visit. For students studying in Bath this means attendance at least once per month in term time, while for students studying elsewhere this means attendance at least once per month in the holidays.

There is also an option on the application form if you were prevented from attending services over the past six months, for example by illness.

How do I join the Electoral Roll?

Application forms will be available from Sunday 9 March and must be submitted by 12pm on Sunday 13 April. Everyone must re-apply to be included in the new roll – this will only take about two minutes! You can choose between two options:

- **Completing an online form:** a link to the online form will be e-mailed to everyone on the church mailing list and will also be available in church. Please choose this option if you can – not only will your details be more secure, but it will be less work for me!
- **Completing a paper form:** these will be available in church with a "post box" into which they can be returned.

What happens next?

I will compile the new roll, which will be published on Sunday 27 April. The new roll will be available for inspection until the AGM on Sunday 18 May. During this period, we can only make corrections. No further names can be added or removed until after the meeting.

Importance of Participation

Being on the Electoral Roll allows you to have a say in the governance of our church. It enables you to vote at the AGM and stand for election to Church Council. Your participation helps shape the future of our church community. So please return your application form quickly!

If you have any questions or need assistance with the application, please do not hesitate to ask me in church or e-mail matthew.jones@christchurchbath.org.

More farewells

We wish farewell and safe travels to Audrey, Edsel, and young Ethan, who left both Christ Church and the UK in February and are travelling to join family in North Carolina.

A season of renewal and transformation

From the Diocese of Bath and Wells:

Lent is a time to draw closer to God and prepare us for the joy of Easter. As we fast, pray, and seek God's presence, we are reminded that true discipleship extends beyond ourselves. This year people across Bath and Wells are taking part in the Lent Cross Challenge, a simple daily focus that aims to keep the cross at the heart of Lent.

The challenge is to spot, discover, make, bake or create a cross shape each day during Lent. It is an opportunity not just to think about the cross as a symbol but "to ask ourselves what the 'shape' of our own cross might be," said Revd Bruce Faulkner, rector of one of the benefices taking part in the challenge, "We are not called to climb up on

to a cross and be a martyr, but we are able to offer of ourselves in love to the gospel. What shape might this take for each of us?"

As we journey through Lent, we reflect on how our lives may reflect the hope of Christ and open our hearts to God's call, to deepen our commitment to His work and become vessels of His grace in the world around us.

For more about the Lent Cross Challenge, visit the diocesan website www.bathandwells.org.uk/faith/lent-cross-challenge-2025.



Safeguarding at Synod

In February, General Synod extensively debated the future of safeguarding and agreed:

- To establish an independent body to provide scrutiny of the Church of England's safeguarding activities.
- The scrutiny body will be governed by an independent board overseen by an independent chair. Its staff will not be employed by the C of E but by a separate organisation.

Bishop Michael said: "While I recognise and understand the concern and disappointment expressed by survivors at the decision not to move forward with full independence immediately, I feel the outcome agreed upon was necessary to ensure that such a move to independence is done with due diligence and care, without impacting on the current good safeguarding practices we have in place, as recognised this week by INEQE, the independent auditors who have been evaluating the work of Church of England dioceses. Bath & Wells Diocese is due to be audited by INEQE in April. We're looking forward to being challenged by all that the auditors will bring us and to making our churches safer as a result."

See Bishop Michael's report on the debate at <https://bit.ly/bishop-michael-safeguarding>.

Lent theme: Living Hope

The Church of England's Lent theme for 2025 is *Living Hope*. In Lent we journey with Jesus on the difficult and thorny road that leads all the way to the cross on Good Friday – and beyond, to the transformation of Easter Day.

In the disappointment of daily setbacks and the pain of deeper hurts, we discover that God is present with us. And God promises a future where all things are healed and made new. *Living Hope* offers us the opportunity to deepen our hope in God and be part of what God is doing to bring hope in the world.

The readings and reflections are available in print, via a daily e-mail, or in the new Everyday Faith app. They explore how we can have hope in times of frustration or uncertainty; the hope found in joining with others; the invitation to notice signs of hope around us; the courage to face reality and pursue a hopeful future; and the ways God transforms death into life at Easter. For details, visit <https://bit.ly/living-hope-2025>.



Historic chairs repaired

Thanks to a generous gift from Jane Nicholson, a set of reproduction Chippendale style chairs given to the church probably in the early 1930s have been re-upholstered and restored.

The six chairs were made and given to Christ Church by George Herbert Baker, a cabinet maker in Harington Place in Bath. (A plaque on the chairs has the name W. Baker, most likely the Baker family business name. They were “an important family of cabinet makers from Bath working in the 19th and 20th centuries,” one source says.) G.H. Baker was known for making many reproduction chairs and in 1900 made the Mayor of Bath’s ceremonial chair, complete with the city’s coat of arms, in the Bath City Council Chambers. He also made other items for Christ Church, but it is now uncertain which these were.

G.H. Baker was also for many years the Verger at Christ Church, and lived in No. 2 Christ Church Cottages. His son Steve, born there in 1901, in turn had a long association with the church. “I practically lived on the job,” he wrote in the church magazine in 1977, “including bell ringing, stoking fires and locking up the church.” He was a member of the choir for some 35 years, and his funeral took place in Christ Church in 1980.

Steve’s daughter Sheila, who was baptised in Christ Church in 1942, is a Lay Reader and lives in Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire. As it happens, Jane Nicholson has a personal connection with the area – her father and her ex-husband both served at RAF Coningsby nearby. There’s also another connection: Sheila was a long-standing close friend of the late Penny Edwards, who is still much missed by all of us at Christ Church who knew her. Sheila and Penny had been good friends since 1976, and Sheila reports that she was delighted when Penny joined the Christ Church community when she started a job in Bath.

For some years our Baker chairs had been sagging and badly worn, with the seat coverings looking cracked. It turns out they were made of an artificial material called rexine, widely used in the first half of the 20th century as a substitute for leather in the interiors of cars and railway carriages. Its manufacture was discontinued in 2005 because it is highly flammable – rexine upholstery was implicated in a disastrous train fire in 1951, for example. The dyes used could also stain clothing. Close examination of our chairs revealed that they had been recoloured, which may have contributed to their deterioration.



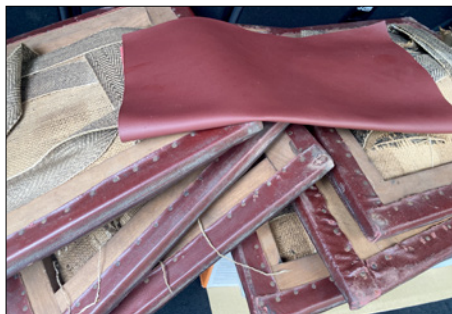
Before restoration, the seats were in poor condition, with scuffed and cracked surfaces.



The undersides revealed the original colour – and showed how badly repair work was needed.

The original colour underneath was a colour called oxblood.

Our Churchwarden Jane Nicholson undertook to oversee the necessary repair work. She discovered that local upholsterer Ian Baxter, who had recently restored the seating in the Theatre Royal's Egg Theatre, had left-over supplies of a more sustainable material, reconstituted leather, in oxblood. He re-covered the chairs and re-upholstered them using authentic materials and techniques. The cost of the work was met by a generous gift from Jane. Thank you, Jane, for restoring these fascinating pieces of Christ Church's heritage and ensuring that they can continue to serve the church for years to come!



The re-upholstering restores the original colour of the seats and harmonises with the church carpet.



Four of the restored chairs are in our St Michael chapel, where they are in regular use.



On a visit to Christ Church in July 2022, Sheila Mullenger (née Baker) and her husband David sit on two of the chairs made by Sheila's grandfather.



Upholsterer Ian Baxter in his workshop in Farmborough with some of the seats he restored. Photos courtesy of Jane Nicholson



The two carvers from the set now stand at the Churchwardens' tables at the west of the nave.

Pilgrims and pilgrimage

Graham Reaper-Brown writes:

The Pilgrim Group has been going for ten years. It took that name when our church Home Group began exploring the Church of England's "Pilgrim Course for the Christian Journey" (written by a group of respected theologians including Stephen Cottrell, now Archbishop of York).

Among the group's founding members were Brenda and Malcolm Wall, who, sadly for us, have just moved to Dorchester. However, although Brenda no longer feels she is able to lead the group, both she and Malcolm hope to attend as many of our meetings as they can. We wish Brenda and Malcolm every blessing in their new home and life in Dorchester. Thank you both for your work and commitment to the group over the years.

What is the Pilgrim Group? We are an ecumenical study group who meet every other Thursday at 7:30pm in the Lower Mews, behind Christ Church. The meetings end at 9pm. We are a relaxed, friendly group and always welcome new members. If you think you would like to know more about us, please contact Graham Reaper-Brown on 07545 528662.

Austen at the Abbey

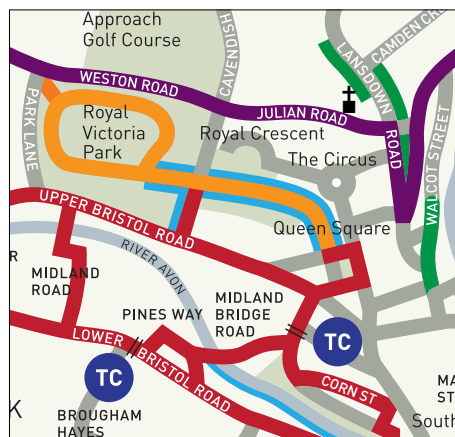
To mark the 250th anniversary of the birth of Jane Austen, Bath Abbey is excited to announce Austens at the Abbey, a special programme of events that highlights the Abbey's connections to the iconic author and her family. Running from Saturday 5 April to Saturday 27 September, this unmissable offer invites visitors to step into the world of Jane Austen like never before, with a mix of interactive experiences, thought-provoking talks, and Regency-inspired celebrations. Find out more at www.bathabbey.org/austen.

■ If you're interested in Jane Austen, don't forget to visit the parish church, St Swithin's, Walcot, where her parents were married and her father, George Austen, is buried.

Bath Half Marathon

Watch out when travelling to church on Sunday 16 March – this year's Bath Half Marathon takes place on that day. Roads along the route (shown in red on the map below) are closed from 9am to 5pm, and there is no access to city car parks during those times. Parking on those roads – including disabled parking – is suspended from 6am to 5pm, and additional parking restrictions apply from 6am to 5pm on a number of access roads including Lansdown Road (shown in green). *Note that all these restrictions end an hour later than in previous years.*

Once again this year the start and finish are on Royal Avenue (in front of the Royal Crescent), and Royal Victoria Park is closed from 6am to 7:30pm. Traffic is likely to be heavier than usual on the diversion routes (shown in purple), which include Julian Road, so you might wish to allow extra time to get to and from Christ Church. Temporary crossings (marked TC on the map) are provided for pedestrians to cross the race route at Green Park and Brougham Hayes.



Bishop's Message for March

Open yourself afresh



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

Did you ever wonder where the term 'Lent' comes from? The word is a gift from our Anglo-Saxon past. It means 'lengthen', a naming of the longed-for reality of this time of year when we become aware that, at last, the short days of winter are coming to an end, the nights are drawing out and the days are lengthening.

As well as naming what we're seeing, Lent has its meaning within the life of the Church. Its season of 40 days is a time of preparation for the coming of Easter, our annual celebration of Jesus rising from the dead. It reflects the 40 days that Jesus was tempted in the wilderness after his baptism. So, for much of Christian history it's been a time of prayer and fasting – the origin of our "giving something up for Lent".

Lent developed from the practice of the early Church. Back then, as still happens today, converts entered into the faith through baptism. The main time that baptism took place was Easter Eve, the night before Easter Sunday. Lent marked the final, intensive 40 days of preparation experienced by those to

be baptised (known as catechumens) in readiness for their embarking fully on their new life with Christ.

The time to get ready for Lent is now. This year its first day, Ash Wednesday, falls on 5 March. There's so much we can do to bring this season home into our hearts. Why not join your church's Lent Group? Read one of the Lent books available at this time of year? Take something up? Commit to a regular time of prayer? Find out about getting confirmed?

Lent is a rich gift to us to go deeper into our Christian life. As the days lengthen and the light comes, I encourage you to use this time to open yourself afresh to the one who comes to us afresh with new life at Easter – the risen Lord, Jesus Christ himself.

+Michael

National Covid-19 Day of Reflection

A National Covid-19 Day of Reflection will be held on Sunday 9 March, to remember those who lost their lives, to stand together with those who are grieving, and to honour the tireless work and acts of kindness shown during this unprecedented time.

2025 marks five years since the pandemic began, and we continue to honour and remember all those affected. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has a dedicated website where you can find further details at <https://dayofreflection.campaign.gov.uk>.

Information about the ways that churches can get involved, resources and prayers are available on the Church of England website at <https://bit.ly/church-covid-reflection>.

This month's charity

The loose collection in the plate on the second and fourth Sunday of the month – 9 and 23 March – will go to Focus, a local charity offering free counselling to those unable to access it privately or through the NHS. (Donations in collection envelopes will go to Christ Church.)

Focus is a safe place providing professional counselling to people in Bath, Frome, Wells and the surrounding areas. Established in 1999, it is a team of qualified and trainee counsellors helping people worried about their mental health and wellbeing.

Its Vision: To improve mental health in the BANES area and beyond through affordable, professional, and authentic counselling, regardless of background. To create confidential, safe spaces for the exploration of feelings through much-needed support groups.

Its Values: Services are delivered within the context of a Person-Centred, Christian ethos which takes people's spirituality seriously and respects the views of those with other faiths or no faith. Clients can talk freely and confidentially without fear of being judged.

Its Mission: To offer affordable counselling to all, whether adults, children, teenagers or couples. Focus is also committed to helping the development and skills of trainee counsellors and offers quality placements.

Focus works with GP surgeries, drugs and alcohol agencies, churches, housing associations, schools, universities, the police, social services and other counselling agencies and more. It offers counselling to all – children, young people and adults – with funding available for people on a low income.

Focus supports over 100 clients each week to move forward with their difficulties, and its staff numbers over 30 people. Focus values excellence, so its counsellors are professionally trained to Diploma level or above and enjoy ongoing supervision and professional development throughout their time at Focus. It also takes trainee counsellors each academic year.

Find out more at www.focusbath.com.

Open Table Eucharist

Christ Church is hosting our first Open Table Network Holy Communion service on Sunday 9 March at 4pm. The doors will open with refreshments at 3:30pm.



OPEN TABLE
Come as you are

The Open Table Network is a growing partnership of Christian worship communities which welcome and affirm people who are members of the LGBTQ+ community, their families, friends and anyone who wants to belong in an accepting, loving community. For more information, visit www.opentable.lgbt.

This is an event with a special invitation for LGBTQ+ people, families and friends, and particularly for those who may feel unwelcome in other churches, so if you can pass this information on to others it will be much appreciated. Heather will be presiding and Kieran Bohan, the Director of the Open Table Network, will be preaching.

Archbishop consultation

The process for the appointment of the next Archbishop of Canterbury is underway, and a key part of this is the extensive consultation exercise taking place in February and March.

Your views matter. Jonathan Hellewell, the Prime Minister's Appointments Secretary, and Stephen Knott, the Archbishops' Secretary for Appointments, would like to hear from you on three key questions:

- What are your hopes for the ministry of the next Archbishop of Canterbury?
- What gifts, qualities, skills and experience do you believe the next Archbishop of Canterbury should have?
- Are there any names you wish the Crown Nominations Commission to consider?

The consultation closes on 31 March. Read about the process and how to submit your views at <https://bit.ly/archbishop-nomination>.

Christ Church calendar March 2025

5 Wed *Ash Wednesday*
7:30pm Eucharist with Ashing

6 Thu 11am Eucharist

7 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

9 Sun *The First Sunday of Lent*
10am Eucharist
4pm Open Table Network Holy Communion

13 Thu 11am Eucharist
Pilgrim Group meeting, 7:30pm

14 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

16 Sun *The Second Sunday of Lent*
10am Eucharist
4:30pm Choral Evensong
(Bath Half Marathon – watch for diversions and road closures)

19 Wed *Joseph of Nazareth*

20 Thu 11am Eucharist

21 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

23 Sun *The Third Sunday of Lent*
10am Eucharist
5pm Iona Contemplative Service

25 Tue *The Annunciation*

27 Thu 11am Eucharist
Pilgrim Group meeting, 7:30pm

28 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

30 Sun *The Fourth Sunday of Lent / Mothering Sunday*
10am Eucharist

April 3 Thu 11am Eucharist

4 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

6 Sun *The Fifth Sunday of Lent*
Passiontide begins
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

Prayer Cycle for March 2025

Saturday	1	For the ministry of safeguarding
Sunday	2	For Jane and Jonathan our churchwardens
Monday	3	For journalists and those who work in the media
Tuesday	4	For peace
Wednesday	5	That we may have a spirit of penitence
Thursday	6	We give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy
Friday	7	For the mentally ill
Saturday	8	For adoptive and foster families
Sunday	9	For those who have been baptised, married or confirmed at Christ Church
Monday	10	For our armed forces and police
Tuesday	11	For good relations between different faiths
Wednesday	12	For those who care for the sick
Thursday	13	For the Fairtrade movement
Friday	14	For victims of natural disasters
Saturday	15	We give thanks for those who inspire us
Sunday	16	For our servers and others who assist at the altar
Monday	17	For scientists and engineers
Tuesday	18	For refugees
Wednesday	19	For our charity of the month, Focus
Thursday	20	For those who live and work in the streets around Christ Church
Friday	21	For those with addictions
Saturday	22	For farmers

Sunday	23	For our Church Council
Monday	24	For our King and other heads of state
Tuesday	25	For our neighbours at St Mary's Catholic Church
Wednesday	26	That we may show mercy and compassion
Thursday	27	For those who travel
Friday	28	For the homeless
Saturday	29	For those on our long-term prayer list
Sunday	30	For our flower arrangers and those who look after the church
Monday	31	We give thanks for the blessings of the past month

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
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 March 2025

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
2 March Sunday next before Lent	Graham Reaper-Brown Exodus 34:29-end	Mark Elliott 2 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2	Djemila Cope Luke 9:28-36
	Intercessions: Simon Tatton-Brown		
9 March First Sunday of Lent	Morny Davison Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Nick Wells Romans 10:8b-13	David Bishop Luke 4:1-13
	Intercessions: Jonathan Stead		
16 March Second Sunday of Lent	Simon Tatton-Brown Genesis 15:1-12,17-18	Jonathan Stead Philippians 3:17 – 4:1	Graeme Stacey Luke 13:31-35
	Intercessions: Mark Elliott		
23 March Third Sunday of Lent	Robin Kerr Isaiah 55:1-9	Judith Anderson 1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Nicky Mathiason Luke 13:1-9
	Intercessions: Beryl Bowes		
30 March Mothering Sunday	Peter Bowes 1 Samuel 1:20-end	Rachel Preston 2 Corinthians 1:3-7	Isobel Powell Luke 2:33-35
	Intercessions: Georgina Bowman		
6 April Fifth Sunday of Lent	Virginia Knight Isaiah 43:16-21	Graham Reaper-Brown Philippians 3:4b-14	Beryl Bowes John 12:1-8
	Intercessions: Peter Bowes		

Who's who at Christ Church

Priest-in-charge Revd Heather Smith
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heather.smith@christchurchbath.org

Safeguarding officer Virginia Knight
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christchbathsafeguarding@gmail.com

Supporting clergy
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Revd Beryl Bowes
Revd Dr Peter Bowes

**Tower Captain,
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Laity rotas Judith Bishop

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Prayer cycle Virginia Knight

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Christ Church Link

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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) – *Watch for information soon*
- 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

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