



30 years of women priests

Bath and Wells celebrates 30 years of women's ordination

A special Choral Evensong was held at Wells Cathedral on Tuesday 14 May to mark the 30th anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood in the Church of England.

In 1994, 18 months after General Synod gave its final approval for the ordination of women, 30 women were ordained at Wells Cathedral by the then Bishop of Bath and Wells, Rt Revd Jim Thompson, and the Bishop of Taunton, Rt Revd Richard Lewis (see page 2).

The service welcomed many of those who were among the first to be ordained in Bath and Wells 30 years ago.

“We celebrate the full variety of ministries and the fact that the episcopate is

now open to women,” Revd Chantal Mason, Dean of Women’s Ministry in Bath and Wells, said after the service. “But there are still residue issues which limit women in their flourishing as priests. So as women priests at this time, it is our responsibility to be diligent in leadership, to serve faithfully, and to ensure that the women who come after us are not hampered in their God-given ministries. For all that has been, thank you! For all that is to come, Yes!”

Preaching at the service, Revd Prebendary Ronnie Crossman spoke of her own journey to ordination and also

Continued on page 2



Photo: Diocese of Bath and Wells

Curate's Corner

Revd Kara Maylor writes:

There is an old adage that says "it takes a village to raise a child." Well, I believe that it takes a caring community like Christ Church to raise a credible Curate!

I arrived in June 2021 as we emerged from the restrictions of Covid and a gruelling couple of years of theological college. I was somewhat bemused and intimidated to be placed in a place like Christ Church that bore more resemblance to the Roman Catholic

church of my upbringing than any church I had been in over the last 20 years.

In my first couple of weeks I was involved in the first running in Bath of the "Living in Love and Faith" course. This was a great way to meet people and understand about the open and loving nature of the community of Christ Church. I have been encouraged and supported in every aspect of Ministry from all in the community. At times I have had to learn to graciously accept "constructive criticism" and believe that I will be a better Priest because of it all.

My Ministry dog Barney is a firm favourite both in Christ Church and at Bath University when I go up for my Friday afternoons as part of the Chaplaincy team. He has been loved by the Cedar Tree community, and we have had many enjoyable outings together.

When I began at Christ Church our single student mentioned her hopes and prayers for more students to join her in our community. One of the key verses in my life is the wonderful verse in Matthew 18 that states "where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them." I spoke with her about the power of these words and how we should keep praying for more students to join us, which they have, forming the Light-house Group led by Carol.

I have loved getting to know our wonderful young people, and am only sorry that I have not recruited more people to help in this important aspect of our church life.

I will miss you all but am so thankful for the wonderful three years I have been with you.

In our broken world of conflict and pain I am inspired by the words of Francis of Assisi and aim to make this the bedrock of my ministry, and I believe that these words reflect the nature of our Christ Church community.

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace
Where there is hatred, let me sow love
Where there is injury, pardon
Where there is doubt, faith
Where there is despair, hope
Where there is darkness, light
And where there is sadness, joy.*

30 years celebrated

Continued from page 1

encouraged everyone to look forward. "My friends, we will have missed something of enormous significance if we only look back today," she said. "Let us look forward and recommit ourselves, every single one of us, to share God's love however and whenever we can."

Read more and download Revd Prebendary Ronnie Crossman's reflection at <https://bit.ly/30-years-celebration>.



Bishop Jim Thompson and Bishop Richard Lewis with some of the women ordained at Wells Cathedral in 1994. Photo: Diocese of Bath and Wells (original photographer unknown)

Ordinand's Corner

Jane Hoe writes:

For my final "offering" I am doing a rare thing – I am writing unfiltered from my heart...

I am leaving Christ Church this month, leaving the church family who have restored my faith, spoken God's purpose back to me... and are now sending me off to accomplish this.

As college requires us to come off all rotas, I have never committed to doing anything very much for you – yet I feel you have done everything for me. I have received pure grace from you and I hope you feel the love I have for you all, in response. The Catholic priest Timothy Radcliffe writes that "grace makes us graceful". I believe that within this "love makes us loving". John 1:14 tells us that "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us [...] full of grace and truth". I will begin my curacy with a heart full of the grace Christ Church has shown me, and the truth that I have experienced, of God's Kingdom drawing near in this place.

Christ Church is extraordinarily beautiful in every respect. Being "in Vacancy" is challenging; losing Lore has been so hard, and now our wonderful Kara must also move on. But savour who you are right now, because God is dwelling within and between each of you, full of grace and truth; your new priest will sense this.

I will leave you with a few words from my favourite poet, Mary Oliver. This is from "In Blackwater Woods".

To live in this world

*you must be able
to do three things:
to love what is mortal;
to hold it*

*against your bones knowing
your own life depends on it;
and, when the time comes to let it go,
to let it go.*

This, of course, is easier said than done – I will miss you all, very much.

May God bless each of you!

Jane

This month



This month we are sadly saying farewell to Kara, our Curate, who is moving to Exmouth to take up a post there, and also to Jane, our Ordinand, who is being ordained deacon at the end of the month and will be serving elsewhere in Bath. Both Kara and Jane have participated in the life of Christ Church in a myriad of ways, and both go with our warmest thanks for their time with us and very best wishes for the future.

Open Eucharist for LGBTQ+ Christians

There will be an Open Eucharist (said) for LGBTQ+ Christians at Christ Church on Saturday 29 June at 3pm, the Feast day of St Peter and St Paul. All are invited. Simon Tatton-Brown will preside.

Simon regularly attended a similar monthly communion service when he was serving in the Diocese of Manchester and occasionally hosted one in his own church. We hope this may be the first of many, an expression of how Christ Church is truly an inclusive and welcoming congregation. For there are many churches of all denominations, including here in Bath, where LGBTQ+ people do not feel so welcome. So please pass this invitation on to anyone you know who might like to come, and make it more widely known.

Counting wildlife

Communities are invited to celebrate the wildlife in churchyards and cemeteries during the week Saturday 8 June to Sunday 16 June. Love Your Burial Ground Week is designed for those who look after burial grounds, while “Churches Count on Nature”, which runs concurrently, is an opportunity to perform a “nature count” and record the biodiversity in churchyards. It is a joint initiative promoted by the conservation charity Caring for God’s Acre, the Church of England, the Church in Wales and environmental group A Rocha UK.

Participants are asked to record the species they encounter and add them to a public database accessible to all, using a smartphone app called iNaturalist or more traditional methods. In the last three years, 1,300 counts took place in churches in England and Wales, and over 47,500 wildlife records were submitted to Caring for God’s Acre. The data will be used to determine where different species are located in the country. This can aid churches of all denominations in increasing biodiversity on their land for the enrichment of the environment and local communities.

Find out more and download the app at www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/churches-count-on-nature-faqs.

Coming events

Spem in Alium

What is it? In a British-Dutch choral collaboration, Paragon Singers and Dutch chamber choir Het Lelikoort will perform Thomas Tallis’s memorable 40-part motet Spem in Alium, a landmark in the repertoire of Renaissance polyphony written for eight choirs of five voices, plus the Requiem Aeterna I movement from Herbert Howells’ Requiem and other pieces by Sweelinck, Panufnik, Bruckner and Obrecht. More information at <https://paragonsingers.co.uk>

When is it? Saturday 15 June, 6pm

Where? St Alphege, Bath BA2 3NR

Tickets £18, students £5, from Bath Box Office, 01225 463362 or bathboxoffice.org.uk

Officers elected

At the Christ Church Annual Church Meeting held on Sunday 12 May, Jane Nicholson and Jonathan Stead were re-elected as Churchwardens for another year. Judith Bishop, Malcolm Wall and Maggie Willans were re-elected to Church Council.

The members of Christ Church Council for 2024-25 are therefore as follows:

Ex officio

Priest-in-charge

Jane Nicholson

Jonathan Stead

Pauline Swaby-Wallace

Brenda Wall

(Vacant)

Churchwarden

Churchwarden

Deanery Synod Rep

Deanery Synod Rep

Elected until 2025

Emma Elliott

Lucy Humbert

Carol Hussey

Elected until 2026

Mornay Davison

Sarah Jones

David Rawlings

Elected until 2027

Judith Bishop

Malcolm Wall

Maggie Willans

The date for next year’s Annual Church Meeting will be Sunday 18 May 2025.

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 or 07891 898472 and he will send you the link.

Diocesan Message for June

The gift of prayer



**From the Revd Canon Toby Wright,
who will be installed as Dean of Wells
on Saturday 16 June**

It is a great joy and privilege to come and join you here in Bath and Wells as the new Dean of Wells, to serve the Cathedral, the diocese and the county. This is an area with strong links on my maternal side, with my grandparents being married in Bath, and many relatives from around this patch.

One of the many things which drew me to this role is the privilege of prayer in your beautiful Cathedral Church. Each morning we gather and pray for the life of the diocese, and give thanks for that same life in the evening. Please be assured of my prayers for you in your mission and ministry, and I warmly look forward to getting out to explore the diocese.

As I reflect on this time of change, I am mindful of the importance of finding patterns of prayer to sustain our lives and nourish our spiritual growth. As Archbishop Desmond Tutu said many years ago, we must “think of prayer as a relationship.” We are to invest in it and to find space so that it can develop,

and this takes time. Or as the mystic Evelyn Underhill put it, “On every level of life, from housework to heights of prayer, in all judgement and efforts to get things done, hurry and impatience are sure marks of the amateur.”

We all know the importance of taking time to invest in relationships, and I love the challenge that hurry and impatience are sure marks of the amateur. As we reflect on our own prayer lives, I wonder if there are ways that we can deepen our relationship in prayer? The Christian tradition is packed with ways to help people learn to pray. Maybe we can find ways to slow ourselves down and be more present to the gift of prayer, so that we may join in the Apostle Paul’s prayer, “we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God’s will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding” (Colossians 1:9).

Canon Toby Wright

Prayer for young people

From the Diocese of Bath and Wells: Over the first week of July, 1-7 July, the Bath and Wells “Go Team” are hosting a Week of Prayer for Children and Young People and inviting churches across the diocese to join in. A Prayer Guide for the week is available on the diocesan website, www.bathandwells.org.uk/news/yp-week-prayer.php. Each day focuses on a different topic affecting children and young people, with a Bible passage and points to ponder for each. The themes for the seven days are: Community, Wellbeing, Courage, Leaders, The World, Concerns, and Growth. There are also creative prayer ideas to use at home, in small groups and in church services.

June's charity: Combe Down Holiday Trust

The loose collection on the second and fourth Sundays of this month – 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>.



Coming events

Gala Organ Concert

What is it? Join Dr Peter King, Organist Emeritus of Bath Abbey, to celebrate the restoration of the 1878 Father Willis Organ by Harrison & Harrison of Durham.

When is it? Friday 7 June, 7:30pm

Where? St Mary the Virgin, Bathwick BA2 4EB

Tickets £15, under 25s £10, from St Mary's Parish Office, 01225 447450, or Bath Box Office, 01225 463362, bathboxoffice.org.uk

Gloriana: music of 2 Elizabethan ages

What is it? Cappella Nova celebrates English choral music, both sacred and secular, written during the reigns of Elizabeth I and Elizabeth II. Madrigals and motets by William Byrd, Thomas Tallis and Thomas Morley are contrasted with works by Benjamin Britten, Ralph Vaughan Williams and James MacMillan. More information at www.cappellanova.org.uk. Proceeds from the concert will support the work of Designability, a charity enabling disabled people to live with greater independence, and Christ Church.

When is it? Saturday 22 June, 7:30pm

Where? Christ Church

Tickets £15, students £8, under-18s free, from <https://bit.ly/cn-gloriana> or on the door.

Rutter at Bath Abbey

What is it? "An unforgettable evening of beautiful music" featuring members of the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra, with John Rutter conducting a programme of his own works and others including 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, BA1 1LT

More information and tickets www.bathabbey.org/whats-on/john-rutter-2

Christ Church calendar June 2024

6 Thu 11am Eucharist
Christ Church Trustees meeting, 7:30pm

7 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

9 Sun *The Second Sunday after Trinity*
10am Eucharist

11 Tue *Barnabas the Apostle*

12 Wed Service and tea for senior members of Christ Church, 2pm

13 Thu 11am Eucharist

14 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

16 Sun *The Third Sunday after Trinity*
10am Eucharist
4:30pm Choral Evensong

20 Thu 11am Eucharist

21 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

23 Sun *The Fourth Sunday after Trinity*
10am Eucharist
5pm Iona Contemplative Service

24 Mon *The Birth of John the Baptist*

27 Thu 11am Eucharist

28 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

29 Sat *Peter and Paul, Apostles*
3pm Open Eucharist for LGBTQ+ Christians

30 Sun *The Fifth Sunday after Trinity*
10am Eucharist

July 3 Wed *Thomas the Apostle*

4 Thu 11am Eucharist

5 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

7 Sun *The Sixth Sunday after Trinity*
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 June 2024

Saturday	1	For refugees
Sunday	2	For our Church Council
Monday	3	For the King and other heads of state
Tuesday	4	For our Environment Group
Wednesday	5	That we may hunger and thirst after righteousness
Thursday	6	For the appointment of our new priest in charge
Friday	7	For those who care for the sick
Saturday	8	For Christian unity
Sunday	9	For Mark our Lay Reader
Monday	10	For those who work in financial services
Tuesday	11	We give thanks for our blessings
Wednesday	12	For the ministry of hospices
Thursday	13	For prisoners and prison workers
Friday	14	For those who have lost their faith
Saturday	15	That we may be open to encounters with God
Sunday	16	For our Archbishop, bishops and clergy
Monday	17	For shopkeepers and shop workers
Tuesday	18	For countries with economic problems
Wednesday	19	For our Charity of the Month, Combe Down Holiday Trust
Thursday	20	For peace
Friday	21	For those who work in dangerous conditions
Saturday	22	We give thanks for those who enrich our lives

Sunday 23 For Jane and Jonathan our Churchwardens

Monday 24 For journalists and those who work in the media

Tuesday 25 For those on our long-term prayer list

Wednesday 26 That we may have the gift of faithfulness

Thursday 27 For the ministry of safeguarding

Friday 28 For the homeless

Saturday 29 For our flower arrangers and others who look after the church

Sunday 30 For children and their families

Long-term Prayer List

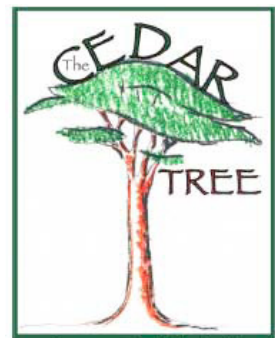
Please remember those we've been asked to pray for...

Geoff	Chris & David
Joyce	John
Daniel	Win
Milo	
Naomi	
Frankie	
John & Sheila	
Peter & Margaret	
Sheila W	
John & Jean	
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.



'Under it every kind of bird will live'

Bath
Julian Road

Rotas for June 2024

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
2 June First Sunday after Trinity	David Bishop 1 Samuel 3:1-10	Alex Soboslay 2 Corinthians 4:5-12	Morny Davison Mark 2:23 – 3:6
	Intercessions: Beryl Bowes		
9 June Second Sunday after Trinity	Carol Hussey 1 Samuel 8:4-11, 16-20	Isobel Powell 2 Corinthians 4:13 – 5:1	Brenda Wall Mark 3:20-end
	Intercessions: Mark Elliott		
16 June Third Sunday after Trinity	Beryl Bowes 1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13	Malcolm Wall 2 Corinthians 5:6- 10, 14-17	Mark Elliott Mark 4:26-34
	Intercessions: Peter Bowes		
23 June Fourth Sunday after Trinity	Judith Anderson 1 Sam. 17:32-49 <i>or</i> 17:57 - 18:5,10-16	Rachel Preston 2 Corinthians 6:1- 13	Simon Tatton- Brown Mark 4:35-end
	Intercessions: Jonathan Stead		
30 June Fifth Sunday after Trinity	Nick Wells 2 Samuel 1:1,17- end	Jude Bishop 2 Corinthians 8:7- end	Robin Kerr Mark 5:21-end
	Intercessions: Georgina Bowman		
7 July Sixth Sunday after Trinity	Marcus Bull 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10	Angela Soboslay 2 Corinthians 12:2- 10	Virginia Knight Mark 6:1-13
	Intercessions: Simon Tatton-Brown		

Who's who at Christ Church

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

