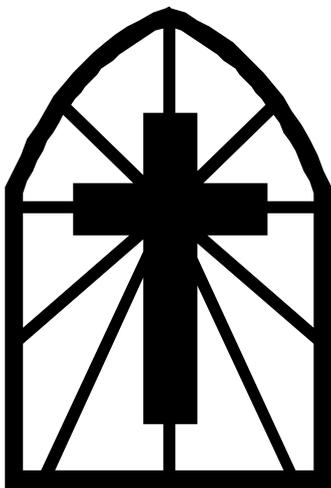


CHRIST
CHURCH
CHALLENGE



July 2003

CHRIST CHURCH, JULIAN ROAD
DIOCESE OF BATH AND WELLS IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Family Communion, Junior Church & Crèche
First Sundays & Festivals	Choral Evensong and Sermon at 6.30pm
Other Sundays	Said Evening Prayer at 5.30pm (see page 5)

There is amplification to assist the hard of hearing

MID-WEEK SERVICE

11.00am Thursday	Holy Communion
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CHOIR

Junior Choir Practice	Friday 6.30pm - 8.00pm
Adult Practice	Friday 7.30pm - 9.00pm

New singers always welcome - please contact Director of Music 01225 445360

BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, FUNERALS

By arrangement. Please 'phone the Vestry 338869 / Officiating Minister 427462

Chris and Angela, the churchwardens, would like to know about people who are ill, or of any circumstances in which the ministry of the Church would be welcome

No more vicar's desk...

No, Antony has not sold his desk but the leading article in the magazine will now be headlined **FORUM**. Antony will still write every month, but the "Forum" spot will be open to all members of the congregation and we hope occasionally to include contributions from people outside Christ Church.

In this way we intend to provide the opportunity for a wider exchange of views on topical matters. And, in any case, whilst he may have a desk, officially Antony is not a vicar!



Forum...



Over the past two or three weeks the media has reported on what they have described as “the most bitter division in the Church of England since the war over women priests”. At the centre of the controversy is Canon Jeffrey John, an openly gay but celibate man who has been appointed Bishop of Reading.

Late last year, the Church reviewed its teaching on sex and homosexuality and reaffirmed the report *Issues in Human Sexuality*, first published in 1991. In response, the secretary of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement said, “We are deeply saddened at this news. We are seeing a bad situation made immeasurably worse”. A spokesman for Reform, the evangelical pressure group stated that they were relieved that the policy has not been watered down, but added “...it is a matter of regret that the bishops have not gone further. Homosexual activity is contrary to the word of God.”

The House of Bishops voted 256 to 70 at their 1998 Lambeth conference against any formal recognition of homosexual relationships. Bishops from Africa and Asia, the least tolerant of all, claim that the issue will split the world-wide Anglican Communion. A not often quoted declaration in *Issues in Human Sexuality* maintains that Christians should “reject all forms of hatred of homosexual people”. Modernists took heart when, in 2001 the Bishop of Oxford said, “for some it appears inevitable that the Church will eventually rethink and repent”.

The new Archbishop, Rowan Williams is clear that “[the Church should] find a way of saying to Christian homosexuals that it is OK to talk about this [subject] without instantly thinking that you are going to be under a cloud”. The Bishop of Oxford has placed Canon Jeffrey John under a cloud by making an appointment before a measured debate under the Archbishop has been given a chance. It will be almost impossible to discuss this matter rationally, prayerfully and with a proper acknowledgement of Christian ministry to all humanity in the present climate. But, for the sake of the Church let’s try.



There will be readers representing both sides of the argument. All are invited to use the columns of this magazine to put their point of view and seek the means by which the Church can go forward.

Antony Claridge

Celebrating Sea Sunday



The crew of the car carrier *Tricolor* that sank in the English Channel lost everything in the disaster. But when the seafarers arrived at The Mission to Seafarers Centre in Dunkerque, and told chaplain Phil Hiscock about their loss, the Mission was able to replace clothing, shoes and their Bibles. When he left Portsmouth in September 2002 to become the Mission's Dunkerque chaplain, Phil took with him a supply of Bibles. "I just happened to have 24 in the boot of my car," said Phil, "so I was able to give each of the crew a copy. They were all very grateful and said the Bible was important to them." Many of the crew gave thanks for their survival in the chapel at the Mission centre.

Responding in an emergency and providing a Bible in a seafarer's own language are among the ways The Mission to Seafarers carries out the Church's ministry to seafarers in 300 ports worldwide. Every year the Mission distributes around 100,000 items of Christian literature and Bibles to seafarers of all nationalities and faiths.

Seafarers like the crew of the *Tricolor* will be in the thoughts of the Christ Church congregation when they celebrate Sea Sunday on July 13. This is the day when the Church worldwide remembers and prays for seafarers, their families and those who minister to them.



Sea Sunday is jointly organised by The Mission to Seafarers and its kindred societies, the Roman Catholic organisation the Apostleship of the Sea, and the interdenominational British & International Sailors' Society.

Church Calendar for July

Jul 6 Sun THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

6.30pm Choral Evensong

10 Thurs NO SERVICE

11 Fri Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Casino c550

**13 Sun THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
SEA SUNDAY**

14 Mon John Keble, Priest, Tractarian, Poet 1866

15 Tues St Swithun, Bishop of Winchester c862

**17 Thurs 11.00am Holy Communion & Mothers' Union Corporate
Communion—Rev Antony Claridge
followed by lunch**

19 Sat Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, Teacher c394

20 Sun THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

22 Tues Mary Magdalene

**24 Thurs 11.00am Holy Communion—Rev Antony Claridge
NO LUNCH**

25 Fri James the Apostle

26 Sat Anne & Joachim, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

pm Holy Matrimony: Michael Danson
and Ruth Plumstead

27 Sun THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

29 Tue Mary, Martha and Lazarus, Companions of our Lord

30 Wed William Wilberforce, Social Reformer 1833

31 Thurs NO SERVICE

Aug 3 Sun THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Service Rota for July

	8 am	10 am	Evening
		Celebrant	Leader
		Preacher	
July	6 Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Cliff Burrows Dr Cyril Selmes	Rev Antony Claridge
	13 Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Marianne Atkinson Rev Bob Torrens	
	20 Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Antony Claridge Rev Antony Claridge	
	27 Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Antony Claridge Rev Antony Claridge	

Thursday Services at 11.00am

July	3 Rev Antony Claridge
	10 NO SERVICE
	17 Rev Antony Claridge
	24 Rev Antony Claridge
	31 NO SERVICE



Laity Rota for July

Readers		OT Readers	Epistle	Gospel
July	6	Mr M Elliott	Mrs A Sheppard	Lady Heath
	13	Miss J Fletcher	Mrs R Gabe	Mr J Metcalfe
	20	Mr M Jones	Mrs N Gladstone	Dr D Marles
	27	Mrs A Kemp	Mrs E Elliott	Mrs E Selmes
August	3	Ms J Anderson	Dr D Marles	Mr M Palmer

Chalice Assistants

July	6	Lady Heath	Dr C Selmes
	13	Miss J Fletcher	Mrs P Edwards
	20	Mrs J Metcalfe	Mr R Siderfin
	27	Mrs M Burrows	Mr C Graham
August	3	Lady Heath	Dr C Selmes

Intercessors

July	6	Mrs P Edwards
	13	Dr D Marles
	20	Mr B Pont
	27	Rev C Burrows
August	3	Mr C Graham



Sidespeople

		8am	10am
July	6	Miss E Iden-Hart	Mr & Mrs Metcalfe
	13	Mr A Jones	Mrs A Charman Mrs C Tanner
	20	Mrs D Twissell	Mrs T Claridge Mrs J Ferguson
	27	Mrs B Hayward	Mr & Mrs Olney
August	3	Miss E Hewlett	Mrs M Silver Mrs F Twissell

Lectionary for July

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
Jul 6	The Third Sunday after Trinity		
	Ezekiel 2.1-5	2 Corinthians 12.2-10	Mark 6.1-13
13	The Fourth Sunday after Trinity—Sea Sunday		
	<i>Readings to be announced</i>		
20	The Fifth Sunday after Trinity		
	Jeremiah 23.1-6	Ephesians 2.11-22	Mark 6.30-34, 53-56
27	The Sixth Sunday after Trinity		
	2 Kings 4.42-44	Ephesians 3.14-21	John 6.1-21
Aug 3	The Seventh Sunday after Trinity		
	Exodus 16.2-4,9-15	Ephesians 4.1-16	John 6.24-35

12 years of devoted service

At the Annual General Meeting John Metcalfe officially retired from his post of Church Warden. He and June have given twelve years to a ministry of love and devotion to our church and its people. At a presentation after the induction of his successor, Antony spoke of all that June and June have done for Christ Church and presented them with flowers, a cheque for £300 and a card signed by the congregation.



In a letter written to Antony and all members of Christ Church, John says:-

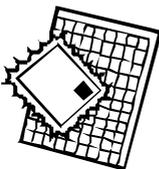
We would like to thank you all for the most generous cheque and for the flowers. We have made many friends over the past 12 years and it has been a privilege for to be Churchwarden and to serve Christ Church. Many may not realize how much it helped us in our personal life to be able to take an active part in the life of the Church and we thank you for all the support given at that time and over the following years. We know you will continue to support Antony and the new Churchwardens to enable Christ Church to continue its ministry. God bless you all – John and June.

All About Angela...



Angela Soboslay (née Lockington) was elected Church Warden at our AGM in April. We thought it would be fun to “interview” her, in order to help readers of the magazine get to know her a little better. Watch out for more personality profiles in future editions!

Angela was born in Kent. Brought up in the Methodist tradition, she moved to the Anglican Church during her teens with her family. When living in Oxford she was confirmed in Oxford Cathedral. Oxford was to be a significant place in Angela’s life, as it was here that she met Alex Soboslay, whom she married here in Christ Church in 1990. They have two children who are both well-known members of our congregation: Alexander, 10, the expert altar server, is a pupil at Newbridge Junior School, and Jennifer, 9 sings in our choir and is a pupil at St Stephen’s School in Lansdown.



Angela works as Domestic Bursar at Prior Park College, where she handles money and administrative matters for the boy boarders. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, history and visits to the theatre. Her favourite food is roast lamb, and she lists her only dislike as football!

When asked what she hopes to bring to the role of Church Warden, Angela replied that she wants to help in continuing to make the church run smoothly and efficiently, and to encourage everyone to work as a team.

Angela has contributed her favourite poem to our “Poetry in the heart” feature. You can find it on page 12.

“The Christ Church Big Read”



Many thanks to everyone who has responded so far to our “Favourite Book” survey. We are currently sorting through the entries received so far, and the choices are fascinating!

Next month we will print a review of the congregation’s favourite book, in advance of the results of the National Big Read which will be announced in early September. In later editions of the magazine, you will be able to read more about other works which were named in our survey. If you would be willing to write a small piece (half to one page of the magazine) about your choice, then please see Nicky Gladstone.

St Swithun - our saint for a rainy day

St Swithun (or Swithin) is apparently the saint to blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15 July, it will then rain for forty days after that. It all began when he was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.



During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun.

Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation, and restored in 1962. There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England. We know one, of course, since Christ Church stands in Walcot and the parish church is St Swithun's.



Mothers' Union News

Our final Corporate Communion of the season will take place on 17 July, and will be followed by another appetizing Metcalfe lunch. We are all very glad to hear that even though John has retired from the post of Church Warden, this does not mean the termination of these delicious lunches which are always greatly enjoyed by our members and friends. Very many thanks, John and June.

Several members of the Congregation regularly purchase Mothers' Union diaries, calendars and cards through our Christmas Order plan. It is not necessary to be a member to buy from us, so if anyone else would like to share in this scheme, please let me know. The latest *Home and Family* magazine contains pictures of this year's cards, and this will already have given members plenty of time to make their choices. I will be in touch with all our regular customers as soon as I receive the diary and calendar prices. Every order must be accompanied by payment and the items should arrive by the end of September.



The Branch (and its Officers) will take a well-earned break during August, and our next meeting will therefore be in the second week of September.

Sylvia M. Ayers (MU Secretary)

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Poetry in the Heart

Our new Church Warden gives us her selection this month

One of my favourite poems is "A Smugglers' Song" by Rudyard Kipling. It holds memories of my maternal grandmother and of my father. As a child, whenever I stayed with my grandmother she would start the day with freshly squeezed orange juice and a Just So Story. These were great treats, especially the freshly squeezed orange juice and in bed. My favourite story was "The Elephant's Child", with lots of expression. From those early days I went on when I was older to find out more about Kipling and his writing.

The connection continued with my father. My parents bought a flat between Hastings and Battle in Sussex, and from there we discovered, on various jaunts, a lot about smuggling in Hastings and on the Romney Marshes. Once, my father and I visited Kipling's home in Burwash, Sussex, and got to understand the man better in his own environment.

Kipling has resurfaced now and again through my life. In college it was renditions of some of his poems, and more recently it is reading the Just So Stories aloud to the children with lots of expression. He may seem dated now, but he will always hold fond memories for me.

Angela Soboslay

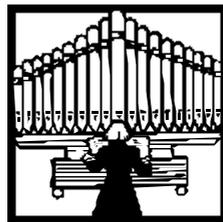
from "A Smugglers' Song"

If you wake at Midnight, and hear a horse's feet,
Don't go drawing back the blind, or looking in the street,
Them that asks no questions isn't told a lie.
Watch the wall, my darling, while the Gentlemen go by!

Five and twenty ponies
Trotting through the dark
Brandy for the Parson,
'Baccy for the Clerk;
Laces for a lady; letters for a spy,
And watch the wall, my darling, while the Gentlemen go by!

Rudyard Kipling

David Briggs Recital: A Review



On Saturday 7th June we had the opportunity to hear one of the country's leading recital organists give a concert to celebrate the rebuilding of our organ.

David Briggs is renowned as an exciting virtuoso player – a reputation which he more than upheld with his recital at Christ Church. It was wonderful to celebrate the culmination of all our fund-raising efforts in this way, and most fitting that the evening started with the presentation of a pewter tankard to Bob Siderfin, in thanks for the way in which he spearheaded the campaign.

The recital opened with the Prelude and Fugue in E flat by the French composer Camille Saint-Saens. Though not a particularly well-known piece, this turned out to be a fittingly jubilant and uplifting start to the evening finishing with a boisterous, waltz time fugue. We then heard a Bach Chorale Prelude in trio style which showed off the new flute work on the instrument beautifully. After the popular Mendelssohn Sonata in C minor we heard David Briggs's own transcription of 3 movements of an improvised suite by Pierre Cochereau. Cochereau was organist of Notre-Dame de Paris for nearly thirty years and was an exceptional improviser. David is a dedicated devotee and exponent of the French organ tradition and has spent a great deal of time transcribing Cochereau's recorded improvisations. His love of this music in performance was plain to hear. The first half was closed with a truly epic piece. "Some people go to the gym for exercise," said David, "I play Liszt's Symphonic Poem 'Prometheus!'"

The second half began with a transcription of Debussy's wonderfully evocative 'Prelude a l'Apres-midi d'un faune'. A haunting piece giving an opportunity to demonstrate the quieter side of our refurbished organ's capabilities. A little light relief followed with a witty performance of Walton's 'Popular Song' from 'Façade'. Any disappointment over the next programmed piece having to be omitted due to the copy being left behind in Gloucestershire was far more than compensated for by the evening's closing tour de force, the improvisation. Having been provided with two themes, one from a music student's composition the other the signature tune of the Pink Panther(!), David improvised a beautifully structured symphonic organ piece in the French style lasting twenty-five minutes. This staggering feat was a fitting end to a superb concert which re-launched the organ in style. Look out for more recitals in the future!

Mark Elliott

OUR BIBLE CONSULTANT WRITES...

Paul's letter to the church in Rome, written about 55 AD, some twenty or so years after the death of Jesus, is a long and complex one, but, reading it as a whole, some very strong impressions were left with me. Right at the beginning of the letter, but also throughout it, Paul is sure that his message about Jesus has come from God: it is God's message that Paul proclaims and he has been chosen to do this by God, who has called him to be his apostle to the Gentiles. From this letter, too, I am left in no doubt that Paul was a Jew and that he was also concerned about all the Jews who did not recognise Jesus as the Messiah. His knowledge of the Old Testament is what I would expect from a devout Jew and he constantly quotes from the prophets and the psalms. He uses many of his quotations to make links between the Old Testament and the events that have happened since Jesus came to earth with his gospel. Indeed, much of his writing seems to be directed at Jews, trying to convince them that Christ is the final step in their beliefs.



For example, Paul writes at length and consistently about the replacement of the Law of Moses by the two commandments of Christ. He does not say that the Law is wrong but that it has been surpassed. The Law made us aware of sin, the gospel sets us free from sin. He also tries to answer queries about food habits and circumcision, both of which were problems for many Jews of his time.



Paul's tone was usually conciliatory: complex rules about food and drink were to be replaced by concern for other people; do not eat or drink that which would upset or humiliate other members of the church. As far as circumcision was concerned, this had been part of the Law which had now been replaced. The Jews did not have to desist from circumcision, but they had to recognise that God was the God of all peoples, both Jews and Gentiles.

Paul also uses his knowledge of the Old Testament to support his strongly-held belief that salvation came from faith rather than from actions. He does this by arguing that Abraham lived long before the Law of Moses and yet Abraham had the most strong faith in God, stronger and more consistent than any other Jew in the Old Testament. Paul illustrates this faith by reminding us Abraham believed God would make him the father of many nations, even when Abraham's "body was dead" and his wife's "womb was barren".



At the end of the letter, I am impressed once again by the extent of Paul's travels and influence. He tells the church in Rome that he is going to Jerusalem because the churches in Macedonia and Achaëa have given him money to take to the poor of the church in Jerusalem. He then promises to visit the church in Rome on his way to Spain!

Paul's letter to the Romans also contains many of his memorable pieces of writing, passages that sustain and inspire many Christians. The first example comes from Paul's strong sense of being called by God to do his work and he extends this calling to his fellow Christians whom "he foreordained to share the likeness of his son so that that son should be the first-born among many brothers." Paul then goes on to answer his own query, "if God is for us, who is against us?" by saying: "For I believe that neither death nor life; neither angels nor authorities; neither things that are nor things to come; not powers, nor height nor depth nor any other state of the world will be able to take us away from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

The second example is when Paul writes about the Body of Christ. "As in our bodies we have many parts, but the parts do not all have the same function, so we many are one body in Christ, and individually parts of each other. We have different gifts which vary according to the grace that has been given us. If the gift is for prophecy, it should be based on faith. If one is gifted for service he/she should serve. The teacher should teach, the comforter bring comfort; the contributor should show generosity, the leader energy the charitable their graciousness."

Cyril Selmes

Last month's Book Quiz: The Answers

This certainly got a few people scratching their heads! How did you do?

1. To Kill a Mockingbird (Harper Lee)
2. Doctor Zhivago (Boris Pasternak)
3. Captain Corelli's Mandolin (Louis de Bernières)
4. The Secret Garden (Frances Hodgson Burnett)
5. The Pilgrim's Progress (John Bunyan)
6. The Lord of the Flies (William Golding)
7. Nineteen Eighty-Four (George Orwell)
8. Anna Karenina (Leo Tolstoy)
9. Mary Poppins (P L Travers)
10. One Hundred Years of Solitude (Gabriel Garcia Marquez)

Prayer Cycle for July

- Tue* 1 For all on holiday
- Wed* 2 For those caring for a seriously ill member of their family
- Thur* 3 For children unhappy at school and parents worried about them
- Fri* 4 For the United Nations Organisation
- Sat* 5 For drug addicts and those who care for them
- Sun* 6 For our Clergy Team and their families: for Tom and Cyril our readers and for Sarah in her ministry at Batheaston
- Mon* 7 For the work of “CRUSE” in caring for the bereaved: for the volunteers of the Bath branch
- Tue* 8 For guidance for the people of Iraq and those helping them to build a stable government
- Wed* 9 That those who know the identity of criminals may have the courage to pass this information to the police
- Thur* 10 For those who suffer any form of mental illness and their families, that they may find our attitude towards them sensitive and helpful
- Fri* 11 For Angela and Chris our Church Wardens and David, our Treasurer
- Sat* 12 That the affluent countries of the world may behave responsibly towards Third World countries seeking to build up viable economies for themselves.
- Sun* 13 For Rowan our Archbishop and Peter and Andrew our Bishops
- Mon* 14 For all suffering from physical abuse
- Tue* 15 For our Junior Church and those who care for its members
- Wed* 16 For all who work on or contribute to Christ Church Challenge
- Thur* 17 For families from whom a member or members have left home and whose whereabouts and state of life are unknown
- Fri* 18 For those who have suffered an unexpected and seemingly catastrophic crisis in their life: for those seeking to help them

- Sat* 19 For our National Health Service, our hospitals, nursing homes and local surgeries
- Sun* 20 For the work of the Ammerdown Centre
- Mon* 21 For Mark our Director of Music, David our Organist, our Choir and any others who provide music for our services
- Tue* 22 For honesty on the part of those whose words are widely heard or read
- Wed* 23 For our branch of the Mothers' Union
- Thur* 24 For all who live alone and find it difficult: for the housebound
- Fri* 25 Let us give thanks for those who regularly carry out the host of essential but unspectacular tasks which enable our worship and other business to proceed smoothly
- Sat* 26 For elderly couples where mental deterioration in one creates difficulty and sadness in their relationship
- Sun* 27 For those responsible for religious broadcasting
- Mon* 28 For all coping with terminal illness: for the work of Dorothy House and all hospices
- Tue* 29 For one-parent families: for schoolgirl mothers
- Wed* 30 That each one of us may seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit as to the manner of our living and the use of the gifts with which we have been entrusted
- Thur* 31 Let us give thanks for the blessings of the month now ending

August

- Fri* 1 For respect for and care of our environment
- Sat* 2 For the safety of children at play
- Sun* 3 For our Clergy Team and their families

*O Lord, hear my prayer
O Lord, hear my prayer
O Lord, hear my prayer
When I call, answer me
O Lord, hear my prayer
O Lord, hear my prayer
Come and listen to me*

From the Church Register



Holy Matrimony

28 June 2003 – Xander Fitzgerald Snell and Rachel Elaine Harris

Not from the Church Register



Everyone at Christ Church was delighted when the Revd Marianne Atkinson announced that she was to be married to the Revd Robert (Bob) Torrens. On Pentecost Sunday, Bob and Marianne treated us to a glass of nuptial wine, a cake was produced and cut and we gave the happy couple a present with love.

Those who lunched at Christ Church after communion on Corpus Christi day were treated to a glimpse of the wedding photographs. They are delightful and show Bob and Marianne surrounded by their families on their sunlit wedding day.

On Sunday, 13 July Marianne will celebrate the Eucharist at 10am and Bob will be the preacher.

Prayer for the Month

Thou, our source,
 Who rises and shines forth in all things,
 May your whole being be honoured in our hearts;
 May the unity of all things be made clear,
 Your one desire shall then act with ours,
 as in all light and sound so in all forms around us;
 Grant what we need each day in bread and insight;
 Loose the cords of the mistakes that bind us
 as we release the strands we hold of others' guilt;
 Do not let outward appearance delude us,
 but free us from what holds us back;
 From You is all unity, all the potential of life,
 the song that resonates in all things;
 From age to age renewing.
 We affirm this with our whole beings. Amen.



The Aramaic Prayer of Jesus (rendered by Neil Douglas-Klotz). Created from ancient Aramaic manuscripts and by 'back translation' from Greek to Aramaic to English.

WHO'S WHO?

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CHRIST CHURCH, JULIAN ROAD

DIOCESE OF BATH AND WELLS IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

PAST HISTORY

Christ Church was built at the end of the 18th Century by the socially concerned clergy and lay people for those excluded from worship by the system of pew rents. It was probably the first church of that time to provide seating free of charge. Early supporters included the Archbishops of Canterbury and York; the great evangelical campaigner against slavery, William Wilberforce; Philip Pusey, the father of E B Pusey; and Martin Stafford Smith, the godfather of John Keble, who were both founders of the Oxford Movement. The building was designed by the famous Bath architect John Palmer, who was responsible for the completion of the Great Pump Room, Lansdown Crescent and St Swithin's, the parish church of Walcot. In November 1998, the congregation, friends and well-wishers from all over the world celebrated the bicentenary.

MINISTRY

Christ Church is unusual in not being a parish church. Much of the vitality of its life and worship derives from the fact that the congregation comes from all areas of the city and the surrounding districts. Whilst there is no full-time paid vicar, there is a non-stipendiary priest-in-charge, who leads a ministerial team of ordained and lay people. Worship at Christ Church largely reflects the traditions of those responsible for its foundation and the rich diversity of the Church of England as a whole. Thus, preaching and Bible-based teaching is firmly set within a liturgical setting which is best described as liberal and catholic.

SERVICES

The 8am Holy Communion is either Book of Common Prayer (1662) or Common Worship. At 10am the Family Eucharist is celebrated according to Common Worship. On the first Sunday of each month, there is a full Choral Evensong. A more informal discussion-based service is held on the third Sunday of the month. A Junior Church and a Crèche cater for the children and young people who attend the 10am service. At festivals such as Easter, Christmas, Mothering Sunday and Harvest, our special services, designed for the whole family, are very popular.

There are a variety of mid-week activities including Holy Communion at 11am every Thursday (with lunch on the first and third weeks of the month). The notice board and the weekly notice sheet provide details of discussion and prayer groups which are held at different times throughout the year. An all-age choir, which rehearses on Friday evenings, maintains the much-admired music tradition at Christ Church.

THE CHURCH MAGAZINE

Currently published on the first Sunday of every month, Christ Church Challenge brings news of the church locally, in the Diocese, and throughout the world.

Articles or news items MUST be with the Editor by the 15th of the month preceding the publication date