

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

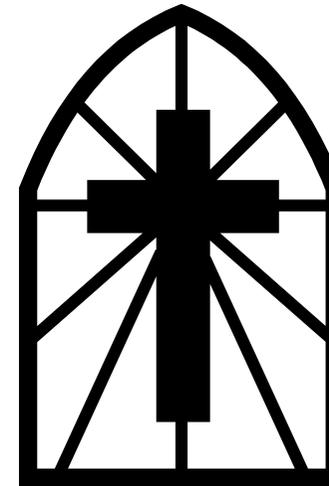
The 8am Holy Communion is either Book of Common Prayer (1662) or Common Worship. At 10am the Family Eucharist is celebrated according to Common Worship. On the first Sunday of each month, there is a full Choral Evensong. A Junior Church and a Crèche cater for the children and young people who attend 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 once a 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.

CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS

Published on the first Sunday of every month, Christ Church Challenge brings news of the church locally, in the Diocese, and throughout the world. Our website is constantly updated and can be found at www.christchurchbath.org

CHRIST CHURCH CHALLENGE



November 2004

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

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.

This month's magazine is the most "challenging" edition to date. It is packed with ways in which you can make a difference to the world, at Christ Church, locally and internationally.

As well as reading about and supporting important and worthwhile causes such as Shelter, CLIC and Christian Aid, you are asked to join the new Prayer Network (page 13), sign a nationwide Children's Society petition to make our country safer for all young runaways (page 10) and on page 9, you can read about what we hope will become an exciting Christmas appeal.

YOU can make a difference - read on to find out how.**WHO'S WHO?****OFFICIATING MINISTER**

The Rev Antony Claridge, 62 Cranwells Park, Weston, BA1 2YE Tel: 427462

ASSISTANT CLERGY

The Rev Cliff Burrows, Stonecroft, Entry Hill Drive, BA2 5NL. Tel: 334743

The Rev Sandy Munday, 18 Chestnut Walk, Saltford, BS31 3BG. Tel 342740

READERS

Tom Slade, 42 Rockcliffe Road, Bathwick, BA2 6QE. Tel: 465864

Cyril Selmes, 10 Daffords Buildings, Larkhall, BA1 6SG. Tel: 420039

CHURCHWARDENS

Chris Gladstone, 16 Croft Road, Fairfield Park, BA1 6JJ. Tel: 444938

Angela Soboslay, 285 Newbridge Road, BA1 3HN. Tel: 333297

HON SECRETARY

Nicky Gladstone, 16 Croft Road, Fairfield Park, BA1 6JJ. Tel: 444938

HON TREASURER

David Marles, 21 Camden Crescent, Bath BA1 5HY. Tel: 461159

CHAIRMAN of the TRUSTEES

Yvonne Morris, 3 Summerhill Road, Sion Hill, BA1 2UP. Tel: 425555

DIRECTOR of MUSIC

Mark Elliott, 32 Broadmoor Lane, Weston, Bath BA1 4JY Tel: 445360

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BATH

Sylvia Ayers, 5 Forester Avenue, Bath BA2 6QD. Tel: 463976

CHRISTIAN AID/CHILDRENS' SOC

Jenny Wright, First Floor Flat, 13 Moorland Road, Oldfield Park, Bath BA2 3PL.

JUNIOR CHURCH

Emma Elliott, 32 Broadmoor Lane, Weston, Bath BA1 4JY Tel: 445360

BOOKINGS AND CALENDAR

Patricia Adelman, 14 The Linleys, Bath BA1 2XE. Tel: 421178

USPG & MISSIONARY COMMITTEE

Adrian Pegg, 68 London Road West, Bath BA1 7DA. Tel: 858809

MOTHERS UNION BRANCH DEANERY

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SECRETARY / TREASURER

Sylvia Ayers, 5 Forester Avenue, Bath BA2 6QD. Tel: 463976

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ORGANIST

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MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTOR

Cyril Selmes, 10 Daffords Buildings, Larkhall BA1 6SG. Tel: 420039

From the Church Register...

Holy Matrimony

9 October Matthew David Jones and Sarah Caroline Martin



Thank You!...

Eileen Selmes writes, "Thank you for the Harvest Gifts given to Cyril and myself. Doubly welcome, as I was not well at the time. A lot of effort is needed to display, and later separate and deliver. Thank you to all involved, including the donors."



I'm sure you all enjoyed the service and lunch. Sorry we missed them."

Another letter of thanks comes from Cyril himself, who says "My thanks to Antony and any other members of Christ Church who decided to present me with book tokens in recognition of my reading of the Bible; someone must have told them about my addiction to books. However, at the time of presentation I had no idea what I would buy, particularly as I have a large pile of unread books residing beside my easy chair.

The problem was solved when I went to a talk by Charles Spencer during the following week: he was talking about the Battle of Blenheim which is the subject of his new book. As my history syllabus at school was devoid of the 17th and 18th centuries, I had little idea of what was to come. Charles Spencer gave a fascinating and fluent talk without referring to any notes. He also showed a great command of his subject when asked questions - but he did point out that he'd been interested in this battle since the age of 10 and that his O' Level project had been based on it.

So thank you all for this book."

Forum...

On the 14th of November we will take part in an act of remembrance. It is one of those times when the secular and the Christian world come together with one purpose – to remember. I have always found Remembrance Sunday very moving. However, I have to admit that I find some of the language used around this time troubling. I find it difficult to see anything honourable in the slaughter of thousands of human beings that war involves. I see little glory in the sacrifices made. We need to be careful about what kind of remembering we are engaging in.



What then, in a Christian context, is remembrance? What is it about our act of remembrance that makes it more than a secular ritual? Clearly, remembrance is not the same as not forgetting. Neither is it about recalling details. Some people are fascinated, for example, by the First World War. They can recall dates of battles, locations, and numbers killed and wounded. This may involve memory but it is not Remembrance. Remembrance is not just about paying our respects to

those who have lost their lives in war, although this rightly something that people wish to do. What Christianity should bring is a sacramental aspect to our remembering. The ritual act is not an end in itself, but an outward expression of the inner truth about our connection with those who fought and died.



In this way it is connected to our more common and yet more miraculous act of remembrance in the Eucharist. In the Eucharist we remember Jesus and his sacrifice for us, but it is more than a mere retelling or recollection of a story. It is a true re-member-ance. We cannot travel back in time to be present at the crucifixion and resurrection but through the Eucharist Christ becomes real and present for us again. The ritual act brings us into contact with the divine and allows us to experience Jesus' sacrifice for us in a direct and immediate way.

On Remembrance Sunday our Act of Remembrance must be about more than calling to mind those killed; it should be about feeling deep within us the bond that ties us to them. Again, we cannot travel back in time and be physically present with them but through our

Remembrance we should try, in some way, to be beside them; knee deep in mud in a trench, terrified inside a falling plane, trapped screaming inside a burning tank. The horrors that they suffered must be real for us.

The philosopher George Santanyana said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Only with an act of re-rememberance can we hope to avoid this fate.

Mark Elliott

Lay ministry at the altar

Chalice assistants

The appointment of chalice assistants (the people who offer the cup at the Eucharist) is traditionally on the recommendation of the incumbent and by approval of the Bishop of the Diocese. We need more people to undertake this important lay ministry. Anyone who feels they might contribute in this way should see Antony, in confidence, as soon as possible.

Servers

In addition to chalice assistants, our priests need the help of servers at the Eucharist. The beauty and order of the Eucharist depends on this kind of help. Readers are invited to volunteer for this work which would be organized on a rota with each person on duty once per month. Full training will be given.

Bring and Buy Coffee Morning

Audrey, Sarah and Catherine Sheppard warmly invite all friends from Christ Church to Herne House on Saturday 13th November, 10.30 till noon. Proceeds to St Catherine's, Batheaston. Please be compassionate - this beautiful Mediaeval Church has a huge restoration bill to cover!



Christmas with CLIC Coffee Morning
Variety of Christmas and handmade gift stalls

Saturday 13th November 11-1pm
£1.50 including coffee
At Pratts Hotel
South Parade, Bath

- Sat 20** Tomorrow is the feast of Christ the King, our Patronal Festival. We thank God for our Church and the many blessings he sends us.
- Sun 21** For all those who have lost loved ones in traffic accidents. For the RoadPeace service tonight at St Mary's Bathwick
- Mon 22** For those who work for the Emergency Services
- Tue 23** For couples experiencing difficulties in their relationship. For the work of Relate.
- Wed 24** For countries of the Third World which suffer through the selfishness of richer nations
- Thur 25** For those mourning the death of loved ones: for those mourning the death of a child or children
- Fri 26** For Mark our Director of Music, David our Organist, and the Choir
- Sat 27** For the work and witness of our branch of the Mothers' Union
- Sun 28** On this Advent Sunday, we pray that we will maintain a focus on the true meaning of the Christmas Season
- Mon 29** For the departed who have shared their earthly pilgrimage with us
- Tue 30** Let us give thanks for the blessings of the month now ending
- December**
- Wed 1** Let us pray for the congregation as a whole, and for the success of tonight's "Meet Up", that we may all benefit from the fellowship found there
- Thur 2** For our Chalice Assistants and Altar Servers
- Fri 3** For those facing new challenges at work or at home
- Sat 4** For our hospitals, nursing homes and local surgeries
- Sun 5** For members of our congregation who can no longer attend church due to illness or infirmity
- Mon 6** For those considering a vocation to the priesthood or religious life
- Tue 7** For those mourning the loss of a spouse or partner, that they will know God's comfort
- Wed 8** For all who in any way contribute to the worship at Christ Church and to its ministry
- Thur 9** For children who have to operate as carers for members of their family

Prayer Cycle for November

- Mon 1** For Rowan our Archbishop and for Peter our Bishop
- Tue 2** For our clergy team and their families
- Wed 3** For Emma as she prepares our weekly Notice Sheet
- Thur 4** For Church's mission to those with any form of physical or mental handicap
- Fri 5** For the success of the Churches Together in England gathering in Grantham, which begins today
- Sat 6** For the Diocesan Conference today, and for those who are representing Christ Church
- Sun 7** For the Trustees of Christ Church; for Yvonne, their Chairman
- Mon 8** For our colleagues, in particular any who are difficult to work with
- Tue 9** For those who feel that no-one appreciates or cares about them
- Wed 10** For Sylvia and Chris, our Churches Together in Bath representatives
- Thur 11** For young people in prison for whatever reason; for all who work with them
- Fri 12** For those who work behind the scenes to assure the smooth running of our church
- Sat 13** For Angela and Chris, our Churchwardens
- Sun 14** On this Remembrance Sunday, we give thanks for all those people who fought for our freedom, and think of all who serve in our Armed Forces.
- Mon 15** For our Government and opposition parties. For responsible decision-making in all national and international affairs.
- Tue 16** For Tom and Cyril our readers, and Sarah's ministry at Batheaston
For Mark as he trains to become a reader.
- Wed 17** For all parents, step-parents and godparents
- Thur 18** For success in the struggle against the distribution of drugs
- Fri 19** For the work of USPG in general, and especially for St Anne's Hospital, Lake Malawi

Church Calendar for November

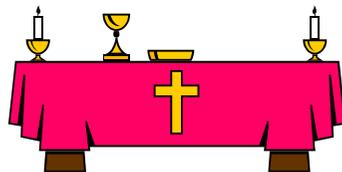
- Oct 31 Sun** **FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT**
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
6.30pm Choral Evensong for All Souls
- Nov 1 Mon** 8.00pm "Meet Up Monday" - social evening at the Hare and Hounds, Lansdown. All welcome.
- 2 Tue** **ALL SOULS' DAY**
- 4 Thurs** 11.00am Holy Communion - Rev Antony Claridge
- 7 Sun** **THE THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT**
5.00pm Said Evening Prayer
- 9 Tue** 2.30pm Mothers' Union AGM
- 11 Thur** 11.00am Holy Communion - Rev Antony Claridge
- 13 Sat** 10.00am Coffee Morning at Herne House in aid of St Catherine's Church, Batheaston
- 12noon
11.00am Coffee Morning at Pratt's Hotel, South Parade
- 1.00pm in aid of CLIC
- 14 Sun** **THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT**
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
5.00pm Said Evening Prayer
- 18 Thurs** 11.00am Holy Communion - Rev Antony Claridge
- 21 Sun** **CHRIST THE KING**
- 25 Thurs** 11.00am Holy Communion - Rev Antony Claridge
- 28 Sun** **THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
6.30pm Candlelit Advent Carol Service
- 30 Tue** **ANDREW THE APOSTLE**

Service Rota for November

	8 am	10 am	Evening
		Celebrant	Leader
		Preacher	
Nov	7	Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Sandy Munday No Choral Evensong Rev Antony Claridge 5pm Evening Prayer Rev Antony Claridge
	14	Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Antony Claridge Mr Mark Elliott
	21	Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Antony Claridge No Service Rev Vaughan Roberts
	28	Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Sandy Munday Rev Antony Claridge Junior Church
Dec	5	Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Cliff Burrows Rev Antony Claridge Rev Sandy Munday

Thursday Services at 11.00 am

Nov	4	Rev Antony Claridge
	11	Rev Antony Claridge
	18	Rev Antony Claridge
	25	Rev Antony Claridge
Dec	2	Rev Antony Claridge
	9	Rev Antony Claridge



The Christian Aid report *One Land and Many Voices* is designed to help Christians explore some of the theology that is used to talk about Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.



It also seeks to help them understand why others who have the same faith and Scriptures hold different views.

The paper retells the story of God's dealings with the people who lived in the Holy Land during the period covered by the Old Testament, and also Jesus's teaching about the kingdom of God.

It includes reflections on how this story has been interpreted in recent years.

Finally, it introduces three distinctive (and irreconcilable) strands of Christian thought that are each held by large numbers of faithful people today:

- **Replacement theology**, in which the church is seen as the 'new' Israel, so that the promises in the Bible to the 'old' Israel are now transferred to the church.
- **Christian Zionism**, arguing that it is the sovereign will of God that his chosen people, the Jews, return to their homeland in order to fulfil Old Testament prophecy.
- **Liberation theology**, which finds in the story of the exodus from Egypt a paradigm for the contemporary struggles of people to be free from oppressors.

One Land and Many Voices does not direct readers to come to a specific conclusion.

However, for those who read it in conjunction with papers that expound Christian Aid's policy (such as *Facts on the Ground: The End of the Two-State Solution*), it will become clear that advocacy on behalf of the poorest people who live in this region has developed alongside a thorough theological reflection on issues of poverty, justice, land and power.

Both these reports and many more are available free on the Christian Aid website: www.christian-aid.org.uk

Jenny Wright

Spotlight on...the Middle East **Christian Aid**

As Iraqis cope with the effects of war in their country, the humanitarian situation of the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is reaching crisis point. Violence between Israelis and Palestinians is worsening and there is a growing uncertainty of the future of the 'Road Map' for peace. Christian Aid is gravely concerned about Israel's continuing expansion of settlements in the West Bank alongside military incursions and house demolitions in the Gaza Strip.

Suicide bombings by Palestinian terrorists on Israeli civilians have deprived ordinary Israelis of a feeling of safety in their everyday lives. Israel has the right to protect its citizens. It claims that the separation barrier it has been constructing in the West Bank will serve this purpose.

The continued construction of the barrier, ruled illegal by the International Court of Justice in the Hague, is exacerbating the humanitarian crisis. An estimated 100,000 Palestinians will be directly affected and their access to healthcare and education disrupted. Movement between towns is severely restricted and many farmers have lost their lands.

The Israeli government's policy of closure across the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs), has led to a rise in unemployment among Palestinians, which currently stands at 60%. This figure rises to 80% in parts of the Gaza Strip, where on average people live on £0.85 a day - below the official UN poverty line.

Christian Aid has been working in Israel and the OPTs since the 1950s, with 28 Israeli and Palestinian partner organisations, in the areas of agriculture, health, education, women and human rights.

Christian Aid's powerful new report on Israel and the Palestinians argues that, without determined and rapid intervention by both the UK and Irish governments, the opportunity for a two-state solution will collapse. "Facts on the Ground" focuses on the issue of land – which is both the problem and the solution in the conflict between the Palestinians and Israel.

The Bible says a great deal about land, and in particular about the area known to Christians as the Holy Land. Deeply principled people have come to different conclusions about the way passages concerning the land east of the Mediterranean should be interpreted.

Laity Rota for November

Readers	OT Readers	NT Readers	Gospel	
November	7	Mr B Pont	Mrs G Bowman	Mrs A Kemp
	14	Mrs P Adelman	Mr D Bishop	Mrs S Jones
	21	Dr D Marles	Mr C Graham	Ms J Anderson
	28		Junior Church	
December	5	Mr J Metcalfe	Mr M Elliott	Mrs M Burrows
	12	Mrs E Selmes	Miss J Fletcher	Mrs J Bishop

Chalice Assistants

November	7	Mrs J Metcalfe	Mr R Siderfin
	14	Mrs M Burrows	Mr C Graham
	21	Rev S Munday	Dr C Selmes
	28	Miss J Fletcher	Mrs P Edwards
December	5	Mrs J Metcalfe	Mr R Siderfin
	12	Mrs M Burrows	Mr C Graham

Intercessors

November	7	Mr C Graham
	14	Rev A Claridge
	21	Mr M Elliott
	28	Junior Church
December	5	Mrs P Edwards
	12	Mr B Pont



Sidespeople	8am	10am		
November	7	Miss E Hewlett	Mrs T Claridge	Mrs J Ferguson
	14	Mr C Tilling	Mr & Mrs Olney	
	21	Miss E Iden-Hart	Mrs M Silver	Mr F Twissell
	28	Mr A Jones	Mr & Mrs Ayers	
December	5	Mrs D Twissell	Dr D Marles	Mrs J Bunkin
	12	Mrs B Hayward	Mr & Mrs Metcalfe	

Lectionary for November

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
Nov 7	The Third Sunday before Advent		
	Job 19.23-27a	2 Thess. 2.1-5, 13-17	Luke 20.27-38
14	The Second Sunday before Advent / Remembrance Sunday		
	Malachi 4.1-2a	Philippians 4.6-9	John 14.23-29
21	Christ the King		
	Jeremiah 23.1-6	Colossians 1.11-20	Luke 23.33-43
28	Advent Sunday		
	Isaiah 2.1-5	No Reading	Matthew 24.36-44
Dec 5	The Second Sunday of Advent		
	Isaiah 11.1-10	Romans 15.4-13	Matthew 3.1-12

A Friend In Deed



The Christ Church Friends in Deed scheme is designed to provide a network of good neighbours, called Area Wardens. These Area Wardens have volunteered to do the neighbourly things we used to do for each other when we lived closer together. When the need arises, they are prepared on request to:

- make friendship visits or telephone calls
- do shopping at times of illness or infirmity
- offer or find sources of advice
- handle occasional non-specialist odd jobs

All areas in which church members live are covered by the Friends in Deed scheme. If you need or know of someone else who needs help, you should in the first instance contact the Friends in Deed Co-ordinators, Jane Fletcher (01225 463758) and Yvonne Morris (01225 425555). They will then get in touch with the Area Warden best able to provide the help that is needed.

"Meet Up" Monday - (Diet) Coke and Confessions

The first "Meet Up" Monday was held on 4 October, and a small but diverse group met at the Hare and Hounds on Lansdown to share an evening of discussion, debate and divulgements!



Who would have guessed that prominent members of the congregation have cheated at all kinds of things, ranging from minor public examinations to serious dishonesty at children's parties? It was a most illuminating evening.

Please come along on Monday 1st November at 8pm in the Hare and Hounds. You don't need any skeletons in your closet to be welcome!

If you'd like a lift, please contact Nicky Gladstone 444938.

Sit in for Shelter



In Britain today, over one million children are suffering in bad housing. They are losing out on their education, their health, and their future prospects, just because of where they live.

Surprised? Think it's a scandal? Well, we're making it easy for you to tell the world that you won't stand for it.

By joining the Shelter sit-in protest you can take the weight off your feet and help over one million children find theirs. The Shelter sit-in is a practical way for you to help end the plight of more than one million children suffering in bad housing.

By sitting in the Shelter armchair at one of our tour venues, or joining the protest online, you will be adding your voice to thousands and demanding that politicians take action.

Your photo will go into our online gallery and may be used in printed publications and an art exhibition - all to show the world that we won't stand for bad housing.

Fri 10 Dec Bristol The Mall at Cribbs Causeway 9am-5pm
You can find the website at www.england.shelter.org.uk

Advent Sunday - The Jesse Tree

On Advent Sunday, 28th November, the Church's year begins anew as we wait for the birth of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Our Advent Carol Service on the evening of Advent Sunday will have the Jesse Tree as its focal point. The tradition of the Jesse Tree comes to us from Europe. The "tree" is usually a branch or sapling; it may be a real tree or a wall hanging, which is decorated with various symbols that remind us of the purpose and promises of God from Creation to the Birth of Jesus Christ.



Jesse was the father of King David. God promised David that his Kingdom would last forever - and that through him and his seed God would save his people and bless the world. Two centuries after the death of King David God spoke through the prophet Isaiah and said:

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him - the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. (Isaiah 11:1-4)

Isaiah also speaks in many other places of the promised King in the line of David - the one whose coming we await during the Season of Advent and whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, and so do the other prophets. Indeed, throughout the well-loved and familiar stories of the Old Testament, God promises to be with and to dwell with his People and to bring a new world into being - a world in which justice and righteousness will shine and evil will be no more, neither will there be suffering nor death.

The Jesse Tree incorporates references to these promises through special ornaments that are placed on the branches by members of the congregation. The ornaments each represent one of the major stories of the Old Testament and are accompanied by verses from Scripture. For example a scroll representing the Tablets of the Law might remind us that God both forms us as a people and gives us guidance on how to live in the world that he made.

The Advent Carol service with its beauty and stillness is an essential antidote to the "count-down to Christmas". The music, the candlelight and the words of Scripture speak to us of the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love that we have from God and which we await in the coming of Christ. The Jesse Tree is there to remind us of what God has done and will yet do.

Make a real difference this Christmas

Every Christmas in the UK £2 billion is spent on unwanted presents.

Last year, a report from market analysts Mintel, showed that an average person planned to spend more than £300 on presents for family and friends alone. Over half of the population said they spent more than they intended.

This year, those figures may be higher.

£500 will buy a tube well which will benefit an entire African village.

We are hoping that Christ Church will be able to buy a well, through a scheme organised by the charity World Vision. If every member of the congregation makes a donation, this will easily be achieved.

Please see David Marles for further information.

Mothers' Union News

Our Autumn Sale on October 16th for the Women's Refuge Christmas Appeal raised £48.45, including some donations. We thank those members of the congregation who supported us that morning in spite of the poor weather, and who brought us such a lovely lot of domestic items. With the money raised from the Coffee Morning and the Sales table, we will buy some much needed extra comforts for the Refuge. For details of their requirements, please see October's magazine.

Our AGM will be at 2.30pm on Tuesday 9th November. We do hope that every member will do her utmost to attend. We now have even fewer active members than ever in the Branch, so we have to decide whether we are able to carry on with our current activities at the same level as we have in the past. This will be the main topic of discussion, and we would welcome the input of all Branch members so that we can be sure that we know your wishes.

Sylvia M Ayers (MU Secretary)

SIGNING UP on SUNDAYS

An appeal on behalf of The Children's Society

ELLA'S STORY

The story of Ella is what signing up on Sunday is all about

When Ella was six, her parents divorced. Two years later, her new stepfather moved into the family home and started beating Ella up. Her mother also beat her. She told her aunt, a police officer, but no one believed her. She ran away for the first time at the age of eight. Ella was taken back to the family home, but life got worse. She ran away again, sleeping rough in bus shelters and shoplifting for food.

At 11, Ella's mother threw her out and so she went to her grandfather's house. Concerned, he contacted social services and Ella was put into care. Within days she ran away and continued to run. Once on the streets she began using drugs and acquired a heroin habit.

By the time she was 14, Ella was permanently excluded from school, and on the run from her children's home for periods of up to six months – sleeping rough, begging and stealing. She also sold sex to survive.

Today Ella is living in a hostel, undergoing counselling to help with her depression and self-harm and receiving treatment for her drug problem. Looking back she says, "I missed out on so much and I could have done so much more with my life".

SIGNING UP ON SUNDAYS

Make England safe for Ella and all young runaways

In giving us the story of Ella, The Children's Society reminds us that over 100,000 children under 16 run away from home or care every year. Most are fleeing abuse or conflict – yet there is **no** national network of safe places for runaways. As a result, as in Ella's story, many sleep rough or are taken in by strangers who may harm them.

As the leading authority on child runaways in the UK, The Children's Society is launching a petition to convince the Government that they must provide a network of safe places for young runaways. It is also urging local authorities to implement Government policies to make their area safe and sound for children at risk; currently only 43 out of 150 have done so.

Will Christ Church be part of The Big Safe and Sound Sign Up?

To be truly effective, The Children's Society petition will need nationwide support from churchgoers and the general public. Each church is being asked to hold a "Sign Up Sunday" during the month of November, on

My reaction to many Oriental films, as those whose conversation has strayed onto the subject within my hearing already know, and which I am pleased to repeat without embarrassment on any occasion, is one of alienation. Their social codes and private morals leave me totally confused as to why the characters behaved as they did. I'm like a Frenchman watching *Brief Encounter*.

Jet Li said in a recent interview that in China, your responsibility is to your country, then your city, then your family. "The Chinese say, "That's a hero, see. Walks by his home three times, didn't come back to see his wife, he is the man." And the Americans say, "He's the man? He's not taking responsibility. He walks home, he needs to see his wife, say hello. What kind of man is he?"



A Film Review

Hero

Yimou Zhang



Hero lies within the realm of wuxia; stories of characters devoted to a cause, whose long years of training allow them to perform superhuman feats in combat, whose reputation means more to them than life, who kill only when they must. Like Westerns, they are easily but wrongly dismissed as violent, formulaic B movies. They contain violence, but not very much, and never without cause. Their formula allows inventiveness within an understood structure.

Hero is visually breathtaking and that alone makes it worth a viewing. Each portion of the film has its own colour scheme. Each impossible fight explores the nature of the two warriors. Each location feels different: the imperial palace, bustling outside with sycophants, cavernous inside where none may approach the King's throne; the unending plains suddenly crowded with a vast invading force; the quiet lake where two warriors fight around the body of a fallen comrade.

The story is simple to the point of childishness. A Nameless official is brought before the King bearing the weapons of three feared and now vanquished assassins. They talk for some time and by the end Nameless is faced with a decision that will affect him and thousands of others. Much of the talk between the King and Nameless is shown in flashbacks, not all of which are true.

Some have seen the film as pro-government, as though every film from China should have the aim of overthrowing the regime. It could also be seen as claiming that the end justifies the means. On the one hand, the xia will only fight when he has to and the King himself, in a moment of enlightenment, declares that the goal of the true warrior is to realise that there is no need for violence. But the King is about to embark on a bloody war to unite the warring kingdoms of ancient China. Can the lesser evil of the means be justified in defeating a greater evil?

If you enjoy intelligent and beautiful films, then look out for this one. It's out on DVD (Region 1) this month and hopefully a Region 2 version will be available for renting soon after that.

David Marles

Story time, words and music

Music, it has been said, carries us beyond ourselves and into an experience of God. It touches the heart of us. It enhances words and communicates without words at all. In the Bible, hymn and laments and especially the Psalms are inspired by the heights and depths of human experience. They express great faith, great doubt and timeless prayer. Psalm 23 is the life story of a person of great faith, someone who can readily see the Lord as his shepherd. And the writers of Psalm 19 offers a metaphor of the stars performing a hymn of praise to their creator.

The Song of Songs provides a rhapsody of the thoughts and feelings of a young woman and her beloved as they journey towards the consummation of their love. Mary's song, the Magnificat in Luke 1, 46-55, offers praise to the power of God.

Music is integral to the telling of story in Christian worship. Not only are there hymns to lead us through the events of the Church's year, but also to help us make the truths of Christian faith a part of our own lives. From 'We three kings' at Epiphany and 'Forty days and forty nights' in Lent to 'The strife is o'er, the battle done' at Easter. Hymns like 'Lord of all hopefulness' tell the story of our own day, lived in faith. And how many of us have used the musical settings to reinforce our understanding of the words of the Eucharist, the Gloria, Creed, Agnus Dei and Lord's Prayer?

How fortunate we are at Christ Church to have the services of skilled singers who take us to the heart of things spiritual through the art of music.



USPG News

Adrian Pegg writes, "Once again, our Book Fair exceeded our expectations, because although it was a relatively quiet fair and we didn't have as many visitors as usual, we did achieve a figure of £327.21, which is quite outstanding.

May I thank all helpers and visitors, but especially Antony Claridge, Dorothy Twissell and Margaret Silver, who helped on both days, setting up and selling.



We intend to have our next sale in September 2005, and will keep you posted as to the actual date."

which they will collect signatures. So that every single person over the age of 16 has an opportunity to sign, Christ Church will be collecting signatures on two Sundays – 21st and 28th of November.



Don't just sit there – do something!

The national target is 100,000 signatures – one for each of the runaways. The Christ Church target is for at least 100. To achieve this every church member **MUST SIGN** and, in addition, we look for people to take a petition form into their neighbourhood or to work. If you can help with this, please see Antony, Chris or Angela. The petition forms will be sent to London on Monday, 29th November.

In Luke 8:21 Jesus says, "My mother and my brothers and sisters are those who hear the word of God and put it into action". Here is our chance to act on behalf of God's children who are suffering.

Does our church have an invisible "No Trespassers" sign?

Are people more frightened to come to church than to go into hospital? According to a new book, they may well be.



Creating a Culture of Welcome in the Local Church is about the sad news that many churches make newcomers feel incredibly UNwelcome. The so-called 'Fellowship Time' or "Coffee Shop" after a church service may in fact be an exclusive social club. "All too soon our comfort zones only include those like us, in the know, in the inside," says the author, the Rev Alison Gilchrist, a curate in Preston. This, she says, gives newcomers the impression that the local Church really doesn't want you, if you are not already 'in' it.

Alison Gilchrist then points to organisations like McDonald's. "The whole matter of welcome and hospitality is taken very seriously by those who are keen to have us visit, shop/eat at, or join their own organisation." She even points to McDonald's whopping 750-page training manual and the English Tourist Board's 'Welcome Host Scheme' as useful guides as to how to make 'newcomers' welcome.

Creating a Culture of Welcome goes on to give examples of best practice, and includes exercises in how it feels to be the newcomers. It urges local churches to welcome the strangers in their midst, and to actively build their community.

Creating a Culture of Welcome in the Local Church (Grove Books, £2.75; 1-85174-562-9)

HIGH DAYS and HOLIDAYS

St Andrew's Day (d. c.60) - 30th November

We shall pray for our neighbours at St Andrew's on 30th November as they celebrate their patronal festival. Andrew is a good patron saint for those of you holding a Christmas party this year - and who hope you have rightly estimated the amount of food you'll need. Andrew was the disciple who, when faced with 5,000 people to feed, brought a boy to Jesus who had two small fish and five barley loaves. When Andrew wasn't being wildly optimistic with the catering arrangements, he was out fishing with brother Peter and friends James and John.

This New Testament apostle and martyr was the brother of Simon Peter. He was a fisherman by trade, his home was at Capernaum. He was a disciple of John the Baptist before becoming an apostle of Christ. In all the Gospel lists of apostles, his name is among the first four; he is specially mentioned for his share in the feeding of the 5,000 and in the episode of the Greeks who wished to meet Jesus. (John 12: 20-2)

It is not certain where Andrew preached the Gospel, where he died, or (even in Chrysostom's time) where he was buried. The most ancient written tradition links him with Greece; Scythia and Epirus both claimed him as their disciple. Patras in Achaia claimed to be the place where he was crucified and preached to the people for two days before he died.

There was a notable cult in the West. His feast was universal from the 6th century; churches were dedicated to him from early times in Italy and France, as well as Anglo-Saxon England, where Rochester was the earliest of 637 medieval dedications.

After the fall of Constantinople in 1204, the Crusaders took his body to Amalfi. The despot Thomas Palaeologus gave his head to the pope in 1461. It was one of the most treasured possessions of St Peter's until it was returned to Constantinople by Paul VI. In art Andrew is depicted with a normal Latin cross. The saltire cross (X), commonly called St Andrew's Cross, which represents Scotland on the Union Jack, was associated with him from the 10th century at Autun. His other attribute is a fishing net.



Christ the King - 21st November

21st November is the feast of Christ the King. At Christ Church, this is the day on which we celebrate our Patronal Festival, and this year we are pleased to announce that the preacher at the 10am service will be the Rev Dr Vaughan Roberts.

Vaughan was priest-in-charge at Christ Church between 1992 and 1997, and also University Chaplain between 1989 and 1997. He is now Vicar of St. Mary's Church, Warwick, and Rector of the Warwick Team Ministry.

It will be a pleasure to welcome Vaughan back to Christ Church and to hear him preach on this special day in our year. After the service, there will be coffee and cake, and it is hoped that everyone will be able to stay.



The Christ Church Prayer Network

We know, by experience and grace, that prayer changes lives. That while we are always and for ever held within the loving care of God, there are some things that he leaves to us. When we walk past the hungry, they stay hungry. When we ignore the unloved, they stay lonely. And when we pray, God hears our voices and will grant our requests. If not as we expected, then beyond what we deserve; and if not in this world, then joyfully in the next.

One of the initiatives to come out of the new style Church Council, is to set up a Prayer Network in which members of the congregation agree to receive prayer requests.

Starting on 14 November, forms will be available asking if you would be willing to pray, as needs arise. We would contact you in the way most convenient to you: by phone, email or by text message. I hope that people will respond to prayer requests as they can; some will have only a few quiet seconds in a busy school or workplace, others will have longer.

Your first reaction may be that this is not your sort of thing - mine was. But I hope that after a minute's thought, you will decide that it really ought to be.

David Marles