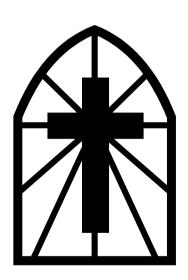
CHRIST CHURCH CHALLENGE



March 2010



DIOCESE OF BATH AND WELLS IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Family Communion, Junior Church & Crêche First Sundays & Festivals Choral Evensong and Sermon at 4.30pm

Other Sundays Said Evening Prayer at 5.30pm

There is amplification to assist the hard of hearing

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

Angela and Chris, 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.

Forum...

The Problem of Suffering

With earthquakes and storms battering our world recently, and with the season of Lent in full swing, I thought it would be good to briefly ponder on the question of suffering.



It is probably true to say that suffering is one of the most difficult issues to tackle for anyone who believes in an omnipotent God. All of the possibilities seem unattractive: Maybe God isn't really all-powerful and can't do anything about it. Perhaps God could do something about it, but doesn't care. The infamous American rightwing televangelist Pat Robertson would claim that these natural disasters are God's punishment for sinful behaviour. More often we hear people say that God does care, and the bad things are all part of some sort of Grand Plan which we can't comprehend. This is still pretty unsatisfying. "It'll all be alright in the end" doesn't really wash in the face of thousands of people wiped out in a matter of minutes, and hundreds of thousands left without food or shelter.

The difficulties of suffering have been debated by theologians and



philosophers for centuries, so I don't presume that I will be able to provide a satisfactory resolution to the problem in 500 words in the church magazine, but the first question I think I would want to ask in struggling with this is not "Why create a world with suffering in it?" but "Why create anything at all?" Why would a

self-complete, entirely perfect being, such as we believe God to be, create something as unnecessary as the universe? One explanation (and to me the most convincing) is that it is an outrageous act of self-giving love—an emptying of God's self, so that there might be something other than God. If that creation is then to have any independence, if it is to be more than a divine puppet show, it must be subject to chance and disorder. God's greatest act of love, then, is to limit himself in the act of creation—to create a world in which chance has a role, and in which we can therefore exist, and thereby accepting the limitation of his own

power to control and manipulate.

An omnipotent, all-powerful God would, of course, be free not to create a universe like this. He is not constrained by any exterior force. He is, however, constrained by his own nature. We don't say "God shows love" or "God is loving", but "God is Love". Love is something God is, not something God does. God's own nature compels him into this recklessly creative act of love, and the result is... well, everything, really—the whole universe, in all its messy, chance-ridden, chaotic glory.

Two thousand years ago a man walked the earth who was the human embodiment of this divine, self-giving love. God embraced



his own unpredictable creation so completely that he entered it himself, and he was nailed to a cross for his trouble. When confronted with earthquakes, floods, disease, famine, the only Christian response to the question "where is God in this?" is to point to the cross and say, "He's there."

Mark

All change, Part II

Following on from Sarah's article last month, this is the penultimate issue of the monthly Christ Church Challenge.

The final issue is due out at the beginning of April.



	Church Calendar for March				
Mar	7	Sun	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT		
	12	Fri	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café	
	14	Sun	MOTHERING SUNDAY		
	16	Tue	7.30pm	Christ Church Council	
	17	Wed	ST PATRI	CK, Patron Saint of Ireland	
	19	Fri	ST JOSEPH of Nazareth		
			11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café	
	20	Sat	ST CUTH	BERT of Lindisfarne, Bishop and Martyr	
	21	Sun	PASSION SUNDAY		
			THOMAS CRANMER		
	25	Thur	THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION		
	26	Fri	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café	
	28	Sun	PALM SUNDAY		
			Please se	e page 10 for details of Holy Week Services	
Apr	1	Thur	MAUNDY THURSDAY		
	2	Fri	GOOD FRIDAY		
			No Cedar Tree Community Café		
	3	Sat	EASTER EVE		
	4	Sun	EASTER DAY		

.org...see our website for latest details...www.christchurchbath.org...see o

Laity Rota for March

		OT Readers	NT Readers	Gospel
March	7	No reading	Mark Elliott	Jane Fletcher
	14	No reading	Margaret Heath	Sylvia Ayers
	21	Matthew Jones	No reading	Margaret Burrows
	28		Junior Church	
April	4	No reading	Richard Gabe	Bev Pont
	П	No reading	Eileen Selmes	Martin Palmer
Chalice Assis	stants	s		
March	7	Tessa Claridge	Bev Pont	
	14	Margaret Burrows	Janet Mahto	
	21	Jane Fletcher	Penny Edwards	
	28	Bob Siderfin	Andrew Sillett	
April	4	Tessa Claridge	Bev Pont	
	П	Janet Mahto	Jane Fletcher	
Intercessors				
March	7	Rev Antony Claridge		
	14	Mark Elliott		
	21	Martin Palmer		
	28	Junior Church		
A pril	4	Bev Pont		
	П	David Marles		
Sidespeople		8am	10am	
March	7	Arthur Jones	Morny Davison	Margaret Heath
	14	Clive Tilling	Tessa Claridge	Emma Elliott
	21	Arthur Jones	Margaret Silver	Frank Twissell
	28	Clive Tilling Ken & Sylvia Ayers		rlvia Ayers
April	4	Arthur Jones	Andrew Sillett	Janet Mahto
	П	Clive Tilling	Morny Davison	Margaret Heath

Lectionary for March				
		Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
Mar	7	Third Sunday of Lent		
		No reading	1 Corinthians 10.1-13	Luke 13. 31-end
	14	Mothering Sunday		
		No reading	Colossians 3.12-17	John 19.25b-27
	21	Passion Sunday		
		Isaiah 43.16-21	No reading	John 12.1-8
	28	Palm Sunday		
		No reading	Dramatised reading of the Passion according to Luke	Luke 19.28-40
Apr 4 Easter Day				
		No reading	Acts 10.34-43	John 20.1-18

NEWS FROM BATH UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY PROJECT FOR 2ND SEMESTER

Second Sunday of Easter

No reading

Following Mother Sarah's recent visit to Kenya over Christmas, to stay with former Kenyan lodgers and students from Bath, we are going to be fundraising to provide desks for St George's School, Kibera, Nairobi, Kenya.

Revelation 1.4-8

Kibera is the biggest slum in Africa and the school provides vital primary education and meals for kids who would otherwise have neither.

Among other events at the Ecumenical Chaplaincy Centre to raise funds, Angela Berners-Wilson is doing a sponsored slim—she aims to lose at least a stone during Lent so please sponsor her per lb she will try to lose! Sponsorship forms will be available at the back of the Church.

John 20.19-31

11

Un peu d'histoire

What with a professor father and a diplomat husband my average stay in any one home has been a brief four years. I have been attending Christ Church since 1989, with a brief spell when my late husband opted for the Abbey and needed me there too, and it is fascinating to note the developments, with certain consistent themes: the high standard of preaching and music, the warm, uncritical welcome, the contributions of the unpaid clergy and laity.

The turnover in congregation, due to deaths, folk moving from Bath and so on is such that dramas of the past can quickly be forgotten. While this may sometimes be for the best, soon after I joined Christ Church, it was fascinating to be told, both by the then Archdeacon (now a good friend, with his wife) and by the then Suffragan Bishop that we were a Chapel of Ease to Walcot St Swithin's and their Rector was our Patron, ie had the avowson. He, Graham Dodds, was told this too. Our non-stipendiary minister, Marcus Braybrooke, resigned so as not to cloud the issue.

Anxious meetings were held and we researched to find that we were a Proprietary Chapel and the avowson was in the hands of our board of trustees . Although in the Parish of Walcot, we were independent. As the churchmanship of the two places was at the time very different we were relieved. Antony has now established very friendly relations with Walcot but, as you know, we are happily in with St Stephen's and St Mary's Charlcombe.

The course of our enquiries and interest in Christ Church history led us to many places, including a visit to the Bishop at Wells. We were in contact with Daubeny descendants; I went to Salisbury cathedral library, where Daubeny's works are all held—it was a place where my neighbour was reading medieval Latin and only pencils were allowed. I enjoyed trying to find out more of the reasons for founding Christ Church, arguably to keep the hoi polloi off the streets—French



revolution in mind?—and to meet the challenge of Wesley and Methodism. This I have failed to explore further for lack of time, not interest. Others went to the Diocesan records Office at Taunton; I was allowed access to the chest at Thring's solicitors, where our records of land purchase were held. As some know, we are built on a recreation

area; there was a riding-school on the site.

We have more material on our past in our bookcase. The Revd Vaughan Roberts, Bath University Chaplain before the Revd Jonathan Lloyd, made a management study of Christ Church; there are the Trustees' minute books, letters, and past numbers of Christ Church Challenge, which I understand are happily being removed from the boiler-room and rehoused. There is also a splendid NADFAS (National Association of the Fine and Decorative Arts) Church Recorders' inventory, made by Jennifer Beazley and team, which we had beautifully bound in Corston business park. This was invaluable when John Metcalfe and I, as wardens, were asked to produce an inventory: June kindly wrote it out using the NADFAS record. We triumphantly found one omission—the green vestments in use at the time.

For a millennium project I proposed writing a history of Christ Church, having already explored it a little. All ideas were listed and members of the congregation invited to sign up. Georgina pipped me at the post; in fact my husband got ill and I would not have been able to research properly, nor have I been able to help Georgina much more than passing over all my notes. Now I understand a willing volunteer is looking after our archives? Hurrah if so.

Margaret Heath

Thank you Margaret. Keeping this knowledge alive enriches the life of our church. On the one hand, we worship and minister within the structures of the Church of England: our Priest in Charge is licensed by the Bishop and the Rector of Walcot retains a right of veto over all Anglican preaching in his Parish. (Margaret may correct me on this. As they say on the web: I am not a lawyer.) But, thanks to the work of Margaret and others, we know that we have a fairly rare, but not quite unique, kind of independence: the Trustees appoint the priest and own the church themselves. (Still not a lawyer.) Furthermore, parish churches tend not to own property, so we have the additional financial security of also owning secular buildings. Lastly, it seems that the church was built to provide a place of worship for the "lower orders." All this history can help us see where we've come from and maybe help us prayerfully determine where we are called to go.—Editor

HOLY WEEK and EASTER

During Holy Week you are invited to join us on the pilgrimage of the cross, the destination of which is the celebration of Easter Day. On the first three days there is a Eucharist at one of our three churches with a Reflection given by the Revd Antony Claridge. On Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, different forms of worship lead us into the Easter Vigil and Easter Day.

~~ Services in Holy Week 2010 ~~ ~~ Monday 29 March—Sunday 4 April 2010 ~~

Monday	8.00 pm	Eucharist with a meditation St Stephen's, Lansdown
Tuesday	8.00 pm	Eucharist with a meditation Christ Church, Julian Road
Wednesday	8.00 pm	Eucharist with a meditation St Mary's Charlcombe
Maundy Thursday	7.30 pm	Choral Eucharist stripping of the altars
Good Friday	10.00 am	Cross Walk to the Abbey Churchyard
	12.30 pm	Good Friday for Families and Children
	1.15 pm	Music and Meditations
	2.00 pm	An Hour at the Cross
Easter Eve	8.30 pm	The Easter Vigil with music and hymns
Easter Day	6.00 am	Break of Day Service St Mary's Charlcombe
	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.00 am	Sung Family Eucharist
		and the Great Christ Church Egg Hunt!

Churches Together in Bath

The AGM and an ordinary meeting were held on 3 February. These were friendly and positive, attended by about 20 people. Father Tom Gunning (Roman Catholic) was confirmed as Chair, Margaret Ledbury (Anglican) as Secretary and Susan Matthews (Greek Orthodox) agreed to be Treasurer.

Now e-mail is used there has been a reduction expenditure and the money required from the churches for running expenses is more than is needed. Watch this space. Church Times in England no longer produce Pilgrim Post; our money had been returned.

The Chairman reported that the Saturday morning Service for Christian Unity and the Road Peace Service had gone well, the latter in spite of a lack of information provided at the start. The Epiphany service had been cancelled as the weather was so bad. It was mentioned that the Aids walk had been poorly attended.

The Seventh Day Adventists have moved away. However our central zone, by my reckoning, still has Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Orthodox, Salvation Army, Metropolitan Church, URC, Methodists and Friends which seems a good mix in contrast to the northern zone, for example, which is smaller and very predominantly Anglican.

At our regular meeting we made various plans. Next year, 2011, we plan a service of preparation for the week of Christian Unity at St Mary's Bathwick on 16 January, rather than the Epiphany service. Colin Hunt will arrange this also firm up the Road Peace plans and explore a venue.

Women's World day of Prayer, as usual on first Friday in March, venues agreed. Our annual service at Haycombe Cemetery, top Chapel not crematorium, 13 June to avoid clash with "Fathers' Day", 3.15pm and Christmas remembrance at Haycombe 12 Dec 3pm. CTB AGM Wed 19 May at the "Y". The Ride and Stride to be referred to the executive committee, which covers all Bath.

Christian Aid week service; no details available. Cross Walk - the idea of a major mystery Play has been abandoned for lack of funds, apparently. Out attention was drawn to the CTB website, which has it seems been updated. By implication the Newsletter has ceased.

We plan an away-day as a group, perhaps at Downside with a speaker, on a Saturday in late September, taking sandwiches. We, sensibly and ecologically in my view, decided to meet only three times a year in future.

Margaret Heath

USPG News brief

Christ Church continues to support the wonderful work being carried on at St Anne's Hospital, Nkhotakota, in Malawi, Africa.

A common disease seen at St Anne's is malaria, a disease which kills approximately one million people a year in Africa alone, targeting mostly children aged under five years.

Recently a four-year old girl called Scolastia Kazika was referred to St Anne's from a health centre 25 miles away. The little firl was in an unconscious state with fever and a history of convulsions. She was immediately treated for cerebral malaria.

Mr Wak Banda, Chief Clinical Officer for Paediatrics said "for three days the girl did not improve. On the fifth day Scolastika was able to sit up, although she still had periodic convulsions By the eighth day, Scolastika had fully recovered with no residual brain damage or paralysis. She is now back to a normal life.

"You can imagine, the parents were very happy. There was also great joy for the health workers, nurses and clinicians in the paediatric ward. It was the fulfilment of the healing ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ."

This is one of the success stories thanks to the healing powers of our Lord and the love and care bestowed by the staff of St Anne's Hospital. Please think of them in your prayers and help the work of USPG whenever you can.



Adrian Pegg USPG, Christ Church

Mothers' Union News

This year, we in the Mothers Union welcome Jane Tibbs as Bath and Wells Diocesan President, and Pam Cavallini as Bath Archdeaconry President. They will both serve in these posts for the next three years. In addition, Elizabeth Perrott will return again as Deanery President, a role which she has fulfilled so well in the past. The next Archdeaconry Council will be held on Friday 26 March at All Saints' Church, Weston, Bath, and your prayers are asked for all the participants at this important meeting.

It was lovely to hear that this year Bath MU deanery members gave away 2,500 copies of the Students' Cook Book at Freshers Fairs at both Universities. This compares very favourably with the 200 copies distributed in 2005. A new edition is planned for 2011 so all fresh ideas for its contents as well as new sponsors will be most welcome!

At Christ Church on March 14th, we relax our Lent observance to celebrate Mothering Sunday, which is an important day for all Mothers and especially for our MU members, who are pledged to help those whose family has met with adversity. Once again, we wish to "Make a Mother's Day", and a catalogue of special ethical gifts and a selection of "Flyers" are on the Church Table. These suggest that you give a mum or a carer a Mothering Sunday Gift, and so help a family in tough circumstances. We look forward to seeing all mothers and their children at the special 10am Service on that day.

Sylvia M Ayers MU Secretary

Readers will be saddened to learn of the death of Betty Spreadbury on 26th February, the day after her 81st birthday. Betty fought bravely against illness for 14 years and she did so with a resolve and cheerfulness which stands as an example to us all. She will be remembered, above all, as a faithful and enthusiastic supporter of all aspects of the work and witness of Christ Church. For a number of years she gave valuable service as a Deputy Church Warden. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her and especially by her daughter Joy, who is remembered in our prayers. As the magazine goes to press it has been announced that Betty's funeral will be held at Christ Church at 9.30 am on Wednesday, 10th March.

Eggs mean Easter

Too much of a good thing

It seems a shame that the ubiquitous Cadbury's creme egg is available all the year round. It's too much of a good thing. The egg has always had a special place in the celebration of Easter and it would be nice to think of it as something kept for that joyful time of the year.



Patterns tell the story

In Europe, coloured eggs are traditionally used as house decorations at Easter. Eastern European countries, such as Hungary and Romania, have wooden eggs beautifully painted in lots of different patterns. The patterns often have special names and

meanings and help to tell the Easter Story.

Jewels and the Trans-Siberian Railway

In Russia, during the early years of the 20th century, the former Royal rulers Tsar Alexander III and Tsar Nicholas II had some very special Easter Eggs made for them by the jeweller Carl Fabergé.

The first egg was a gift from Alexander III to his wife, was made of gold and white enamel. Inside the egg was a golden yolk containing a golden hen with ruby eyes. Inside the hen was a tiny golden crown. It was so beautiful that the Tsar decreed that every Easter, Fabergé should make the Tsarina a special egg. The design of the egg was left up to Fabergé, but each egg had to have a surprise in it. Railway buffs in our congregation would want you to know that one amazing egg celebrated the opening of the Trans-Siberian railway. It was made of solid silver, with a map of the train route on it. The stations were marked with precious jewels, and inside was a gold clockwork train! Fabergé made eggs for other members of the Russian royal family, and occasionally for the Tsar to present to other monarchs. They are

very sought-after and most are kept in royal collections and museums.

Hunting, knocking and rolling at Easter

When our children enter the Great Christ Church Egg Hunt on Easter day, they are unlikely to find Faberge eggs. However, the chocolate will be delicious. Perhaps, next year we ought to think of egg rolling which would offer a bigger challenge. Egg rolling races are held all over the world on Easter Monday. Eggs are rolled down a hill or slope and the first one to reach the bottom that hasn't broken is the winner. There is also an egg-knocking

game is played in lots of countries including France, Germany, Norway and Syria. The game is played with hard boiled ones and is a bit like the game of 'conkers'. The object of the game is to hit everyone else's egg and to keep your own one unbroken. The last player with a whole egg is declared the winner.



Following Jesus

Lent has been described as a journey to the cross. In the February edition of the magazine we discussed ways in which, by taking a up a spiritual activity we might prepare for the joy of Easter and the celebration of the Resurrection. The lunches shared with the Catholics at St Mary's have enabled us to think more about the unity of the Christian church. We have expressed that unity through support for a common cause; relief for the people of Haiti through the work of CAFOD. There has also been the challenging Lent group, which has taken both Anglicans and Catholics through a wilderness experience.

The next expression of unity will be the Cross Walk that will bring the message of the cross to busy streets full of shoppers and tourists. During Holy Week we shall also join with our LMG partners in a daily witness to the way of the cross.

A leaflet will be available soon for distribution within our neighbour hoods. A summary can be found on page10.

Prayer Cycle for March

March		
Sun	7	For resolve in our Lenten observance; for faithfulness in our public and private worship.
Mon	8	For the staff, pupils and governors of St Andrew's and St Stephen's schools.
Tues	9	For Margaret, Andrew and Lewis, our Deanery Synod representatives.
Wed	10	For Cyril and Mark our Readers.
Thurs	11	For David, our Treasurer.
Fri	12	For Mark, our Director of Music and David, our Organist. For our choir.
Sat	13	For our Clergy Team.
Sun	14	For the work of the Mothers' Union. For our own mothers and all who have cared for us.
Mon	15	For Angela, our Verger.
Tues	16	For our Church Council, meeting tonight.
Wed	17	For Rowan our Archbishop and for Peter our Bishop. For all Anglican Bishops and Primates.
Thurs	18	We pray for all forms of fellowship in our congregation, particularly the Lent Group, meeting tonight.
Fri	19	For the work of the Cedar Tree and all the helpers.
Sat	20	For all our readers, chalice assistants, intercessors and sidespeople. For the witness they bear. For Sarah, who draws up the Rotas.
Sun	21	For Judith, who prepares our weekly notice sheet.
Mon	22	For Chris and Lewis, our church wardens.

	-	
Tues	23	For those who have been injured or bereaved by wars and violence.
Wed	24	For members of our congregation who can no longer attend church due to illness or infirmity.
Thurs	25	For the work of USPG in general, and especially for St Anne's Hospital, Malawi. For Adrian Pegg, our USPG representative.
Fri	<i>26</i>	For all our local and national elected representatives.
Sat	27	For all the children in our congregation. For those who lead the Junior Church.
Sun	28	We pray for the safety of those who are travelling.
Mon	29	That the Holy Spirit may guide all our prayers and meditations this Holy Week and prepare us for Easter.
Tues	30	For those who dedicate their lives to the service of others.
Wed	31	Let us thanks God for the blessings of the month now ending.
April		
Thurs	1	For the fellowship of our Church community.
Fri	2	For those who feel abandoned or betrayed.
Sat	3	For those who wait for healing and peace. For those who sit with them.

O Lord hear my prayer

Alleluia! The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Sun

A Way Through the Wilderness **Experiencing God's Help**in Times of Crisis

This year's Lent group draws to a close this month with the final few sessions.

Lewis Boyd will lead the group, which will meet at the home of Sarah and Matthew Jones:

77 Brookfield Park, Weston, BA1 4JJ Thursdays in Lent, 7.30pm—9.00pm

If you would like to know more, speak to Lewis, Sarah or Matthew. We can provide more comprehensive travel directions and transport can be arranged. Please ask if you need a lift.

11 March Becoming messengers

18 March Encountering God

Interfaith—Hopes for the Future Bath Interfaith Group Meeting

Mary and Marcus Braybrooke will share their experiences of the recent Parliament of World Religions in Melbourne, and show a home-made DVD. Marcus will have copies of his new book "Beacons of Light".

Monday 12 April, 7.30pm Coffee Lounge, Manvers St Baptist Church, Bath BA1 1JW

Further information: John James (Bath 422252)

Officiating Minister	The Rev Antony Claridge, 62 Cranwells Park, Weston, Bath BA1 2YE 01225 427462
Assistant Clergy	The Rev Cliff Burrows, Stonecroft, Entry Hill Drive, Bath BA2 5NL 01225 334743
Reader / Chairman of the Trustees / Director of Music	Mark Elliott, 32 Charlcombe Lane, Larkhall, Bath BAI 6NS 01225 445360
Reader / Magazine Distributor and Editor Emeritus	Cyril Selmes, 10 Daffords Buildings, Larkhall, Bath BAI 6SG 01225 420039
Churchwarden	Chris Gladstone, 5 Westwoods, Box Road, Bath BAI 7QE 01225 859969
Churchwarden / Christian Aid / Deanery Synod	Lewis Boyd, 5 Jesse Hughes Court, Lower Swainswick, BA1 7BE 01225 329190
Verger	Angela Soboslay, 285 Newbridge Road, Bath BAI 3HN 01225 333297
Treasurer to the Trustees / Church Council Secretary	David Bishop, The Old Tannery, Turleigh, Bradford on Avon, BA15 2HG 01225 869409
Magazine Editor	David Marles, 5 Westwoods, Box Road, Bath BAI 7QE 01225 859969
Deanery Synod / Laity Rotas / Junior Church	Sarah Cade, 2 Mortimer Close, Bath BAI 4EN 07983 556759
Deanery Synod / Churches Together in Bath (CTB)	Margaret Heath, St Lawrence, Lansdown Road, Bath BAI 5TD 01225 428272
Deanery Synod	Andrew Sillett
Mothers' Union (MU)	Margaret Burrows, Stonecroft, Entry Hill Drive, Bath BA2 5NL 01225 334743
CTB / MU Secretary & Treasurer / Missions to Seafarers / Calendar	Sylvia Ayers, 5 Forester Avenue, Bath BA2 6QD 01225 463976
USPG	Adrian Pegg, 68 London Road West, Bath BAI 7DA 01225 858809
Organist	David Wrigley, 3 Haydon Gate, Radstock, BA3 3RB 01761 439355
Concert and Bookings Co-ordinator / Weekly Notices	Judith Bishop, 01225 869409 Email concerts@christchurchbath.org

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 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 Crêche cater for the children and young people who attend the 10am service. We hold special all-age services once a month and at festivals such as Easter, Christmas, Mothering Sunday and Harvest.

There are a variety of mid-week activities including Holy Communion at 11am every Wednesday during Lent, followed by lunch). 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

The deadline for articles for the magazine is the 15th of the preceding month.

Thank you.