



New term, new start

Marking a new academic year and other beginnings

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

With the beginning of September, bundles of runner beans and carrier bags full of apples arrive in church as allotments and gardens overflow with produce. Holidays are over and most of us are aware of young people returning to school, college or university. For some it's a totally new start and we welcome new students to Bath who will start this autumn. We hope some of you will want to join our worship in Christ Church. Even for those who are already studying at school or in further education, the new academic year brings challenges. There will be new subjects to tackle and the opportunity to deepen understanding of familiar subjects.

That September sense of a new start and new opportunities never goes away. I think we are reminded of it by the autumn scent of the plane leaves and the polished leather of conkers. In Christ Church we will have an all-age "New Start" Eucharist at 10 am on

10 September to mark the beginning of the new academic year. Everyone is welcome, students and school children particularly so. Bring your pencil case, school bag, briefcase or rucksack to be blessed for the year ahead.

There are plans for our church year too. On Thursday 14 September the Pilgrim Group will restart. This term we will be studying the book of Acts. We'll use Nick Page's book *Kingdom of Fools*, which is a retelling of Acts as a novel, to help us understand some of the context and historical background of Luke's account. Meetings will be on alternate Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm in the Lower Mews, and all are welcome.

This is also a time of new beginnings for Burlington House, a local supported housing and detox project which the Bath charity Developing Health and Independence is to buy. Christ Church raised money for this project and we are delighted that they've chosen to celebrate the successful completion of their fundraising at Christ Church. I hope this will be the start of a fruitful partnership with a local charity which shares our aims.

As you will know we are also at the beginning of our own fundraising process. Please pray that as we move into fundraising mode we always keep at the forefront of our mind our core beliefs – that we are a church following our Lord Jesus Christ through worship, through sharing our faith with intellectual honesty, and through service in our local community.



At Harvest we offer thanks for earth's bounty and look forward to natural cycles beginning again.

Visiting Canadian Cathedrals

Georgina Fairbrass Bowman writes:

My younger niece got married at the beginning of August, in a little place about 40 miles north of Toronto. I'd promised I'd go to her wedding, and so, at the end of July, I went to Canada. It seemed silly to go all that way and not see a bit more of the country than just Toronto and its environs. So, I started my holiday in Quebec. I loved Quebec city. The old town is beautiful, interesting, and has a very French feel to it. The modern part of the city is spacious and gracious. The width of the St Lawrence river took my breath away.

As I arrived in the city of Quebec late on a Saturday night, it seemed only right to go to church the following day, to give thanks for my safe journey and pray for my niece's happiness, so off I went to the Anglican cathedral for choral communion in English. The cathedral was built in 1800, so it is a little younger than our own Christ Church. Inside, it has the same light, open, welcoming feeling as Christ Church, but with the most beautiful ceiling. With our proposed reordering of the east end in mind, I took particular note of their east end. The chancel floor had recently been changed to a light oak parquet, which was very pleasing to the eye. There were two

well-spaced steps to negotiate on the way to the altar rail. Beyond the altar rail, there were five more steps up to the high altar; although the servers had to ascend only two of them. Their chancel is wider than ours, and beyond the first two steps the floor was spacious and level between the old choir stalls – very suitable for the regular chamber concerts held in the cathedral throughout the year.

The communion service was familiar, even though the order differed in places and some elements such as the Agnus were missing. On entering the church, worshippers were issued with a printed order of service and a hymn book (complete with music). All the hymns and even the Kyrie, Sanctus and Benedictus were to be found in the hymn book. Although we sang unfamiliar hymns to mostly unfamiliar tunes, there were two hymns with familiar tunes but very different words. The organist and a lot of the choir were away, but there were eight choristers, two on each voice, and a stand-in organist who could have done with a bit more practice. I would have liked to kidnap one of the tenors and both basses for our choir, but the ladies took a while to settle and sound good: our choir could easily surpass the quality of their singing that Sunday.

My next stop was Montreal – very much a modern city full of skyscrapers. The historic part of the city was a bit of a let-down, a small area with very little of interest in comparison with Quebec, full of tourists and fast-food outlets. But, in the heart of the commercial area, I discovered the Anglican cathedral, which was named Christ Church. How could I resist going in? Apparently the original cathedral had burnt down, and was replaced with the present building in the mid 19th century. Unlike the cathedral in Quebec, this building was gloomy and very Victorian. But the east end was light and bright, with two steps up to the chancel and a large high altar at the east end, concealed by a marginally smaller one at the front of the chancel. The communion rail was close to the high altar, with a communion table just inside the rail. It seemed to me that this was an unduly compli-



The chancel of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Quebec.

Last month in Christ Church...

cated arrangement. The biggest surprise was to discover that there was a very up-market shopping mall underneath the cathedral: in the 1980s, developers had lifted the entire cathedral onto pillars in order to excavate underneath to create the mall, which linked under the surrounding roads to other malls in an underground shopping extravaganza.

My last stop, in Toronto, was very different. I arrived on a Friday lunchtime, and was met by my younger sister, who showed me around the older parts of the city, including the law courts. Even though the courts weren't sitting, it was wonderful to spend time in the law library, where I felt completely "at home". The next day was taken up with my niece's wedding, which took place in a beautiful garden. On the Sunday, I took a day trip to Niagara.

On my last morning in Toronto, I explored as much as I could, despite it being a bank holiday. The Roman Catholic cathedral was open and opulent, with substantial new pews for the congregation and choir. The chancel was approached up five steps and was occupied only by the high altar. The choir stalls were ranged to either side of the chancel platform, but at the same level as the congregation. I could not work out where the congregation would take communion, because there was no altar rail. The Anglican cathedral, St James's, was very different in atmosphere. Darker, with box pews for the congregation, and ornate choir stalls which I would not wish on anyone. Again, there were four steps up to the chancel, with the altar rail just in front of the very wide high altar.

The most striking thing about all the churches I visited was the lack of access for the disabled or less agile, or even some of the basic facilities which we take for granted. But all the Anglican churches were used for regular concerts as part of their fundraising. Their publicity reminded me that, when I first came to live in Bath, Christ Church was a regular venue for concerts, not just during the festival but all year round. Perhaps we should remind the Festival organisers that we are here and have good facilities.



On Sunday 13 August we welcomed not just one new member to the Christ Church family but three with the baptism of Finley, Oliver and Sophia Attah. Congratulations to all three and to all their friends and family!



Is this a record of some sort? On Saturday 12 August the call-changes I back six at the bell-ringing practice featured Maggie Willans ringing with five ringers whom she had taught from scratch. Left to right: Julie Perkins (Treble), John Cope (2), Maggie Willans (3), Lizzie Lewry (4), Valerie Duff (5), Michael Brett (Tenor). Lizzie began learning at Christ Church; the others began at the Abbey, but all have supported ringing at Christ Church from the start. Photo by Barry Quintin (also a regular ringer at Christ Church).

The First Christ Church Pilgrimage...

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

On Monday 14 August, 12 pilgrims set out from Christ Church to travel to the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk. The tradition of pilgrimage goes back thousands of years. In the Old Testament the Israelites were commanded to travel to Jerusalem three times a year for the great feasts. We hear in Luke's gospel how Jesus travelled to Jerusalem at the age of 12 – and memorably got lost. Pilgrimage to Walsingham began in 1061, when the Lady Richeldis had a vision of the house in Nazareth in which the angel Gabriel announced the birth of Jesus. She was told to build a replica in Walsingham to be "England's Nazareth". Pilgrims flocked to it throughout the middle ages. At the Refor-



The Anglican shrine in Walsingham was created in 1931. At its heart is the "Holy House".

mation, however, pilgrimage was forbidden and all the shrines including the one at Walsingham were destroyed.

Nearly 400 years later, in 1921, the parish priest of Walsingham, Father Alfred Hope Patten, reinstated an image of the Virgin Mary in the parish church and pilgrims began to return. Today the "holy house" has been rebuilt and is housed in a pilgrim church surrounded by gardens of lavender, weeping pears and scented flowers, with accommodation available for several hundred pilgrims.

We Christ Church pilgrims arrived in time for an ecumenical torchlit procession on the eve of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. After singing and processing (and three sermons!) the celebration culminated in a magnificent firework display. After that, things settled down. There is a daily rhythm of prayer and worship at the shrine in which we were able to share, but we also took the opportunity to visit Norwich Cathedral and the simple, peaceful cell of Mother Julian of Norwich.

After four days of good weather, colourful worship, hearty food and the chance to spend time with each other making new relationships, the pilgrims declared "the First Annual Christ Church Pilgrimage" a success.

So: where shall we go next year? And why don't you join us?

Macmillan coffee morning

On Friday 29 September, pop into Christ Church at any time from 11am to 1:30pm for coffee and cake and make a donation in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. For details about the charity, visit www.macmillan.org.uk



Christ Church open day

Christ Church will be open from 11am to 4pm on Saturday 9 September to welcome participants in this year's Ride and Stride, who raise money through sponsorship as they either cycle or walk around a local group of churches. Half the money raised goes to their own chosen church and half to Somerset Churches Trust, which aids churches by giving grants towards essential repairs and improvement of facilities. The choir will be singing, the ringing chamber will be open to visitors, and there will be cakes, books and more on sale.

Bishop's Message for September

Thoughts inspired by the sea...



**From the Rt Revd Peter Hancock,
Bishop of Bath and Wells**

One of my favourite poems is John Masefield's poem "Sea Fever". I read it often as it reminds me of the sea and the joy I find in simply looking at the sea. The second verse is this:

*I must go down to the seas again,
for the call of the running tide
Is a wild call and a clear call that
may not be denied;
And all I ask is a windy day with
the white clouds flying,
And the flung spray and the blown
spume, and the sea-gulls crying.*

There is something liberating, inspiring and energising at being beside the sea and just looking at it, hearing it, smelling it and seeing it move as the

waves go up and down and the tides go in and out. And when I am by the sea, whether it is tranquil or stormy, fathomless deep blue or angry and squally, I am aware of the presence of God. As the Psalmist said:

For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hands are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his and he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. (Psalm 95)

"The sea is his and he made it." What inspiring words they are, and the psalmist speaks also of singing for joy to the Lord; bowing down before him in worship; and kneeling before him. For he is the Creator of all things. "We are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care".

It was lovely therefore to be able to go to the beach most days during our recent holiday in France. Several times the waves were daunting and the surf intimidating. So much so that one day I didn't even dare to go in. But when I did there was that exhilarating experience of being literally lifted up and carried along by the surf. In the midst of our busy lives it is good to find time to rest and also to find places where we can enjoy the sheer beauty of God's creation. Isaiah speaks about the Lord renewing those who are weary and tired and lifting us up that we might soar on winds like eagles. Those waves certainly lifted me up physically and we need to look to the Lord each day to lift us up spiritually as we come to him in joy and bow before him in worship.

+Peter Bath and Wells

Heritage Open Days in Bath and Wells

A mid 19th century Gothic Revival Catholic chapel, the oldest open-air public swimming pools in Western Europe, and a top secret nuclear bunker built dead centre of a megalithic barrow are among 12 historic sites you can visit free of charge as part of this year's Heritage Open Days in Bath.

The popular three-day annual event, billed as England's favourite heritage festival, takes place this year from Thursday 7 to Sunday 10 September. It's an opportunity to see hidden places and try new experiences, all for free.

In Bath, you can explore Eyre Chapel in



Cleveland Baths, one of 12 sites in Bath open for this year's Heritage Open Days.

Perrymead Cemetery, Bath BA2 5AZ, a remarkable Gothic Revival chapel built by John Eyre, father of the first Roman Catholic Bishop of Glasgow. Discover the 200-year-old Cleveland Baths in Bathwick BA2 6QS, an early "Subscription Pool" built with private money for public use, with a crescent of changing rooms made of Bath stone. And experience the former Royal Observer Corps Master Nuclear Bunker known as Top Secret, Barrow Hill, Farmborough BA2 0HL – you'll need to book (and be fit enough to descend a 17-foot vertical ladder through a narrow hatch), or enjoy the pop-up café outside.

Other fascinating places to visit include Magdalen Chapel, St John's Foundation, and Southcot Burial Ground on Lyncombe Hill. Find details at <http://bit.ly/heritage-bath-2017>.

Ten sites are also open in Wells, including the Old Deanery and its garden, the historic Almshouses, and St Cuthbert's Church, with its two fascinating medieval altarpieces and around 420 broken pieces of the painted sculpture once contained in them, offering a unique glimpse into the richly decorated medieval church interior. You can find details at <http://hodswellsomerset.com>

This month's charity: Libra Women's Refuge

The loose collection in the plate on Sunday 10 September, plus an optional retiring collection for the rest of the month, will go to the Libra Project Women's Refuge. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.)

The Libra Project was set up to provide accommodation, support and advice to families experiencing domestic violence and abuse in Bath and North East Somerset.

Libra services include: refuge accommo-

modation, resettlement, housing, access to legal and financial advice, therapeutic support groups for women and young people to understand controlling and abusive relationships, and training and workshops about domestic abuse.

The refuge is located at a confidential address in Bath, providing comfortable, safe and secure accommodation. Women can self refer or come via an agency such as the Police, Housing, Social Services, or health professionals.

For more about the charity and its work, as well as information and links, visit www.julianhouse.org.uk/projects-and-services/domestic-violence-and-abuse.htm



Christ Church calendar Sept. 2017

Sep	1	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm
	2	Sat	Christ Church Open Morning, 11am–1pm
	3	Sun	<i>The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity</i> Baptism, 2pm Evensong at St Mary's, Stogumber, 6:30pm
	7	Thu	Eucharist, 11am, followed by coffee Christ Church Trustees meeting, 7:30pm
	8	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm
	9	Sat	Christ Church Open Day / Ride & Stride, 11am–4pm
	10	Sun	<i>The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity</i> 8am Holy Communion (BCP) Apple Picking Party in support of Genesis, 12 midday onwards
	14	Thu	<i>Holy Cross Day</i> Eucharist, 11am, followed by coffee Pilgrim Group Meeting, beginning study of Acts, 7:30pm
	15	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm
	17	Sun	<i>The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity</i> 4:30pm Choral Evensong Christ Church rostered to assist at Genesis Sunday Centre
	19	Tue	Christ Church Council meeting, 7:30pm
	21	Thu	<i>Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist</i> Eucharist, 11am, followed by coffee
	22	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm
	24	Sun	<i>The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity</i>
	28	Thu	Eucharist, 11am, followed by coffee Pilgrim Group meeting, 7:30pm
	29	Fri	<i>Michael and All Angels</i> Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support
Oct	1	Sun	<i>The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity / Harvest Festival</i>

Got something you want to let everyone know about? Pop a note in the "Magazine Editor" pigeonhole at the back of church or send an e-mail with all the details to magazine@christchurchbath.org. For the weekly notice sheet, e-mail notices@christchurchbath.org

Prayer Cycle for September 2017

Friday	1	For those who use and run food banks
Saturday	2	For peace
Sunday	3	For Angela our Verger
Monday	4	For those who work in medicine
Tuesday	5	We give thanks for the fruits of the earth
Wednesday	6	For prisoners and prison workers
Thursday	7	For our Trustees, meeting tonight
Friday	8	For refugees
Saturday	9	For the elderly
Sunday	10	For our Archbishop, bishops and clergy
Monday	11	For our armed forces and police
Tuesday	12	That we may work for the kingdom of heaven
Wednesday	13	For those who organise and attend events at Christ Church
Thursday	14	For our Pilgrim Group
Friday	15	For the sick and suffering
Saturday	16	We give thanks for those who enrich our lives
Sunday	17	For Mark, Keith and the choir
Monday	18	For those who work in local government
Tuesday	19	For those who are persecuted for their faith
Wednesday	20	For the work of hospices
Thursday	21	For those recently baptised or preparing for baptism
Friday	22	For countries in conflict
Saturday	23	For carers

Sunday	24	For Christian unity
Monday	25	For farmers
Tuesday	26	That we may have grace to love
Wednesday	27	For the chaplaincies at Bath's Universities
Thursday	28	We give thanks for our blessings
Friday	29	For all who face tragedy
Saturday	30	For churches, Cathedrals and communities named Christ Church

Long-term Prayer List Other LMG services

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

John Burrows
 Ned and Angela Townshend
 Joyce Fairburn
 Martin Palmer
 Katharine
 David Slater
 David Lavis
 Jason Batup
 Don Sparks
 Keith Warren and Jean
 Tabitha and Fonella Coles
 Hilary Hunter
 Steve Faulkner
 John Gosling
 Charlie and Vicki Pritchard
 Maxine Hobday

Want to add a name to the prayer list, either long-term or short-term, or remove one? Please use the lists at the back of the church, or let the Verger or one of the Churchwardens know.

These are the regular services at our Local Ministry Group sister churches:

Sundays

- 9am Eucharist, Charlcombe St Mary's
- 10:45am Choral Communion, St Stephen's Lansdown
- 6:30pm Evensong (BCP), Charlcombe St Mary's – 3rd Sunday of the month

Morning Prayer

- Monday 8:45am St Stephen's
- Friday 9:15am Charlcombe St Mary's
- Saturday 9:30am St Stephen's

There is no news...

The Church of England is no longer producing its inFocus supplement for church magazines. "We are looking at other ways of distributing news from the National Church," a representative said, "and will be working out the best way to communicate this soon."

Rotas for September 2017

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
3 Sept Trinity 12	Morny Davison Exodus 3:1-15	Virginia Knight Romans 12:9-end	Margaret Heath Matthew 16:21-end
10 Sept Trinity 13	TBC Exodus 12:1-14	TBC Romans 13:8-end	TBC Matthew 18:15-20
17 Sept Trinity 14	Virginia Knight Exodus 14:19-end	Daphne Radenhurst Romans 14:1-12	Rowena Hall Matthew 18:21-35
24 Sept Trinity 15	Brenda Wall Exodus 16:2-15	Lewis Boyd Philippians 1:21-end	Sylvia Ayers Matthew 20:1-16
1 October Harvest	Rebekah Cunningham Deut. 8:7-18	Janet Mahto 2 Corinthians 9:6-end	Peter Woodward Luke 12:16-30

Laitry rota, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Chalice assistants	Sidespeople	Intercessions
3 Sept	Jane Fletcher, Clive Tilling	Jane Nicholson, Jonathan Stead	Mark Elliott
10 Sept	Janet Mahto, David Rawlings	Margaret Silver, Morny Davison	TBC
17 Sept	Keri Chivers, Brenda Wall	Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers	Jonathan Stead
24 Sept	Jane Fletcher, Clive Tilling	Jonathan Stead, Janet Mahto	Rebekah Cunningham
1 October	Keri Chivers, Janet Mahto	Margaret Heath, Jane Nicholson	Sarah Jones

Who's who at Christ Church

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Revd Canon Simon Tatton-Brown

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Cedar Tree café organiser Janet Mahto

Publicity co-ordinators Janet Mahto,
Lewis Boyd, Hazel Boyd

**Concert bookings,
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**Tower Captain,
Ringing Master** Will Willans

Tower Secretary Ian Hay Davison
07932 160482
bells@christchurchbath.org

Steeple Keeper David Kelly

Laitie rotas (acting) Judith Bishop

Prayer cycle Virginia Knight

Junior Church Emma Elliott

**Churches Together in Bath,
USPG** Rebekah Cunningham

Traidcraft stall Sally Churchyard,
Chris Tanner, Judith Bishop

Mission to Seafarers Sylvia Ayers
01225 463976

Deanery Synod Reps Sarah Kerr
Jane Nicholson
Brenda Wall

Christ Church Link

This magazine is published on the first Sunday of each month. Please send any contributions of news and articles by the 15th of the preceding month to the editor, Alex Soboslay, or by e-mail to magazine@christchurchbath.org



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

About Christ Church

*We're a liberal, inclusive and open church,
seeking God through beauty in our worship, honesty
in our faith and doubt, and support in our community*

Christ Church has an unusual history, out of which has developed a distinctive ministry. It was founded at the end of the 18th century by a group of socially concerned clergy and lay people for those excluded from worship through the system of pew rents. It was probably the first church in England since the Reformation to provide seating for all free of charge. Early supporters included: John Moore, the Archbishop of Canterbury; William Wilberforce, the great evangelical and campaigner against slavery; and Martin Stafford Smith, godfather of John Keble, a founder of the Oxford Movement.

Christ Church is not a parish church and does not have a full-time vicar. This has led to the development of a shared ministry where clergy and laity both make important contributions to worship and church life.

Christ Church is part of the Anglican diocese of Bath and Wells, although it still sits outside the normal Church of England parish system. We see ourselves as a traditional and liberal Anglican church. Worship is led by our clergy, and music is provided by our

robed choir and organist. There is the option of separate activities for children in Junior Church groups during our 10am Sunday service.

As well as worship on Sunday and Thursday mornings, there are many other activities going on in our community. We support the Genesis Sunday Centre and have our own community café. The musical tradition of the church continues to thrive, and we have an active choir; new singers of all ages are always very welcome. Our ecumenical Pilgrim Group provides a space for exploration and discussion of faith in an open and non-judgemental setting.

Regular Sunday services

- 8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
On the second Sunday of every month
- 10am Sung Eucharist with Junior Church activities for children and young people
Every Sunday
- 4:30pm Choral Evensong
Usually on the third Sunday of every month, but see website or notice board for details

Baptisms, marriages and funerals by arrangement – please contact us!



Contacting us

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