



## What the thunder said

*Finding God in – or in spite of – the storms of life*

**Revd Lore Chumbley writes:**

One of the joys of ministering in Somerset is the gardens. As I have visited church members in this summer I have seen lawns studded with primroses, a white tree peony in full flower, and great floppy scented irises which either climbed over or dived under the neighbours' fence to turn up in the next door garden. Even city dwellers have plastic trays of seedlings on their window sill. So I can't complain about the rain of the early part of the summer.

Was it really a disgruntled George II who complained that English summer was three fine days and then a thunderstorm? Certainly we had a glorious thunderstorm for Trinity Sunday. There had been thousands of lightning strikes during electrical storms the night before and as we sang psalm 29, "The God of glory thunders", thunder rumbled around the sky over Bath.

The ancient Ugaritic god Baal, who is repeatedly denounced in the Old Testament, was believed by his adherents to be a storm god. The Jews of the Old Testament finally overcame the pagan cult and were careful to emphasise that all the powers which worshippers had claimed for Baal were really attributable to Yahweh. So Yahweh became known as the Lord of storms. Jesus heard his Father's voice in John 12 while bystanders heard only thunder. When Jesus spoke to a storm, calming the waves in Mark 4, the disciples looked at each other in awe – "Who is this? Even the wind and waves obey him!"

We have grown in sophistication since then but the unpredictable power of the physical world – of storms, volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunami – still has power to overwhelm us. We are not lords of our own lives but part of a physical world greater and more powerful than we are, but, uniquely, we are animated by the Holy Spirit.

Even in the chaos of physical, mental and emotional storms, even when others can only hear thunder, the voice of the Lord is always available to us if we listen for it either in the thunder or as a still small voice in the silence after the storm.



*On Pentecost Sunday, 20 May, we welcomed the Venerable Dr Adrian Youings, the new Archdeacon of Bath, on his first visit to Christ Church, who preached at our 10am service (without any discernible accompaniment of thunder).*

# The pulpit: the case for removal

## **Mark Elliott writes:**

The current proposal for the reordering of the east end of the church involves removing the pulpit. I think this removal is an extremely important and integral part of the design, and to undertake the proposed work whilst retaining the pulpit would be a significant mistake.

There are very strong liturgical and aesthetic reasons why the current pulpit does not fit in the revised scheme. The aesthetics of the scheme matter because beauty is an aid to worship. In the same way that we (presumably) don't want ugly music used during worship, we also need the liturgical space to be aesthetically coherent and satisfying.

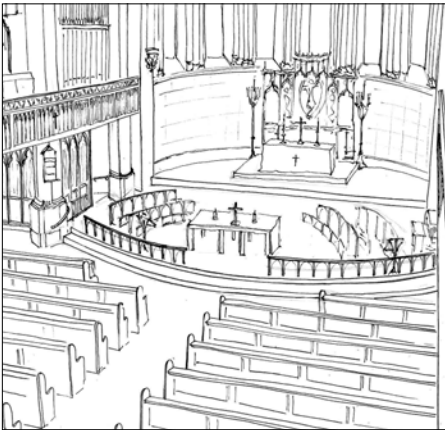
The revised design's primary aim is to facilitate the church's stated desire for a nave altar, and a central part of the scheme is to introduce a sense of symmetry in the sanctuary space. The pulpit is such a large and imposing piece of furniture that it destroys any sense of symmetry, dominating the space and strongly drawing the eye towards it.

Liturgically, the focus of the revised scheme is the altar – the nave altar when it is present, or the high altar at times when the nave altar is removed. As a eucharistically focused

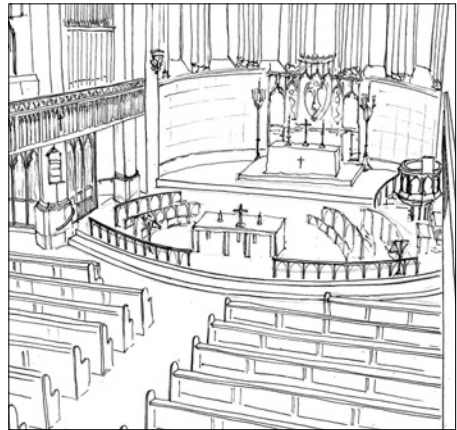
church this seems entirely right and appropriate. The presence of such a large pulpit in the sanctuary severely undermines this focus.

Overall the proposed design opens out the vista in the chancel, providing a light, airy and uncluttered sacred space, which is badly compromised by such an imposing pulpit.

There certainly is some liturgical merit in having a designated place from which to preach, but a much smaller preaching stand or "ambo" which perhaps lifts the preacher by the height of a single step above the height of the chancel, placed on the opposite side to the lectern, would meet that need very well and will maintain the symmetrical plan. Our current pulpit was designed to, literally, preach to the gallery. If only this were necessary on a Sunday morning! Even in our wildest dreams I don't think any of us believe that this is a necessity now. Even with 200 people seated downstairs it is not so full that there is no room to shuffle oneself slightly left or right if one's view does happen to be slightly obscured, and speaking as someone who preaches regularly from the chancel step, I always seem to be able to see the faces of everyone in the congregation, which must mean they can see me.



*The proposed east end configuration, without the pulpit, sketched by architect Hugh Conway-Morris.*



*A compromise proposal which retains the pulpit at the south-east corner of the extended chancel.*

## Last month in Christ Church

I absolutely support those that feel it is important to acknowledge and pay due respect to the history of the church – as those who know me will attest, I am no radical modernist! History and tradition matter to me a great deal. It is important to remember, though, that the pulpit is in the end a piece of church furniture. It was brought in to the church decades after the church was first built. It is not a fix and immutable part of the church. The currently proposed changes are much less radical than those made, for example, by the congregation in the 1850s when they bought the house next door and knocked it down in order to add the apse to the church. What the Victorian congregation did have was a coherent vision of what they were trying to achieve. I believe we have that too with the proposed design, but that coherence is severely damaged by leaving the pulpit in place or by placing it elsewhere in the sanctuary. Various designs – some significantly more radical than the current proposal – have been given extensive consideration over a number of months, and indeed years, by both Trustees and Council, and both those groups have shown overwhelming support for the currently proposed design with the removed pulpit. I believe it is a considered, careful and thoughtful plan.

Put simply I do not believe a nave altar and our existing pulpit are a compatible combination. We will undoubtedly be spending quite a lot of money on the reworking of the sanctuary. It is therefore incumbent on us not to end up with something which is neither one thing nor the other and therefore pleases no one. Doing so would end up with a scheme which will end up being reworked again in a short space of time and would be poor stewardship of the building. The new scheme as presented is evolutionary rather than revolutionary. It is carefully thought through, coherent, sensitive and meets the liturgical and practical needs of the church and I encourage the congregation to support it.

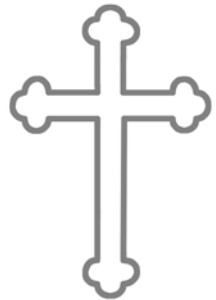


*Congratulations to Revd Stuart Young and Rachael Eyre, who married at Christ Church on Saturday 12 May. Photo by Angela Soboslay.*

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## Door design decided

The design to go on the glass of our (still relatively new) entrance doors has been decided. The congregation's vote was quite conclusive, with the winning option (pictured at right) receiving more than three times as many votes as the runner-up. The chosen design is the *cross pommée*, which echoes the decorated crosses on the altar frontals and elsewhere in the building but is more modern in appearance than the runner-up *cross fleury*. The temporary acetate sheets currently on the doors will shortly be replaced by permanent transfers with the look of etched glass.



## Caribbean Sunday

Don't miss the 10am Eucharist at Christ Church on Sunday 24 June and the party afterwards. The service will include thanksgiving for the contribution of the Caribbean community as we mark the arrival of the Windrush in June 1948. The Rainbow Steel Band will play before and after the service and afterwards there will be a Caribbean barbecue open to all, 12 noon to 2:30pm.

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## Green Church Eco-Conference

The West of England Eco-Conference is a one-day ecumenical conference focusing on practical steps that churches can take to care for God's creation. Keynote speakers Rev Kevin Durrant (minister of Keynsham Baptist Church) and Dr Simon Stuart will talk about the impact of climate change on the world we live in, and the theological basis for creation care. There will be an introduction to the EcoChurch programme and also a choice of practical workshops covering different areas of church life.

The event is 9:30am to 3pm on Saturday 16 June at Southdown Methodist Church Centre, The Hollow, Bath BA2 1NJ. The cost is £5 per person including lunch and refreshments. You can pay on the day but are asked to register in advance at [www.wegreenchurch.org.uk](http://www.wegreenchurch.org.uk)



**SATURDAY 16TH JUNE 2018**  
West of England Eco-Conference

## Fundraising update

Many thanks to everyone who supported our recent fundraising events. Our "Time and Talent Challenge" for Lent raised more than £3,000, and Canzona's concert in Christ Church on Saturday 5 May not only added to this total but Rossini's "Petite Messe Solennelle" raised the roof and the audience of 95 went home whistling great tunes and smiling. David's "stretch target" had been to raise £1,000 in the evening for the Organ Fund, and he is pleased to report that the evening topped that. Well done to everyone involved, including those who helped out with hosting the event as well as singers.

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## Coming events

### **Discovering Wholeness Together**

*What is it?* A workshop on mental health and young people, part of a rolling programme of Mental Health Forums by the Diocese of Bath and Wells. Presented by Hope Virgo, advocate for people with eating disorders, broadcaster and author of *Stand Tall Little Girl*. Hope suffered with anorexia for over four years before being admitted to a mental health hospital in 2007. She lived in the hospital for a year, fighting one of the hardest battles of her life. She is now a leading advocate for people with eating disorders and will share her story, offer insight into the mind of someone with a mental health problem and give practical tips on how to support others.

*When is it?* Saturday 23 June, 10am–1pm  
*Where?* Wells Blue School, Kennion Hall, Kennion Road, Wells BA5 2NR  
*Admission* free; donations to cover costs welcomed on the day. Register online at <http://bit.ly/wells-hope-wholeness>

### **Sacred Chant Group**

*What is it?* Meet with Taize and other devotional chants from around the world. Anyone can learn them without reading music.  
*When is it?* Every Thursday, 7:30pm  
*Where?* Sacristy, St Mary's RC, Julian Road  
*Information* Call Tony Wilde, 01225 311087

# Bishop's Message for June

*Filling the gaps*



**From the Rt Revd Ruth Worsley,  
Bishop of Taunton**

We all know the old adage, one volunteer is worth 10 pressed (wo)men. As we celebrate Volunteer Week 2018 (1-7 June) I want to give thanks for and to the thousands of volunteers across Somerset who love and serve our communities.

Former US first lady Rosalynn Carter once said that a nation without volunteers is a nation without a soul. As we experience continued cuts to our local services, it is volunteers who are “filling the gaps”, offering anything from volunteer drivers ensuring isolated older people can get to the shops, to church groups providing space for young families to meet, to share stories and support each other.

Yet they are not only a lifeline for the more vulnerable groups; all our lives are so much richer thanks to our volunteers.

Our churches, and the ministry of each, rely heavily on the generosity of our volunteers, whether working with

children and young people, helping serve tea and coffee after a service, delivering a reading or leading prayers, or being part of the flower or cleaning rota. Your vicar may be a volunteer too – as more people are called to serve as self-supporting ministers. Volunteering is at the heart of Christian service and discipleship. It's about the stewardship of our time and talents.

However, we are hearing that nationally volunteering is in decline, and so it may take a rethink in our approach to release those talents, those gifts. There are many hugely talented people within our churches and our communities but sometimes they may feel reticent about putting themselves forward. People might be too humble, or not confident in their own abilities; feel they are not the right fit or not “churchy” enough to put their hand up. How much more powerful for all of us if someone we know says to us “you'd be great for that, you have a real gift for it.” What an encouragement! By having those conversations we recognise and release those God-given gifts.

And let's be creative. The accountant worshipping in your congregation every Sunday who you have earmarked for the Treasurer role next time around might actually have a passion for creative prayer. Not everyone wants to do their day job in their spare time!

Imagine how our churches might be transformed if we create the roles around the people we have and their gifts, rather than the other way around!

So *thank you* for your gift of time and talent, and be sure to encourage those around you in theirs!

**+Ruth Taunton**



# Celebrate 40 years of friendship with Zambia



Mwaiseni! Everyone's invited to celebrate 40 years of the special relationship between the Diocese of Bath and Wells and the five Angli-

can dioceses in Zambia. Saturday 14 July is the main Bath and Wells part of a programme of thanksgiving and celebration, which started in April with a visit by our Bishops to Zambia accompanied by 28 parish representatives.

At 2:30pm there is an anniversary celebration and worship at Wells Cathedral, welcoming our Zambian guests including Archbishop Albert Chama, giving thanks and enjoying a feast of international music in association with WOWFest.

Then at 3:45pm–6pm you can join the free “after-party” at the Bishop's Palace, with family games, live music and more!

Both the service and the after-party are free, non-ticketed events, but those wishing to attend are being asked to register online at [www.bathandwells.org.uk/zambia-celebration](http://www.bathandwells.org.uk/zambia-celebration)

## This month's charity: MSF

*The loose collection in the plate on Sunday 10 June, plus an optional retiring collection for the rest of this month, will go to Médecins Sans Frontières. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.)*

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), or Doctors Without Borders, is an independent international medical humanitarian organisation. Its aim is to deliver assistance to populations in distress, to victims of natural or man-made disasters and to victims of armed conflict, irrespective of gender, race, religion, creed or political convictions.

MSF hits the headlines when an emergency occurs, such as an earthquake, tsunami or war. But it constantly delivers humanitarian aid projects, from disaster response, follow-ups with such issues as cholera outbreaks after

clean water supplies are disrupted, to long-term medical programmes which stretch over decades. MSF also works to give people access to health care and to tackle diseases which need long-term treatment, such as HIV/AIDS, TB and neglected tropical diseases like sleeping sickness. It also speaks out about the plight of populations in danger and advocates fairer access to medication, challenging the high cost of existing medicines. In 2003 it was one of the organisations that founded DNDi, the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative.

MSF raises and spends money in accordance with its core principles of independence, neutrality and impartiality. MSF UK takes no money from government: almost all its funds come from private donors, with no strings attached. MSF sets up and runs medical services, trains staff, and delivers care directly rather than through local partner organisations. It sends 89% of money raised to its medical projects. Just 3% is spent on admin and staff costs. The rest is reinvested in fundraising.

For more details about the history, aims and work of MSF, visit [www.msf.org.uk](http://www.msf.org.uk)



# Christ Church calendar June 2018

**June** 1 Fri *The Visitation (Visit of Mary to Elizabeth)*  
Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

**3 Sun** *The First Sunday after Trinity*

7 Thu Eucharist, 11am, followed by coffee  
Pilgrim Group summer party, 7:30pm – all welcome

8 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

**10 Sun** *The Second Sunday after Trinity*  
8am Holy Communion (BCP)

11 Mon *Barnabas the Apostle*

14 Thu Eucharist, 11am, followed by coffee

15 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

**17 Sun** *The Third Sunday after Trinity*  
4:30pm Choral Evensong

21 Thu Eucharist, 11am, followed by coffee  
Pilgrim Group meeting: Philip Turner talks on “Taking holiness out of the church”, 7:30pm

22 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

**24 Sun** *The Birth of John the Baptist*  
10am Caribbean Day celebration service, followed by BBQ  
Christ Church rostered to assist at Genesis Sunday Centre

28 Thu Eucharist, 11am, followed by coffee  
Christ Church Trustees meeting, 7:30pm

29 Fri *Peter and Paul, Apostles*  
Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

**July** 1 Sun *The Fifth Sunday after Trinity*

3 Tue *Thomas the Apostle*

5 Thu Eucharist, 11am, followed by coffee  
Pilgrim Group meeting, 7:30pm

**8 Sun** *The Sixth Sunday after Trinity*  
8am Holy Communion (BCP)

**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](mailto:magazine@christchurchbath.org). For the weekly notice sheet, e-mail [notices@christchurchbath.org](mailto:notices@christchurchbath.org)**

# Prayer Cycle for June 2018

<b>Friday</b>	<b>1</b>	For those who are persecuted for their faith
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>2</b>	For the ministry of Genesis
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3</b>	For those baptised, confirmed or married at Christ Church
<b>Monday</b>	<b>4</b>	For our armed forces and police
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>5</b>	For countries in conflict
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>6</b>	For the Fairtrade movement
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>7</b>	We give thanks for those who inspire us
<b>Friday</b>	<b>8</b>	For victims of natural disasters
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>9</b>	For those who care for the sick
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10</b>	For Mark, Keith and the choir
<b>Monday</b>	<b>11</b>	For scientists and engineers
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>12</b>	That we may work for the kingdom of heaven
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>13</b>	For adoptive and foster families
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>14</b>	For those who organise and attend events at Christ Church
<b>Friday</b>	<b>15</b>	For all who face tragedy
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>16</b>	For those at school
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>17</b>	For Lore and Colin
<b>Monday</b>	<b>18</b>	For those who work in social services
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>19</b>	We give thanks for our blessings
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>20</b>	For new members to be added to Christ Church
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>21</b>	That we may have grace to love
<b>Friday</b>	<b>22</b>	For those in slavery or bonded labour
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>23</b>	For the work of Julian House



<b>Sunday</b>	<b>24</b>	For our servers and others who assist at the altar
<b>Monday</b>	<b>25</b>	For those in the transport industry
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>26</b>	For those on holiday
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>27</b>	For vocations to the ministry
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>28</b>	For the Trustees, meeting tonight
<b>Friday</b>	<b>29</b>	For those with addictions
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>30</b>	We give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy

## Long-term Prayer List

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

John Burrows  
 David Slater  
 Keith Warren and Jean  
 Katharine  
 Harry Pattullo  
 Joyce Fairburn  
 David Jones  
 Ivy Savage  
 Nick Johnson

**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.**

## Other LMG services

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

### Sundays

- 9am Eucharist, Charlcombe St Mary's
- 10:45am Choral Communion or informal 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
- Tuesday 9am Charlcombe St Mary's
- Saturday 9:30am St Stephen's

# Rotas for June 2018

*Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist*

	<b>Old Testament</b>	<b>New Testament</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
<b>3 June</b> Trinity 1	<b>Clive Tilling</b> Deuteronomy 5:12-15	<b>Janet Mahto</b> 2 Corinthians 4:5-12	<b>Virginia Knight</b> Mark 2:23-3:6
<b>10 June</b> Trinity 2	<b>Judith Anderson</b> Genesis 3:8-15	<b>Rebekah Cunningham</b> 2 Cor. 4:13-5:1	<b>Robin Kerr</b> Mark 3:20-end
<b>17 June</b> Trinity 3	<b>Nick Wells</b> Ezekiel 17:22-end	<b>Richard Gabe</b> 2 Corinthians 5:6-17	<b>Penny Edwards</b> Mark 4:26-34
<b>24 June</b> John the Baptist	<b>Daphne Radenhurst</b> Isaiah 40:1-11	<b>Jonathan Stead</b> Acts 13:14b-26 <i>or</i> Galatians 3:23-end	<b>Lewis Boyd</b> Luke 1:57-66,80
<b>1 July</b> Trinity 5	<b>Jude Bishop</b> Lamentations 3:23-33	<b>Malcolm Wall</b> 2 Corinthians 8:7-end	<b>Charles Rice</b> Mark 5:21-end

*Laitry rota, Sunday 10am Eucharist*

	<b>Chalice assistants</b>	<b>Sidespeople</b>	<b>Intercessions</b>
<b>3 June</b>	Clive Tilling, TBC	Sylvia Ayers, Ken Ayers	Rebekah Cunningham
<b>10 June</b>	David Rawlings, TBC	Margaret Silver, Jane Nicholson	Penny Edwards
<b>17 June</b>	Brenda Wall, TBC	Morny Davison, TBC	Sarah Jones
<b>24 June</b>	Clive Tilling, TBC	Sylvia Ayers, Ken Ayers	Mark Elliott
<b>1 July</b>	Jonathan Stead, TBC	Morny Davison, Margaret Silver	Rebekah Cunningham

# Who's who at Christ Church

**Priest-in-charge** Revd Lore Chumbley  
07595 294146  
lore.chumbley@me.com

**Supporting clergy**  
Revd Prof. Cliff Burrows  
Revd Canon Simon Tatton-Brown  
Revd Narinder Tegally

**Reader, Director of Music** Mark Elliott  
01225 445360  
mark.elliott@christchurchbath.org

**Churchwarden,  
Safeguarding officer** Lewis Boyd  
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lewis.boyd@christchurchbath.org

**Churchwarden,  
Cedar Tree café organiser** Janet Mahto  
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janetmahto@gmail.com

**Verger** Angela Soboslay  
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**Chair of Trustees** Charles Rice  
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charles.rice@btopenworld.com

**Treasurer** David Bishop  
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**Organist and Assistant  
Director of Music** Keith Pigot  
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**Event/concert bookings,  
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Ringing Master** Will Willans

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**Laity rotas** Judith Bishop

**Prayer cycle** Virginia Knight

**Junior Church** Emma Elliott

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

**Traidcraft orders** Judith Bishop

**Mission to Seafarers** Sylvia Ayers

**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](mailto: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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