



A Happy and a Holy Christmas to all!



Christ Church *Link*

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Advent, a season of hope

It's not just something to get through before Christmas...

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

Over the last few weeks as I have looked towards Advent I have been confronted with hope. Sarah Mullally, the Bishop of London, has said that while Lent is a time for self-examination to see the truth about ourselves, "Advent is a time not to examine ourselves but to examine God, to look for God and God's hope. The season is full of the imagery of God breaking into our settled world."

There are plenty of reasons *not* to be hopeful. Advent can become no more than an irritation in the run-up to Christmas if we are caught in one of two possible pitfalls. Either we can join the premature celebration of Christmas which ends just as Christmas begins as shops take down their decorations on Christmas Eve ready for the (rather more important) January sales. Doing this can mean we are satiated by Christmas festivities before mid December. Or, sanctimoniously, we can refuse to allow even a mince pie to cross our lips until midnight on Christmas Eve, which will leave our generous and hospitable friends in a rage of incomprehension.

Hope, however, transforms Advent. Instead of waiting like impatient children for December to be over so that we can celebrate Christmas, hope allows us to experience the present moment and live wholly within the season. Advent calendars need not be just for children. Thoughtful Advent calendars put us in mind of the hidden kingdom

of God just beneath the surface, always ready to be glimpsed when we take time to look.

T.S. Elliot recognised that in his poem "The Cultivation of Christmas Trees". He wrote about the delight and insight of the child for whom "the gilded angel | Spreading its wings at the summit of the tree | Is not only a decoration, but an angel."

The Advent wreath; the Advent carols and readings in our Advent Carol Service on 9 December; the frugal (except for the puddings!) Advent lunches shared with St Mary's Roman Catholic church – all of these are punctuation marks of hope on our journey through Advent, ways to mark out the season as different and joyful.

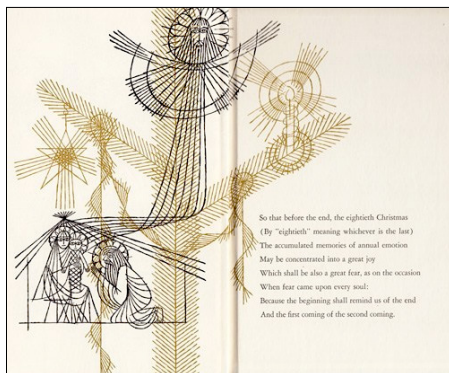
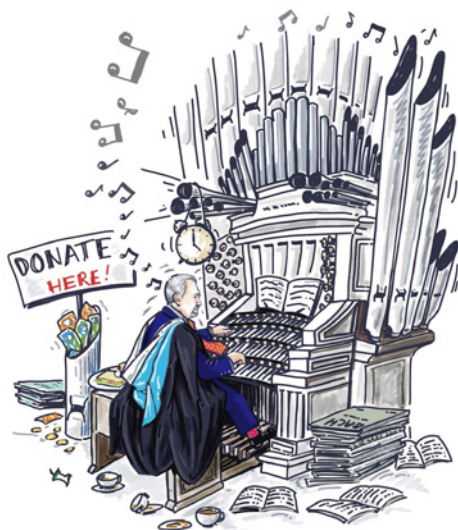


Illustration by Enrico Arno, who typeset and illustrated the 1956 first American edition of T.S. Eliot's "The Cultivation of Christmas Trees".

Organathon!

Keith Pigot, our Organist and Assistant Director of Music, is playing the organ for 12 hours, from 7am to 7pm, on Wednesday 12 December to help raise funds for the repair and restoration of the organ. Drop in to show your support if you can! Your sponsorship would be greatly appreciated at <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/organathon>



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
- 4pm Scruffy Church (4th Sunday of the month), St Stephen's
- 5:30pm Re:Fresh contemporary worship (1st & 3rd Sunday), St Stephen's Centre
- 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

Coming events

Meet the Palestinian ambassador

What is it? The distinguished new Palestinian ambassador, Dr Husam Zomlot, is coming to Bath to meet local Palestinians and friends of Palestine. He will speak about his vision for the future, and take questions from the floor.
When is it? Friday 14 December, 7pm
Where? Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution (BRLSI), 16-18 Queen Square, Bath BA1 2HN.

Tickets £5 from <https://bit.ly/HEinBath> (and going fast!).

Opus Anglicanum: Mediaeval Carols

What is it? Thoughtful readings interweave with mediaeval carols and plainchant in a magical candlelit setting. In Wells Cathedral, the concert begins with Vespers sung in the Quire, followed by a selection of mediaeval carols. Opus Anglicanum is a quintet of unaccompanied male singers with narrator.
When and where? Sunday 16 December, 6pm, at Prior Park College, Bath BA2 5AH, and Monday 17 December, 7:30pm, at Wells Cathedral, Wells BA5 2US
Tickets £20 from www.opusanglicanum.org, Wells Cathedral Shop Box Office, and at the door (but early booking is advised).

Candlelight Christmas concert, Wells

What is it? Wells Cathedral Choir performs seasonal music, interspersed with readings, lit by thousands of candles. With Jeremy Cole (organ), Matthew Owens (conductor). E-mail shop@wellscathedral.uk.net to ask about the Sponsor a Candle scheme. Proceeds from these concerts support Wells Cathedral Choir and the wider work of Wells Cathedral.
When is it? Thursday 20 and Friday 21 December, 7pm
Where? Wells Cathedral, Wells BA5 2UE
Tickets £15 – £30 from Wells Cathedral Shop Box Office and at the door, if not sold out prior to the day – early booking is advised.

Two new trustees

Sarah Jones writes:

Since both Lewis and Janet have been elected as churchwardens, it was agreed it would be appropriate for them to step down from their role as trustees to allow them to best fulfil their remit of representing the congregation's views at trustees meetings. We are pleased to announce that these two vacancies have been filled. Nick Wells joined the trustees this autumn, and Simon Tatton-Brown has agreed to join the group in January 2019. Please remember Nick, Simon and all the trustees in your prayers.

Last month...



Traidcraft catalogues

Rebekah Cunningham writes:

You may have heard that, sadly, Traidcraft as a company is having to drastically downsize, although they have high hopes of finding a way in which they can continue to trade and campaign for fair trade. They say: "We ask you to keep purchasing from us to invest in this bright future. Our autumn/winter collection is the biggest and most impactful range we've ever had. Shop with us, and make a difference." I have catalogues full of lovely Christmas gift ideas – please take one and I will be very happy to order for you.



This year, the centenary of the Armistice, Remembrance Sunday was marked with readings and reflections after our 10am service (top). On the feast of Christ the King, 25 November, we celebrated our "feast of title" with cake and fizz.

Coming at Christ Church

- Sunday 9 December: Advent Carol Service, 6:30pm: a contemplative, atmospheric candlelit celebration of Advent.
- Sunday 23 Dec.: Family Eucharist with nativity play, 10am.
- Sunday 23 Dec.: Christmas Carol Service, 6:30pm: celebrate the coming of Jesus into the world with readings and music.
- Monday 24 Dec.: Crib Service 4:30pm.
- Monday 24 Dec.: Midnight Mass, 11:30pm: the traditional start to Christmas.
- Tuesday 25 Dec.: Christmas Day Eucharist, 10am, followed by a glass of fizz.



In November we welcomed the newest member of the Christ Church family, Aaron Iain Cade.



The Church of England has announced its 2018 Advent and Christmas campaign, #FollowTheStar. Its main aim is to encourage people into a local church service or event to share in the joy of Jesus' birth.

A booklet is available to buy from Church House Publishing, titled *#FollowTheStar: A Journey Through the 12 Days of Christmas*. It contains 14 daily reflections, one for each day from Christmas Eve throughout the 12 days of Christmas, ending with the Epiphany on 6th January. You can order copies individually or in bulk, and view sample pages, at www.chpublishing.co.uk/features/follow-the-star

From late November, you can sign up to receive the daily reflections by e-mail and through an Android or iOS app.

Churches are also being encouraged to publicise their seasonal services through the church-finder website A Church Near You (www.achurchnearyou.com) and to use the #FollowTheStar visuals on their own sites and publicity materials.

Holy Land Trip 2019

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

We have been able to arrange our own Christ Church Holy Land trip for 2019, a pilgrimage through Israel and Palestine led by David Gatcliffe (retired Anglican priest) and Lore. We will visit Nazareth, Galilee, Bethlehem, Hebron and Jerusalem. There will be an optional trip to Masada and the chance to extend the trip to include Jordan.

Dates: 30 May to 7 June 2019

Cost: £1,785.00 per person in a double or twin room (not including Masada visit or Jordan extension). There is a single supplement.

Booking forms and additional information available in church.

Deposit (£250) required by Christmas.

Exploring Christianity

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

In 2019 Lore will be co-leading an "Exploring Christianity" course. Some will know the course because Canon Angela and Philip Hawthorne led the course several years ago. It comprises six sessions over two years and is intended to encourage deeper thinking and questioning about faith. It is possible to sign up for the whole two years or just for one or more modules. There is an opportunity but no compulsion to undertake written assignments. The six core modules are:

- Spirituality and prayer
- Exploring the New Testament
- Questions of Faith
- Reshaping the church
- Exploring the Old Testament
- Challenging Choices (ethics)

Each module is ten sessions, lasts about a term and costs £45.00. Bursaries are available.

The first module will be "Spirituality and Prayer" starting on Monday 21 January 2019 and continuing every Monday evening until 8 April. All sessions will start at 7:30pm. Places are limited to 12. If you would like to take part, please let Lore know.

Governors wanted

Could you be a school governor? Over half of all the church schools in Somerset – that's 98 out of 182 schools – are seeking school governors to work as part of the team responsible for the strategic leadership and running of the school.

Church school governors come from all walks of life. They bring different skills to help children and communities thrive, and develop more along the way.

The diocese's #beagovernor campaign aims to raise awareness of the role and the opportunities across Somerset. It features personal experiences of current governors who share what they get out of the role. View the videos at www.bathandwells.org.uk/2018/09/could-you-be-a-school-governor. The closing date for applications is 31 December.

Bishop's Message for December

God with us



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

Well, we are into the frantic pressie-buying month of December now. The American “Black Friday” tradition appears to be firmly a part of our own pattern and has brought the search for the perfect Christmas present yet earlier in our calendar. Parish and school Christmas Fayres offer us home-made, Fairtrade, recycled and singular alternatives. And increasingly the inequalities within our economy become more apparent as people risk debt to bring a smile to their child's face.

When I was a parish priest we found that many of our single parents felt trapped by the pressure of keeping up with those around them. We tried to

introduce a maximum spend for all our congregational and family present buying in order to bring some parity. It wasn't easy!

I'm reminded at this time of year of the line that we are seeing more frequently, accompanying invitations to weddings and birthday parties: “No presents required, just your presence!”

It makes me think about what Christmas really means. During this time of preparation and waiting for the big day to arrive, many of us will sing the words of that Advent hymn, “O come, O come, Emmanuel,” a 12th-century hymn that invites God to fulfil his prophecy to his people. Will we really take in those words?

“Emmanuel” means “God with us”, such an important and comforting phrase in these times of uncertainty and anxiety, as we wonder what the new year will bring.

Christmas we know is a time when people can feel lonely, disappointed, stressed. There are reputedly more suicides and marriage breakdowns during the course of this holiday period. One of the best Christmas presents we can offer then must surely be that of hospitality, a listening ear and simply our “presence” among those who feel forgotten, rejected or overlooked.

In so doing, we will find God's own present to us this Christmas, as in any and all other Christmases, His presence. The God to whom “every animal of the forest and the cattle on a thousand hills, belongs” (Psalm 50) has given us the best present of all – *He is with us.*

+Ruth Taunton

Advent lunches with St Mary's

Once again this year we are holding joint lunches in Advent with our neighbours at St Mary's Roman Catholic church. The idea is to build ecumenical links and raise money for those in need. Everyone is very welcome:

- Tuesday 4 December, St Mary's Parish Centre (behind the church, off the car park, entrance from Burlington Street)
- Tuesday 11 December, Christ Church Lower Mews

Meet at midday; the meals consist of home-made soup and bread, followed by home-made puddings. Donations are made at the end of the meal, and are split 50/50 between the two churches for their chosen charities.

If you can help by providing a pudding on Tuesday 11th, please sign up on the list at the back of the church. Help with serving food etc would be very welcome – please speak to Angela Soboslay.

This month's charities: Bath homeless

The loose collection in the plate every Sunday in December will be divided between Julian House and The Genesis Trust to help Bath's homeless. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.)

Julian House was set up to offer direct support to some of the most marginalised people in Bath – the homeless. Users of its services include rough sleepers, women escaping domestic violence, ex-offenders, the long-term unemployed, and people with learning difficulties and mental health issues. At any time over 100 clients are being helped – men and women who are homeless, have recently been homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless.

Projects include the Manvers Street Hostel, which provides not only beds but a specialist outreach service and a support service that offers people a pathway out of rough sleeping. Julian House runs the only supported housing project in B&NES to support offenders on release from custody, prevent them falling into homelessness and attempt to break the



patterns of substance abuse and other causes of crime. Julian House also runs three social enterprises: Bath Soup Company, Bath Bike Workshop and Turnkey Housing Solutions, which it sees as crucial in enabling “move-on” for clients who may be partially or wholly dependent on benefits or live on a low wage.

For more, visit www.julianhouse.org.uk.

The Genesis Trust acts as an umbrella body enabling churches and Christians throughout Bath to demonstrate the love of Christ in practical ways to those in greatest need through its nine projects.

These include a daily drop-in centre at Bath Abbey and two food projects, Lunchbox and Soup Run. At its Lifeline drop-in Genesis helps over 50 people a day, providing them with hot drinks, emergency clothing and bedding, and much needed emotional support and practical advice. Benefit cuts and mental health issues are big issues for its clients. The Lifeskills project, which provides courses aimed at enhancing well-being, provides much needed help with budgeting and cookery skills as well as helping people develop emotionally via creative writing, art and gardening. For more information about Genesis and its work, visit genesistrust.org.uk.



Christ Church calendar Dec. 2018

Dec 2	Sun	<i>Advent Sunday</i>
4	Tue	Advent Lunch with St Mary's RC, at St Mary's, 12 noon
6	Thu	11am Eucharist, followed by coffee
7	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am-1:30pm
8	Sat	<i>Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> Christ Church cleaning party
9	Sun	<i>The Second Sunday of Advent</i> 8am Holy Communion (BCP) Christ Church rostered to assist at Genesis Sunday Centre 6:30pm Advent Carol Service
11	Tue	Advent Lunch with St Mary's RC, at Christ Church, 12 noon
12	Wed	Organathon, 7am-7pm
13	Thu	11am Eucharist, followed by coffee Pilgrim Group meeting discussing Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 7:30pm
14	Fri	10am Norland College Carol Service Cedar Tree café, 11am-1:30pm
16	Sun	<i>The Third Sunday of Advent</i> 4:30pm Choral Evensong
20	Thu	11am Eucharist, followed by coffee
21	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am-1:30pm
23	Sun	<i>The Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 6:30pm Christmas Carol Service
24	Mon	<i>Christmas Eve</i> 4:30pm Crib Service 11:30pm Midnight Mass
25	Tue	<i>Christmas Day</i> 10am Christmas Day Eucharist
26	Wed	<i>Stephen, the first martyr</i>
27	Thu	<i>John, Apostle and Evangelist</i> 11am Eucharist, followed by coffee
28	Fri	<i>The Holy Innocents</i> Cedar Tree café, 11am-1:30pm
30	Sun	<i>The First Sunday of Christmas</i>

Prayer Cycle for December 2018

Saturday	1	For the Fairtrade movement
Sunday	2	For Lore our priest-in-charge
Monday	3	For shopkeepers and shop workers
Tuesday	4	For those affected by natural disasters
Wednesday	5	For carers
Thursday	6	For new members to be added to Christ Church
Friday	7	For those who work in dangerous conditions
Saturday	8	For our neighbours at St Mary's Catholic Church
Sunday	9	For Mark, Keith and the choir
Monday	10	For those who work in the hospitality industry
Tuesday	11	We give thanks for those who inspire us
Wednesday	12	For good relationships between the nations
Thursday	13	For our Local Ministry Group partners
Friday	14	For those who lack food or water
Saturday	15	That we may be open to encounters with God
Sunday	16	For our servers and others who assist at the altar
Monday	17	For those who work in medicine
Tuesday	18	For the lonely and depressed
Wednesday	19	For the work of the Mothers' Union
Thursday	20	For our charity of the month
Friday	21	For victims of violence
Saturday	22	For the elderly

Sunday	23	For churches, Cathedrals and communities named Christ Church
Monday	24	For journalists and those who work in the media
Tuesday	25	Thanksgiving for the Incarnation
Wednesday	26	For Colin and all clergy spouses
Thursday	27	That we may have the grace of the Holy Spirit
Friday	28	For the sick and suffering
Saturday	29	For those on holiday
Sunday	30	For those baptised, married or confirmed at Christ Church
Monday	31	We give thanks for the blessings of the past year

Long-term Prayer List

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

David Slater
 Keith Warren and Jean
 Katharine
 Harry Pattullo
 Joyce Fairburn
 David Jones
 Nick Johnson
 Hilary and Mary Faulkner
 Amber
 George Alagiah

Marge Gull
 Pauline Cawadine
 Sister Catherine
 Demelza King
 Zayad
 Joe Street
 Gill
 Eileen Selmes

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.

Rotas for December 2018

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
2 Dec Advent	Rebekah Cunningham Jeremiah 33:14-16	Judith Anderson 1 Thessalonians 3:9-end	Nick Wells Luke 21:25-36
9 Dec Advent 2	Bob Siderfin Malachi 3:1-4	Malcolm Wall Philippians 1:3-11	Janet Mahto Luke 3:1-6
16 Dec Advent 3	Brenda Wall Zephaniah 3:14-end	Jude Bishop Philippians 4:4-7	Robin Kerr Luke 3:7-18
23 Dec Advent 4	Jonathan Stead Micah 5:2-5a	Junior Church Hebrews 10:5-10	Junior Church Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]
30 Dec Christmas 1	Emma Elliott 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26	Alex Soboslay Colossians 3:12-17	Penny Edwards Luke 2:41-end
6 January Epiphany	Sylvia Ayers Isaiah 60:1-6	Virginia Knight Ephesians 3:1-12	Morny Davison Matthew 2:1-12

Laitly rota, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Chalice assistants	Sidespeople	Intercessions
2 Dec	David Rawlings, Brenda Wall	Morny Davison, Jane Nicholson	Rebekah Cunningham
9 Dec	Clive Tilling, Jonathan Stead	Sylvia Ayers, Ken Ayers	Mark Elliott
16 Dec	Malcolm Wall, Keri Chivers	Jonathan Stead, Jane Nicholson	Nick Wells
23 Dec	David Rawlings, Brenda Wall	Morny Davison, Margaret Silver	Junior Church
30 Dec	Janet Mahto, Brenda Wall	Sylvia Ayers, Ken Ayers	Mark Elliott
6 January	David Rawlings, Malcolm Wall	Margaret Silver, Jane Nicholson	Jonathan Stead

Who's who at Christ Church

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Revd Narinder Tegally

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

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



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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