



Looking forward and outward

Making the New Year a time of renewal

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

Happy New Year! Already as I write this at the turning of the year, the birds are singing, the mornings are light earlier, the evenings darken almost imperceptibly later. All these things encourage us to think of the new year as a new start, to make New Year's Resolutions.

While we know that the beginning of the new year is just a trick of the calendar, the sense of empty unlimited diary pages and the leaves of the calendar opening ahead of us are beguiling. *This* year we will keep the resolutions. *This* year we will change to become better, kinder people, more honest and focused and kind and energetic. Most years we don't. Most years we go on doing the good and bad things we have always done. But sometimes we do manage to change. We give up smoking, lose weight, join a choir.

As in so many things, children are often better than adults at changing themselves. They are, after all, used to change. Their shoe, hat and collar sizes may change every term – certainly every school year. They all alter as they grow, so perhaps that's why they are more open to mental and emotional change than adults.

Most adults have to work hard to keep flexible in mind and spirit. Why not plan to join a retreat? Revd Narinder Tegally will be jointly leading a quiet day on "Transitions of Life" at Ammerdown on January 19th [find details at www.ammerdown.org/courses]. Nearer to home, join the Thursday evening

Pilgrim Group as it studies the Epistle to the Hebrews. Or perhaps come along to an "Exploring Christianity" group. The Monday evening group is well supported but we may be able to run a second group during the day if enough people are interested. Or you may want to read a book that will stretch your mind, try painting icons prayerfully using traditional techniques which have hardly changed in 1,000 years, or, if your joints are still mobile enough, you could even consider walking part of the Cotswold way. It starts at Bath Abbey.

Look outwards. The world God has created is amazing and beautiful, and the beginning of the year reminds us to recognise that and enjoy it.



In his New Year message, the Archbishop of Canterbury noted divisions in society and said "Hope lies in our capacity to approach this new year in a spirit of openness towards each other, choosing to see ourselves as neighbours, each with something to contribute. It will mean gathering around our common values, a common vision, and a commitment to one another."

Keith's Organathon triumph

At 7am on Wednesday 12 December, our organist and Assistant Director of Music Keith Pigot undertook a marathon organ-playing feat of 12 hours to raise funds for the repair and restoration of our organ. His target figure was £2,000. Keith was interviewed on the day at 6:50am by BBC Radio Bristol, who were keen to hear of the event. He took to the keys and pedals on the dot of 7am.

Keith said he was "stepping into the unknown" as, to his knowledge, no one in the UK had ever undertaken a solo "organathon" for this length of time. He began and ended, as planned, with pieces by J.S. Bach, and in between played anything and everything that came to hand from an extensive repertoire. Overall, around 160 pieces were played.

At 5pm Radio Bristol called again for an update, and Keith was able to confirm he was still going strong. A steady stream of visitors and supporters appeared throughout the day – some (or one!) stayed for the full 12 hours, while others came along in the morning and returned again later. It all added to the festive and exciting atmosphere of the day, during which mulled wine, coffee and cakes were served, courtesy of generous donations from Café Lucca, the Green Bird Café and The Beckford Bottle Shop. Keith thanks everyone

who supported him, including all those who worked tirelessly on the day and everyone who has kindly donated.

As 7pm approached, Bach's *Toccatto and Fugue in D minor* rounded off the event – or so Keith thought. There was a standing ovation from the audience, at which point someone cried "Encore!" Without hesitation, and because there was another album of Bach on the music desk, Keith ended with the *Fantasia on Komm heiliger Geist (Come Holy Ghost)*.

Keith has well exceeded his original fundraising target. The total already exceeds £3,000, which includes generous cash donations on the day. The money is still trickling in. Please spread the word that Keith successfully completed his 12-hour Organathon – without even taking all the five-minute hourly breaks he was going to allow himself!

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO DONATE! Remember, we still have an enormous total to raise – over £40,000. Keith's JustGiving page will remain open until February at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/organathon.

■ One interesting fact: the original organ was inaugurated in February 1799. Our repaired and restored organ is due to be delivered in February 2019 – its 210th anniversary.



Keith at the keyboard. The loan organ he used for his epic Organathon has been ailing ever since – except for numb fingers, he's fared better!



What it's all for... In December the organ builders dismantled the organ and carted away most of the parts for cleaning, repair and reconditioning.

Sunday Centre closes

After 25 years, the Genesis Sunday Centre is being discontinued. The last day is 31 March.

When the Centre started, there was no Sunday trading and a big demand for a drop-in centre on Sundays. A large number of clients in need used the Centre for four hours, with cooked lunches and lots of sandwiches. It has always been staffed by eight teams of volunteers from the churches of Bath.

Over the years, the level of need has fallen and a much smaller number use the Centre, at least half of whom come just for a quick, cheap meal and then leave again, because they do not really need this type of support.

A recent survey of the customers showed that many of the Centre's core clients now prefer to remain in the middle of town on a Sunday, where they can get money from begging or selling the Big Issue. There is now also much greater provision for people in need:

- The Soup Run operates every evening of the year, run by teams from seven churches;
- The Lifeline Centre now provides five cooked breakfasts a week;
- Lunch Box operates two days a week, with plans for the number of days to increase;
- There are also meals provided by others such as Julian House and our Cedar Tree.

Customers were told about the closure in December. The Sunday Centre committee expressed its deepest thanks to Giles Peters for leading the Sunday Centre over so many years. A Big Thankyou Lunch is planned for everyone who has ever helped at the Sunday Centre, to be held on Sunday 7 April at Nexus. Please save the date; details to follow.

If you are able to continue volunteering for Genesis, there are plenty of opportunities to continue helping people in need in the Bath area. Please e-mail office@genesisstrust.org.uk.



Last month...



Bellringers – and prosecco – on Christmas Day: left to right, Philippa Turner, Hazel Spence, Richard Doubleday, Jim Cook, Adrian Udal, Maggie Willans, David Kelly, Barry Quintin, Will Willans, Matthew Butler, Michael Brett. Photo: Julie Perkins.

New Electoral Roll

Every parish in the Church of England is required to compile a fresh Electoral Roll in 2019. (This takes place every six years, and simultaneously in all parishes.) Although Christ Church is not a parish and our Electoral Roll does not have the same legal status as a parish's, it is the way to declare your membership of the Christ Church community.

The Bishop of Bath and Wells, Rt Revd Peter Hancock, has written to parishes in the diocese saying: "The preparation of a new roll is an opportunity to encourage those new to the community, or to church life, to join the roll, as a practical symbol of commitment to the church. It allows them to take part in decisions which affect the church and parish, to take part in the Annual Church Meeting, and to stand for the Church Council," Deanery Synod, and other representative bodies in the Church of England. Inclusion on a roll is also the CofE's only formal lay membership.

Watch for information soon about the procedure for joining the new roll. Note that you will need to do so whether or not you are on the present roll.

Meet the newest Trustee of Christ Church



As mentioned in last month's *Christ Church Link*, Nick Wells has joined the Trustees. Here are ten things you probably didn't know about Nick...

1 Nick has been a member of the Christ Church community since

August 2017, having moved to Bath from Barnstaple in North Devon.

2 Nick has two teenage children, Georgiana and Hugo.

3 Nick is a Devonian and is Honorary Secretary of The Devonshire Association, a charity which runs over one hundred events each year to celebrate all things Devon.

4 Nick was one of the first male undergraduates at Girton College, Cambridge, where he read theology. One of his supervisors was Rowan Williams.

5 After a career in banking, mainly at offices in London, Birmingham and Bristol, he has been working freelance in financial services companies in recent years.

6 Nick's all time favourite TV series is *Barchester Towers*, a favourite book of his as well.

7 Nick has supported Somerset County Cricket club since the glory days of Ian Botham, Joel Garner and Viv Richards. Devon, of course, is but a minor county in terms of cricket.

8 Nick's favourite walk is on the North Devon coast from Hunters Inn to Woody Bay; the walk at Coleton Fishacre on the South Devon coast is pretty special too.

9 Nick has recently started singing with *Songways*, a community choir in Bath and Bradford on Avon. He's never sung in a choir before and has the zeal of a recent convert.

10 Nick's musical interests are mainly classical, but he has a soft spot for punk rock.

Exploring Christianity

In 2019 Lore will be co-leading an "Exploring Christianity" course, designed to encourage deeper thinking and questioning about faith. It comprises six modules, each ten sessions long and costing £45 (bursaries are available). It is possible to take just one or more modules.

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

The first module starts on Monday 21 January. The evening group is full but there could be a second group during the day if enough people are interested. Please let Lore 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
- 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

Bishop's Message for January

The joy of a return



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

The country of Ghana is making 2019 “The Year of Return” to mark 400 years of the slave trade. Akwase Agyeman, who is heading up this year of celebration, said this: “We will celebrate the resilience of the African. Like Joseph in the Old Testament, who was sold to slavery and later connected to his brothers, there was a celebration, and in 2019 there shall be a celebration for Africans in Diaspora.”

I wonder how we might make 2019 “a year of return”. I don’t mean as a return to things past because we mourn a past glory. I’m thinking of the story of Joseph. Joseph was separated from family because his family were jealous of him. His brothers sold him into slavery – out of sight, out of mind. It’s when they have need of food that they inadvertently come across Joseph again, and this time he holds their fate in his hands. It would have been so easy for Joseph to seek to get his own back on his brothers. In fact he does play a trick on them. However, when all is revealed, we find many tears shed and reconciliation is achieved.

I wonder how many families in our communities have faced such a fracture in relationships?

Rembrandt’s famous painting “The Return of the Prodigal” is one of those

iconic pictures which draws us into experiencing the depth of feeling the parable speaks of. The embrace of the father to the kneeling son shows us not only the emotion of a family relationship restored but that of God’s love for us, his wandering people. Many of us have personal experience of discovering the love of the Father for us, his children. Perhaps this year we could pass on that story to others and help them to find the joy and celebration of a return to the Father who gave everything in order to release them from the slavery of sin.

Let’s make this not just “a year of return” but rather a lifetime!

+Ruth Taunton



This month's charity

The loose collection in the plate on the second and fourth Sunday of the month, 13 and 27 January, plus an optional retiring collection for the rest of the month, will once again go to USPG's Community Development project in Malawi. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.)

We are supporting a programme promoting education for girls, better hygiene and sanitation in villages, protection of the environment, and income generation in all four dioceses of the Church of Malawi. There is also an across-the-board focus on gender equality and issues relating to HIV and AIDS. The programme – officially titled the Anglican Church of Malawi Community Integrated Intervention (ACMCII) Project – operates at parish level in those communities deemed most in need. More at www.uspg.org.uk/worldwide/malawi

Paint an icon in a day

This is a course for beginners who would like to share a prayerful exploration of the traditional craft guided by an expert, Helen McIlldowie-Jenkins. The course is jointly sponsored by Christ Church and St Mary's Catholic church, and will be held on a Friday in March (date to be confirmed). The course will be free but places will be limited. Please let Lore know if you are interested.



Professional artist and iconographer Helen McIlldowie-Jenkins leading a school workshop.

Coming events

Children's Festival, Wells Cathedral

What is it? A fun and creative day for 4 to 11 year olds and their family or church group. This year's theme is "The Wonder of God – Earth, Moon and Stars" with activities including Planetarium, Games and crafts, Stories, Labyrinth, Worship and live music. Come as a group or as a family! Find out more at www.bathandwells.org.uk/event/childrens-festival
When is it? Saturday 19 January, 10:30am–3pm
Where? Wells Cathedral, Wells BA5 2UE
Tickets £1.90 per person. Places must be pre-booked; please book as a group to make sure you're in the same activities and workshops.

Organist Course at the Abbey

What is it? A practical course for "reluctant organists" – pianists pressed into playing the organ, beginner organists, or all those wanting to explore or improve their skills in, and understanding of, church organ playing. Open to players of any ability, from any denomination with any style of worship and from complete beginners upwards. It takes place in Bath Abbey on the famous Klais organ. You're welcome just to observe if you do not wish to play. The course tutors are Shean Bowers and Huw Williams, with guest tutor Dr Peter King.
When and where? Tuesdays 7pm–8:30pm, from 22 January to 26 March, Bath Abbey
Cost £300. For details, contact Shean Bowers on 01225 422462 or shean@bathabbey.org.

Bath Archdeaconry Day 2019

What is it? A half-day for clergy, readers and lay leaders (in a group from each parish/benefice) to come together within their Archdeaconry to learn together. Includes what everyday faith is about and what the challenges are; biblical reflection and prayer about everyday faith. Keynote speaker is Dr Nick Shepherd, co-author of the 2017 General Synod report "Setting God's People Free," the national report on Everyday Faith.

When is it? Monday 11 February, 9:30–1:30

Where? St Luke's, Bath BA2 2BD

Register at www.bathandwells.org.uk/event/bath-archdeaconry-day-2019.

Christ Church calendar January 2019

1	Tue	<i>New Year's Day / Naming and Circumcision of Christ</i>
3	Thu	11am Eucharist, followed by coffee
4	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am-1:30pm
6	Sun	<i>The Epiphany</i>
10	Thu	11am Eucharist, followed by coffee
11	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am-1:30pm
13	Sun	<i>The Baptism of Christ / The Second Sunday of Epiphany</i> 8am Holy Communion (BCP)
17	Thu	11am Eucharist, followed by coffee Pilgrim Group meeting discussing Hebrews, 7:30pm
18	Fri	<i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins (ends Fri 25th)</i> Cedar Tree café, 11am-1:30pm
20	Sun	<i>The Third Sunday of Epiphany</i> 4:30pm Choral Evensong
22	Tue	Christ Church Council meeting, 7:30pm
24	Thu	11am Eucharist, followed by coffee
25	Fri	<i>The Conversion of Paul</i> Cedar Tree café, 11am-1:30pm
26	Sat	<i>Timothy and Titus, companions of Paul</i>
27	Sun	<i>The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany</i>
30	Wed	<i>Charles, King and martyr, 1649</i>
31	Thu	11am Eucharist, followed by coffee Pilgrim Group meeting discussing Hebrews, 7:30pm
Feb	1	Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am-1:30pm
3	Sun	<i>The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)</i> Christ Church rostered to assist at Genesis Sunday Centre

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 January 2019

Tuesday	1	For refugees
Wednesday	2	We give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy
Thursday	3	For volunteer organisations
Friday	4	For those who use and run food banks
Saturday	5	For our own personal ministry
Sunday	6	For the ministry of our Junior Church
Monday	7	For prisoners and prison workers
Tuesday	8	For those who are persecuted for their faith
Wednesday	9	For those who live and work in the streets around Christ Church
Thursday	10	For those with addictions
Friday	11	For countries experiencing civil unrest
Saturday	12	For our Exploring Christianity course
Sunday	13	For Mark our Lay Reader
Monday	14	For those who work in social services
Tuesday	15	We give thanks for beauty in creation
Wednesday	16	For the local Deanery Synod
Thursday	17	For the Mission to Seafarers
Friday	18	For the homeless
Saturday	19	That we may have grace to forgive
Sunday	20	For our bell-ringing team
Monday	21	For those who teach
Tuesday	22	For the Church Council, meeting tonight

Wednesday	23	For Christian unity
Thursday	24	For our charity of the month
Friday	25	For the mentally ill
Saturday	26	For those who live or work in care homes
Sunday	27	For our Archbishop, bishops and clergy
Monday	28	For those preparing for marriage or recently married
Tuesday	29	For those who organise and attend events at Christ Church
Wednesday	30	We give thanks for those who enrich our lives
Thursday	31	For peace

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 Cawardine
 Sister Catherine
 Demelza King
 Zayad
 Joe Street
 Mrs Wright
 Gill
 Andrew Clatworthy
 Tom King
 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 January 2019

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
6 January Epiphany	Sylvia Ayers Isaiah 60:1-6	Virginia Knight Ephesians 3:1-12	Morny Davison Matthew 2:1-12
13 Jan Baptism of Christ	Daphne Radenurst Isaiah 43:1-7	Jane Fletcher Acts 8:14-17	David Bishop Luke 3:15-17,21-22
20 Jan Epiphany 3	Mark Elliott Isaiah 62:1-5	Clive Tilling 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11	Nick Wells John 2:1-11
27 Jan Epiphany 4	Rebekah Cunningham Neh. 8:1-3,5-6,8-10	Georgina Bowman 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Robin Kerr Luke 4:14-21
3 Feb Candle- mas	Janet Mahto Malachi 3:1-5	Malcolm Wall Hebrews 2:14-18	Lewis Boyd Luke 2:22-40

Laitry rota, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Chalice assistants	Sidespeople	Intercessions
6 January	David Rawlings, Malcolm Wall	Margaret Silver, Jane Nicholson	Jonathan Stead
13 Jan	Brenda Wall, Keri Chivers	Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers	Nick Wells
20 Jan	Malcolm Wall, David Rawlings	Morny Davison, Margaret Silver	Rebekah Cunningham
27 Jan	Keri Chivers, Clive Tilling	Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers	Mark Elliott
3 Feb	Clive Tilling, David Rawlings	Jonathan Stead, Jane Nicholson	Penny Edwards

Who's who at Christ Church

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Revd Narinder Tegally

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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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