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Emerging from the gloom

Snowdrops glow like candles, signalling a season of growing

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

Candlemas on February 2nd marks the end of Christmas and the beginning of Ordinary Time. The church vestments change from white to green to mark the end of the period of celebration and the beginning of the season of growing. In some parts of rural England it used to be traditional to decorate the church with snowdrops at the feast of the Presentation in the Temple or Candlemas, perhaps because the bright white flowers glow like candles in the February gloom.

And it has been a bit gloomy. Lots of people have had coughs and colds and worse. The children and staff of St. Andrew's School are working through the spring term still reacting to the loss of their beloved head teacher. Sarah Sheppard has written elsewhere in this issue about her [see page 6], but for many both in the school and outside it, the loss of her warmth and encouragement and sheer love of life leaves an emptiness.

Although midwinter is long past, February is often colder than December and the days are still short and dark and the nights long. But the natural world is awake. The snowdrops are out and decorated the church to remind us of spring. "Lord, the Roman hyacinths are blooming in bowls and | The winter sun creeps by the snow hills," writes T.S. Eliot, reflecting on the presentation; "The stubborn season has made stand." At this time of year it is difficult to find motivation to do anything and easy to sink into disillusionment with the world, politics and, as a result, the people around us.

And yet, the snowdrops are through, surprising us with their clean whiteness after pushing their way through mud and earth and leaf mould. Maybe it is because they grow slowly, parting the particles of sand and loam gently, that none of the mud sticks.

Very often God works as slowly and imperceptibly. After difficulty and bereavement and political turmoil, God promises: "As the earth puts forth her blossom and as the seeds in the garden spring up, so shall God make righteousness and praise blossom before all the nations" (Isaiah 61:11).



Sue East, headteacher of St. Andrew's School in Julian Road, died on 19 December in Dorothy House Hospice aged just 58. As well as through the school, many people might have known her through her church connections: she was Reader at St. Swithin's, Walcot, and for a time served as a Trustee of Christ Church, representing the Rector of Walcot. See page 6 for a tribute to her.

Our newest Trustee



As mentioned in December's Christ Church Link, Revd Canon Simon Tatton-Brown has joined the Trustees.

Simon came to Christ Church five years ago on his retirement from full-time ordained ministry. Mark recruited him to

the choir over coffee on his first Sunday. Asked how he saw retirement, Simon replied: "It's an opportunity to explore my ministry as a baptised member of the church." In many ways it's a return to his pre-ordination life, when he worked as a probation officer in Manchester, was in the choir, on the PCC, and served as a churchwarden (in a vacancy too!).

He hopes he will be able to contribute from his extensive experience of church life: as a parish priest, a liturgist, a former bishop's chaplain (which taught him how church structures work), a school governor. He's supervised church repairs, and commissioned the building of a new parish church following the destruction of the previous church by arson.

Of particular relevance to his role as a Trustee, he's been there before. He helped set up a charity working with the homeless in Chippenham, he's on the committees of two Bath choirs (both registered charities) in which he sings. Once he found himself the sole trustee and beneficiary of an 18th century charity, but as it was both illegal under modern charity law and had an income of just $\pounds I$ he was able to persuade the Charity Commission to wind it up!

His other main interest besides music is history, and he volunteers as a Mayor of Bath's Honorary Guide.

■ Simon provided the photo of himself above and points out that although it shows him dressed in lay clothing, it was taken of him in the pulpit at Bristol Cathedral.

Charities of the month

As a registered charity, Christ Church cannot legally give money to any other causes than those specified in its governing document, and our Trust Deed of 1801 lays down very narrow aims. In order to enable us to give practical support to charities we want to help, Church Council decided in 2013 to establish a "Charity of the Month" scheme, under which money is collected for a specific nominated charity each month. The charities for the rest of 2019 are as follows:

- March: Children's Hospice South West
- April: Open Doors
- May: USPG Malawi Project
- June: Burlington House
- July: Bath Welcomes Refugees
- August USPG Malawi Project
- September: Tearfund
- October: Bath Women's Refuge (Libra)
- November: USPG Malawi Project
- December: Genesis/Julian House

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, writes: "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 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.

See the notice at the church entrance for information about the procedure for joining the new roll. Note that you need to do so whether or not you are on the present roll.

Coming events

Gender, Sex and Theology

What is it? A one-day conference held by Modern Church South West Group. Adrian Thatcher is Honorary Professor in the Department of Theology and Religion at the University of Exeter and Honorary Fellow in Medical Humanities in the Plymouth University Schools of Medicine and Dentistry. He has lectured and written extensively on the theology of sexuality and gender, biblical interpretation and marriage and family. Manvers Street Baptist Church Café is providing a sandwich buffet lunch, for which orders can be taken on the day.

When is it? Saturday 23 February, 11am-4pm Where? Manvers Street Baptist Church, Bath Admission minimum £10 suggested to cover costs. Please e-mail David James rd.james@ live.co.uk to register your interest and help with catering.

Middle Eastern Evening

What is it? An evening for all those going on our Holy Land pilgrimage in May and anyone else who is interested. We will hear about a charity for Palestinian children within the Old City of Jerusalem, and memories of growing up in Jerusalem in the 1940s. Old Testament scholar Dr Margaret Barker will join us. When is it? Wednesday 27 February, time TBC Where? Christ Church Lower Mews Donations to the reordering fund welcome.

Arts + Ministry icon painting day

What is it? A prayerful exploration of the traditional craft of icon painting guided by an expert, Helen Mclldowie-Jenkins. Jointly sponsored by Christ Church and St. Mary's Catholic church. Try some simple icon painting as part of a contemplative and creative miniretreat with our clergy team on hand to help you spiritually recharge. See the poster at the back of the church or ask Lore for details. When and where? Friday 8 March at St. Mary's or Saturday 9 March at Christ Church, 10am to 4:30pm either day.

Free but places are limited, so please let Lore know if you are interested.

Bishops' Lent campaign

This Lent (6 March to 20 April) Bishop Peter and Bishop Ruth are challenging everyone in the diocese to take better care of God's Creation. The 2019 Lent Campaign, Living Well in God's World, will focus on caring for creation, reflecting on the guardianship we've been given of God's world and the impact our actions have. The campaign will be based around caring for creation, a Lent journey offering a short daily reading, a pause for reflection, a prayer and a Lent challenge to act or consider. Each week will have a practical theme: Celebrating Creation, Travel/Lifestyle, Food/Shopping, Energy/Water, Justice, Change and the future.

The challenge element will be accessible for school groups, churches, individuals and families and aims to inspire us to action. Find out more, and sign up for "inspiration in your inbox," at http://bit.ly/lent-2019-living-well.

Sponsored peal

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

We're very grateful that Rob Perry and a local Bath team of ringers will be attempting a full peal at Christ Church on Monday 11 March from 12 noon until about 3pm. If successful it will be the first full peal rung at Christ Church since 1904. The ringers have generously offered to raise money for our east end reordering through sponsorship and will be advertising it to the ringing community. You are welcome to drop into church from noon until 3pm on the day to hear the peal and to support the ringers. Sponsor them at www. justgiving.com/crowdfunding/lore-chumbley



Charity update: USPG Malawi project

Rebekah Cunningham writes:

We continue to support the USPG's Malawi programme A Future With Hope, which aims to improve standards of living via

- support for girls of school-going age
- support for low income households
- promotion of hygiene and sanitation
- working for environmental protection.

There is also a focus on gender equality and issues relating to HIV and AIDS.

We've recently had an update from USPG – more info on the notice board at the back of the church.

The church in Malawi, with USPG's help, is working with vulnerable families to create farming co-operatives. In the photo are members of the Kayoyo Parish Farmers' Club.

Not only can these co-operatives grow more food between them, the farmers can negotiate better prices for the surplus food they sell at market. They also set up "table banking" where they can pool their profits so members can borrow money without interest, to pay for things like school equipment.

There has also been progress in girls' education, with girls showing good results in their studies. Education is something we take for granted in Britain, and no doubt many children here have moaned at having to restart the new school term after the Christmas holidays. But in Africa, where education may be less easily available, particularly for girls, children are often desperate to attend school as they know it is a way out of poverty. Primary education is free in Malawi but sometimes children can't attend as their families cannot afford the compulsory school



Members of the Kayoyo Parish Farmers' Club, one of the co-operatives supported by USPG in Malawi.

uniform. USPG, in partnership with the Anglican Church in Malawi, has enabled hundreds of girls to attend school by providing uniforms and school equipment, including notebooks and pens. USPG is also providing sanitary protection for girls so that they are not prevented from attending school.

This is an ongoing project that Christ Church has committed to.We support it quarterly through our Charity of the Month loose collection but also encourage individuals to make regular direct debits to USPG. Forms are available at the back of the church under the charities notice board. If you write RE103, Christ Church Bath on the form, USPG can collate all donations sent from Christ Church, both loose change and individual direct debits, and will send us an annual total. Please consider setting up a direct debit. We are very blessed in this country, despite all the uncertainties, with good education, health care and other services and it is right for us to remember other countries less fortunate, and to work together with fellow Christians in Malawi, helping them to help others.

Charitable giving

Robin Kerr writes:

I give money regularly to the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF).Why? CAF act as a convenient and efficient "bank" for my charitable giving, claiming the gift aid on my behalf and adding it to my "CAF Charity account". I can then donate any sum within my current balance to a UK charity instantly, using their "cheque book" or their card or online. They have the most comprehensive "look-up" directory of charities, and helpful staff available to sort out problems. They also have a facility to sponsor friends and family with their fundraising, using the money set aside within my account (similar to Just Giving for organising sponsorship, but a bit cheaper).

PS: They didn't pay me for writing this!

Bishop's Message for February

Taking care of God's gift



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

This Lent as a diocese we will be thinking in different ways about what it means to care for the world in which we live. Our care for the environment and for all that God has created is an obligation for us as Christians and part of our response to the gospel.

Reference is sometimes made to the Five Marks of Mission, and one aspect of mission is "to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth." What we now know about climate change, and the impact we humans make on the world we live in, means it is imperative that we take this responsibility seriously. The Earth is our home. It is beautiful beyond words. It is God's gift to us and so we must take care of it! The Psalmist reminds us that *The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it* (Psalm 24:1).

President Barack Obama recently said: "For the sake of our children and our future, we must do more to combat climate change... We must act before it's too late." He was not seeking to be alarmist in saying this, he was reminding us that climate change is already affecting agriculture, water resources, forests, wildlife and coastal areas, and also having a serious detrimental impact on human health.

We do need to be more responsible, more faithful and more diligent in the way we care for God's creation for a number of reasons. First, a clean environment is essential for healthy living. Second, as the overall temperature of Earth's atmosphere and oceans increases, so too does the frequency of dangerous weather patterns and devastating storms. We are stewards of what God has given us and we have a responsibility to future generations, and we cannot denv that the way we live is stoking up problems for our children, grandchildren and all who follow after us. Biodiversity - the variety of plants, animals and other living things in our world – is important, and we know that human activities are having a negative impact on it. Finally, it matters because the way we treat the environment also mirrors the way we treat each other. Mahatma Gandhi, the Indian civil rights activist, once said: "What we are doing to the forests of the world is a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another."

So what might it look like to show that we care about the environment? I have found these three simple words helpful as I have thought about this – the three Rs: reduce, reuse, and recycle. Those are three words we might think about this Lent.

With warm greetings,

+Peter Bath and Wells

This month's charity: Amnesty International

The loose collection in the plate on the second and fourth Sunday of the month, 10 and 24 February, plus an optional retiring collection for the rest of the month, will go to Amnesty International UK. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.)

Rebekah Cunningham writes:

In October 1960 a young barrister got on the London Underground, opened his paper and read a short article about a couple of students in Portugal who had been im-



prisoned for seven years after raising their glasses in a toast to freedom.

Sounds uneventful, but this was to become one of the most significant moments in the global movement for human rights. That barrister was called Peter Benenson, and his outrage at the imprisonment of the two men led to the birth of Amnesty International.

Now, over 50 years and a Nobel Peace Prize later, they continue to promote human rights and campaign for justice wherever it has been denied. They protect people, defending their right to freedom, to truth, and to dignity, by investigating and exposing abuses where they happen.

Amnesty international is a global movement of over 7 million people, and AI UK is the UK section, one of over 50 national sections around the world. Find out more about it and its work at www.amnesty.org.uk.

Farewell to Sue East

Sue East, headteacher of St. Andrew's School, who served for a time as a Trustee of Christ Church, died on 19 December. At her funeral in Bath Abbey on 16 January, her coffin was covered in drawings done by the children of the school. From Dorothy House, Sue wrote a touching farewell letter to the school, which you can read at http://bit.ly/sue-farewell. **Sarah Sheppard**, a Trustee of Christ Church and also a Foundation Governor at St. Andrew's, knew Sue well, and begins this memoir by quoting from Sue's letter:

I am so sorry that I can't be with you this Christmas time. I want you all to know that I am resting in a comfortable room with a lovely view and I feel very peaceful. But my illness has made me very tired and I believe that I am going to die soon. So this message is my way of saying goodbye to all of you wonderful creatures.

Sue wrote her letter to all the St Andrew's children in the last days of her life. It has now spread onto the *Bath Chronicle*, onto radio, and across the world. It was her way of help-

ing us who are left behind. We treasure it. It is so like her, down to calling the children "creatures". That I believe was her gentle way of indicating that she saw them all as God's gift.

Sue was a remarkable person, and I owe much to the kindness she always showed me. And hundreds of people would say the same. That is why there was standing room only at Bath Abbey for her funeral. But I want to remember her as full of life, a tireless educator, and someone always dreaming of new ways to bring hope to those around her. You should also know that she was seriously wacky, with not a shred of pretension about her.

Sue's Christian faith underlay all she did. She was devoted to her family. She was a Reader first at Ascension and then at Walcot. Her faith led her to honour the many paths of belief she encountered at school. It surely gave her the grace we saw in her dying. Her life and her death match so closely the school's motto, "Learning for Living – Life in all its Fullness".

Dear Sue, we are for ever in your debt.

Christ Church calendar Feb. 2019

	1	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am-1:30pm
	3	Sun	The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) Christ Church rostered to assist at Genesis Sunday Centre
	6	Wed	Accession of Queen Elizabeth II, 1952
	7	Thu	11am Eucharist, followed by coffee
	8	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am-1:30pm
	10	Sun	The Fourth Sunday before Lent 8am Holy Communion (BCP)
	12	Tue	2pm Spring Communion Service, followed by afternoon tea
	14	Thu	11am Eucharist, followed by coffee Pilgrim Group meeting discussing Hebrews, 7:30pm
	15	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am-1:30pm
	17	Sun	The Third Sunday before Lent 4:30pm Choral Evensong
	21	Thu	11am Eucharist, followed by coffee
	22	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am-1:30pm
	24	Sun	The Second Sunday before Lent
	25	Mon	Fairtrade Fortnight begins (ends Sunday 10 March)
	28	Thu	11am Eucharist, followed by coffee Pilgrim Group meeting discussing Hebrews, 7:30pm
Mar	1	Fri	David, patron of Wales Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm
	3	Sun	The Sunday next before Lent
	6	Wed	Ash Wednesday 7pm Holy Communion with Ashing
	7	Thu	11am Eucharist, followed by coffee
	8	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am-1:30pm

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 February 2019

Friday	1	For those in slavery or bonded labour
Saturday	2	We give thanks for artists, poets and musicians
Sunday	3	For all who produce publicity for Christ Church
Monday	4	For our armed forces and police
Tuesday	5	For those who care for the sick
Wednesday	6	For the work of Julian House
Thursday	7	For the Trustees of Christ Church
Friday	8	For those who have suffered from terrorism
Saturday	9	For our link Dioceses in Zambia
Sunday	10	For all clergy taking services at Christ Church
Monday	11	For those who work in the transport industry
Tuesday	12	For those who mourn
Wednesday	13	We give thanks for family and friends
Thursday	14	For the Pilgrim Group, meeting tonight
Friday	15	For the unemployed
Saturday	16	That we may have the gift of faith
Sunday	17	For Lewis and Janet our Churchwardens
Monday	18	For scientists and engineers
Tuesday	19	For former members of Christ Church who have moved away
Wednesday	20	For countries in conflict
Thursday	21	For hospices
Friday	22	For the ministry of the Cedar Tree
Saturday	23	That we may work for the kingdom of heaven

Sunday	24	For our Diocese of Bath and Wells
Monday	25	We give thanks for the fruits of the earth
Tuesday	26	For our plans for the church building
Wednesday	27	For our charity of the month
Thursday	28	For all at school

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 Nick Johnson Hilary and Mary Faulkner Amber George Alagiah Marge Gull Pauline Cawadine 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.

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

Rotas for February 2019

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
3 Feb Candle- mas	Janet Mahto Malachi 3:1-5	Malcolm Wall Hebrews 2:14-18	Lewis Boyd Luke 2:22-40
10 Feb 4th before Lent	Judith Anderson Isaiah 6:1-8	Brenda Wall 1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Penny Edwards Luke 5:1-11
17 Feb 3rd before Lent	Sylvia Ayers Jeremiah 17:5-10	Robert Siderfin 1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Jonathan Stead Luke 6:17-26
24 Feb 2nd before Lent	Virginia Knight Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-end	Morny Davison Revelation 4	Daphne Radenhurst Luke 8:22-25
	Emma Elliott Exodus 34:29-end	Nick Wells 2 Corinthans 3:12 – 4:2	Charles Rice Luke 9:28-43a

Laity rota, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Chalice assistants	Sidespeople	Intercessions
3 Feb	David Rawlings, Clive Tilling	Jonathan Stead, Jane Nicholson	Penny Edwards
I0 Feb	Janet Mahto, Keri Chivers	Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers	Sarah Jones
I7 Feb	Angela Soboslay, David Rawlings	Janet Mahto, Morny Davison	Jonathan Stead
24 Feb	Clive Tilling, Janet Mahto	Jonathan Stead, Margaret Silver	Georgina Bowman
3 March	Jonathan Stead, David Rawlings	Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers	Mark Elliott

Who's who at Christ Church

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

Supporting clergy

Revd Canon Simon Tatton-Brown 01225 835404 simontb@christchurchbath.org

> Revd Prof. Cliff Burrows Revd Narinder Tegally

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

Churchwarden, Safeguarding officer 07739 989639 lewis.boyd@christchurchbath.org

Churchwarden, Cedar Tree café organiser Janet Mahto 01225 424860 janetmahto@gmail.com

Verger Angela Soboslay 01225 333297 angela.soboslay@christchurchbath.org

Chair of Trustees Charles Rice 01225 332915 charles.rice@btopenworld.com

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Will Willans

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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**

February 2019 Christ Church Link II

About Christ Church

We're a liberal, inclusive and open church, OFE 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
10	

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

Christ Church, Julian Road, Bath BA1 2RH Phone: 01225 338869 (answer phone)

Email: admin@christchurchbath.org Website: www.christchurchbath.org





