

Seeking God in Lent

You don't need to spend 40 days in the desert, just pray

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

Ash Wednesday falls on March 6th this year. We will have our evening Service of Ashing to mark the start of the penitential 40 days of Lent as we remember Christ's 40 days in the desert.

A group from Christ Church have been studying the spirituality of the early Christians as part of an Exploring Christianity course. The desert Fathers who went into the desert in the 4th and 5th Centuries were looking for silence, solitude and communion with God. They found hardship, hunger and temptation just as Jesus did, but out of their experiences grew the monastic tradition which has shaped Eastern and Western Christianity. The services of morning and evening prayer that Anglican ministers still say, the use of the psalms, the way the priest lifts up both hands for the Eucharistic prayer may all be traced back at least as far as the practices of the desert fathers and mothers.

Most of us will not be spending Lent in the desert, but we can find silence and solitude in our lives in which to listen for God speaking. The simplest way to do that is to spend more time praying. It's worth putting time and thought into planning this – even the best intentions can fail when faced with practical difficulties. Where can you be alone, undisturbed and unobtrusive? You will need both time and space. Provided you are not an owl, the early morning is good, since you can carve out prayer time by getting up earlier than everyone else. You might designate a corner of a

room, the garden shed or a balcony as a prayer space or, as a friend did, barricade yourself in the kitchen to pray.

For how long should we pray? Not too long! Rabbi Lionel Blue reckoned that it took him about 20 minutes to relax into prayer and then sometimes just one line of a psalm or prayer spoke to him. For many people it's much less than that. We each find our rhythm. In the end it doesn't matter where or when you pray – just do it!



What's going on here? And who is this? See p.3!

Lent lunches

It has been a tradition for some years to have shared Lent lunches with our neighbours at St Mary's Roman Catholic church, Julian Road. This year our Local Ministry Group partners at St Stephen's Lansdown are also joining in. The idea is to build ecumenical links and raise money for those in need. Donations are made at the end of the simple meal and are split between the participating churches for their chosen charities. This year the dates are:

- Monday 11 March at midday in St Stephen's;
- Monday 18 and 25 March, at midday, at Christ Church in the Lower Mews;
- Monday 1 and 8 April, at midday, at St Mary's Parish Centre (behind the church; entrance via the car park off Burlington Street).

If you can help by making soup or a pudding for the dates when Christ Church is hosting, please contact Angela Soboslay.

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



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>



Living Well
in God's world

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

Weekly Envelope giving is ending

David Bishop writes:

A decision has been made to dispense with the Weekly Envelopes as a means of planned giving. Usage has declined in recent years and today they are used by very few people.

The simplest way of arranging your regular giving to Christ Church is to set up a standing order at the bank, but for those who prefer not to do that, the white Gift Aid envelopes are still available.

Feel free to speak to David Bishop, Georgina Bowman, Lore or either of the Churchwardens if there is anything you would like to discuss.

Thank you, all of you – envelope users or not – for your continuing, amazingly generous support of Christ Church.

New Electoral Roll

Every church in the Church of England is required to completely renew its 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 entitles you to take part in the Annual Church Meeting (see p.4), and to stand for 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.

You'll need to fill in a form whether or not you were on the roll before. If you're on the Christ Church mailing list, you'll have had the form by e-mail, or look for one at the back of the church. Act now – the deadline is soon!

Last month...



The Christ Church family grew and Ali Nourse became a grandmother again as her daughter Jenny and Jenny's fiancé Glenn welcomed Eleanor Audrey Watts, born 21 February at 10:18pm, weighing just under 8lbs. Congratulations to all!



Lore celebrated a significant birthday in February, beginning with a Roman-candle-topped cake at Cedar Tree on Friday 22nd, a party in St. Mary's parish rooms on Saturday 23rd, and a presentation after our 10am service on Sunday 24th.

Lore writes: May I say thank you to all of you who sent cards and best wishes and donations for the East End reordering fund when I celebrated a significant birthday recently. Colin and I were overwhelmed by your generosity and the welcome you gave to friends and family who had travelled to Bath. I'm still not sure who sent some amazing daffodils and tulips to the house without a card. If it was you, please let me know. They were amazing. Thank you all very much!



Saturday 30th March 2019

9.30 am - 3.30 pm, St Thomas's Church, Wells BA5 2UZ

A day of inspiration and encouragement with many practical workshops. Come and find hope for the future!

Eco Church conference

The Bible tells us that "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it," and that we are called to be good stewards of the earth. Many local churches of all denominations are getting involved in making that a reality. On Saturday 30 March, join Eco Church at St Thomas' Church, Wells, for this one-day conference (9:30am to 3:30pm) which aims to inspire, encourage and equip Christians to include "creation care" in the life of their church and community.

Speakers in the morning are Rt Revd Ruth Worsley, Bishop of Taunton, on the theology of caring for the earth, and Professor Chris King, Emeritus Professor of Earth Science Education, Keele University, on the environmental challenges of the day.

After a question-and-answer session with Bishop Ruth and Prof. Chris, there will be a number of "how-to" sessions. Workshops will be led by local Christians of all denominations, covering topics including simplifying your lifestyle, engaging with your community and the wider world, greening your church land, sustainable buildings, and teaching and worship. There will also be displays by local environmental organisations.

Coffee/tea and biscuits provided; bring your own (single-use-plastic free) packed lunch.

Find out more and book your free place at www.bathandwells.org.uk/event/gods-world/

Coming events

Pray for Bath

What is it? An opportunity to join together with Christians from churches all around Bath in prayer, followed by pancakes to celebrate Shrove Tuesday.

When is it? Tuesday 5 March, 7:30pm

Where? Bath Abbey

Admission free, all welcome

Bishop Peter Price: seeking peace

What is it? Drawing on the experiences of over 40 years working on the frontline of reconciliation and peace building, in Latin America, Africa and the Middle East, Bishop Peter Price, former Bishop of Bath and Wells, speaks on "Things That Make For Peace", exploring what it means to respond to the biblical call to "seek peace... and pursue it" (Psalms 34:14). One of a series of lunchtime lectures at the University of Bath marking 50 years of the ecumenical Christian Chaplaincy.

When is it? Thursday 7 March, 1:15pm

Where? 6 West 1.1, University of Bath

Free; register at <https://bit.ly/2Tw6pn5>

LMG Lent Eucharist

What is it? We are invited to celebrate a Lent Eucharist with our Local Ministry Group at Charlcombe St Mary's instead of our own weekday Eucharist.

When and where? Thursday 8 March at 11am at St. Mary's, Charlcombe. Lifts available from Christ Church at 10:30am.

Christ Church AGM

The Annual General Church Meeting of the Christ Church congregation will be held on Sunday 7 April after the 10am service. Come along to have your say, elect Churchwardens and Church Council, and receive reports on the activities of all the groups in the church.

Anyone can attend, but you must be on the Electoral Roll of Christ Church to vote. See page 3, or talk to the Churchwardens if you have any questions about the Roll.

Bishop's Message for March

Let Him look at you



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

The other day, someone was speaking about visiting her elderly mum. She was telling us that whenever she visited, she would offer to do any jobs that might be needed and beyond her mum's reach. Her mum's response was to say: "Just sit down and let me look at you." I've been thinking about that conversation ever since.

What a wonderful thing to say to your child. "Just sit down and let me look at you."

She was sharing this vignette a year after her mum's death. There are no more opportunities for her mum to "sit and look at her". How glad she is that she took the time while her mum was alive.

I wonder if I can say the same. Have I made time for the things that really matter, or am I so focused on the tasks at hand that I forget the need for space to develop relationship? I have a sense that this isn't just about the people who matter to me, but also that it may be Jesus speaking to me as well. "Just sit

down and let me look at you."

The story of Mary and Martha opening up their home to Jesus in hospitality perhaps reminds us most of the priority of spending time in the presence of Jesus. Martha complains at Mary's lack of support in helping with the household jobs. Jesus' response is to suggest that Martha has become so distracted with the "tasks" of hospitality that she has missed the point of what welcome and relationship is.

We often think of this story as being about Mary and Martha's priorities. Which is of greater significance? Our attitude of service or that of spiritual exploration? However, I'm wondering if Jesus was saying something more. "Just sit down and let me look at you." What would Jesus see if He looked at you? How does He look at you?

March 8th is International Women's Day, often an opportunity to remind us that society's way of looking at women has changed over the years. The #MeToo movement has revealed some of the ways in which women have been objectified, resulting in forms of abuse. Alongside that growing realisation, we are increasingly aware that many women and men feel a sense of dissatisfaction with how they look and can find their mental health affected as a result. Many of us find it uncomfortable to have another person looking at us.

I'd like to suggest that we might hear these words, "just sit down and let me look at you," as an invitation from Jesus to spend time under His gaze this week. Not as a means of incurring shame, but rather to receive the look of love that He so wants us to see.

+Ruth Taunton

This month's charity: Children's Hospice SW

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 Children's Hospice South West. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.)

Children's Hospice South West provides hospice care for children with life-limiting conditions and their families across the South West. The care it offers includes respite and short breaks, emergency care, bereavement support, palliative care and end of life care.

Children's Hospice SW was founded in 1991 by Eddie and Jill Farwell after they experienced for themselves the urgent need for hospice care for children in the South West. Their two eldest children, Katie and



Tom, had life-limiting illnesses and they had to travel over four hours, from their home in North Devon to Helen House in Oxford, then the country's only children's hospice.

In 1995 the charity opened Little Bridge House in Devon, the South West's first children's hospice. Its second, at Charlton Farm in Wraxall, just outside Bristol, opened in 2007, and the third, Little Harbour in mid Cornwall, in December 2011.

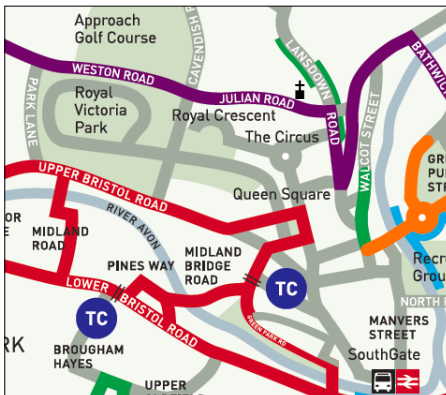
Some families may use the hospice for many years, from the time the child is first diagnosed with an incurable condition. The whole family can stay at the hospices, and support extends into bereavement and beyond for as long as each family needs it.

The care offered at each hospice is not simply about medical and nursing care for sick children, but about enriching the lives of children and their families. Families talk about building a "treasure chest" of precious memories to carry into the future.

For more about Children's Hospice South West, visit its website at www.chsw.org.uk.



Road closures for Bath Half Marathon



Watch out when travelling to church on Sunday 17 March – the Bath Half Marathon is taking place on that day. Roads along the route (shown in red on the map at left) will be closed from 9:45am to 3:30pm (and parking on those roads – including disabled parking – will be suspended from 6am to 3:30pm). Traffic is likely to be heavier than usual on the diversion routes (shown in purple), which include Julian Road, so you might wish to allow extra time to get to and from Christ Church. Temporary crossings will be provided for pedestrians to cross the course route at Green Park and Brougham Hayes (marked TC on the map).

Christ Church calendar March 2019

1 Fri *David, patron of Wales*
Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

3 Sun *The Sunday next before Lent*

6 Wed *Ash Wednesday*
7:30pm Service of Ashing

7 Thu 11am Lent Eucharist, Charlcombe St Mary's
(*Lifts from Christ Church 10:30; no Eucharist at Christ Church*)

8 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

9 Sat Arts + Ministry Icon Painting Workshop, 10am

10 Sun *The First Sunday of Lent*
8am Holy Communion (BCP)

11 Mon Sponsored Peal, 12 midday
Lent Lunch at St Stephen's, midday

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 Second Sunday of Lent*
Bath Half Marathon – watch for road closures and diversions

18 Mon Lent Lunch at Christ Church, midday

19 Tue *Joseph of Nazareth*
Christ Church Council meeting, 7:30pm

21 Thu 11am Eucharist, followed by coffee

22 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

24 Sun *The Third Sunday of Lent*
Bring & Buy Sale in aid of east end reordering project
Christ Church rostered to assist at Genesis Sunday Centre

25 Mon *The Annunciation*
Lent Lunch at Christ Church, midday

28 Thu 11am Eucharist, followed by coffee
Pilgrim Group meeting discussing Hebrews, 7:30pm

29 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

31 Sun *Mothering Sunday / The Fourth Sunday of Lent*

Prayer Cycle for March 2019

Friday	1	For the sick and suffering
Saturday	2	For adoptive and foster families
Sunday	3	For Lore our priest in charge
Monday	4	For our government and politicians
Tuesday	5	We give thanks for those who inspire us
Wednesday	6	That we may have a spirit of penitence
Thursday	7	For good relationships between the nations
Friday	8	For victims of natural disasters
Saturday	9	For Bible scholars and theologians
Sunday	10	For Angela our Verger
Monday	11	For those who work in the emergency services
Tuesday	12	For countries with economic problems
Wednesday	13	For our Local Ministry Group partners
Thursday	14	For all in hospital
Friday	15	For those finding it hard to earn a living
Saturday	16	That we may have the gift of hope
Sunday	17	For Mark, Keith and the choir
Monday	18	For shopkeepers and shop workers
Tuesday	19	For good relations between different faiths
Wednesday	20	We give thanks for beauty in the world around us
Thursday	21	For those on our church rotas
Friday	22	For those who have been forced to flee their homes
Saturday	23	For our charity of the month

Sunday	24	For vocations to the ministry
Monday	25	For those involved In local government
Tuesday	26	For the work of Genesis
Wednesday	27	For those who travel
Thursday	28	For our flower arrangers and those who look after the church
Friday	29	For all who face tragedy
Saturday	30	For those who have been baptised, married or confirmed at Christ Church
Sunday	31	We give thanks for the blessings of the past month

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
 Sister Catherine

Demelza King
 Zayad
 Joe Street
 Mrs Wright
 Gill
 Andrew Clatworthy
 Tom King
 Joyce Gabe
 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 March 2019

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
3 March Next before Lent	Emma Elliott Exodus 34:29-end	Nick Wells 2 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2	Charles Rice Luke 9:28-43a
10 March Lent 1	Clive Tilling Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Jude Bishop Romans 10:8b-13	Rebekah Cunningham Luke 4:1-13
17 March Lent 2	Robin Kerr Genesis 15: 1-12,17-18	Greg Ridley Philippians 3:17 – 4:1	Richard Gabe Luke 13:31-35
24 March Lent 3	Isaac Elliott Isaiah 55:1-9	Malcolm Wall 1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Jane Fletcher Luke 13:1-9
31 March Mothering Sunday	Thomas Wolker-Darley Joshua 5:9-12	Rosanne Gabe 2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Janet Mahto Luke 15:1-3,11b-32
7 April Lent 5	Zoe Bushell Isaiah 43:16-21	Lewis Boyd Philippians 3:4b-14	Penny Edwards John 12:1-8

Laity rota, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Chalice assistants	Sidespeople	Intercessions
3 March	Jonathan Stead, David Rawlings	Sylvia Ayers, Ken Ayers	Mark Elliott
10 March	Malcolm Wall, Clive Tilling	Jonathan Stead, Jane Nicholson	Penny Edwards
17 March	David Rawlings, Janet Mahto	Margaret Silver, Morny Davison	Jonathan Stead
24 March	Jonathan Stead, TBC	Sylvia Ayers, Ken Ayers	Rebekah Cunningham
31 March	Clive Tilling, Malcolm Wall	Morny Davison, Jane Nicholson	Georgina Bowman
7 April	Keri Chivers, David Rawlings	Jonathan Stead, Margaret Silver	Mark Elliott

Who's who at Christ Church

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Publicity co-ordinators Janet Mahto
Lewis 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

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

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

Contacting us

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