



Responding to terrorism

Countering hate and fear with love

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

On 15 March this year, Christchurch in New Zealand was rocked by attacks on two mosques. Fifty people died and fifty more were injured. Bath churches, including Christ Church, sent a message of support to Imam Mohammed Gamal and the community of worshippers at the Bath Mosque. Since March a group of concerned Christians from all over Bath has gathered outside the mosque at the time of Friday prayers to demonstrate support. Tragically, on Easter Sunday the positions were reversed as news came of the murder of Sri Lankan Christians – protestant and Catholic – at prayer in church on Easter morning. Imam Mohammed sent a message to all Christians in Bath:

Dear Christian brothers and sisters in Bath,

Bath Islamic Society offers its sincere condolences on the victims of the terrorist attack in Sri Lanka. Indeed, words fail to express how much sadness and grief such attacks bring to our hearts. It goes without saying that we strongly condemn the attack in Sri Lanka and share the sorrow with you.

Our heart goes out to all those who lost their lives in this cowardly attack. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families. May God grant patience to the families of the casualties and recovery to the injured.

What's happening to this world in the 21st century is just beyond imagination. Hence, there is a dire need today to fight against the philosophy of hate and

hate-mongers together. May God unite our hearts.

Terrorism feeds on fear. By itself it can destroy individual lives but it cannot change communities unless we allow it to. The current wave of terrorist attacks against faith communities seems aimed at increasing enmity and fear between different faiths. We don't have to allow that to happen. Our "anti-terrorism tactics" are clear: "Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you." As Christians, we, above all people, are commanded to this, and if we can love indiscriminately, universally, with intelligence and sensitivity, then the terrorism which is designed to create anger and unrest and incite revenge attacks dividing people, will fail to detonate. The violence will stop with us.



Warm thanks to all who helped decorate the church so splendidly for Easter, including the floral cross on the pulpit, the Easter Garden and all the flowers on the altar and reredos, in the entrance lobby, in the Lady Chapel and around the nave.

On the Edge

Our summer series of invited lectures on the theme “Spirituality on the Edge” takes place on alternate Thursday evenings. It begins on Thursday 16 May at 7:30pm with Revd Canon Rachel Mann, speaking on “Christianity on the Edge”. Rachel is a transgender priest, poet, writer and broadcaster. Her most recent book is shortlisted for the Michael Ramsey Theology Prize. We are delighted that she will be opening our series.

■ Thursday 30 May: Jonathan Stead on “Spirituality in a Time of Crisis”, reflecting on living under apartheid and through its collapse.

■ Thursday 13 June: Fiona Gardner, psychoanalytic psychotherapist, spiritual director and writer, brings spiritual and psychological insight to the American contemplative and writer Thomas Merton.

■ Thursday 27 June: Revd Maria Shepherd, “Building Bridges: a story of emerging understanding between Christian and Pagans”. The Rector of Avebury explores the challenges and possibilities presented by working in a community with strong links to a spirituality older than Christianity.

■ Thursday 11 July: Nicky Gladstone, ordinand and Project Leader at Carecent, York, reflects on her work with those who may feel themselves on the edge of society.

“Equal Marriage”

What is it? A talk by Revd Andrew Foreshew-Cain, followed by Taizé Worship. Presented by Rainbow Church, a series of events including a talk and separate act of worship held in churches across Somerset to signpost the inclusion of LGBTI people in Christian worship. All are welcome. Bring your own lunch to have afterwards (about 1pm).

When? Saturday 18 May – coffee 10:30am, talk 11am, worship 12:30pm

Where? St Stephen’s Church, Lansdown Road, Bath BA1 5SX

Further information: Revd Philip Hawthorn, philip@ststephensbath.org.uk

Church Council

At the Christ Church Annual General Meeting on Sunday 7 April, Lewis Boyd and Janet Mahto were re-elected as Churchwardens for the coming year, and Sylvia Ayers, Jane Nicholson, Tosin Onile-Ere Rotini, Judith Bishop and Alex Soboslay appointed as Assistant Churchwardens.

Following this and the receipt of nominations to Council, including nominations to fill vacant positions *pro tem*, the members of Christ Church Council for the coming year are as follows:

Ex officio members

Revd Lore Chumbley	Priest-in-Charge
Mark Elliott	Reader
Lewis Boyd	Churchwarden
Janet Mahto	Churchwarden
Sarah Kerr	Deanery Synod rep
Jane Nicholson	Deanery Synod rep
Brenda Wall	Deanery Synod rep

Elected until 2020

Matthew Jones
Sharon Rawlings
Zoë Bushell (*pro tem*)

Elected until 2021

Judith Bishop
Jonathan Stead
Alex Soboslay (*pro tem*)

Elected until 2022

Georgina Bowman
Penny Edwards
Virginia Knight

The first meeting of the new Council will take place on Tuesday 14 May. Dates for meetings for the rest of the year should be set at the first meeting.

The next Annual General Meeting for all those on the Christ Church electoral roll will take place on Sunday 26 April 2020.

Rowena Hall Memorial Poetry Day

Virginia Knight writes:

On Saturday 27 April, present and former members of Christ Church and other poetry lovers gathered at the Old Barn on Kelston Roundhill for a Poetry Day dedicated to the memory of Rowena Hall. Rowena attended Christ Church for the last few years of her life, contributing much in friendship and service, and loved reading and writing poetry.

Actor Lance Pierson began the proceedings by exploring some of the poems of Gerard Manley Hopkins, untangling their meanings, explaining their context and showing how they achieved their effects. As if on cue, a kestrel appeared outside as he discussed "The Windhover".

Afterwards we split into two groups: one, led by Sarah Sheppard, discussed poems about spring by Herbert and Hopkins, while Lore produced some objects and ideas to help those in the other group find their own poetic voice. Several of us had not tried writing poetry since we left school!

At midday some of us braced ourselves and went out into the teeth of Storm Hannah to plant a rowan tree on the hillside in front of the barn, using a new poem written that morning by Canon Angela to dedicate it. Rowena's ashes have been placed among the roots of the tree. Afterwards we shared a delicious lunch, during which some of Rowena's own poems were read aloud. A collection was taken for Open Doors, her favourite charity, which supports persecuted Christians.

We are very grateful to Lore, Lance and Sarah for organising and leading the event, and to Margaret and William Heath for providing the venue.



Top: a hardy group braved the weather to plant a rowan tree in memory of Rowena outside the Old Barn. Photo courtesy of Virginia Knight. Above: lunch around the fire after the readings and tree planting. Photo courtesy of Bath Quaker News.

Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement which invites Christians around the world to pray during the nine days between Ascension and Pentecost (Thursday 30 May to Sunday 9 June 2019). What started out as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York in 2016 to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.

This year in the Diocese of Bath and Wells, Thy Kingdom Come will focus on the symbolism of rocks and stones as a representation of God's steadfastness. This symbolism is frequently used throughout scripture. The word "rock" is used 24 times with reference to God in the book of Psalms alone, for example. We frequently refer to the metaphor of the shepherd, the bread of life, the light of the world or the lamb, but how often do we think about "The Lord is my rock"?

For the 11 days (inclusive) of the Thy Kingdom Come initiative we are encouraged to pray for God's kingdom to come into our communities. Visit <http://bit.ly/thy-kingdom-come-2019> for more information and a "#somersetrocks" leaflet containing 50 ideas, all based on the theme of rocks, to help you as you pray as individuals, families, churches and whole deaneries.



Dementia Action Week

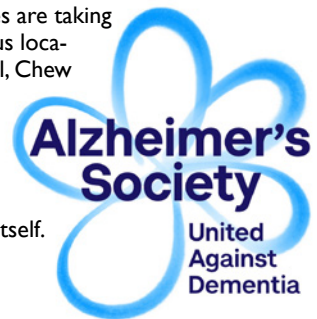
Dementia Action Week (Monday 20 to Sunday 26 May this year) unites people, workplaces, schools and communities to take action and improve the lives of people living with dementia.

Too many people living with dementia report feeling cut off from their community, losing their friendships and facing dementia alone. But having dementia shouldn't mean an isolated life. Simple actions from us all can create supportive communities, where people living with the condition can continue to socialise with others, hop on the bus, go to their favourite shops or take part in local activities for as long as possible. Find more information at www.alzheimers.org.uk/get-involved/dementia-action-week

One example sees restaurants taking part in Dining4Dementia, which gives people living with dementia the opportunity to volunteer at restaurants. It will show that with the right support, people living with dementia can still contribute to a workplace.

In Bath, the restaurant taking part is Comptoir Libanais, 4 Newark Street, Bath BA1 1AT (Southgate, near Boots). It is offering people with dementia the opportunity to volunteer for a short shift, front of house, buddying up with restaurant staff, during the weekend of Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 May. Show your support by patronising the restaurant during that period, or contact it to put it in touch with potential volunteers.

More Dementia Action Week activities are taking place at various locations in Bristol, Chew Magna and elsewhere in our region, but no others are currently listed in Bath itself.



Bishop's Message for May

Finding the best in the world



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

It's Somerset day on Saturday 11 May. It is an opportunity to profile some of the delights of our county and develop relationships across our communities. It is on this day that we remember Alfred (a failed "Bake Off" contestant?) taking on the Vikings from the Somerset marshes and winning, thus spawning a "make Somerset great again" moment.

Now, don't get me wrong: this isn't about us in Somerset trying to prove we are better than anyone else. We have seen plenty in recent days which has sought to divide rather than unite us as a country. Rather, this is an opportunity to value the uniqueness of some of our wonderful people, places and possibilities here in Somerset and across the diocese. I do hope you will join in! See www.somersetday.com for more details.

And surely that is what the Church should be about too: celebrating all that is good, joyful and abundant in us. It reminds me of those words from Philippians 4:8...

"Whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

It is so easy to get caught up with negatives, with the "glass half empty" syndrome, with stuff that brings us down rather than building us up. I wonder if we might make this month one where we encourage ourselves and others to find the best in the world and people around us. "Live life in all its fullness!" (John 10:10)

+Ruth Taunton

24/7 Prayer for Bath

Join with other Christians in Bath to take part in a cycle of prayer that will last 7 days, 24 hours a day, from Sunday 2 June to Sunday 9 June at the Genesis Building, Old School House, South Parade, Bath BA2 4AF.

The event is organised by Bath Christian Action Network, and is affiliated with the Bath Community Houses of Prayer initiative. There will be worship twice a day, and tea and coffee are provided. All are welcome to drop in for an hour or more – bring a friend, or bring your church.

Please sign up for a time slot at www.24-7prayer.com/signup/6cfce7. For more information, e-mail bathchops@gmail.com or visit facebook.com/chopbath

This month's charity: USPG Malawi project

The loose collection in the plate on the second and fourth Sunday of the month, 12 and 26 May, plus an optional retiring collection for the rest of the month, will go to the USPG Malawi project. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.)

We continue to support the Anglican Church in Malawi, and the USPG's current programme A Future With Hope.

USPG has been active in Malawi since 1882 and today it supports the Anglican Church in Malawi Community Integrated Intervention (ACMCI) programme. The church is supporting those at the margins of society at parish level, addressing education for girls, protecting livelihoods, management of the environment, hygiene and sanitation and has an across-the-board focus on gender equality, HIV and AIDS.

The church draws local government, media, health institutions and Mothers' Union groups together to help communities build their own capabilities and realise their potential. It encourages communities to find solutions to problems using local resources.

Solutions promoting rural livelihoods include table banking, where groups place savings and other contributions on a table, then borrow from the table to kick-start a project. The use of bio-sand water filters to remove bacteria and viruses is one of many measures improving sanitation. Other initiatives include farmers' clubs and preparation of compost to improve household food security.

Only 35% of girls in Malawi complete pri-

mary school and many more drop out of school at puberty to care for siblings or become wives and mothers. The church is challenging the lack of education, opportunity and autonomy for women in Malawi by inspiring girls to return to school. They are doing this by providing girls-only hostels and toilets, promoting local production of sanitary pads, promoting sexual health services to reduce early pregnancy and taking education into isolated communities via the radio.

This is an ongoing project that we support 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 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 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.

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 Scruffly 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



Christ Church calendar May 2019

1 Wed *Philip and James, Apostles*

2 Thu 11am Eucharist, followed by coffee

3 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

5 Sun *The Third Sunday of Easter*

8 Wed *Mother Julian of Norwich, spiritual writer*

9 Thu 11am Eucharist, followed by coffee

10 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

12 Sun *The Fourth Sunday of Easter*
8am Holy Communion (BCP)

14 Tue *Matthias the Apostle*
Christ Church Council meeting, 7:30pm

16 Thu 11am Eucharist, followed by coffee
Summer talk series, 7:30pm, Revd Canon Rachel Mann

17 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

19 Sun *The Fifth Sunday of Easter*
4:30pm Choral Evensong

22 Wed 2pm Communion with tea

23 Thu 11am Eucharist, followed by coffee

24 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

26 Sun *The Sixth Sunday of Easter*

30 Thu *Ascension Day*
11am Eucharist, followed by coffee
Summer talk series, 7:30pm, “Spirituality in a Time of Crisis”

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

Jun 2 Sun *The Seventh Sunday of Easter*

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 May 2019

Wednesday	1	For peace
Thursday	2	For our plans for the church building
Friday	3	For the unemployed
Saturday	4	For the chaplaincies at Bath's Universities
Sunday	5	For Lewis and Janet our Churchwardens
Monday	6	For journalists and those who work in the media
Tuesday	7	We give thanks for our blessings
Wednesday	8	That we may show mercy and compassion
Thursday	9	For those recently baptised or preparing for baptism
Friday	10	For the ministry of the Cedar Tree
Saturday	11	For those who live or work in care homes
Sunday	12	For our Diocese of Bath and Wells
Monday	13	For those who teach
Tuesday	14	For the Church Council, meeting tonight
Wednesday	15	We give thanks for those who enrich our lives
Thursday	16	For those who live and work in the streets around Christ Church
Friday	17	For those who lack food or water
Saturday	18	For prisoners and prison workers
Sunday	19	For all clergy taking services at Christ Church
Monday	20	For architects and designers
Tuesday	21	That we may have the gift of joy
Wednesday	22	For countries experiencing civil unrest

Thursday	23	For those who organise and attend events at Christ Church
Friday	24	For those affected by disasters in the air or at sea
Saturday	25	For a good harvest
Sunday	26	For our neighbours at St Mary's Catholic Church
Monday	27	For those who work in the hospitality industry
Tuesday	28	For our charity of the month
Wednesday	29	We give thanks for artists, poets and musicians
Thursday	30	For our link dioceses in Zambia
Friday	31	For the lonely and depressed

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
 Zareb
 Fred Matthews
 Judith Rogers
 Nancy Kiddie
 Revd John Brown
 Harold Holmes
 Alan White

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 May 2019

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
5 May Easter 3	Judith Anderson Acts 9:1-6 [, 7-20]	Clive Tilling Revelation 5:11-end	Charles Rice John 21:1-19
12 May Easter 4	Daphne Radenhurst Acts 9:36-end	Robert Siderfin Revelation 7:9-end	Greg Ridley John 10:22-30
19 May Easter 5	Alex Soboslay Acts 11:1-18	Robin Kerr Revelation 21:1-6	Mark Elliott John 13:31-35
26 May Easter 6	Georgina Bowman Acts 16:9-15	Janet Mahto Revelation 22:10,22 – 22:5	Jane Fletcher John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9
2 June Easter 7	Malcolm Wall Acts 16:16-34	Jude Bishop Revelation 22:12- 14, 16-17, 20-end	Penny Edwards John 17:20-end

Laitry rota, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Chalice assistants	Sidespeople	Intercessions
5 May	David Rawlings, Clive Tilling	Morny Davison, Margaret Silver	Georgina Bowman
12 May	Angela Soboslay, Keri Chivers	Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers	Penny Edwards
19 May	David Rawlings, Jonathan Stead	Morny Davison, Margaret Silver	Rebekah Cunningham
26 May	Keri Chivers, Clive Tilling	Jane Nicholson, Jonathan Stead	Nick Wells
2 June	David Rawlings, Janet Mahto	Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers	Jonathan Stead

Who's who at Christ Church

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Revd Prof. Cliff Burrows
Revd Narinder Tegally

Reader, Director of Music Mark Elliott
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**Churchwarden,
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Tower Secretary Ian Hay Davison
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Steeple Keeper David Kelly

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

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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