



Season of mists and celebration

Celebrating God's gifts in Nature and in human diversity

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

August Bank Holiday, we were warned, would be hot, but we woke to a cool, thick mist. It put me in mind of starting the school year by walking through the morning mist of early September. I used to ease the misery of the holidays' end by picking an apple off the tree in our garden as a way of taking home into school. Mist, apples and the return to school mark the turn of the year, and we will be in tune with the season when we celebrate Harvest Festival at Christ Church on Sunday 8 September. On the same day we have the chance to visit Janet's garden for her annual Apple Picking Party in aid of Genesis, and we will also be marking Ability Sunday.

We all have different abilities. The distinction between able-bodied and disabled can be difficult to plot. The Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford, points out that rather than a distinction we should be looking for a partnership between those of us who are disabled and those of us who are "temporarily able-bodied", as he succinctly puts it. I have recently begun to wear vari-focal glasses, without which I may not drive, and that tiny adjustment has made me aware of the complications of this most minor "disability". If I find that somewhere safe to put my glasses is now essential, what about those who need a hearing loop, dementia-friendly posters and notices, accessible toilets, or recognition of their needs as people with autism or Asperger's syndrome? This isn't a new problem and Christ Church

has already taken steps towards accessibility. But we need to be constantly aware of unconscious biases in our culture towards a "them and us" approach rather than an "us and us" partnership.

Harvest is a time to celebrate our gifts – all of them: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23a). Let's look for and enjoy those in each other and make our celebration of God's gifts at Harvest also a recognition and celebration of each one of us, with a determination to anticipate and meet each other's needs – whatever they may be.

Organ recital



Sunday 8 September is also the date for an unmissable organ recital by internationally renowned organist David Briggs. Starting at 7:30pm, he will play a live improvised accompaniment on our newly restored organ to the classic 1920 Gothic film *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. Tickets are £12 (£5 for under-18s and students), available at church or online at Bath Box Office: bathboxoffice.org.uk

Circuit of Bath Walk for Julian House

This year's Circuit of Bath Walk in aid of Julian House takes place on Sunday 22 September. It is a spectacular walking event, exploring some of the beautiful countryside around Bath and raising vital funds for Julian House.

You can choose your own distance, from 2 up to 20 miles, and decide whether to go clockwise or anti-clockwise between any or all of the five checkpoints. Thanks to a shuttle bus service between the checkpoints, you will be able to get back to your start point whichever distance you choose.

If you plan to walk the whole route, an early start is recommended; the checkpoints

will be staffed from 8am to 6pm. Water will be available at all the checkpoints. There are places you can buy lunch along the way, or bring a packed lunch.

Note that unlike in previous years, this year there is a fee for entry: £12 for adults, £6 for children, or £25 for a family group of up to five people (at least two of whom are children). Participants are asked to raise as much sponsorship as they can so that Julian House can continue to help and support homeless and marginalised men and women.

You can find more details and register online at www.circuitofbathwalk.co.uk



Marking Creationtide

Creationtide or the Season of Creation is the period in the church calendar (from 1 September to 4 October) dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life. Churches of many denominations are called to pay special attention to the responsibility of humanity for the Earth and for all that lives upon it, linking traditional harvest festivals with both current environmental issues and older Christian traditions of the relationship between God, humanity and the created order.

For readings, daily reflections, liturgies and other resources, visit <https://creationtide.com>.

For ecumenical material, see the Season of Creation site, <https://seasonofcreation.org>.

For information about environmental issues and a quarterly newsletter, see the Church of England Environment Programme site, www.churchofengland.org/environment.

Make your will and support the RUH

Local solicitors are donating their will-writing fees to the RUH charity The Forever Friends Appeal for a fifth consecutive year. Throughout September, you can make or update your will with 14 firms of solicitors at a significantly reduced fee of £100 for a single will or £150 for two standard mirror wills or joint wills. This fee will be donated directly to the charity, supporting the work of the RUH. You can even request that it goes to a specific ward or area of the hospital which may have special meaning to you, family or friends.

Simply book an appointment with a participating solicitor and quote "RUH Will Month" – but availability is limited, so don't delay. For a list of participating solicitors, visit www.foreverfriendsappeal.co.uk/make-a-will-month

Fundraising events

Jonathan Stead writes:

The next event in the Christ Church fundraising calendar, raising money for our east end reordering, is an **All Age Games Day**. This will be held on **Sunday 22 September** after our 10am service and will last until 3pm. There will be indoor games in the Lower Mews and – for the young in body and heart – outdoor ones in the Upper Mews garden. A light lunch with a drink will be served to sustain the mental and physical activities!

Entry is £10 for an adult and £5 for a child or student, and there is a package deal of £25 for families of 4 or more. Small prizes are on offer for the winners of our games but the emphasis is on having some fun and fellowship with other members of the congregation. Please complete the booking list at the back of the church so that we have an indication of numbers for catering purposes.

All quizzers, please start preparing for the **Christ Church Quiz** on the evening of **Saturday 16 November** in the Lower Mews. We are asking Christ Church members to invite friends as this is a great opportunity for raising funds and also introducing new people to our church community. There will be delicious nibbles and a drink included in the cost of the ticket – and the chance of winning one of our prizes. Tickets are £12.50 and will be on sale from October.

For 2020, apart from another Time and Talent project during Lent, we are hoping to organise a Scottish Dancing evening and possibly a light musical review. Watch this space, and please support our events.

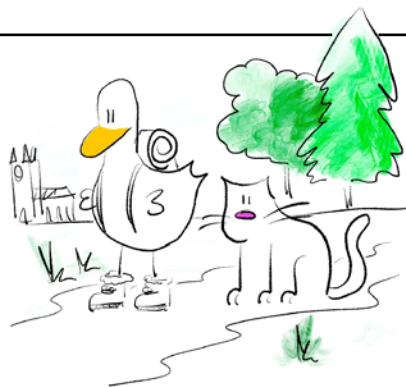
Apple Picking Party

What is it? Janet Mahto is opening her garden again this year in aid of Genesis Trust and its work with some of the most marginalised and disadvantaged people in Bath. Come along for food, fellowship and, yes, freshly-picked apples. *When is it?* Sunday 8 September, from midday *Where?* Granville Lodge, Weston Road, Bath BA1 2XU

Last month in Christ Church



Eileen Selmes's funeral took place in Christ Church on Monday 19 August. At her request, the hymns and order of service were the same as at Cyril's funeral in Christ Church in 2017. Condolences to all of Eileen's family and friends.



Walk for the east end

Last year Richard Gabe and Lewis Boyd walked from Malvern to Bath to raise funds for the organ restoration. This year they will once again be walking, this time along the North Cornwall coast from Thursday 19th to Friday 27th September, covering 100 miles (if they don't get lost). They're aiming to match the incredible amount of £2,000 they raised last year, this time for our reordering and new furniture, but need your support to achieve this. To sponsor them, visit www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/walkfortheeastend

Charities for 2020

Rebekah Cunningham writes:

We are looking for suggestions for next year's charitable causes. As you'll know, Christ Church has a "Charity of the Month" each month, for which we collect through our loose change collection on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, plus a collection plate at the back of the church.

Every quarter our Charity of the Month is our USPG link project in Malawi, and we are also committed to supporting Genesis and Julian House in December, but the remainder of the year we have a changing list of charities to support, and we would really welcome suggestions for 2020.

We aim to support a mix of local, national and international charities, both Christian and secular. We won't be able to include everyone's favourite charity but particularly would like suggestions of charities in accord with Christ Church values and ethos. If your suggestion is adopted as a Charity of the Month we would really like you to be willing to write a brief article for *Link* in the month allocated, and if possible put up a small display or information at the back of church. Please speak to Lore, Rebekah or Zoë if you would like to talk about this, or e-mail suggestions to rebekah.spanner@gmail.com.

Ride and Stride 2019

What is it? A sponsored cycle or walk between churches – just a few, or lots! Money that participants raise is split between their own church and Somerset Churches Trust, which helps fund repairs and improvements to churches and chapels of all denominations. With other events scheduled around the time, Christ Church will not be opening on the day this year, but many churches in the Diocese, if not in Bath itself, are likely to be, so if you enjoy visiting churches, raise some sponsorship and take part!

When is it? Saturday 14 September

More details: www.somersetchurchestrust.org

Book review

Revd Lore Chumbley reviews *The Lost Message of Paul* by Steve Chalke, SPCK, 2019

Steve Chalke grew up in a Christian family and at the age of 14 decided to become a minister and to build a hospital and a school. Unlike many youthful idealists he has achieved all three. He is the founder of Oasis Church, a liberal inclusive Baptist church – and if you think that is an oxymoron, you are not alone. He launched his most recent book, *The Lost Message of Paul*, in Bath over the summer.

While the book has been acclaimed by Rob Bell, Lucy Winkett and Richard Rohr, the enthusiasm in Bath Abbey for the launch was lukewarm. I just hope they bought and read the book. It is readable, with plenty of illustrative stories from a man who is clearly used to preaching. Steve starts from the belief that Paul, far from being a misogynist, was actually "a great includer". The book's argument is that within his First Century context, Paul was counter-cultural in listening to and respecting women and Gentiles.

More than that, according to Steve, Paul has been misunderstood by the Reformation. The "justification by faith" preached by Luther and Calvin is a mistranslation of "justification by the faithfulness of Jesus Christ." This removes the Protestant guilt – the sense of never being sure we are saved. "Of course we are saved," argues Steve. "That's the reassurance of the Resurrection. Now let's get on with building the kingdom."

The argument will not be won by sleight of hand in translating the Greek, but Steve Chalke writes with conviction and his church is now running not one but scores of schools, a couple of hospitals, prisons and a young offenders' unit. Read his *Lost Message of Paul* and see what you think of it.



Bishop's Message for September

A time for grace and patience



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

September is the month when schools go back, harvest services are being planned, and the College of Bishops takes place. Yippee! Actually I'm not being sarcastic. Of course there's always a sense of this being a month when many of us feel "back at work". It can seem a busy month, with lots to challenge us. However, we do have some agency in how we approach the tasks of daily living, don't we?

So, for instance, at the College of Bishops this month, we shall do more work on "Living in Love and Faith", the theology, social anthropology, biblical scholarship and scientific knowledge being considered as the Church reflects on issues of human identity, sexuality and marriage. I'm looking forward to it. And that's not being sarcastic either. You see, it is not that this will be an easy topic, something which we can just all agree to, but rather it will be

an opportunity to meet together with one another in the presence of God. We will no doubt have some difficult conversations, grapple over imponderables and find ourselves feeling vulnerable, but this is the stuff of life, and seeking to find God's way in a world which has little time for religious faith any more.

The College meets in an Oxford college over a few days, and it can sometimes seem rather distant from the everyday world in which we live. However, we always celebrate Holy Cross Day while we are there. The Collect for that day reminds us that "the passion of thy blessed Son hath made an instrument of painful death to be for us the means of life and peace".

That surely means that life and peace can be found even *through* the experience of pain and death. In fact sometimes it's the only way to find them. Dealing with complex issues, tackling challenging tasks is not about finding the easiest and quickest route to an answer. Sometimes it requires much more from us, and we need the grace and patience of the Christ who made Himself a sacrifice for us.

The following is the prayer we use on Holy Cross Day after we receive bread and wine together. Perhaps we need to use it more as we face the challenge of seeking to live as men and women of God in His world today.

"O faithful God, whose Son bore our sins in his body on the tree and gave us this sacrament to show forth his death until he come: give us grace to glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he is our salvation, our life and our hope."

+Ruth Taunton

This month's charity: Tearfund

The loose collection in the plate on the second and fourth Sunday of the month, 8 and 22 September, plus an optional retiring collection for the rest of the month, will go to Tearfund. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.)

Tearfund is a Christian relief and development agency based in Teddington. It currently works in around 50 countries, with a primary focus on supporting those in poverty and providing disaster relief for disadvantaged communities.

It has three global approaches to its work:

- **Advocacy and influencing:** "We seek to influence the global church and governments to bring about fair and just policies and structures at a local, national and global level!"
- **Community development:** it works, where possible, through a local church, empowering communities to lift themselves out of poverty.
- **Humanitarian response:** Tearfund responds to disasters and conflicts, always seeking to reach those in greatest need.

In 2018, it set three corporate priority areas to focus on for the next five years:

- **Church and community transformation.** "We believe poverty exists as a result of broken relationships with God, ourselves, others and creation. The Church has a key role to play in helping to restore these four broken relationships, bringing about whole-life transformation in individuals and communities." Tearfund works with and through the local church, enabling people to think about the issues they face and work together to design their own strategies to address these issues and bring about change.
- **Environmental and economic sustainability.** "We work towards a world where every person's basic needs are met, all human beings have a chance to flourish and we all live within our environmental limit. This means

we are committed to relief and development that is environmentally and economically sustainable – finding effective ways to support sustainable livelihoods while at the same time protecting or improving the environment and reducing economic inequality."

• **Fragile states.** "A fragile state is a region or state where the exposure to risks and the capacity to manage or respond to those risks is out of balance. Fragility is usually understood by considering the security, political, social, economic and environmental contexts. We are committed to staying and working in fragile states for as long as necessary, working with our partners and directly where necessary, to respond to immediate needs and find sustainable solutions. We prioritise the risk of violent conflict as a significant cause of long-term instability and a major driver of fragility. Our response to fragile states, therefore, focuses on transforming violent conflict and addressing both its causes and effects.

"Our faith is the foundation of everything we do. At the heart of our work is our belief that local churches can make an immense contribution to overcoming poverty at a local, national and international level." Find out more at www.tearfund.org.

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 (1st and 3rd Sundays) or informal communion (2nd and 4th Sundays), St Stephen's Lansdown

Morning Prayer

- Monday 8:45am St Stephen's
- Tuesday 9am Charlcombe St Mary's
- Saturday 9:30am St Stephen's

Christian Meditation

- Wednesday 6:45–7:30pm, Charlcombe St Mary's



Christ Church calendar Sep. 2019

1 Sun *The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity*

3 Wed Christ Church Council meeting, 7:30pm

4 Thu 11am Eucharist, followed by coffeed

5 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

8 Sun *Harvest Festival / Ability Sunday / 12th Sunday after Trinity*
8am Holy Communion (BCP)
Apple Picking Party in support of Genesis, 12 midday onwards
David Briggs organ recital, 7:30pm

12 Thu 11am Eucharist, followed by coffeed

13 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

14 Sat *Holy Cross Day*

15 Sun *The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity*
4:30pm Choral Evensong

17 Tue *Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen*

19 Thu 11am Eucharist, followed by coffee

20 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

21 Sat *Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist*

22 Sun *The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity*

26 Thu 11am Eucharist, followed by coffee

27 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

29 Sun *Michael and All Angels*

Oct 3 Thu 11am Eucharist, followed by coffee

4 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

6 Sun *The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity*

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 September 2019

Sunday	1	For Churches, Cathedrals and communities named Christ Church
Monday	2	For those who work in the hospitality industry
Tuesday	3	For prisoners and prison workers
Wednesday	4	For the Church Council, meeting tonight
Thursday	5	For good relations between different faiths
Friday	6	For those in slavery or bonded labour
Saturday	7	We give thanks for family and friends
Sunday	8	For Angela our Verger
Monday	9	For teachers
Tuesday	10	That we may be open to encounters with God
Wednesday	11	For the Local Deanery Synod
Thursday	12	For carers
Friday	13	For those who lack food or water
Saturday	14	For our Local Ministry Group partners
Sunday	15	For Mark, Keith and the choir
Monday	16	For journalists and those who work in the media
Tuesday	17	For countries experiencing civil unrest
Wednesday	18	For all who produce publicity for Christ Church
Thursday	19	We give thanks for beauty in the world around us
Friday	20	For victims of violence
Saturday	21	That we may have grace to forgive
Sunday	22	For Lore our priest in charge

Monday	23	For farmers
Tuesday	24	For our charity of the month
Wednesday	25	For those in hospital
Thursday	26	For the chaplaincies at Bath's Universities
Friday	27	For the lonely and depressed
Saturday	28	For our Compassion Fund
Sunday	29	For vocations to the ministry
Monday	30	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
 Sister Catherine
 Demelza King
 Zayad
 Joe Street
 Mrs Wright

Gill
 Andrew Clatworthy
 Tom King
 Joyce Gabe
 Zareb
 Fred Matthews
 Judith Rogers
 Nancy Kiddie
 Revd John Brown
 Harold Holmes
 Alan White
 Ian Muir
 Liza Burdon-Bailey

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 September 2019

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
1 Sep 11th after Trinity	Mark Elliott Jeremiah 2:4-13	Sylvia Ayers Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Lewis Boyd Luke 14:1,7-14
8 Sep Harvest Festival	Judith Anderson Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Clive Tilling Philippians 4:4-9	Jane Fletcher John 6:25-35
15 Sep 13th after Trinity	Alex Soboslay Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28	Zoë Bushell 1 Timothy 1:12-17	Daphne Radenhurst Luke 15:1-10
22 Sep 14th after Trinity	Greg Ridley Jeremiah 8:18-19:1	Malcolm Wall 1 Timothy 2:1-7	Virginia Knight Luke 16:1-13
29 Sep Michael & All Angels	Georgina Bowman Genesis 28:10-17	Rebekah Cunningham Revelation 12:7-12	Ian Hay Davison John 1:47-end
6 Oct 16th after Trinity	Morny Davison Lamentations 1:1-6	Richard Boyd 2 Timothy 1:1-14	Nick Wells Luke 17:5-10

Laitry rota, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Chalice assistants	Sidespeople	Intercessions
1 Sep	Janet Mahto, David Rawlings	Morny Davison, Jane Nicholson	Georgina Bowman
8 Sep	Clive Tilling, Angela Soboslay	Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers	Jonathan Stead
15 Sep	Keri Chivers, David Rawlings	Margaret Silver, Jonathan Stead	Mark Elliott
22 Sep	Angela Soboslay, Jonathan Stead	Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers	Ian Hay Davison
29 Sep	Janet Mahto, David Rawlings	Jane Nicholson, Morny Davison	Penny Edwards
6 Oct	Clive Tilling, Angela Soboslay	Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers	Nick Wells

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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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 have our own weekly community café every Friday. 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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