



Making space for prayer

From the priest-in-charge...

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

I write this at the beginning of November with winter ahead. The first frost is on the ground this morning, the last leaves are coming off the trees, a second lockdown is looming with the closure of church services, and we are still awaiting the result of the US election. There is one small spark of hope, though. The day after the government announced lockdown, I and all clergy received a letter from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. In it they promised to speak to the government about the need for access to the sacraments. “The sacramental life of the church,” they write, “cannot be seen as an optional extra.” While I don’t expect the government to reverse its decision, I am heartened because this needed to be said.

The Archbishops also call on all of us to make the month of lockdown a month of prayer. There are opportunities to do this on Zoom – Christ Church will be praying together at 8am every weekday morning, and you might choose to join us (contact me by phone or e-mail to request an invitation). You might add our Thursday weekday Eucharist, streamed on Facebook, to your timetable. Or you could make time in your day for your own prayers, your own conversation with God. It would be understandable if the conversation included fury and frustration. But surely God would rather we keep praying when times are difficult. Jesus did.

Lastly, the bishops have requested something startlingly counter-cultural.

A Lenten Fast (anon)

*Give up harsh words; use generous ones
Give up unhappiness; take up gratitude
Give up anger; take up gentleness and patience
Give up pessimism; take up hope and optimism
Give up worrying; take up trust in God
Give up complaining; value what you have
Give up stress; take up prayer
Give up judging others; discover Christ within them
Give up sorrow and bitterness; fill your heart with joy
Give up selfishness; take up compassion for others
Give up being unforgiving; learn reconciliation
Give up words; fill yourself with silence, and listen*

They invite us to fast “in a way that is appropriate to us,” and they suggest we do that each Thursday of lockdown. For safety I need to emphasise that fasting does not only mean fasting from food – and traditional fasting is not recommended for young people or anyone with an eating disorder. But there are other types of fasting – from films, or all screens, or alcohol, or whatever would work for you. Fasting makes space and time for a different approach to life. This is exemplified in an anonymous

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This season's theme: Comfort and Joy

The Church of England has announced this year's Advent and Christmas theme. "Comfort and Joy" holds together the hope that Christmas will bring joy and celebration after a uniquely difficult year with an acknowledgement that – for those who have lost loved ones or livelihoods, or may still not be able to be together – it may be the Church's role, nationally and locally, to provide consolation rather than assume all can join in jubilation.

The Church will need to "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep" (Romans 12:15). We will aim to celebrate where we can together in one place, but also embrace a wider community that may not be able – or emotionally ready – to join in the celebration. The hope is that Comfort and Joy will enable us to both reconnect with the rich and joyous traditions of the past and also offer God's consoling love in the present.

Reflections: The campaign has partnered with a number of public figures to produce



Making space for prayer

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► poem which Nick Wells used in our Pilgrim group (see page 1) and which I invite you to use in your prayers. The bishops suggest that each Thursday we also pray for the nation.

If we accept the challenge to pray for just 20 minutes each Thursday, that extra 80 hours or so of prayer Christ Church would generate could be a channel for the Holy Spirit to bless not only our nation, but also us who pray. Lockdown could become a source of blessing.

short reflections exploring the theme. *Comfort and Joy: Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas* mirrors the structure of a traditional carol service, exploring both biblical texts and the words of much-loved Christmas carols.

The reflections for each day from Christmas Day to 2 January are available in printed form from Church House Publishing and will also be available free via audio, smart speaker, app and e-mail formats with accompanying prayer activities for children and families.

Online services and events: In collaboration with a range of Christian charities and organisations, the campaign will produce nine online services throughout Advent and Christmas. This will include an online service for each Sunday of Advent, a Christingle with the Children's Society, Nine Lessons and Carols and midnight services.

Churches will share pre-recorded or live services, if possible, via AChurchNearYou.com and their own websites and social media.

Liturgy, singing and music: Advent, Christmas and Epiphany music from various traditions will be shared through the online [AChurchNearYou](http://AChurchNearYou.com) Resource Hub for churches to use in online and live services and events. It's unclear whether the South West Carols event planned for 5 and 6 December will go ahead. It hoped to involve schools, local musicians, young people from around the region and the London Community Gospel Choir. Watch for news nearer the date.

Daily Hope: Throughout Advent and Christmas, the Comfort and Joy reflections, services and some of the music will also be available over the free Daily Hope phone number, which offers music, prayers, reflections and full services (see page 5). This will enable as many people as possible to access the content.

For more information and resources, visit <http://bit.ly/CofE-ComfortAndJoy>.

Officers elected

At the delayed Christ Church Annual Church Meeting held on Sunday 11 October, Janet Mahto and Jane Nicholson were elected as Churchwardens. Pauline Swaby-Wallace and Brenda Wall were elected Deanery Synod representatives. Lewis Boyd, Matthew Jones and Sarah Kerr did not stand for re-election to the various posts they had held – warm thanks to them all for their generous service.

Following this and the receipt of nominations to Council, including nominations to fill one vacant position *pro tem*, the members of Christ Church Council are as follows:

Ex officio members

Revd Lore Chumbley	Priest-in-Charge
Mark Elliott	Reader
Janet Mahto	Churchwarden
Jane Nicholson	Churchwarden
Pauline Swaby-Wallace	Deanery Synod rep
Brenda Wall	Deanery Synod rep

Elected until 2021

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

Elected until 2022

Georgina Bowman
Virginia Knight
Rebekah Cunningham (*pro tem*)

Elected until 2023

Zoë Bushell
Richard Gabe
Sharon Rawlings

The first meeting of the new Council took place on Tuesday 3 November. Jonathan Stead was elected Lay Chair of Council and Jude Bishop was elected Secretary.

The next Annual Church Meeting for all those on the Christ Church electoral roll will take place (*Deo volente* and lockdown restrictions permitting) on Sunday 25 April 2021.

Christ Church: prayer and online services

With lockdown restrictions reimposed, we can no longer gather in person for services. However, following guidance from the bishops of our diocese, Christ Church will be open for individual private prayer on Wednesday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm. In this way we hope to remain a beacon and a resource for the local area and beyond. Drop in if you can!

Our 10am Sunday Eucharist and 11am Thursday Eucharist are both live streamed at www.facebook.com/christchurchbath. Join the Facebook group or our mailing list to receive the readings and weekly notice sheet by e-mail.

Do send prayer requests – by e-mail to lore.chumbley@me.com, by text, or by post to Christ Church, Julian Road, Bath BA1 2RH. Note that services will be online, so be mindful of the privacy of friends and loved ones.

Every weekday morning at 8am a group of us are saying Morning Prayer together on Zoom, or you can phone in. If you would like an invitation, please e-mail Lore.

Last month in our street



On Sunday 18 October, the bier carrying the double coffin of Lyn and Tony Eades stopped outside their shop in Julian Road, and friends decorated it with flowers before it was driven by their son Mike up to family land in Swainswick, where Lyn and Tony were buried together.

A time to remember Need pastoral care?

With All Souls, Remembrance Sunday and Armistice all falling in November, it is a time to look back, to mourn, but also to look forward with hope. And, despite the challenges of Covid, church communities will still gather, at least online if not in person, to remember loved ones lost recently and those who lost their lives serving their country.

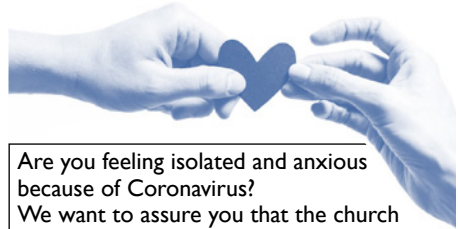
This year in particular, All Souls can offer a space for grieving for those who may not have been able to say farewell in the way they would have chosen – may not have been able to grieve alongside family and friends at a funeral or held a service to give thanks for a life well-lived.

Space to grieve is important, as those said who sent the names of loved ones to be included in the recent “From Lamentation to Hope” service at Wells Cathedral. They expressed their gratitude for the service, which one person said “went some way towards beginning to heal the pain of inevitably sparsely attended services.” This service remains available to watch or share with others at [YouTube.com/BathandWells](https://www.youtube.com/BathandWells).

You can also find an All Souls or Remembrance service on the Church of England website www.ChurchOfEngland.org on 1 and 8 November. Alternatively you can find details of more local services (subject to lockdown) at AChurchNearYou.com.



The “From Lamentation to Hope” service, for all those bereaved during the coronavirus pandemic, is available to view at [YouTube.com/BathandWells](https://www.youtube.com/BathandWells).



Are you feeling isolated and anxious because of Coronavirus?

We want to assure you that the church community remembers and prays for those who are in any kind of need.

If you would like prayer, conversation or support, please call

Rebekah Cunningham on 07821 251956 or e-mail rebekah.spanner@gmail.com.

If you have any concerns about anyone you feel would like some support, either members of our church or people in the area of Christ Church, please get in touch. The pastoral care group are regularly phoning the elderly and housebound, and along with some other volunteers will try to help with practical needs such as shopping.

Community Hub

The Compassionate Community Hub works closely with food banks and volunteers to ensure people can access direct support when they need it. Visit www.3sg.org.uk/pages/compassionate-community-covid-19.

- If anyone needs support with buying food or medicines, send an email with the subject “Support” to compassion@3sg.org.uk and they will pick up the query within 24 hours.
- Alternatively, telephone the Compassionate Community hotline **0300 247 0050**. It is open seven days a week from 9am to 5pm.
- The Compassionate Community Hub currently has enough helpers and is not seeking more volunteers for the time being.
- For people in need of food and looking for an alternative to going into the shops during the pandemic, there is now a dedicated website offering a list of local food providers: www.banesfoodfinder.org.uk.

Bishop's Message for November

One more step



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

As a vicar one thing I really enjoyed, even though it seemed to come round rather quickly, was writing the letter for the parish magazine. I know that not all parishes are able to produce a parish magazine and some find a website is a better way to communicate with people, but I do still appreciate reading them when I can. So I would like to express my thanks to all those involved in writing, editing and producing parish magazines. They are often still an effective way to share what we are doing in our churches and to share with others the good news of the gospel.

Recently I was reading one which had an article by someone recalling a visit made to the north west of the USA some 40 years ago. They spoke about the warmth of their welcome and the joy of being invited to preach in the

church. What caught my eye was that they remembered visiting Lake Wallowa, where it is said “the air is so pure and the sky so clear that one can see the dawn of the day after tomorrow!” What a glorious expression. Of course, the truth is that we don't know what the future holds, and at the moment things are challenging and uncertain for all of us and indeed for the world.

One night recently when I was in hospital, unable to sleep and waiting for the dawn to break, I found myself singing the words of “One More Step Along the Way I Go,” which has the chorus: “And it's from the old I travel to the new; Keep me travelling along with you.” Maybe as we look to the future, with the joys and challenges that it will bring, that should be our prayer: Lord, help us to travel with you wherever you may be leading.

With my warmest greetings,

+Peter Bath and Wells

Daily Hope

A free national phonenumber offers a simple way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes while church buildings are closed. It will be particularly welcome to those who do not have internet access to watch streamed services. Daily Hope offers hymns, prayers, daily reflections and a choice of church services over the phone, 24 hours a day.

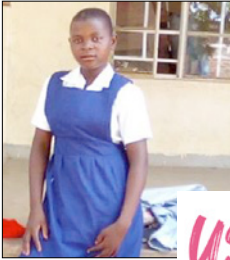


This month's charity: USPG Malawi project

Rebekah Cunningham writes:

This month we are again supporting USPG's project in Malawi, which focuses on education for girls, protecting livelihoods, HIV and AIDS, and hygiene and sanitation.

In Malawi, poor education for girls often results in early marriage and pregnancy. This is partly a cultural issue, but there are also practical challenges such as a lack of uniforms, learning materials and sanitary products.



USPG's project aims to help. Over the past four years, girls have been supported through Girls' Clubs, the provision of girls'

USPG⁺ PARTNERS IN GLOBAL MISSION

toilets, sanitary products, uniforms and learning materials. With the support of the Anglican Council of Malawi, the education project has reduced the drop-out rate of girls from primary school from 54% to 19%. It is also helping to change community attitudes so that girls like Sarah (left) have been able to stay in school and continue their education.

- Pray for the farmers' groups as they develop their livelihoods through learning new farming methods and business management.

- Give thanks that the Integrated Intervention Community Programme run by the Church in Malawi is helping many vulnerable households particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Visit <http://bit.ly/uspg-malawi> to find out more about USPG's work in Malawi, make a donation or set up a direct debit – mention Christ Church Bath, so that all our giving can be totalled by USPG at the end of the year.

Oasis Community Pantry

Oasis Pantry is one of a growing number of community pantries opening in Bath, supplying low-cost, high-quality surplus food to local residents. Its partner is Fareshare Southwest, who match up surplus, in-date food with individuals and families on low incomes.

The Pantry is open every Thursday 2pm–4pm in Oasis Church Bath. If you live or work within about a 15 minute walk of Oasis, or if Oasis is your closest Pantry, and your household income is less than £18,000 a year, then you're invited to become a member. All are



welcome, particularly lone parents, long term unemployed, refugees or asylum seekers and immigrants, and anyone working with a support service.

You'll find details and a self-referral form at https://oasisbath.org/wpos_portfolio/oasispantry/#more-918. Professionals working with someone interested in the pantry can also fill in the form on their behalf.

An annual membership fee of £5 includes the first week's food and a cool bag and tote bag for purchases, which the Pantry supplies on the first visit. There will be a selection of fresh, chilled and store cupboard food and toiletries available each week to select from.

Individual membership is suitable for people on their own or couples, and typically you will be able to choose around 6 to 8 different items for only £2. These items would cost around £10-£15 to buy elsewhere. Family membership costs £3 a week, and for that you can select approximately 10-12 items, with a value of up to around £25.

Want to help? Volunteers are needed to help pack away the FareShare delivery each week, as well as help members access food on Thursdays. Contact pantry@oasisbath.org.

Christ Church calendar Nov. 2020

- 1 Sun *All Saints*
10am Eucharist
- 2 Mon *Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day)*
-
- 3 Tue Christ Church Council meeting, 7:30pm
-
- 5 Thu 11am Eucharist
Christ Church Trustees meeting
-
- 7 Sat *222nd anniversary of the consecration of Christ Church*
- 8 Sun *Remembrance Sunday / The Third Sunday before Advent*
10am Eucharist
- 11 Thu *Remembrance Day*
11am Eucharist
- 15 Sun *The Second Sunday before Advent*
10am Eucharist
- 19 Thu 11am Eucharist
- 22 Sun *Christ the King (feast of title)*
10am Eucharist
- 26 Thu 11am Eucharist
- 29 Sun *The First Sunday of Advent*
10am Eucharist
- 30 Mon *Andrew the Apostle*

Dec 3 Thu 11am Eucharist

- 6 Sun *The Second Sunday of Advent*
10am Eucharist

Sunday and Thursday Eucharist are live-streamed at
www.facebook.com/christchurchbath

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 November 2020

Sunday	1	For Lore our priest in charge
Monday	2	For those in the legal profession
Tuesday	3	For those who travel
Wednesday	4	For countries experiencing civil unrest
Thursday	5	For our link Dioceses in Zambia
Friday	6	For the unemployed
Saturday	7	We give thanks for those who inspire us
Sunday	8	For our bell-ringing team
Monday	9	For those who work in medicine
Tuesday	10	For those who mourn
Wednesday	11	For the work of Genesis
Thursday	12	That we may be good stewards of creation
Friday	13	For those who are confined to their homes
Saturday	14	For peace
Sunday	15	For new members to be added to Christ Church
Monday	16	For architects and designers
Tuesday	17	For adoptive and foster families
Wednesday	18	For the local Deanery Synod
Thursday	19	For our charity of the month
Friday	20	For those who are unable to keep warm
Saturday	21	We give thanks for artists, poets and musicians
Sunday	22	For Jane and Janet our churchwardens

Monday	23	For shopkeepers and shop workers
Tuesday	24	That we may have the gift of kindness
Wednesday	25	For those recently baptised or preparing for baptism
Thursday	26	For the Trustees of Christ Church
Friday	27	For victims of natural disasters
Saturday	28	For those who teach
Sunday	29	For our Diocese of Bath and Wells
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...

Ray and Meryle Newbegin
 Revd John Brown
 Liza Burdon Bailey
 Charlotte
 Jean Warren
 Keith and Marie Pigot
 Sister Catherine
 Zareb
 Joyce Knight
 Bishop Peter
 Nick Johnson

Tony Buss
 Ian Muir
 Susan Stockdale
 Harold Holmes
 Geoff Stead

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 November 2020

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel	Intercessions
1 Nov All Saints	Zoë Bushell Revelation 7:9-end	Alex Soboslay 1 John 3:1-3	Sylvia Ayers Matthew 5:1-12	Rebekah Cunningham
8 Nov Remembrance	Jude Bishop Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16	Brenda Wall 1 Thessalonians 4:13-end	Robin Kerr Matthew 25:1-13	Beryl Bowes
15 Nov 2nd before Advent	Malcolm Wall Zephaniah 1:7,12-end	Georgina Bowman 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Morny Davison Matthew 25:14-30	Simon Tatton-Brown
22 Nov Christ the King	David Bishop Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	Ian Hay Davison Ephesians 1:15-end	Charles Rice Matthew 25:31-end	Jonathan Stead
29 Nov 1st of Advent	Mark Elliott Isaiah 64:1-9	Angela Soboslay 1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Beryl Bowes Mark 13:24-end	Ian Hay Davison
6 Dec 2nd of Advent	Sylvia Ayers Isaiah 40:1-11	Emily Bond 2 Peter 3:8-15a	Peter Bowes Mark 1:1-8	Nick Wells

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 Beryl Bowes
Revd Dr Peter Bowes

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

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

Churchwarden Jane Nicholson
07990 552413
jane@janemnicholson.com

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

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

Treasurer David Bishop
01225 869409
david.bishop@christchurchbath.org

Safeguarding officer Lewis Boyd
07739 989639
lewis.boyd@christchurchbath.org

Christ Church Link editor Alex Soboslay
07769 655927
alexs@christchurchbath.org

**Event/concert bookings,
weekly notice sheet** Judith Bishop
01225 869409
concerts@christchurchbath.org
notices@christchurchbath.org

**Tower Captain,
Ringing Master** Will Willans

Tower Secretary Ian Hay Davison
07932 160482
bells@christchurchbath.org

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 Brenda Wall
Pauline Swaby-Wallace

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 usual 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 (pre-recorded for the time being, until live church services are allowed to resume again).

As well as live-streamed worship on Sunday and Thursday mornings, there are many other activities going on in our community. Our weekly community café will resume when safety restrictions permit. Our musical tradition continues to thrive, with our choir active even during lockdown; new singers of all ages are always very welcome. Our ecumenical Pilgrim Group, continuing online, 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 – resumption date TBC
- 10am Sung Eucharist
Every Sunday – streamed at www.facebook.com/christchurchbath
- 4:30pm Choral Evensong
Usually on the third Sunday of every month – resumption date TBC

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

