# Season of light and hope

From the priest-in-charge...

#### **Revd Lore Chumbley writes:**

In the 1960s at the beginning of Advent my mother would make a batch of mince pies to offer to whoever came to the door. Sadly, that's unthinkable at the moment, but tiny gestures of generosity and neighbourliness are what carry us through the dark days of December. This year, restrictions on movement mean that those living in the Bristol area will not be able to travel to Christ Church for services. This is a huge loss. We will miss their presence and their contributions. But the loss to them of the celebration together cannot be overestimated. We will of course continue to stream our services and have all who can't be with us in our hearts as we return to the church building.

The Advent season of light and hope in the winter darkness depends so much on tiny, neighbourly interactions that it is dispiriting to know that this year many of them are not possible. But individuals and groups in Christ Church have taken steps to reach those feeling isolated and a long way from the warmth and joy of Christmas celebrations. Here are some of them.

■ The young people are taking part in a Bath-wide "carol trail". They have put together a collage, which you will find on the church notice board that faces onto Julian Road. It is associated with a carol, and your task is to work out the title of the carol – assisted by the choir's recording of the carol which will be magically available on YouTube. Then, on to the next church to work

out their carol. In all, 26 churches in Bath are participating in the trail.

- By the time you read this, our Advent Carol Service will probably have taken place a tribute to the discipline and skill of the choir, who were not able to meet and rehearse until just a few days before the service. We are blessed to have the gallery for extra seating, which provides extra room for visitors to the Advent Carol Service. We expect even more to join us for our Christmas Carol Service, so ask you to book a free ticket online. If you're not technically inclined, a friend is welcome to book for you.
- We have recently heard that socially distanced carol singing is permitted outside, so we are hoping to organise carols on St Andrew's Green, the triangle of lawn on Julian Road west of Christ Church.
- Our Christmas tree was in church in time for the Advent Carol Service,

Continued on page 2



This year's Advent Carol Service. Our Christmas Carol Service will be equally memorable.

# Season of light and hope Need pastoral care?

Continued from page 1

and we'd like to decorate it for the Christmas Carol Service. If you would like to, please donate a gold coloured tree decoration so everyone is part of the preparations. We will keep a box for the decorations near the west door.

■ Finally, Christ Church will remain open on every Wednesday afternoon 2pm to 4pm to welcome you either for private prayer, or just to sit in the quiet and ponder. The first hour will be silent, then there will be music from 3pm.

We hope these tiny gestures will spark joy as we look towards the great celebration of Christmas.

## Christmas services

#### ■ Sunday 20 December

10am Family Eucharist and (socially-distanced) Nativity Play – families and children particularly welcome.

6:30pm Christmas Carol Service – a joyful celebration of Christmas with the choir singing carols old and new. To ensure we can put safety measures in place for the numbers coming, please book your free ticket at https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christ-church-christmas-carol-service-tickets-130194955617

#### ■ Thursday 24 Dec. – Christmas Eve

4:30pm Crib Service – a service for the whole family to hear the Christmas story 11:30pm Midnight Eucharist – the traditional start to Christmas, with beautiful words and music

#### ■ Friday 25 Dec. – Christmas Day 10am Sung Eucharist – celebrate Christmas with us

All services will be socially-distanced and held in a Covid-safe environment following government guidelines. If restrictions prevent us admitting people to a service, it will be available at www.facebook.com/christchurchbath.

Are you feeling isolated and anxious because of Coronavirus?
We want to assure you that the church

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.

# Christ Church: prayer and online services

With lockdown restrictions lifted, we can once again gather in person for services - see details of Christmas services on the opposite page. In addition, Christ Church remains open for individual private prayer on Wednesday afternoons throughout Advent from 2pm to 4pm. Drop in if you can!

Our 10am Sunday Eucharist, and other services over Advent and Christmas, continue to be 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, Iulian Road, Bath BAI 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.

## Journey to Christmas on social media

"Journey To Christmas" is an Advent countdown retelling the story of Christmas with a short video each day from I December until Christmas Day. The daily video will be posted on Facebook. Twitter and Instagram, and will feature familiar faces from around the Diocese of Bath and Wells playing nativity characters and reminding us of the good news of lesus that we celebrate.

Will you join us as we Journey to Christmas this December? Look out for the daily videos from 1st to 25th December on these social media:

- www.facebook.com/bathandwells
- https://twitter.com/BathWells
- www.instagram.com/churchofengland somerset/
- www.youtube.com/user/diocesebathwells

# New Year's Eve fireworks

You may remember that Mike Eades, who runs Eades greengrocers in Julian Road, lost both parents, Tony and Lyn, within three weeks of each other earlier this year. The Eades family farm land in Swainswick at the foot of Solsbury Hill above Bath, and they plan to hold a firework display there at midnight on Thursday 31 December - or the first clear night afterwards if the skies aren't clear. They are doing this in memory of Tony and Lyn Eades and to raise money for the Intensive Care Unit at the RUH. You are invited to step out of your house at midnight on New Year's Eve and watch the fireworks in the sky above Bath from your own garden or street. To contribute to the event, you can donate at https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ new-years-eades. Up to the target of £10,000, half of the money raised will go to the ICU at the RUH and half to fireworks; any money over the target will all go to the RUH.



## This month in church



A Christmas tree sparkles in our new south chapel while the church is lit by candles for this year's Advent Carol Service.

# Reverse Advent Calendar

#### Rebekah Cunningham writes:

An idea for thinking of others, rather than ourselves, during the four weeks of Advent: why not buy an item of food for the Food Bank for each day of Advent? There's a list of suggestions below, divided into weeks, so perhaps you could buy a week's worth when you do your weekly shop.

#### Week I

Chocolates

Sweet biscuits Christmas cake Chocolate logs Mince pies Other Christmas cakes/biscuits Children's selection hoxes

#### Week 2

Stuffing mix Gravy mix Chutney Cranberry sauce Bread sauce mix Tinned ham Savoury crackers

For more ideas (less Christmas themed) visit https://bath. foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/

#### Week 3

Christmas pudding Squirty or long life cream Brandy sauce or custard (long life carton) Chocolate tree decorations Crisps and snacks Mixed nuts Dried fruit/dates/

crystallised fruit

#### Week 4

Par-baked rolls Hot chocolate/ marshmallows Christmas crackers Sauashes/cordials Coffee Tinned fruit Christmas napkins

# Living in Love and Faith published

The Church of England has published a landmark set of resources drawing together the Bible, theology, science and history with powerful real-life stories as it embarks on a new process of discernment and decisionmaking on questions of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage.

The product of three years' work by more than 40 people, led by the Bishop of Coventry, Living in Love and Faith includes a 480-page book, a series of films and podcasts, a course and an online library of other publications, in what is thought to be the most extensive work in this area by any faith group in the world.

It comes as the House of Bishops issues an appeal to the whole Church of England to participate in learning together, using the resources for open, honest and gracious discussion, listening and learning.

A group of bishops, chaired by the Bishop of London, will lead the process of discernment and decision-making about a way forward for the Church in relation to human identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage.

It is anticipated that the period of Churchwide learning and engagement will take place during 2021. The House of Bishops will then bring the discernment and decision-making to a timely conclusion in 2022, which would then be put before Synod.

In a foreword to the Living in Love and Faith resources, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, acknowledge and apologise for the "huge damage and hurt" that has been caused particularly to LGBTI+ people within the Church.

"At the heart of our failure is the absence of a genuine love for those whom God loves in Christ, knowing as God does every aspect of all of our lives," they write. But addressing the future, they add:"Our prayer for the Church through this work is that collectively we demonstrate the same love to one another that we have experienced from God."

# Bishop's Message for December

Bringing comfort and joy



From the Rt Revd Ruth Worsley, Bishop of Taunton

One of our oldest English carols (16th century) tells us that the story of Jesus' birth as a baby into our world is good news, bringing "tidings of comfort and joy". And don't we just need comfort and joy at this moment!

We know that Christmas will not be the same this year. The usual gatherings of family and friends will not have the same shape this year. Traditional carol services and Midnight Mass may not be possible either. But that doesn't mean that Christmas is cancelled!

This year more than ever we need to carol the words "comfort and joy". We need to find new and novel ways of telling the Christmas story. The Church of England and our own diocesan team have provided plenty of ideas by which we can bring Christmas to our communities. I'm going to be both a tax collector and a donkey in some of our diocesan video re-telling of the story!

Perhaps even more important is how we can personally be messengers of comfort and joy. Who do you know who might need you to bring them some comfort this Christmas? Maybe someone who is alone, especially anxious, grieving a loved one? How could you offer comfort and support?

And as for joy ...? Perhaps we ourselves need to rediscover the joy of the Christmas story. What could be more wonderful than knowing that God loves us so much that, even though it was costly. He chose to come and join us in a world dark with fear and suffering, and bring the light of His presence!

+Ruth Taunton

# Daily Hope

A free national phoneline offers a simple way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes when they can't go to services in person. It will be particularly welcome to those without 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 charities: for Bath's vulnerable

The retiring collection in the plate on the second and fourth Sunday of the month - 13 and 27 December – plus other collections at services this month as notified will be divided between Julian House and The Genesis Trust. (Donations in collection envelopes continue to go to Christ Church.)

As a Christian charity, Genesis works with local churches and volunteers in the wider community in Bath and the surrounding area to help disadvantaged and vulnerable individuals and families to change their lives. Offering immediate practical help with food, clothing and furniture, as well as long-term opportunities, training and work experience, Genesis supports people on their journey from crisis to independence.

"We recognise that poverty is not just about lacking material resources but can encompass a lack of relationships and network of support, and a lack of identity and purpose," the charity says. "We aim to address this through practical help, personal encouragement, mentoring and training.

"How we provide our services has changed during the pandemic and is likely to be different and change perhaps a number of times over the coming weeks and months. However, we are committed to this vital work and are continually developing new ways of delivering services whilst keeping our clients, volunteers and staff as safe as possible."

For more information on the charity's activities, visit https://genesistrust.org.uk/

For an up-to-date snapshot of the last year, see https://genesistrust.org.uk/wp-content/ uploads/2020/09/latest-Snapshot.pdf.

And why not do some of your Christmas shopping here? https://genesistrust.org.uk/ christmas-shop/





Julian House is a Bath based charity working across the South West supporting vulnerable and at-risk individuals including men, women and young people experiencing homelessness, women and children escaping domestic abuse, adults with learning difficulties and people who need support after leaving prison.

The charity says: "When Coronavirus first hit, it was hard to predict its long-term effect on the way we live and work. At the peak of the pandemic, we worked hard to support vulnerable people off of the streets and into temporary safe accommodation, where we were able to continue to support them.

"As time has gone on we are now beginning to see the full effect Coronavirus is having on all of our lives, and not just on our immediate health. Our domestic abuse services have seen a huge rise in demand. Also, our Employment Support teams have been working hard because of increased demand as unemployment rises across the UK.

"Health, work, relationships, and mental health are some of the elements most affected by Coronavirus and unfortunately also some of the key triggers that we have seen snowball into a cause of homelessness.

"Even throughout lockdown, our Outreach teams were meeting new people on the streets whose situations had left them homeless and incredibly vulnerable.

"The pandemic has also had a devastating effect on our fundraising efforts at a time when the demand for our services has grown. With fundraising events being cancelled and our charity shops and bike workshops having to close temporarily, we are expecting a loss of £200,000 of vital voluntary income needed to fund our life-saving services."

You can donate at www.julianhouse.org.uk/ donate. Julian House is also offering some fun workshops to attend - www.julianhouse.org. uk/support-us/events/christmas-workshops/

# Christ Church calendar Dec. 2020

f Advent Service	<b>6</b> Sun	
	10 Thu	
dvent	<b>13</b> Sun	
	17 Thu	
Advent  arol Service	<b>20</b> Sun	
uss	24 Thu	
	25 Fri	
yr	26 Sat	
hristmas	<b>27</b> Sun	
	28 Mon	
ngelist	29 Tue	
	31 Thu	
Naming and Circumcision of Jesus	1 Fri	Jan
econd Sunday of Christmas	<b>3</b> Sun	
	7 Thu	
/ The First Sunday of Epiphany	<b>10</b> Sun	
Advent  Arol Service  Ass  Aryr  Aristmas  Angelist  Naming and Circumcision of Jesus  econd Sunday of Christmas	<ul> <li>13 Sun</li> <li>17 Thu</li> <li>20 Sun</li> <li>24 Thu</li> <li>25 Fri</li> <li>26 Sat</li> <li>27 Sun</li> <li>28 Morr</li> <li>29 Tue</li> <li>31 Thu</li> <li>1 Fri</li> <li>3 Sun</li> <li>7 Thu</li> </ul>	Jan

Sunday Eucharist, and other services as advertised, 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 December 2020

Tuesday	1	For our own personal witness
Wednesday	2	For those on our church rotas
Thursday	3	For our compassion fund
Friday	4	For those finding it hard to earn a living
Saturday	5	For good use to be made of this prayer cycle
Sunday	6	For vocations to the ministry
Monday	7	For those who work in the emergency services
Tuesday	8	For our neighbours at St Mary's Catholic Church
Wednesday	9	For those who live and work in the streets around Christ Church
Thursday	10	We give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy
Friday	11	For all who face tragedy
Saturday	12	For countries experiencing economic problems
Sunday	13	For Mark our Lay Reader
Monday	14	For those who work in the hospitality industry
Tuesday	15	For those who care for the sick
Wednesday	16	That we may have the gift of faithfulness
Thursday	17	For our charity of the month
Friday	18	For those who use and run food banks
Saturday	19	For good relationships between different faiths
Sunday	20	For our Junior Church
Monday	21	For our armed forces and police
Tuesday	22	For volunteer organisations

Wednesday	23	For those with addictions
Thursday	24	For children and their families
Friday	25	Thanksgiving for the Incarnation
Saturday	26	For Colin and all clergy spouses
Sunday	27	For our flower arrangers and those who look after the church
Monday	28	For refugees
Tuesday	29	For those who work in local government
Wednesday	30	For those preparing for marriage or recently married
Thursday	31	We give thanks for family and friends

# Long-term Prayer List

Please remember those we've been asked to pray for...

Ray and Meryle Newbegin Revd John Brown Liza Charlotte Jean Warren Dillon Amber David Slater Nick Johnson Geoff Stead Joyce Knight Bishop Peter

Want to add a name to the prayer list, either long-term or shortterm, 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 December 2020

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel	Intercessions
6 Dec 2nd of Advent	6 Dec Sylvia Ayers 2nd of Isaiah 40:1-11 Advent	Emily Bond 2 Peter 3:8-15a	<b>Peter Bowes</b> Mark 1:1-8	Nick Wells
13 Dec 3rd of Advent	Judith Anderson Isaiah 61:1-4,8-end	Janet Mahto 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	Rebekah Cunningham John 1:6-8,19-28	Mark Elliott
20 Dec 4th of Advent	Junior Church 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16	Junior Church Romans 16:25-end	Junior Church Luke 1:26-38	Junior Church
24 Dec Christmas Eve	<b>Thomas Wolker- Darley</b> Isaiah 52:7-10	Mark Elliott Hebrews 1:1-4	Simon Tatton- Brown John 1:1-14	Jonathan Stead
25 Dec Christmas Day	25 Dec Clive Tilling Christmas Isaiah 9:2-7 Day	Zoë Bushell Titus 2:11-14	Isaac Elliott Luke 2:1-14	Rebekah Cunningham
27 Dec 1st of Christmas	27 Dec Jude Bishop 1st of Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3 ristmas	Nick Wells Galatians 4:4-7	Jonathan Stead Luke 2:15-21	Simon Tatton- Brown
<b>3 January</b> Epiphany	<b>3 January</b> Morny Davison Epiphany Isaiah 60:1-6	<b>Richard Gabe</b> Ephesians 3:1-12	<b>Sylvia Ayers</b> Matthew 2:1-12	Beryl Bowes

# Who's who at Christ Church

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lore.chumbley@me.com

Supporting clergy

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simontb@christchurchbath.org

**Revd Beryl Bowes** Revd Dr Peter Bowes

Reader, Director of Music Mark Elliott 01225 445360

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Churchwarden.

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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

# About Christ Church

THE CHURCH We're a liberal, inclusive and open church, OF ENGLAND 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 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 at our 10am Sunday service.

As well as 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 provides a space for exploration and discussion of faith in an open and non-judgemental setting.

### Regular Sunday services

Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) On the second Sunday of every month – resumption date TBC Sung Eucharist with Junior 10am

Church activities for children and young people Every Sunday - also 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

