



Life, growth and change

From the priest-in-charge...

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

All living things grow and change, and the Church is no different.

In our weekly “Exploring Christianity” course, some of us have been looking at a series of six theoretical models of Church, and trying to fit our own churches into Avery Dulles’ proposed models. Are we just an “Institution” with rules, structure and regular meetings? Or are we more of a “Mystical Communion” of Christians held together by the bonds of friendship and fellowship while also looking up to and listening for the guidance of the Holy Spirit? Or are we, Christ Church, a Sacrament, a visible reminder of the invisible presence of God, so that as you step over the threshold of the building you know yourself to be in the presence of God? Are we a Servant church serving the local community and one another? Are we a “Herald” church proclaiming the Gospel, the good news which Jesus proclaimed, “Repent – the kingdom of God has come near”? Or are we a group of disciples praying and learning together as we follow Jesus Christ?

The answer is, of course, we are all of these. Our church life and fellowship contain aspects of each model, and our way of being Church will change from moment to moment as our need to provide servant ministry or our call to proclaim the good news or our longing to listen to the guidance of the Holy Spirit comes to the fore. All churches – or at least all Anglican churches –

are at root institutions, and the rules, structures and traditions of the Church of England have kept us (mostly) since the Reformation. But Christ Church is more than the sum of Avery Dulles’ models of Church.

We are uniquely who we are, affected by the prayers, words and actions of each one of us. And we are a living, growing church. In January we were delighted to welcome Jessica Wrigley, daughter of Jo and David, as our newest member. In this issue of the *Link*, Peter and Beryl Bowes, retired priests who now live in Bath, introduce themselves to us in their new role of priests with permission to officiate. We warmly welcome them to Christ Church and look forward to sharing church life with them. As we celebrate Candlemas and look towards Lent and Holy Week, let’s celebrate these signs of new life and growth.



What’s happening in Bath Abbey’s Footprint Project? Get the story so far – see page 3. Photo courtesy of Wessex Archaeology.

Introducing Beryl and Peter Bowes

Beryl and Peter Bowes write:

We moved to Bath last summer after a life-time spent in Yorkshire, and have now settled in Christ Church. We have recently received the Bishop's Permission to Officiate in the diocese and now join Christ Church's team of supporting clergy and, from time to time, will take part in services.

Beryl qualified as a general and children's nurse after training at Great Ormond Street hospital in London. Peter trained in Hull and London as a solicitor. They married in 1971 and set up home in the Hull area, where they lived until 1999.



We welcome Beryl and Peter, give thanks for Peter's recovery from his recent health problems, and look forward to them taking part in services.

Beryl and Peter have four adult children, three boys and a girl, spread across the country and indeed the world, and seven grandchildren. Their daughter and youngest grandchild live in Bath, which explains the move south.

Whilst the children were growing up, Beryl read for a theology degree at Hull and then trained for ordination on the North East Ordination Course. She was ordained deacon in 1991, and in 1994 became one of the first women to be ordained priest. She worked for a number of years as a hospital chaplain in Hull before moving into parish ministry and in her spare time studying for an MA in theology at Leeds. Peter became a Reader in the Church of England in 1971 and continued in that role until ordained in 2003. Following ordination, alongside parish ministry, Peter studied for Master's and Doctor's degrees in theology and ministry at Durham.

Prior to retirement seven years ago, Beryl's and Peter's final posts were as Incumbents of two adjacent benefices in North Yorkshire, Beryl's a seven-church rural group and Peter's a small market town. In retirement they have been able to see more of their family and to develop various interests as well as provide some support in the parish and deanery in which they were living before moving to Bath.

Coming events

Modern Church: Science and Religion

What is it? Modern Church is holding a one-day conference on "Science and Religion: Conflict or Co-operation?". Modern Church encourages open, respectful debate on Christian faith – see modernchurch.org.uk

When is it? Saturday 8 February

Where? Manvers Street Baptist Church, Bath BA1 1JW

Contact rdjames@live.com for more details and to register

Seeking descendants

The Priest in Charge and Trustees of Christ Church, Bath, wish to contact descendants of any of the following three people: Jane Livie and Anne Lewis, in whose memory a chancel screen was erected in the church in 1886 by Fanny Coote, whose name is also recorded on the screen. Descendants are invited to contact the church to discuss plans for removing the memorial plaques.

Write to: The Priest in Charge, Christ Church, Julian Road, Bath BA1 2RH, or e-mail lore.chumbley@me.com or phone 07595 294146.

Footprint Project: the story so far

Bath Abbey is almost a year into its Footprint Project, a £19.3m programme of capital works to repair the floor, install eco-friendly heating using energy from Bath's hot springs, and provide new facilities including a Discovery Centre, learning space and Song School.

In this talk sponsored by the University of the Third Age (U3A), you will hear about the project and some of the challenges the project is facing, which range from working in the Roman drain to excavating a wealth of archaeological finds from prehistoric flints to evidence of Georgian dentists.

Alix Gilmer, the Project Director, is a Chartered Surveyor and Project Manager, with a background in building conservation, museums and archaeology. She worked for the National Trust for 12 years managing capital projects ranging from castle conservation to the design of new visitor facilities. Prior to that she worked in the museums sector and had a business running archaeological working holidays.

When is it? Thursday 6 February, 10:30 am, doors open 9:45am for coffee

Where? The Pavilion, North Parade Road, Bath BA2 4EU

Admission: Non-members are welcome; a donation of £2 would be appreciated. You can join U3A in Bath at the meeting. Find out more at www.u3ainbath.org.uk



What's happening under Bath Abbey? Get the inside story of the Footprint Project so far.

Last month in Christ Church



On Monday 27 January, friends and family came together for the funeral of Wendy Attah. Some of her friends, children and grandchildren spoke eloquently and movingly about her life. Condolences to all her family and friends.

Our Candlemas “Carol Service”

The Feast of Candlemas – the traditional end to the Christmas and Epiphany period – falls on a Sunday this year. The commemoration of Jesus being presented by his parents in the Temple, and Simeon and Anna recognising the baby as saviour of the world, falls 40 days after Christmas and is a pivot point between Christmas and Easter. We move our eyes from the cradle to the cross.

Given that it actually falls on a Sunday, we are trying an experiment with a Candlemas Carol Service to close the Christmas season and turn our minds gently towards Easter.

So, please join us to support this new venture at 7pm on Sunday 2 February, for a candlelit evening of readings, poems, hymns and anthems for Candlemas.

Lent Challenge 2020: 40 Everyday Questions

This year's Bishops' Lent challenge sounds straightforward: simply to have conversations with our friends, family, colleagues, or people we just bump into in our daily life.

How can that be a challenge? Often the conversations we have are on the same topics (you can probably name them!) or they are about practicalities like who is going to get the tea. This challenge provides an excuse to grapple with some simple questions about life, death and everything in between.

In a society where loneliness is on the rise, it's good to find ways of connecting with those around us and having meaningful conversations.

Are they all "Christian" questions? No! These are questions, big and small, on a variety of topics about life, the world and faith. They are everyday questions that many of us wonder about, even if we wouldn't usually have a conversation about them.

What if you don't know the answers? Don't worry, this is about conversation, not about answers! The Challenge is twofold:

- To listen to someone else's viewpoint;
- To ask ourselves how our own answers connect to what we believe.

Want to get started? There's a pack of question cards, suitable for people of all ages. The question can be used in any way you want, but in the pack there are some suggestions to get you started. You can even use the questions with a Lent Group or school class if you want to. The questions will be shared



each day from Ash Wednesday (26 February) on the diocesan Twitter and Facebook feeds with the hashtag #40questions. These will also share some very short videos of people of all ages having a go at some of the questions, just as a conversation starter!

As a taster, the diocese suggests, find someone, perhaps someone in your family from a different generation. Pick one of the questions below. Either just discuss the question with them or set a timer for 30 seconds and each of you has that time to give your response before you discuss how your answers were the same or different.

- Should all bad people be punished? (from the Life section)
- How would you describe God? (from the Faith section)
- What makes you angry enough to do something about it? (from the World section)

To find out more, visit <http://bit.ly/2020-lent-challenge>, where you can also view a sample video, which considers the question "Is there life on other planets?", filmed with the help of pupils from Danesfield Church of England Middle School in Somerset.

<https://twitter.com/BathWells>

<https://www.facebook.com/bathandwells>

Easter in John's Gospel

Independent Biblical scholar and Methodist preacher Margaret Barker will lead a one-day Lent course on "Easter Day in St John's Gospel" on Saturday 29 February in the Lower Mews, 10am–3:30pm. Margaret Barker is the author of 17 books, including the chapter on Isaiah in the prestigious Eerdmans Commentary on the Bible, available as a separate e-book. Her book *King of the Jews: Temple Theology in John's Gospel* will give some of the background to this course.

The cost is £10, including refreshments and a light lunch. Please book in advance by contacting Lore on lore.chumbley@me.com or by text to 07595 294146.

Bishop's Message for February

Pick up your Bible with a new joy



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

Martin Niemöller was a Lutheran pastor, best known for his opposition to the Nazi party during the 1930s. As a consequence he was imprisoned between 1938 and 1945, first in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp and then in Dachau. He was fortunate to survive these experiences, and on his release became a pacifist and a committed campaigner for nuclear disarmament.

A former U-boat commander, he wrote in his book *From U-boat to Pulpit* about what the Bible meant to him during his imprisonment, which included years of solitary confinement. He wrote: "The word of God was simply everything to me, comfort and strength, guidance and hope, master of my days and companion of my nights. The bread that kept me from starvation and the water of life which refreshed my soul. And even more, solitary confinement ceased to be solitary."

These extraordinary words remind me

of the hymn "Lord, thy word abideth," the first three verses of which are:

*Lord, thy Word abideth,
and our footsteps guideth;
who its truth believeth
light and joy receiveth.*

*When our foes are near us,
then thy Word doth cheer us,
Word of consolation,
message of salvation.*

*When the storms are o'er us,
and dark clouds before us,
then its light directeth,
and our way protecteth.*

The Bible is still the most published and the most read book in the world. What makes it unique, however, is that the books of the Bible were inspired by the Spirit of God and are the place where Christ is found and proclaimed and where God speaks. And St Paul, writing about the scriptures (the Old Testament), said, "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope" (Romans 15:4).

As we come to Lent, might I suggest that we pick up our Bibles with a new joy, with fresh eyes and with a renewed determination to spend time each day reading the Bible. If we do, we will find, as Niemöller and countless other people before us have done, that the Bible is indeed the Word of Life, the pathway to Jesus and the doorway to salvation. If we are looking for comfort and strength, guidance and hope, we can find all those things within its pages.

With my prayers and very best wishes,

+Peter Bath and Wells

This month's charity: USPG Malawi project

The loose collection in the plate on the second and fourth Sunday of the month, 9 and 23 February, 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.)

Rebekah Cunningham writes:

This month we're again supporting USPG's project in Malawi as we do on a quarterly basis, through loose change giving and also through individuals setting up direct debits.

This is a national church programme supported by USPG, across all four dioceses of Malawi. There are four main areas of focus:

- education for girls,
- protecting livelihoods,
- management of the environment,
- hygiene and sanitation.

In addition, there will be an across-the-board focus on gender equality and issues relating to HIV and AIDS. We are expecting an up-to-date report on the project in April.

If you would like to set up a direct debit, there are forms available on the charities noticeboard at the back of the church near the kitchen. These are marked as coming from Christ Church, so that all our giving can be totalled by USPG at the end of the year.



Lake Malawi. Photo courtesy of thisisafrica.me



On civil partnerships

At the end of December, English law changed, extending civil partnership to opposite-sex couples. In response, the Church of England's House of Bishops released a "pastoral statement" in late January. It noted the *Living in Love and Faith* project, "a major study" of various "areas of human sexuality," which is due to be completed this year and "will then inform further deliberations of the House of Bishops. In the context, however, of the introduction of opposite-sex as well as same-sex civil partnerships, the teaching of the church on marriage remains unchanged." Without condemning civil partnerships, it said neither same-sex nor opposite-sex civil partnerships can be blessed in church. "For Christians, marriage – that is the lifelong union between a man and a woman, contracted with the making of vows – remains the proper context for sexual activity. In its approach to civil partnerships the Church seeks to uphold that standard, to affirm the value of committed [but] sexually abstinent friendships, and to minister sensitively and pastorally to those Christians who conscientiously decide to order their lives differently."

Soon after, some criticised the statement's timing, wording or lack of "context". These included Rt Revd Rachel Treweek, the Bishop of Gloucester; and the Bishops of Worcester, Bristol, Newcastle and Norwich. In our own diocese, Bishop Peter and Bishop Ruth said: "We are very acutely aware that the release of the statement... has caused a great deal of hurt and pain. We are deeply sorry for this.

"This week sees us meeting as a College of Bishops to consider further work on *Living in Love and Faith*, which is exploring ways to help the Church respond to issues of human sexuality. Releasing a statement without any of the context provided by those discussions was not only unhelpful, but hurtful to all those affected by the deeply human issues raised in these conversations.

"We commit ourselves to learning to communicate better, to listening well, and to being more sensitive to the needs of others in all that we say and do."

Christ Church calendar Feb. 2020

2 Sun *The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)*
7pm Candlemas Carol Service

6 Thu *Accession of Queen Elizabeth II, 1952*
11am Eucharist, followed by coffee
Pilgrim Group meeting, 7:30pm

7 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

9 Sun *The Third Sunday before Lent*
8am Holy Communion (BCP)

13 Thu 11am Eucharist, followed by coffee

14 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

16 Sun *The Second Sunday before Lent*
4:30pm Choral Evensong

20 Thu 11am Eucharist, followed by coffee
Pilgrim Group meeting, 7:30pm

21 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

23 Sun *The Sunday next before Lent*

26 Wed *Ash Wednesday*
7pm Holy Communion with Ashing

27 Thu 11am Eucharist, followed by coffee

28 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

Mar 1 Sun *The First Sunday of Lent*

3 Tue Christ Church Council meeting, 7:30pm

5 Thu 11am Eucharist, followed by coffee
Pilgrim Group meeting, 7:30pm

6 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

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

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 February 2020

Saturday	1	That we may show mercy and compassion
Sunday	2	For the Trustees of Christ Church
Monday	3	For the emergency services
Tuesday	4	For refugees
Wednesday	5	We give thanks for those who enrich our lives
Thursday	6	For our Pilgrim Group, meeting tonight
Friday	7	For the unemployed
Saturday	8	For adoptive and foster families
Sunday	9	For Lewis and Janet our Churchwardens
Monday	10	For those who work in education
Tuesday	11	For all who produce publicity for Christ Church
Wednesday	12	For our link Dioceses in Zambia
Thursday	13	For our Charity of the Month
Friday	14	For those in slavery or bonded labour
Saturday	15	We give thanks for our blessings
Sunday	16	For all clergy taking services at Christ Church
Monday	17	For architects and designers
Tuesday	18	For countries with economic problems
Wednesday	19	For the local Deanery Synod
Thursday	20	For volunteer organisations
Friday	21	For those who lack food, water or warmth
Saturday	22	For those recently baptised or preparing for baptism
Sunday	23	For our Diocese of Bath and Wells
Monday	24	For scientists and engineers

Tuesday	25	For victims of violence
Wednesday	26	That we may have a spirit of penitence
Thursday	27	For the Fairtrade movement
Friday	28	For the ministry of the Cedar Tree
Saturday	29	For those confined to their homes

Long-term Prayer List

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

David Slater
 Joyce Fairburn
 Nick Johnson
 Hilary and Mary Faulkner
 Amber
 Sister Catherine
 Demelza King
 Zayad
 Joe Street
 Mrs Wright
 Gill
 Zareb
 Fred Matthews
 Judith Rogers
 Nancy Kiddie
 Revd John Brown
 Harold Holmes
 Alan White
 Ian Muir
 Liza Burdon Bailey
 Maureen Barker
 David Slater

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.

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

Rotas for February 2020

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
2 Feb Candlemas	Clive Tilling Malachi 3:1-5	Robin Kerr Hebrews 2:14-end	David Bishop Luke 2:22-40
9 Feb 3rd before Lent	Isaac Elliott Isaiah 58:1-12	Nick Wells 1 Corinthians 2:1-end	Jane Fletcher Matthew 5:13-20
16 Feb 2nd before Lent	Alex Soboslay Genesis 1:1 – 2:3	Zoë Bushell Romans 8:18-25	Thomas Wolker-Darley Matthew 6:25-end
23 Feb Next before Lent	Janet Mahto Exodus 24:12-end	Malcolm Wall 2 Peter 1:16-end	Rosanne Gabe Matthew 17:1-9
1 March Lent 1	Judith Anderson Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7	Greg Ridley Romans 5:12-19	Sylvia Ayers Matthew 4:1-11

Laitry rota, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Chalice assistants	Sidespeople	Intercessions
2 Feb	Angela Soboslay, Janet Mahto	Morny Davison, TBC	Mark Elliott
9 Feb	David Rawlings, Keri Chivers	Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers	Penny Edwards
16 Feb	Clive Tilling, Janet Mahto	Jane Nicholson, Morny Davison	Georgina Bowman
23 Feb	Keri Chivers, David Rawlings	Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers	Rebekah Cunningham
1 March	Clive Tilling, TBC	Jane Nicholson, Janet Mahto	Ian Hay Davison

Who's who at Christ Church

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Revd Dr Peter Bowes

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Prayer cycle Virginia Knight

Junior Church Emma Elliott

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**Churches Together in Bath,
USPG** Rebekah Cunningham

Traidcraft orders Judith Bishop

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Mission to Seafarers Sylvia Ayers

Deanery Synod Reps Sarah Kerr
Jane Nicholson
Brenda Wall

Treasurer David Bishop
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Christ Church Link

**Event/concert bookings,
weekly notice sheet** Judith Bishop
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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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