



New Year, new hope

From the priest-in-charge...

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

It was a great joy to celebrate Christmas in Christ Church with many of you – and to know that many more of you were watching online. The flowers and decorations, the candles, the Christmas tree, the glorious choral singing from the choir and the children’s Dragon Nativity made it a very special celebration. And it was particularly poignant to be aware of all those of you who weren’t able to be with us in person.

The New Year has brought further news of the spread of the virus and we are in another lockdown. I shouldn’t be unrealistically optimistic – I don’t know how long this will go on or how much more difficult things will get – but I draw encouragement from our spiritual ancestry. Our Judeo-Christian heritage goes back thousand of years and encompasses the plague, exile and slavery of the Old Testament as well as the persecution and martyrdom experienced by the early Christians. And it is from the apparent defeat of the Crucifixion that we experience the hope of resurrection.

As our Pilgrim Group restarts this term it is likely that we will be reading Pope Francis’ book *Let us dream*, an ambitious invitation to re-imagine the political, social and spiritual world order. Anyone who would like to read it alongside us – and indeed contribute to our fortnightly virtual meetings – will be very welcome.

There are other signs of hope and new growth. In the summer we will welcome

Kara Maylor, who is currently training in Oxford for ordination to Pioneer Ministry and will be joining Christ Church as a curate in the summer. You can read more about her, her husband and her family, on page 2. According to an African proverb, “it takes a village to raise a child,” because the gifts and abilities which can be passed on from the whole village are so much greater than even the best input from two parents. In the same way, it takes not just an incumbent but a whole church to train a curate. We all have joint responsibility for maintaining a culture of worship and service in which we and Kara can together flourish and grow in our individual vocations. So as we start the new year, let’s do so with hope and the confidence that “if God is for us, who can be against us?”



At New Year the Eades’ fireworks over Solsbury Hill were a triumph – as long as you didn’t have low-lying river mist in the way! These photos show the view from Larkhall. It was a fitting way to remember Lyn and Tony Eades of Julian Road.

Meet Kara, our new curate

Kara Mayor writes:

Brought up on the beautiful Gower coast, I learned to appreciate the incredible health and spiritual benefits of being outside in God's glorious world. My love of sea swimming and trail running have been a passion throughout my life. Sharing this joy with family and friends has always been central to our lives. My parents were both strong people of faith. Sadly, my father died 27 years ago – I would have loved to discuss my current theological training with him, as he was in training for the priesthood for a number of years.

Having travelled for a year after we got married, my husband Harvey and I settled in Bath in 1999. Harvey worked at Bath University for seven years, but is now a Professor at Oxford Business School. We were blessed with four children over the next six years. Laurie our son is 21, Elise 19, Enya 17, and Maria 15. Initially I was a commissioning editor for a Pearson Publishing but when the children were born I stayed at home with them, supplementing our income with music lessons – piano and violin. After a teenage rebellion against the Church we had a wonderful community welcome in Bath including from a number of local churches. Harvey and I were asked to lead an Alpha Course for a millennium project – at the time we didn't even know what it was! We had the most incredible experience of the Holy Spirit and my new passion for Jesus was ignited.

Throughout the next 18 years I have been involved in a variety of roles in Church, apart from Alpha, including setting up a youth club and toddlers group from scratch, running children's and youth groups, small groups and being a member of the PCC for a number of terms. At New Wine in the summer of 2017 I began to sense that God wanted me to step into a role in Ministry but really thought I was too old, that I had never had any proper theological training and did not think they would invest in training someone nearing 50.

However, as we know, God is persistent and put many people in my path pointing the way. Early in this process of discernment I met Tina Hodgett, Pioneering team leader in the Diocese. When I heard her definition of Pioneering it was a revelation and I realised that this was in essence what I had been searching for. Her definition of pioneering is:

people called by God who see and creatively respond to the Holy Spirit's initiatives with those outside the Church, gathering others around them as they seek to establish new contextual Christian Community.

I thank you for the warm welcome that I have had from those I have met at Christ Church and I really look forward to meeting you all. I am full of anticipation about what God is already doing in your area. I am excited about discerning that, joining in with it, and becoming a part of your industrious and creative team.

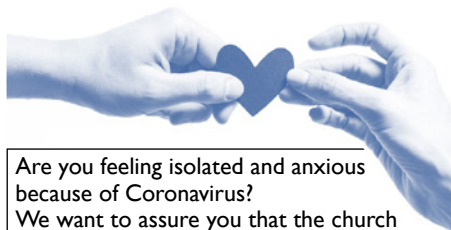
Diocesan week of prayer

From 10th to 16th January, the Diocese is exploring what prayer looks like for different people in its online Archdeaconry Days programme, *Prayer – Everyone, Everywhere!* It aims to inspire us to weave prayer into our lives, every day, as the people God created us to be. That might be through dancing, stillness, reading, skateboarding or anything in between. The week starts with a service from Wells Cathedral, including a reflection from Bishop Ruth. See it at <http://bit.ly/bw-week-of-prayer>

Hidden Voices seeks volunteers

Hidden Voices Somerset (HVS) is a local, church-led response to Modern-Day Slavery and all forms of exploitation. The organisation is looking for a range of volunteers to help victims of modern-day slavery and exploitation in Somerset. If you'd like to find out more about the project or volunteer, e-mail the diocese's Hidden Voices Co-ordinator sian.owen@bathwells.anglican.org.

Need pastoral care?



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.

Last month in Christ Church



Top: the Christmas tree in our new south chapel was hung with golden decorations given by members of the congregation. Below: the candlelit Christmas Carol Service.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from 18th to 25th January – the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul. This year's theme is "Abiding in Christ."

You can download a set of resources for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland website, <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>. This year's resources have been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme that was chosen, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit," is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family.

Today the community has 50 sisters, all women from different generations, Church traditions, countries and continents. In their diversity the sisters are a living parable of communion. They remain faithful to a life of prayer, life in community and the welcoming of guests. The sisters share the grace of their monastic life with visitors and volunteers who go to Grandchamp for a time of retreat, silence, healing or in search of meaning.

For 2021, the sisters are inviting churches across the world to enter into their tradition of prayer and silence that is rooted in the ancient traditions of the Church catholic.

Introducing this year's resources, the General Secretary of CTBI writes: "the Sisters of Grandchamp have offered us something uniquely precious: an opportunity to engage with a form of prayer that is both very ancient and yet at the same time so opposite for

our times. The ancient rhythm of prayer found in many religious orders and their traditions teach us that when we pray, we pray not just on our own or with those who share the same physical space, but with the whole Church, the Body of Christ, of Christians in other places and in different times.

"This rhythm of prayer, with its traditional forms of structure, hymns and psalms and perhaps most importantly silence, might well be an important gift from the ancient Church to the Church of today struggling with pandemics and lockdowns and more widely with some of the serious challenges that our world faces, most particularly climate change, racism and poverty. This tradition of prayer and spirituality, despite the things that hurt and separate us, invites us into shared prayer and silence together. Surely a most precious gift in troubled times. Come with us this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and enter into a place of community and blessing. Simply "be" in this place and be carried by the prayer and the reality that it is God, in Christ and through the Holy Spirit, who carries us and accompanies us. Always."

Online services

With lockdown restrictions reimposed, it is not clear at press time whether we will be able to continue to gather in person for services – watch for news. In any event, our 10am Sunday Eucharist, and possibly other services as advertised, will 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, 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.



Bishop's Message for January

One more step



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

January takes its name from the Roman god Janus, who is usually depicted as having two faces, looking both to the future and the past. At the start of a New Year it is good to do the same.

2020 will sadly be remembered as the year disrupted by COVID-19. Cracks in our care for each other have been revealed and it has had a disproportionate effect on those already vulnerable or deprived. It showed us that those who are most essential to our needs, those who clean and serve and care, are often those valued least in our economy. However, we also saw extraordinary acts of kindness and compassion, as churches and communities worked together to provide comfort, support and practical care.

So, what of 2021? The temptation may be to forget what we have learned, to paper over the cracks, ignore what has been uncomfortable and seek

comfort in the familiar. I hope we don't. 2020 opened our eyes to the harm caused when people are excluded on the basis of race, ability, gender, sexual orientation or wealth. Jesus calls us to a better way. Jesus broke the bounds of exclusion, refusing to accept social norms and speaking to Samaritans, women, Gentiles, tax collectors and sinners. He teaches that the first shall be last and the last first. He reconciles humanity to God through his death and resurrection.

As we look forward to 2021, we need to think again what it means to follow Christ and to build our lives and communities based on mutual love, respect and service. "For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." May we all know the Lord's leading and guiding as we step out into a New Year.

With my warmest greetings,

+Peter Bath and Wells

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 charity: Oasis Hub Bath

If we are able to hold services with a congregation present, the retiring collection in the plate on the second and fourth Sunday of the month – 10 and 24 January – will go to Oasis Hub Bath Community Projects. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.) Otherwise you are invited to donate online.

Rebekah Cunningham writes:

Oasis is a Christian organisation founded in 1985, with a mission of living out their Christian faith through building inclusive communities all over the world and working with groups of people currently excluded from community. They aim to empower people and communities to reach their God-given potential. Oasis develops practical ways of responding to structural injustice and inequality – from healthier eating to playgroups, community centres to education, job training, debt advice, and English lessons.

“Community Hubs” are the heart of Oasis. Their hub model brings together their Academies, churches, supported housing, and community projects. Oasis works in nine different countries including the UK.

“Everything we do is motivated by the life, teachings and ministry of Jesus.”

Oasis Community Hub, Bath, formerly Hay Hill Baptist Church until 2018, is one of our close church neighbours. In line with the Oasis ethos, Oasis Bath is involved in a number of community projects, and several

Christ Church members have been volunteering in the following ones:

• **Make Lunch Bath**

– a food related initiative aiming to reduce holiday hunger by offering free nutritious meals to children and their families in the school holidays.

• **Covid-19 Food Parcel Project** – the pandemic has temporarily put a stop to Make Lunch Bath and instead, over the summer and Christmas holidays, Oasis volunteers delivered food parcels to Make Lunch families and others referred to them by community and statutory organisations, using food that is supplied by Fareshare South West.

• **The Pantry** – one of a growing number of community pantries opening in Bath, supplying low cost, high quality surplus food each week to local individuals and families on low incomes. Again Oasis is partnering with Fareshare Southwest, who source surplus, in-date food and redistribute it. (Find out more at <https://faresharesouthwest.org.uk/>)

For more information on these and other projects go to <https://oasisbath.org/projects/> and to make an online donation go to <https://oasisbath.org/get-involved/donate/>



Helping Make Lunch, Jenny, Janet and Wilhelmina amongst some of the 264 bags of groceries and toiletries distributed at New Year to 66 families.

Pioneering Podcast

The Diocese of Bath and Wells has launched a new podcast which features conversations exploring the places where God already is, and the Church may not yet be. There will be conversation about what it means to be pioneering, and how God is leading us all in new and exciting directions.

The first half-hour Pioneering Plus Podcast features Tina Hodgett, who is Evangelism and Pioneer Team Leader in Bath and Wells, in conversation with Rachel Spence, a Pioneer in Whiteway, Bath. Find it on your favourite podcast platform, or access the series on the website at <http://bit.ly/pioneering-podcast>

Christ Church calendar January 2021

Jan	1	Fri	<i>New Year's Day / The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus</i>
	3	Sun	<i>The Epiphany / The Second Sunday of Christmas</i> 10am Eucharist
	7	Thu	11am Eucharist
	10	Sun	<i>The Baptism of Christ / The First Sunday of Epiphany</i> 10am Eucharist
	12	Tue	Christ Church Council meeting, 7:30pm
	14	Thu	11am Eucharist
	17	Sun	<i>The Second Sunday of Epiphany</i> 10am Eucharist
	18	Mon	<i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins (ends Monday 25th)</i>
	21	Thu	11am Eucharist
	24	Sun	<i>The Third Sunday of Epiphany</i> 10am Eucharist
	25	Mon	<i>The Conversion of Paul</i>
	26	Tue	<i>Timothy and Titus, companions of Paul</i>
	28	Thu	11am Eucharist
	30	Sat	<i>Charles, King and Martyr, 1649</i>
	31	Sun	<i>The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)</i> 10am Eucharist
Feb	4	Thu	11am Eucharist
	7	Sun	<i>The Second Sunday before Lent</i> 10am Eucharist

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 January 2021

Friday	1	For the homeless
Saturday	2	For churches, Cathedrals and communities named Christ Church
Sunday	3	For our servers and others who assist at the altar
Monday	4	For those who work in social services
Tuesday	5	For countries which have experienced storms and flooding
Wednesday	6	For our Local Ministry Group partners
Thursday	7	That we may be open to encounters with God
Friday	8	For the sick and suffering
Saturday	9	For those who are persecuted for their faith
Sunday	10	For Mark and the choir
Monday	11	For farmers
Tuesday	12	For the Church Council, meeting tonight
Wednesday	13	For good relationships between the nations
Thursday	14	For seafarers
Friday	15	For those who have suffered from terrorism
Saturday	16	We give thanks for our blessings
Sunday	17	For Angela our Verger
Monday	18	For the Queen and other heads of state
Tuesday	19	For the ministry of hospices
Wednesday	20	For Christian unity
Thursday	21	For our charity of the month
Friday	22	For those who work in dangerous conditions

Saturday	23	We give thanks for those who enrich our lives
Sunday	24	For our Archbishop, bishops and clergy
Monday	25	For journalists and those who work in the media
Tuesday	26	That we may have grace to forgive
Wednesday	27	For all at school
Thursday	28	For the elderly
Friday	29	For those who lack food, water or warmth
Saturday	30	We give thanks for beauty in creation
Sunday	31	For those who produce publicity for Christ Church

Long-term Prayer List

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

Revd John Brown
 Liza
 Charlotte
 Jean Warren
 Dillon
 Amber
 David Slater
 Nick Johnson
 Hannah
 Joyce Knight
 Bishop Peter

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 January 2021

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel	Intercessions
3 Jan Epiphany	Morny Davison Isaiah 60:1-6	Richard Gabe Ephesians 3:1-12	Sylvia Ayers Matthew 2:1-12	Beryl Bowes
10 Jan Baptism of Christ	Malcolm Wall Genesis 1:1-5	Robin Kerr Acts 19:1-7	Mark Elliott Mark 1:4-11	Jonathan Stead
17 Jan 2nd of Epiphany	Emma Elliott 1 Samuel 3:1-10	Brenda Wall Revelation 5:1-10	Rebekah Cunningham John 1:43-end	Peter Bowes
24 Jan 3rd of Epiphany	Alex Soboslay Genesis 14:17-20	Virginia Knight Revelation 19:6-10	Nick Wells John 2:1-11	Ian Hay Davison
31 Jan Candle- mas	Beryl Bowes Malachi 3:1-5	Ian Hay Davison Hebrews 2:14-end	David Bishop Luke 2:22-40	Rebekah Cunningham
7 Feb 2nd before Lent	Judith Anderson Proverbs 8:1,22-31	Janet Mahto Colossians 1:15-20	Jonathan Stead John 1:1-14	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 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

- 8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
On the second Sunday of every month – resumption date TBC
- 10am Sung Eucharist with Junior 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

