



Turning to hope

From the priest-in-charge...

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

Those of us able to follow our online services enjoyed not only singing but music from the recorder, folk violin, flute and trumpet as we celebrated Candlemas on Sunday 31 January. Then, those of us who said morning prayer together on February 2nd celebrated all over again with candles in the dim morning light.

Candles and snowdrops are recurrent symbols of hope in the early Spring, and snowdrops are the unsung heroes. Although they are delicate, with necks so slim they droop under the weight of their flowers, every year the grey-green shoots find their way up through mud and earth. They are fine enough to pierce a dead leaf without lifting it up and flexible enough to find a route around stone slabs to the light. Each year without fail, they shine like bridesmaids in the slush and mud.

At this time of year we turn from Epiphany to Lent and look towards the hope of warmer, brighter weather, more protection against the virus, and the great hope of Easter. Ash Wednesday is coming up on 17 February, and we will mark it with an evening virtual service of ashing. If you would like to make your own ash and apply it to your forehead during the service, there is advice on how to do that on page 2.

Since the Old Testament, ashes have been a sign of mourning and repentance. Job sat with ashes on his head; after the fish spat him out, Jonah warned the people of Nineveh of the

destruction to come and his hearers repented “in sackcloth and ashes.” The Church has used ashes as a sign of repentance on Ash Wednesday for at least 1,200 years. But this is the first year that we will combine that ancient custom with the modern technology of the internet.

Recognising where we have gone wrong and choosing to change is a timeless rite, and Ash Wednesday is a time to recognise where we are and hope that we can do better, be more open to the working of the Holy Spirit, give more time and attention to God’s actions in the world and less to... whatever your besetting sin may be.

Remember the snowdrops. Every Lent, hope springs up like the snowdrops, and like them, in the middle of our worry and stress and boredom, hope gleams.



Snowdrops (Galanthus) are commonly known as “Candlemas bells” because they appear in February around the time of the feast of Candlemas.

Make your own ash

You will need one palm cross for each person. Those are the palm leaf crosses which were posted out to you last year for Palm Sunday. If you don't have one and would like one, let us know and we can post you a new one. The palm cross should be dry – if it's damp, keep it next to a radiator for a day or two.

You must make the ash outside, on a dry day with no wind. An old biscuit tin is ideal – not a treasured one, because the inside may be spoiled by the process. If you don't have a tin you can make a dish shape out of aluminium foil and weight it with a stone.

Put the palm cross in the biscuit tin and light it with a match. It will flare up. If the flame goes out, keep lighting it again until the whole cross is burnt away leaving black ash.

Now go back indoors and push the black ash through a sieve onto a piece of kitchen towel. Pour the sieved ash into an egg cup, add a smidgen of olive oil and stir with the handle of a coffee spoon. You should have a small blob of sticky black "paint" at the bottom of your egg cup.

At the right moment in the service, you can dip your finger into the ashes and draw a cross on your forehead, as Christians have done for 1,000 years.

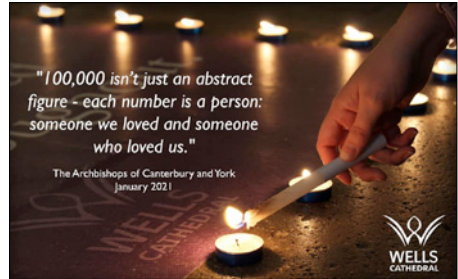
School governors wanted

Are you looking for your next challenge? Perhaps you would like to put your skills and experience to good use or even want to enhance your CV and develop skills in other areas. If so, you may wish to consider volunteering as a foundation governor in one of our fabulous church schools. Now, more than ever, our church schools need you.

The diocese has vacancies in many of its schools in primary, middle and secondary school age ranges in both Local Authority maintained and Academy Schools.

To find out more and talk with someone on the team, please e-mail Vicky Christophers, School Organisation & Governance Adviser, vicky.christophers@bathwells.anglican.org.

Candles for Covid



From 28 January, candles have been laid out around the Coronavirus prayer on the floor of the Nave of Wells Cathedral, Wells BA5 2UE. All who visit are welcome to light one of the candles, and to take a moment in this sacred space to be at one with their thoughts.

The prayer reads: "Remember before God those who have died during the Coronavirus pandemic, and those who continue to suffer. And give thanks for the dedication, skill and courage of those who have served selflessly throughout."

The installation has offered a focus for prayer, mourning and thanksgiving since the beginning of the pandemic and continues to do so as the UK passes 100,000 Covid deaths.

During the lockdown, Wells Cathedral is open 11am–3pm daily for individual prayer and reflection. If you can't visit in person but would like one of these candles to be lit and perhaps a prayer said on your behalf, please e-mail emily.risdon@wells cathedral.uk.net.

"Wherever you are, please know that the Cathedral is here for you, and should you need someone to talk to, you need only ask."



Photo courtesy of Wells Voice, wellsvoice.co.uk.

A book for Lent

Candles in the Dark: Faith, hope and love in a time of pandemic by Rowan Williams

Revd Peter Bowes writes:

Lent is almost upon us. At a time of lockdown and pandemic surely this will be a different Lent, a reflective time as well as a penitential time. Maybe a Lent book might help us with that reflection. But if the thought of a substantial book at this time doesn't appeal, this slim volume (less than 100 pages) might just fit the bill.

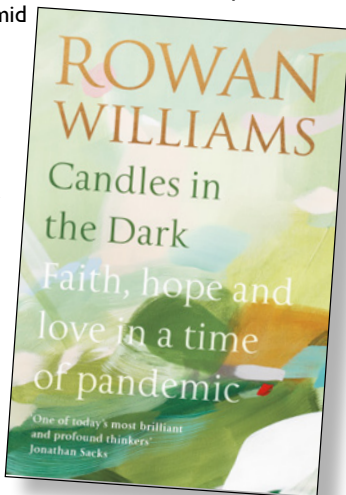
Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, spent the first eight years of his retirement living and working in Cambridge and serving as an assistant priest at St Clement's Church. In that role he often contributed a short reflection to go in the church's regular bulletin addressing some of the issues we have all been confronting over this last 12 months, trying to make sense, as Christians, of "the most devastating crisis for more than a generation".

Twenty five short pieces, each two or three pages in length, to keep us going through Lent, feeding thought and prayer – and perhaps action too.

Available on Amazon as a paperback at £7.69 or a Kindle download at £5.69

For those who let Lore know they are interested, a mid

Lent Zoom is planned – possibly on Mothering Sunday – to provide an opportunity for sharing thoughts and reflections on the book. Watch out for details in the weekly bulletin.



Last month...



Jun and Mizue took advantage of the snowfall in late January and crafted this outstanding snowman. Photos courtesy of Jun Toshikawa

■ **LATE NEWS:** The extended Christ Church family grew again on 2 February when Jennifer Soboslay gave birth to a daughter, Penelope, weighing 8lbs 14oz. Welcome, Penelope! And congratulations to Jen, her partner Tom, and delighted grandparents Angela and Alex.

Living Lent in lockdown

Lent symbolises the 40 days where Christ was led into the wilderness and was subjected to temptations. This year, Lent runs from Ash Wednesday, 17 February, until Saturday 3 April. This makes 45 days, but Sundays aren't counted in Lent (which is why some people who "give things up" for Lent don't do so on Sundays!).

In 2021, Lent will begin while we are still in lockdown, and many may feel that they have been deprived of more than enough in the last 12 months. How can we use Lent this year to sustain ourselves spiritually in a time of lockdown? How might it inspire us to share our faith more widely with those suffering from loneliness and fear in isolation?

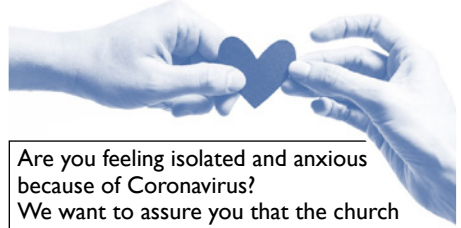
Matthew's Gospel makes it clear that "for forty days and forty nights Jesus fasted and became very hungry." Traditionally, Christians have also fasted during Lent, though there are many different ways of doing so, and some take on other spiritual disciplines.

Harley Wykes, who is on the Diocesan ministry experience scheme, is committing to pray in Lent this year for a breakthrough in the life of the world as we all experience the Covid pandemic. He says: "We can pray that humanity will band together to effectively vaccinate those who need it most. We can also pray that the vaccine will be able to fight any new strains of Covid that may emerge."

If you would like to explore your faith this Lent, take a look at the #LiveLent resources from the Church of England, which seeks to encourage everyone to think about their Christian calling, share their faith and reflect on the difference Christ makes in our lives. www.churchofengland.org/livelent.



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.

Diocesan Message for February

What does love require?



**From the Very Revd Dr John Davies,
Dean of Wells**

Having heard the announcement about the latest lockdown, I walked over to the Cathedral. I sat at the back and looked up at the cross in the Nave. A question welled up as I sat: “What does love require in the cold climate of Covid”, with empty streets, people shut in, schools and businesses closed?

Like many clergy I have a list of people to lift with a phone call or e-mail. Everyone can of course ring neighbours and friends and family, and offer a word, distanced, in the street, a wave to a window, a card through a letterbox.

My neighbour is those I know and care for. But Christ teaches that my neighbour is also on the streets, needy and destitute. Food banks and charities need urgent assistance in a cold climate where indifference is not unknown.

It might be quite simple: shopping, love taking us to the supermarket. It might be conversation: love says listen

as they pour it all out. It might be a bit more complicated. My neighbour might be disabled – is practical help needed? My neighbour might be held as a slave at a car wash. How do I discreetly ask? When do I alert the Clewer initiative? My neighbour may be gay – does love ask me to affirm or keep a distance? My neighbours may be black – how do I show my belief that black lives really matter?

Love can be very active in the cold climate of today. But love needs replenishing. Love becomes brittle and bossy if it is given but not received. Love means that I must be open to others, for they may want to love me and be a neighbour to me by loving me.

God is love, so in the cold climate of Covid, when community is weakened, let us give and receive love. And the coldness will vanish because love has come to stay.

**John Davies
Dean of Wells**

Daily Hope

A free national phonenumber 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: USPG Malawi project

If we are able to hold services with a congregation present, the collection in the plate on the second and fourth Sunday of the month – 14 and 28 February – will go to USPG's Malawi project. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.) Otherwise you are invited to donate online.

Rebekah Cunningham writes:

This month we are again supporting USPG's programme in Malawi. Just to remind you, the key areas the programme focuses on are:



- girls' education and livelihoods, aiming to increase school enrolment among girls, reduce early marriages/pregnancies, and lower the school dropout rate;
- environment and climate change, increasing household income through improved farming skills and business skills, and ensuring that vulnerable households have access to loans;
- improved access to water, sanitation and hygiene, all vital in the fight against Coronavirus.

Coronavirus rates in Malawi have shot up since the New Year. We too often take our own bathroom facilities for granted, and have no idea of how we'd get on without at least one wash basin or toilet. Why not count up the number of taps you have in your house and make a donation for each tap?

Visit <http://bit.ly/uspg-malawi> to find out more about USPG's work in Malawi. To donate, visit <https://donations.uspg.org.uk/>, specify it is for Partners in Mission, and then choose Malawi. You are also able to say that you are donating on behalf of Christ Church Bath; this means USPG are able to send us a yearly total of what we all have donated.

Online services from Christ Church

Our weekly 10am Sunday Eucharist, 11am Thursday Eucharist and other services as advertised from time to time – such as our Ash Wednesday evening service on Wednesday 17th – will continue to be live streamed at www.facebook.com/christchurchbath. You



can also attend the Thursday service virtually on Zoom – if you'd like an invitation, please e-mail lore.chumbley@me.com or phone or text her on 07595 294146. 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 or text to Lore, 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.

If you need help with accessing any of these services, then please ask!

Christ Church calendar Feb. 2021

4 Thu 11am Eucharist

6 Sat *Accession of Queen Elizabeth II, 1952*

7 Sun *The Second Sunday before Lent*
10am Eucharist

11 Thu 11am Eucharist

14 Sun *The Sunday next before Lent*
10am Eucharist

16 Tue *Shrove Tuesday*

17 Wed *Ash Wednesday*
7pm Eucharist with Ashing

18 Thu 11am Eucharist

21 Sun *The First Sunday of Lent*
10am Eucharist

25 Thu 11am Eucharist

28 Sun *The Second Sunday of Lent*
10am Eucharist

Mar 1 Mon *David, patron of Wales*

4 Thu 11am Eucharist

7 Sun *The Third Sunday of Lent*
10am Eucharist

9 Tue Christ Church Council meeting, 7:30pm

11 Thu 11am Eucharist

14 Sun *The Fourth Sunday of Lent / Mothering Sunday*
10am Eucharist

Sunday and Thursday 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 February 2021

| | | |
|------------------|-----------|--|
| Monday | 1 | For our government and politicians |
| Tuesday | 2 | For Bible scholars and theologians |
| Wednesday | 3 | For Julian House |
| Thursday | 4 | We give thanks for those who inspire us |
| Friday | 5 | For those who are confined to their homes |
| Saturday | 6 | For our link Dioceses in Zambia |
| Sunday | 7 | For Lore our priest in charge |
| Monday | 8 | For shopkeepers and shop workers |
| Tuesday | 9 | That we may have the gift of faith |
| Wednesday | 10 | For all in hospital |
| Thursday | 11 | For our Pilgrim Group |
| Friday | 12 | For the unemployed |
| Saturday | 13 | For countries experiencing civil unrest |
| Sunday | 14 | For our Diocese of Bath and Wells |
| Monday | 15 | For scientists and engineers |
| Tuesday | 16 | For the Mothers' Union |
| Wednesday | 17 | That we may have a spirit of penitence |
| Thursday | 18 | We give thanks for beauty in the world around us |
| Friday | 19 | For those who are in slavery or bonded labour |
| Saturday | 20 | For those who live or work in care homes |
| Sunday | 21 | For the Trustees of Christ Church |
| Monday | 22 | For those who work in the transport industry |

| | | |
|------------------|-----------|---|
| Tuesday | 23 | For our Charity of the Month |
| Wednesday | 24 | For prisoners and prison workers |
| Thursday | 25 | For the Fairtrade movement |
| Friday | 26 | For victims of violence |
| Saturday | 27 | For former members of Christ Church who have moved away |
| Sunday | 28 | We give thanks for the blessings of the past month |

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 February 2021

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

| | Old Testament | New Testament | Gospel | Intercessions |
|--|--|---|---|--------------------------------|
| 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 |
| 14 Feb Next be- fore Lent | Peter Bowes 2 Kings 2:1-12 | Clive Tilling 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 | Jude Bishop Mark 9:2-9 | Simon Tatton- Brown |
| 17 Feb Ash Wed- nesday | Isaac Elliott Isaiah 58:1-12 | Angela Soboslay 2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10 | Simon Tatton- Brown John 8:1-11 | Mark Elliott |
| 21 Feb 1st of Lent | Emily Bond Genesis 9:8-17 | Sylvia Ayers 1 Peter 3:18-end | Thomas Wolker- Darley Mark 1:9-15 | Beryl Bowes |
| 28 Feb 2nd of Lent | Morny Davison Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 | Zoë Bushell Romans 4:13-end | Malcolm Wall Mark 8:31-end | Jonathan Stead |
| 7 Mar 3rd of Lent | Robin Kerr Exodus 20:1-17 | Brenda Wall 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 | Rosanne Gabe John 2:13-22 | Ian Hay Davison |

Who's who at Christ Church

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07595 294146
lore.chumbley@me.com

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Revd Beryl Bowes
Revd Dr Peter Bowes

Reader, Director of Music Mark Elliott
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**Churchwarden,
Cedar Tree café organiser** Janet Mahto
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Churchwarden Jane Nicholson
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Verger Angela Soboslay
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notices@christchurchbath.org

**Tower Captain,
Ringing Master** Will Willans

Tower Secretary Ian Hay Davison
07932 160482
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Steeple Keeper David Kelly

Publicity co-ordinators Janet Mahto
Lewis Boyd

Laity rotas Judith Bishop

Prayer cycle Virginia Knight

Junior Church Emma Elliott

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

Traidcraft orders Judith Bishop

Mission to Seafarers Sylvia Ayers

Deanery Synod Reps 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 (pre-recorded for the time being, until live church services with singing can resume again).

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

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(answer phone)
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Website: www.christchurchbath.org

