



What am I meant to be doing in Lent?

From the priest-in-charge...

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

I used to know a family who spent ten years as missionaries in the Kingdom of Nepal, as it then was. They lived in a small house with a beaten mud floor, views of the Himalayas and buffalo outside the window. The family returned to the United Kingdom so that the children could attend secondary school, but the young people found the transition hard, even disorientating. They were exiled from beauty and freedom, and the school regime of homework and exams seemed a poor substitute.

Anything that disrupts our comfortable normality may disorientate us – moving house, bereavement, a pandemic or the failure of a relationship – and they don't have to be unwelcome events. Falling in love, starting a new job, welcoming a child or grandchild into the family can all rupture our familiar ways of doing things and demand new ways of thinking and living. The challenge of Lent is to disrupt our own routines and intentionally create a landscape of spiritual disorientation.

The goal of such disruption is to force ourselves to re-orientate in a way that is more focussed on God. The psalmists understand this. Psalm 22 – the one which begins “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” – takes us not only into disorientation, but into the desolation of despair. It's the psalm Jesus quoted as he died on the cross.

But at verse 21 there is a change. The entire psalm is a cry to God from great suffering and yet v21 reads “You have answered me.” The psalmist finds breath to praise God from within his suffering, and the psalm moves to a new sense of the presence of God.

*I will tell of your name to my people;
in the midst of the congregation will
I praise you.*

Our Lent “disorientation” allows the Holy Spirit to do the work of “re-orientation”, bringing us to a new way of thinking and living. Christ called it the Kingdom of God, and we live in it amongst people for whom Christ was prepared to die. That's not you, I and people like us, but everyone – even,

Continued on page 2



Could you sleep out for just one night to raise funds to help those forced to do so every night? Find out about the Big Bath Sleep Out on page 3.

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Continued from page 1

▶ perhaps particularly, the people we find irritating. Christ died for love of those people just as much as for me. And so the work of re-orientation goes on year after year. We forgive, we love, but the anger flares up and we have to forgive again. And so year after year we return to the disorientation of Lent in order to find the re-orientation of resurrection.

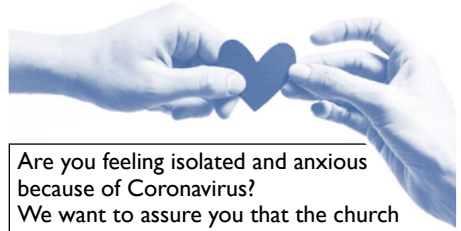
And the family from Nepal? After some difficult years they settled down to become interesting, creative and educated young adults who are still as comfortable in a shack with a mud floor as they are in an Oxford college. They learnt to live in two Kingdoms perhaps more quickly and easily than we shall.

Christ Church AGM

The Annual General Church Meeting of the Christ Church congregation is scheduled to be held on Sunday 25 April after the 10am service. (This is assuming it will be possible for us to meet in person. If lockdown restrictions are still in place, then it is likely that the Diocese will instruct churches to postpone Annual Meetings until later in the year, as occurred in 2020.) The meeting is the opportunity to have your say, elect Churchwardens and Church Council members, and receive reports on the activities of all the groups in the church.

Anyone can attend, but you must be on the Electoral Roll of Christ Church to vote. If you've recently joined us and wish to add your name, or if you need to change any details, contact Lore, one of the Churchwardens or Judith Anderson, our Electoral Roll Officer, to ask for a form. The current Electoral Roll will be available to check when the church is open – if you cannot visit in person, please contact any of the above.

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.

Twin My Vaccine

The Rector of Curry Rivel, Somerset, Revd Scott Patterson, and his wife Rowan have launched Twin My Vaccine, a campaign to raise funds to help UNICEF vaccinate the poorest countries in the world against Covid-19.

Rowan and Scott said: "We're delighted that our parents and friends are beginning to be vaccinated against Covid-19, and it's great that in the UK this is freely available on the NHS. But many of us could have afforded to buy the vaccine if we'd needed to, and there are countries which cannot afford to vaccinate their people at all. UNICEF's COVAX campaign will deliver vaccines to some of the poorest countries in the world."

Bishop Ruth said: "If we are truly going to beat the virus then we need to pay attention to those who are even more vulnerable than ourselves."

As the largest single vaccine buyer in the world, UNICEF has unique and long-standing expertise in procurement and logistics. The COVAX programme is designed to ensure that 190 countries, together representing more than four-fifths of the world's population, have equitable access to 2 billion doses of the Covid-19 vaccine by the end of 2021. The infrastructure of some of the poorest may not even include basic refrigeration. The initial 2 billion doses are intended to protect frontline health care and social workers, as well as high risk and vulnerable people.

Two doses of vaccine (depending on which kind you have) might be worth between £4 and £30, plus the time and expertise needed to administer it. Scott and Rowan originally hoped to raise around £1,000 through their JustGiving page, but they've already reached more than £10,300. The amount they raise will also be boosted by GiftAid.

If you have the financial resources and would like to donate, you can do so at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/RowanPatterson.

Visit www.unicef.org/coronavirus/covax to find out more about how UNICEF is working with the World Health Organisation to distribute vaccines to the very poorest in the world through the COVAX programme.

Big Bath Sleep Out

Every year, Julian House raises funds to help the homeless by challenging people to sleep out for just one night to help raise vital funds and awareness for men and women forced to do so every night.

Last year the charity provided life-changing support to over 1,400 vulnerable individuals who were experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness across Bath, Bristol and the South West. It's a grim realisation that without support like theirs, the life expectancy of a long-term homeless person is just 45 years.

On top of everyday challenges, the ongoing impact of Coronavirus has had a devastating effect on the men, women and children in the care of the charity. Collectively we can help provide the life-saving services and support they so desperately need right now.

This year, because of Covid, the Big Bath Sleep Out won't be taking place in Alice Park. Instead, we are invited to raise sponsorship to sleep out on Friday 5 March in the garden, kitchen, bathroom floor or even in the bath – anywhere a little uncomfortable works. Find details at www.bigbathsleepout.co.uk.



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.



Fairtrade Fortnight

For two weeks each year, thousands of individuals, companies and groups across the UK come together to share the stories of the people who grow our food, mine our gold and grow the cotton in our clothes, people who are often exploited and underpaid.

In 2021, Fairtrade Fortnight will feel very different. But the pandemic has shown us more than ever how interconnected we are globally. This interconnection is at the very heart of the Fairtrade message. So what can you do to mark Fairtrade Fortnight 2021?

■ Farmers behind our food are on the front line of the climate crisis. But there's hope. Join the global community during Fairtrade Fortnight 2021 for a free festival of online events and activities to entertain, educate and inspire us all to choose the world we want to see –

visit www.fairtrade.org.uk/choose-the-world-you-want.

■ Next time you do a supermarket shop, swap one of your usual buys for a fairly-traded version – just look for the Fairtrade logo on the product packaging.

■ Read the stories of farmers affected by climate change at www.fairtrade.org.uk/choose-the-world-you-want/storytelling-tent/.

■ Or visit Traidcraft's online shop at www.traidcraftshop.co.uk and do some shopping for Mother's Day, Easter, or the next birthday.

If you want to make any smaller purchases from Traidcraft, Rebekah Cunningham is happy to combine orders to avoid p&p, and can deliver, unless/until we can meet again. Contact her on rebekah.spanner@gmail.com or 01225 317329.



Christ Church: prayer and online services

Christ Church remains open for individual private prayer on Wednesday afternoons 2pm to 4pm. Our weekly 10am Sunday Eucharist, 11am Thursday Eucharist and other services as advertised 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.

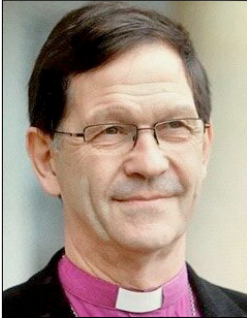
Every weekday morning at 8am a group of us are saying Morning Prayer together on Zoom, or you can phone in. If you would like an invitation, please e-mail Lore.

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

As we go to press, details of services for Holy Week are yet to be finalised – watch for information in the weekly notice sheet.

Bishop's Message for March

Pay loving attention



**From the
Very Revd
Nigel Stock,
Assistant
Bishop,
Diocese of Bath
and Wells**

With the Lenten Season well under way, I wonder how it is going for you? I always anticipate Lent with a slight feeling of having to brace myself. Come on, make an effort in something! If I am going to give something up, don't just make it an exercise in self-improvement – how is it going to help others? If I am going to do something positive, what will be its long-term effect? It is all too easy to over-think the whole exercise.

Once the season is underway I begin to appreciate it. But in the end it should be about paying attention to God. I am always struck by the end of the story of the temptations in the wilderness. Jesus refuses to be a cheap miracle worker to benefit himself, and refuses to follow the route to worldly power and status. He faced temptation by stripping away all the necessities of life and knew deep hunger. At the end of this exhausting wrestle with his vocation, the Gospel tells us, “suddenly angels came and waited on him” (Matthew 4:10).

Whatever Lenten discipline you are following – perhaps the #LiveLent course, or a local study group, a focused effort to support others or a form of self-denial (or all of them!) –

may it bring a greater focus on God. There were those who ministered to Jesus in the Gospel stories – the angels in the wilderness, the woman who anointed him, Simon who carried his cross, for example. We might not be able to do those things for him, but we can pay loving attention.

When we emerge from the austerity and effort of Lent, which has had an even more austere aspect in lockdown, we come to the bright hope of Easter. We know in the Risen Christ the same relief that Jesus knew from the Angels. As we offer our love to him, his love for us is always returned.

May the blessing of the Risen Christ be with you.

**Nigel Stock
Assistant Bishop**

Pray for Bath

Pray for Bath brings together Christians from the Bath area and beyond to pray for our city and the surrounding area, for our neighbours and our communities in this time of need and suffering, determination and hope. The website www.prayforbath.org.uk has new prayers and videos every day of Lent, up to Good Friday. You can sign up to receive the prayers daily by e-mail, or visit the website for each day's new prayer and previous ones.



This month's charity: Revitalise

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 March – will go to Revitalise, a national charity providing respite care in a holiday setting for disabled people and carers for over 50 years. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.) Otherwise you are invited to donate online.

Hilary Wild writes:

Who cares for the carers? We all know of people who need care, and it is often given willingly by families in their own homes. This has been increasingly difficult to sustain during the many months of lockdown and other restrictions.

Traditional respite has existed for many years and allows the disabled and critically ill, and their families and carers, to take the vital breaks they need. In normal times, Revitalise elevates this to a proper holiday, where guests can relax, refresh and redefine the relationship between carer and cared for, whilst en-

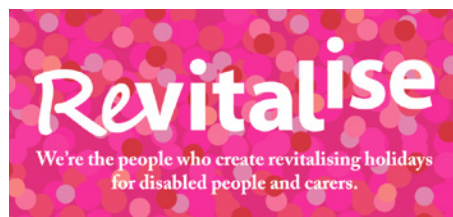
joying curated trips and activities, supported by 24-hour nursing care. It is a wonderful offering and one that we need more of.

Unfortunately, these are not normal times, and the impact of Covid-19 on all these groups has been devastating, as it has been on respite providers themselves. Months of lockdown and shielding have left carers at breaking point; stripped of community and home support, many are providing round-the-clock care with no hope of a break.

Revitalise is perfectly placed to respond and has offered emergency respite breaks throughout the pandemic; however, with household budgets squeezed by job losses and recession, affordability is a huge barrier. For this reason, the charity has launched a major fundraising campaign, which aims to raise £1m to subsidise thousands of people to take a much-needed break at one of the Revitalise centres in Chigwell in Essex, Southamton and Southport..

We have all experienced lockdown over many months. Imagine what it must be like for those carers and cared for – the lockdown goes on with no end ever in sight. We needed a break. As do they.

Please donate something, however small – it all helps. You can do it online at <https://revitalise.org.uk/support-and-fundraise/donate-today/> – and don't forget to click on "Christ Church Bath" under the "How did you hear of us" tab!



Resources for living Lent in lockdown

Lent reflects the 40 days when Jesus fasted in the wilderness. In 2021, many may feel 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?

If you'd like to explore your faith this Lent, take a look at the CofE's #LiveLent resources at www.churchofengland.org/livelent, which seek to encourage us all to think about our Christian calling, share our faith and reflect on the difference Christ makes in our lives.



Christ Church calendar March 2021

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

18 Thu 11am Eucharist

19 Fri *Joseph of Nazareth*

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

25 Thu *The Annunciation*
11am Eucharist

28 Sun *Palm Sunday*
10am Eucharist

Apr 1 Thu *Maundy Thursday*
11am Eucharist

2 Fri *Good Friday*

4 Sun *Easter Sunday*
10am Eucharist

8 Thu 11am Eucharist

11 Sun *The Second Sunday of Easter*
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 March 2021

Monday	1	For those who work in medicine
Tuesday	2	For peace
Wednesday	3	For the work of Genesis
Thursday	4	We give thanks for family and friends
Friday	5	For all who face tragedy
Saturday	6	For carers
Sunday	7	For those on our church rotas
Monday	8	For those who work in financial services
Tuesday	9	For volunteer organisations
Wednesday	10	That we may work for the kingdom of heaven
Thursday	11	For those who live and work in the streets around Christ Church
Friday	12	For those finding it hard to earn a living
Saturday	13	For countries in conflict
Sunday	14	For Jane and Janet our Churchwardens
Monday	15	For the legal profession
Tuesday	16	For the lonely and depressed
Wednesday	17	For our charity of the month
Thursday	18	For those who teach
Friday	19	For those who have been forced to flee their homes
Saturday	20	We give thanks for artists, poets and musicians
Sunday	21	For the ministry of our Junior Church
Monday	22	For those who work in local government

Tuesday	23	For those who mourn
Wednesday	24	For the Local Deanery Synod
Thursday	25	For our neighbours at St Mary's Catholic Church
Friday	26	For those who use and run food banks
Saturday	27	That we may have the gift of hope
Sunday	28	For new members to be added to Christ Church
Monday	29	For those who work in the hospitality industry
Tuesday	30	For victims of natural disasters
Wednesday	31	We give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy

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 Wellington
 Tom Lockington
 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 Lore, the Verger or one of the Churchwardens know.

Rotas for March 2021

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel	Intercessions
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
14 Mar Mothering Sunday	Richard Gabe Exodus 2:1-10	Rebekah Cunningham 2 Corinthians 1:3-7	Nick Wells Luke 2:33-35	Beryl Bowes
21 Mar Passion Sunday	Ian Hay Davison Jeremiah 31:31-34	David Bishop Hebrews 5:5-10	Beryl Bowes John 12:20-33	Mark Elliott
28 Mar Palm Sunday	Peter Bowes John 12:12-16	Virginia Knight Isaiah 50:4-9a	Janet Mahto Mark 14:1 - 15: end	Simon Tatton- Brown
4 April Easter Sunday	Clive Tilling Isaiah 25:6-9	Judith Anderson Acts 10:34-43	Morny Davison John 20:1-18	Jonathan Stead

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
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jane@janemnicholson.com

Verger Angela Soboslay
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Christ Church Link editor Alex Soboslay
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alexs@christchurchbath.org

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

