



## The significance of a touch

*From the priest-in-charge...*

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

Touch is one of the oldest modes of communication. Before we developed speech, humans communicated using our ability to vocalise, smile, listen, sign – and touch. In our culture, different modes of touch – shaking hands, a tap on the elbow, a pat on the back – still communicate specific meanings. This is also true in the context of Christianity.

Last month, as Kara was ordained deacon in Wells Cathedral, Bishop Ruth laid both hands on her head, saying, “Send your Holy Spirit on your servant Kara for the office and work of a deacon.” Next month, Covid permitting, some of our young people will go to Wells Cathedral to be confirmed, and again the bishop will lay hands on each of them using similar words: “Confirm your servant... with your Holy Spirit.”

The symbolism of touch has roots in Jesus’ recorded habit of touching those whom he healed. It quickly passed into the repertoire of the early church. In the story told in Acts 8, Peter and John laid hands on new converts, who received the Holy Spirit. The laying on of hands in ordination and confirmation is part of a tradition which is attributed to Peter, who according to tradition was the first bishop of Rome.

Touch is an acknowledgement of our embodiedness in the world. One of the founding myths of the Abrahamic religions is the creation of human beings from mud. The “muddiness” of bodies fits with our need to feed and warm and nurture our bodies. We are grounded in

the earth. The need to grow food safely, preserve clean water and air and look after our planet is part of our responsibility to look after the bodies of generations to come.

But our earth-bound bodies are also something more. They are also the medium through which we interact with the holy. Sunday after Sunday we stretch out our hands and receive a real, earthly wheat wafer. But that wafer is also the embodied presence of God, who in Christ accepted the groundedness of being human. So on Sunday as you receive Communion, take time to ponder that fact. Don’t allow the fiddle with masks and hand gel or those waiting behind you to rush you. God has brought you through the week to this moment. Pause. Experience it.

And then, as we leave, we do so in our God-given bodies, which are also, miraculously, part of Christ’s body.

■ If you would like to be part of a Communion class and be confirmed on 13 November, please let Lore or Kara know.



*Congratulating Kara after her first service with us as an ordained deacon. See also page 3.*

# Officially our organist Anti-Slavery Day



*David Winters has been appointed Organist and Assistant Director of Music. He writes:*

It is difficult to believe that I first played the organ for a service at Christ Church in November 2014, nearly seven years ago! This was soon after moving to Bath with my partner, Phil, and it has been a delight to become increasingly involved in the musical life of the church over the ensuing years.

I started learning to play the organ in my teens and my first “job” was at St John’s Church, Epping, as the Assistant Organist. I then went on to an Organ Scholarship at the University of Southampton and it was whilst studying here that I gained my ARCO. I have a wide-ranging taste in organ music – everything from the Renaissance all the way through to the present day – and I hope that this comes across on Sunday mornings!

As many will know, my professional life is as a doctor working in Emergency Medicine – I’m currently at the RUH but have rotated through hospitals throughout the region. Outside of medicine and music, I enjoy long walks and travelling and have a particular interest in trains and planes (much to Phil’s exasperation!).

I’m very much looking forward to working with Mark and the choir over the coming years and to getting to know the congregation better – please do come and say hello!

Georgina reported in the August *Link* that a group is researching any links between slavery and the foundation of Christ Church, but slavery is not just in the past. It is estimated that in the UK in 2019, 136,000 men, women and children were trapped in some form of modern slavery. Globally the estimate is about 40.3 million people of all ages, ethnicities and nationalities. Anti-Slavery Day on Monday 18 October provides an opportunity to raise awareness of human trafficking and modern slavery in an effort to end the exploitation of people everywhere.

The Clewer Initiative, the Church of England’s national movement to combat modern slavery, has produced various Anti-Slavery Day resources, including liturgy, prayers and home group materials to help churches mark the day. Find these at <https://theclewerinitiative.org/resources/liturgy-and-prayers-asday21>.

On Sunday 17 October, the Church of England’s national online service, led by Rt Revd Simon Burton-Jones, Bishop of Tonbridge, will be themed around modern slavery. Find it at <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/church-online/weekly-online-services>

In the lead-up to 18 October, The Clewer Initiative is launching its #OrdinaryActivists campaign, which will shine a light on some of the acts of service and projects that ordinary volunteers devote their time to. More than a dozen men and women who have joined the fight against modern slavery will share their stories, which will be released on The Clewer Initiative’s website and across its social media channels in September and October with the hashtag #OrdinaryActivists.



# Moon landing

The Museum of the Moon, a touring artwork by Luke Jerram, will be in Wells Cathedral from 12 October to 3 November 2021, accompanied by a constellation of events culminating in the Festival of the Moon. Find the details at [www.wells cathedral.org.uk/cathedral-events/festival-of-the-moon/](http://www.wells cathedral.org.uk/cathedral-events/festival-of-the-moon/). Then, from 19 November to 26 December, the installation visits Bath Abbey, for Christmas carols, storytelling and moon-gazing with the Bath Astronomers. Look for details at [www.bathabbey.org/south-west-moon-landing](http://www.bathabbey.org/south-west-moon-landing).



# Last month...



## Innovations in Church

*What is it?* Join Bath Deanery and the Diocese of Bath and Wells at this conference on new ways of doing and being Church as we come out of lockdown. Revd Stephen Girling, Area Dean of Bath, says, "There is so much happening in the Church that demonstrates how we are moving beyond the Sunday service into the community and beyond the Vicar to recognise the vocation of the whole people of God. This conference will showcase projects and ideas from a number of Bath churches and further afield, and give opportunity for networking and discussion. This is a golden opportunity to think outside the box and imagine new ways of being the church. Everybody is welcome."

*When?* Saturday 16 October, 9am – 1:30pm

*Where?* Bath Abbey

*Tickets:* £15 to include refreshments and lunch provided by the Abbey Deli. Book by 8 October at <https://bit.ly/innovations-in-church>



*Top:* in mid-September, work began on repairing our choir vestry roof. The work will include installing additional insulation as part of our campaign to "green" the church, and is due to finish towards the end of October. Please take extra care if driving around the scaffolding. *Middle:* the splendid cake celebrating Kara's ordination as deacon, decorated by Jo Palmer. *Bottom:* Bishop Ruth with the 16 new deacons ordained on Saturday 25 September in Wells Cathedral. Photo courtesy of the Diocese of Bath and Wells.

# Book review: English Pastoral

*English Pastoral: An Inheritance* by James Rebanks (Alan Lane, 2020, 285 pages. ISBN 978-0-241-24572-9). RRP £20 hardback, £9.99 paperback.

## Peter Bowes writes:

On my recent reading retreat I thought it might be a good idea to read a theological book that might pick up our August theme in Christ Church of Creation and the Environment. As an afterthought I also packed *English Pastoral*, a birthday gift earlier in the year from one of our children. After all, a diverse mix of two or three books of different genres on the go at once is no bad thing on a reading retreat – or indeed at any time. And so it was that I started reading *English Pastoral* alongside the theology. It didn't take me long to decide that *English Pastoral* was stimulating and challenging me – and even encouraging me to think theologically – at least as much as the theology tome. And so I write this brief review in the hope that it might encourage others to have a read and to ponder, to be stimulated and challenged – not least as the COP26 conference looms closer.

James Rebanks is a farmer in the Lake District, where his family have lived and worked for centuries. He now farms the fell-side farm that his father and grandfather farmed before

him. He tells how as a boy and young man working alongside them he learned from them much that contributed to his deep knowledge and love of nature and of traditional farming. We encounter the struggles and joys of farming.

And we also see how, by the time he inherits the farm, the landscape he knew as a boy has profoundly changed. The men and women have vanished from the fields; many of the walls and hedges have gone, and so have many of the birds and animals. Farming methods have changed considerably and some unforeseen consequences are emerging.

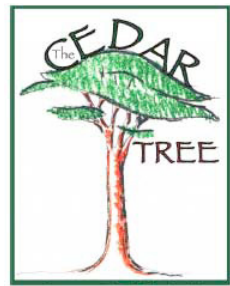
His story is of how rural landscapes around the world were brought close to collapse, and how the age-old rhythms of work, weather, community and wild things were lost. But it is also a story of hope – of how one farmer, guided by the past, began to salvage a tiny corner of England that was now his, doing his best to restore the life that had vanished and to leave a legacy for the future.

As he writes, he explores some of the challenges of our time, such as how to feed the world and at the same time to protect the environment and biodiversity. As the world seeks to address issues of climate change, very similar challenges arise. And the answers to these challenges are far from easy. This book doesn't give us all the answers but it does help us towards understanding some of the issues and where some of the answers might lie. And it might, on the way, cause us to reflect on some of the big issues of our time.

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## Cedar Tree is open

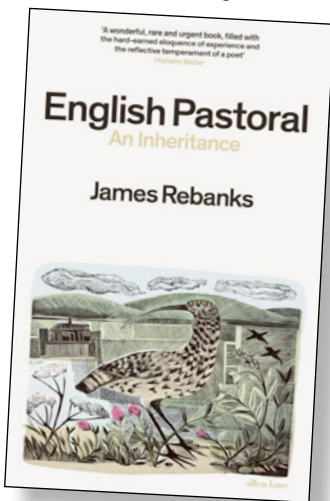
The Cedar Tree community café is open every Friday from 11am to 1:30pm. All are welcome! If you live or work in the area, please consider dropping in for a cup of tea, homemade cake and a chat, to support this important part of our outreach to the local community.



'Under it every kind of bird will live'

Bath  
Julian Road

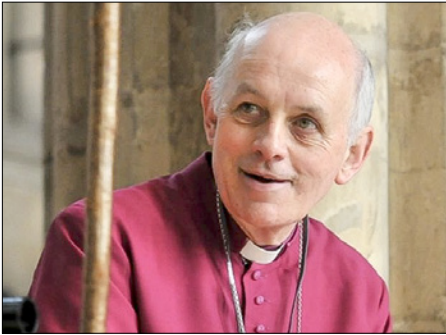
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# Bishop's Message for October

*Made for a purpose*



**From the Rt Revd Trevor Willmott,  
Assistant Bishop,  
Diocese of Bath and Wells**

Whenever I listen to one of Jesus' searching questions to his listeners, I find myself thinking "What would I do in these circumstances?" If I were casting my nets and Jesus said "follow me," would I do it? I imagine many of us would hope we never have to find out.

All too often it's assumed that being called is just about the religious life to a particular ministry, lay or ordained in the life of the Church. Of course, it is about that for some of us, and thank God for that, but in the New Testament, vocation or calling has a much wider understanding.

St Paul talks to the Corinthians about this more general call when he writes: *Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working but it is the same God who inspires them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*

Every one of us is called to use the gift or gifts we've been given to help build up the body of Christ. That "building up" can never be confined to what

we do on Sunday. Building up is about using the whole of life, including Monday to Saturday. The very act of working or being at home, school, work, leisure is vocational. Our daily behaviour becomes a sacrament and an offering.

The realisation that we are being called comes in many different ways. For some, it's like a sudden flash of light as came to St Paul on the Damascus road. But for others, it's just not that clear. In my earlier work as a Director of Ordinands and Vocation, I listened to many people who described their sense of calling as a feeling of discomfort. "Like having a toothache," someone said – their "yes" a moving towards a sense of peace and clarity.

Perhaps, as you read this, you know what God is calling you to do. Perhaps you're still searching. But remember, God has made you for a purpose. And God will work that out, but in his own time, not yours.

Bishop Ruth will be affirming lay ministries at a Celebration of Lay Ministries at 2pm on Saturday 9 October in Bath Abbey. Before and after the service there will be stalls to help people find out about a wide variety of ministries in church and community. Our forthcoming Archdeaconry Days, taking place 6 to 12 February next year, have the theme of "God calls... everyone, everywhere". You are invited to join in a week of exploring the many and varied ways in which God calls us during our lives. Find details at [www.bathandwells.org.uk/god-calls-everyone-everywhere](http://www.bathandwells.org.uk/god-calls-everyone-everywhere). One thing I can guarantee: you won't be alone and you'll have a great day.

With my prayers and blessing,

**+Trevor**

# This month's charity: Just Footprints

*The loose collection in the plate on the second and fourth Sunday of the month – 10 and 23 October – will go to Just Footprints Foundation. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.)*

## **Jonathan Stead writes:**

Just Footprints Foundation is an inspirational not-for-profit organisation in South Africa that works with children with serious health and life challenges and disabilities. There is very little available through social services in the country to provide these special children with a break from their medical treatment and the trauma that surrounds a family with such a burden. The Foundation provides a safe camp environment where, with full medical and psycho-social supervision, the participants are encouraged to regain their childhood joy and confidence. It is often a life-changing experience! Their parents, siblings and carers are, where appropriate, also included as campers to ensure they too feel appreciated and cared for.

The children taking part in the camps include those diagnosed with cancer and chronic diseases, those infected with HIV including AIDS orphans, those with physical and mental challenges, and grieving children who have lost a sibling.

The Foundation was established in 2008 and I can attest to the dedication and com-

mitment of the team that run it. Leone Jooste, a member of my previous parish, is the Chairperson, and her husband Dr Eddie Jooste (a senior anaesthetist and former Churchwarden) is the medical advisor. Find out more at <https://justfootprints.org.za>.

Please support this worthwhile endeavour during October with your prayers and financial donation. Every UK pound is worth 20 South African rands, so your contribution will be multiplied substantially.

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## Services live and online

Our weekly 10am Sunday Eucharist is open to all in person. For the time being, we will maintain social distancing, and will encourage people to wear masks but will not insist. The congregation is now permitted to sing, but it will show care for others to remain masked as you do so. The service is live streamed at [www.facebook.com/christchurchbath](http://www.facebook.com/christchurchbath).

Our weekly Thursday 11am Eucharist takes place live in church, not online or on Zoom. The church also remains open for private prayer on Wednesday afternoons 2pm – 4pm.

Choral Evensong is on the third Sunday of each month at 4:30pm and also streamed.

An informal reflective service takes place on the fourth Sunday of each month at 5pm. This is led by members of the congregation and initially will be using the form of evening service in *A Wee Worship Book (Fifth Incarnation)* compiled by the Iona Community and published by their Wild Goose Resource Group. All are welcome. If you'd like further information, please contact Jonathan Stead.

Do send prayer requests – by e-mail to [lore.chumbley@me.com](mailto:lore.chumbley@me.com) or phone or text to Lore on 07595 294146, 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.



# Christ Church calendar Oct. 2021

**3 Sun** *The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity*  
10am Eucharist

7 Thu 11am Eucharist

8 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

**10 Sun** *The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity*  
8am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10am Eucharist

14 Thu 11am Eucharist

15 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

**17 Sun** *The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity*  
10am Eucharist  
4:30pm Choral Evensong

18 Tue *Luke the Evangelist*

21 Thu 11am Eucharist

22 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

**24 Sun** *Bible Sunday / The Last Sunday after Trinity*  
10am Eucharist  
5pm Contemplative Service (Iona)

28 Thu *Simon and Jude, Apostles*  
11am Eucharist

29 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

**31 Sun** *All Saints / The Fourth Sunday before Advent*  
10am Eucharist

**Nov** 1 Mon *All Saints Day*

4 Thu 11am Eucharist

5 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

**7 Sun** *The Third Sunday before Advent*  
10am Eucharist

**Our Sunday 10am Eucharist, and other services as advertised, continue to be live-streamed at [www.facebook.com/christchurchbath](http://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](mailto:magazine@christchurchbath.org). For the weekly notice sheet, e-mail [notices@christchurchbath.org](mailto:notices@christchurchbath.org)**

# Prayer Cycle for October 2021

<b>Friday</b>	<b>1</b>	For the sick and suffering
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>2</b>	For our bell-ringing team
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3</b>	For new members to be added to Christ Church
<b>Monday</b>	<b>4</b>	For those who work in financial services
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>5</b>	For the Fairtrade movement
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>6</b>	For the lonely and depressed
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>7</b>	For our Pilgrim Group
<b>Friday</b>	<b>8</b>	For those who lack warmth, food or water
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>9</b>	We give thanks for those who inspire us
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10</b>	For our servers and others who assist at the altar
<b>Monday</b>	<b>11</b>	For those who work in the transport industry
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>12</b>	For countries experiencing civil unrest
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>13</b>	That we may work for the kingdom of heaven
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>14</b>	For those who teach
<b>Friday</b>	<b>15</b>	For the homeless
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>16</b>	We give thanks for our blessings
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>17</b>	For all clergy taking services at Christ Church
<b>Monday</b>	<b>18</b>	For our government and politicians
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>19</b>	For the elderly
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>20</b>	For the chaplaincies at Bath's Universities
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>21</b>	For our charity of the month
<b>Friday</b>	<b>22</b>	For victims of violence
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>23</b>	That we may have the gift of hope



<b>Sunday</b>	<b>24</b>	For our flower arrangers and those who look after the church
<b>Monday</b>	<b>25</b>	For those who work in the hospitality industry
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>26</b>	For the mentally ill
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>27</b>	For good relationships between the nations
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>28</b>	For the work of Julian House
<b>Friday</b>	<b>29</b>	For those in slavery or bonded labour
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>30</b>	We give thanks for beauty in creation
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>31</b>	For the Local Deanery Synod

## Long-term Prayer List

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

Joyce  
 Revd John  
 Evelyn  
 Jean  
 Dillon  
 Amber  
 David  
 Nick Johnson  
 Hannah  
 Bishop Peter  
 Chris  
 Tilly  
 Ajay  
 Jenny

**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.**

## Daily Hope

A free national phonline 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.



# Rotas for October 2021

*Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist*

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel	Intercessions
<b>3 Oct</b> 18th after Trinity	<b>Angela Soboslay</b> Genesis 2:18-24	<b>Ian Hay Davison</b> Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12	<b>Simon Tatton- Brown</b> Mark 10:2-16	<b>Jonathan Stead</b>
<b>10 Oct</b> 19th after Trinity	<b>Richard Gabe</b> Amos 5:6-7,10-15	<b>Nick Wells</b> Hebrews 4:12-end	<b>Clive Tilling</b> Mark 10:17-31	<b>Mark Elliott</b>
<b>17 Oct</b> 20th after Trinity	<b>Alex Soboslay</b> Isaiah 53:4-end	<b>David Bishop</b> Hebrews 5:1-10	<b>Robin Kerr</b> Mark 10:35-45	<b>Beryl Bowes</b>
<b>24 Oct</b> Bible Sunday	<b>Jonathan Stead</b> Isaiah 55:1-11	<b>Morny Davison</b> 2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:5	<b>Zoë Bushell</b> John 5:36b-end	<b>Simon Tatton- Brown</b>
<b>31 Oct</b> All Saints	<b>Emma Elliott</b> Isaiah 25:6-9	<b>Brenda Wall</b> Revelation 21:1-6a	<b>Janet Mahto</b> John 11:32-44	<b>Georgina Bowman</b>
<b>7 Nov</b> 3rd before Advent	<b>Beryl Bowes</b> Jonah 3:1-5,10	<b>Judith Anderson</b> Hebrews 9:24-end	<b>Thomas Wolker- Darley</b> Mark 1:14-20	<b>Peter Bowes</b>

# Who's who at Christ Church

**Priest-in-charge** Revd Lore Chumbley  
07595 294146  
lore.chumbley@me.com

**Curate** Revd Deacon Kara Maylor

**Supporting clergy**  
Revd Canon Simon Tatton-Brown  
01225 835404  
simon@tattonbrown.myzen.co.uk

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

**Vergers** Angela Soboslay  
01225 333297  
angela.soboslay@christchurchbath.org

**Chair of Trustees** Nick Wells  
07774 104584  
nicholaswells5@btinternet.com

**Treasurer** David Bishop  
01225 858816  
david.bishop@christchurchbath.org

**Organist and Assistant  
Director of Music** David Winters

**Safeguarding officer** Virginia Knight  
07896 916840  
safeguarding@christchurchbath.org

**Event/concert bookings,  
weekly notice sheet** Judith Bishop  
01225 858816  
concerts@christchurchbath.org  
notices@christchurchbath.org

**Christ Church Link editor** Alex Soboslay  
07769 655927  
alexs@christchurchbath.org

**Tower Captain,  
Ringing Master** Will Willans

**Tower Secretary** Ian Hay Davison  
07932 160482  
bells@christchurchbath.org

**Steeple Keeper** David Kelly

**Publicity co-ordinator** Janet Mahto

**Laitie rotas** Judith Bishop

**Prayer cycle** Virginia Knight

**Junior Church** Emma Elliott

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

**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](mailto: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. New singers of all ages are always very welcome.

For anyone concerned about the health risks of congregational singing, we will not sing at the 11am Thursday Eucharist, 8am BCP Communion or 5pm Quiet Service. For now, all services continue to be socially-distanced.

As well as worship on Sundays and Thursday mornings, there are many other activities going on in our community, including our weekly community café every Friday. Visit the website to check service times and events.

## 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 – also streamed at [www.facebook.com/christchurchbath](http://www.facebook.com/christchurchbath)*
  - 4:30pm Choral Evensong – *Usually on the third Sunday of every month – also streamed*
  - 5pm Contemplative Quiet Service (Iona) – *Provisionally on the fourth Sunday of every month*
- 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](mailto:admin@christchurchbath.org)  
Website: [www.christchurchbath.org](http://www.christchurchbath.org)

