



Emerging from winter

From the priest-in-charge...

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

This year I came across the verb “to winter” used not just for the passage of time, as in “We wintered in the south of France,” but to describe the mental and physical slowing down that winter necessitates. With cold weather we need to conserve energy and heat, and we may move less, keep warm, enjoy indoor activities and perhaps sleep a little longer. If that sounds like you – accept it. It’s probably what our ancestors learnt to do in order to survive in the warmest, driest cave they could find.

This year Easter is later than it has been for the past few years and so February neatly encompasses the slice of time between the end of Epiphany and the beginning of Lent. Candlemas was 2 February and Shrove Tuesday will fall on 1 March, so the four weeks of February are in liturgical terms Ordinary Time.

In reality they are anything but ordinary. As the days lengthen, all creation responds. The sugars which have been stored in the roots of shrubs and trees during the winter begin to rise up the trunks to provide energy for the growth of leaves and buds. The birds begin to pair up and sing. Colin tells me they are not chirping love songs to attract a mate but the aggressive equivalent of “Mine! Mine! Get off my land!” over and over again. Even if that is the case, the Dawn Chorus is worth waking up for. It starts earlier and earlier each morning and gets louder and louder as spring advances. But we’re not there yet. We

are perhaps just beginning to stir from our “wintering”. I like that verb. It reminds us that there can be a lot happening even though there’s nothing much to see on the surface.

As the child Jesus grew, he will have absorbed the images and experiences which he would later use in his parables and illustrations – the reddening of the evening sky, the faithfulness of shepherds, his mother making bread or sweeping the floor or lighting a lamp at night. As we continue to grow over this winter, let’s enjoy the simple ordinary things of life and look to find in them, as he did, a way to enter the Kingdom.



Friends and family, including some from as far away as the Americas, filled the church as the Christ Church community said farewell to Sharon Rawlings on 7 January. We all join in sending our condolences and prayers to David and all the family.

Living in Love & Faith

Church communities are being encouraged to take part in a process of learning and praying together as part of discerning a way forward for the Church in relation to matters of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage, using Church of England resources titled Living in Love and Faith (LLF), which you can find at www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith.

■ To join the conversation on gender, sexuality and marriage, you are warmly invited to a five-week course which offers a “safe and brave” space in which people with different or undecided views can listen to the Bible and to one another, in a spirit of honest and open enquiry. Everybody is welcome. The course is hosted by Revd Stephen Girling and Revd Nigel Rawlinson. It takes place Mondays 31 January to 7 March (excluding 21 February), at the Salvation Army citadel in central Bath (Green Park Road, BAI 1XE). Coffee from 7:15pm; the evening will close at 9pm.

Please register for a free ticket at <https://bathdeaneryllfcourse.eventbrite.co.uk>.

■ Another course takes place on Wednesday mornings, 10am to noon, from 9 February to 9 March at St Stephen’s Church Centre, Lansdown Road, Bath BA1 5SX. It asks “How do questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ? What does it mean to live in love and faith together as a Church?” This course is led by Revd Jacky Wise, of St John’s Within, Magdalene Chapel, and Revd Philip Hawthorn, of St Stephen’s and St Mary’s. Please book a place by e-mailing philip@ststephensbath.org.uk or calling 01225 466114.

Find out more about LLF at bathandwells.org.uk/living-in-love-faith.



LIVING
IN LOVE
& FAITH

The Curate’s Corner

Revd Deacon Kara Maylor writes:

As many of you know I have been fortunate to be a Curate at Christ Church since the end of September 2021. Each month I will share some of what I have been involved or have planned in our wonderful Christ Church community. This month we begin The Silence.

13th-century Sufi mystic Rumi said: “Silence is God’s original language. Everything else is a poor translation.” Yet in our world today it takes a concerted effort to find space and time to experience this silence. I and the Director of Youth For Christ, Dave Joyce, together feel inspired to curate a time and space where this is possible.

We hope to do this every other Sunday in Christ Church at 7pm. We will invite people in to sit comfortably and relax. We will begin with ten minutes and hope to build up to half an hour. We will signal the start and end of the time by sounding a Tibetan Gong. All are welcome. Please pray that in this time people truly come to know the power of silence and the deep meaning in the words from Psalm 46: *Be still and know that I am God.*

Healing forums

The Diocese will be holding three Healing Forums this year, to which anyone is welcome. The first will take place on Tuesday 15 February, 7:30–9pm online and will look at Listening in Healing: the importance of being heard. The speaker will be Preb Dr Alison Perham, who has a background in the NHS, working in palliative care, in which role she not only developed expertise in listening, but trained and supported other professionals in these skills. She is now a trustee of St Margaret’s Hospice.

If you wish to attend the Healing Forum on 15 February, please register at <https://bit.ly/healing-forum-register> to receive the link to access the Zoom meeting.

Two more Healing Forums looking at different topics will follow, on Tuesday 26 April and Tuesday 14 June.

Stamps for Seafarers

Sylvia Ayers writes:

From the Mission to Seafarers: “May we thank those members of the Christ Church congregation who have very generously given us the used postage stamps from their Christmas cards. We know that it takes quite a few minutes to cut them off the envelopes and to trim them to the required size. Then, of course, you have to parcel them up and bring them to church for Sylvia to collect.”

So far I have been able to send off three big parcels of used stamps to the Mission's office in London. Here they will sort them, and, depending on their condition, will be able to sell them to stamp dealers for resale to collectors, of whom there are a large number looking for that rare issue that no-one else has managed to find.

My request for used stamps does continue throughout the year, so if you do get any unusual picture stamps in your post, I will still be very pleased to receive them from you at any time via the A pigeonhole at the back of the church. Once again, very many thanks to all of you for your help.

Lent in the Diocese

Join the Diocese this Lent to explore “Knowing You, Knowing Me, Knowing God” with a range of resources focusing on the themes of offering and receiving welcome, hospitality, inclusion and generosity as a way of better knowing and understanding others, ourselves and God during Lent 22 and beyond.

The four themes of welcome, hospitality, inclusion and generosity may also help us all to consider how we can contribute to becoming a more diverse church – more representative of the populations we seek to serve.

The resources include videos of new residents of Somerset, weekly Bible reflections with study questions, a weekday video and conversation starter, and links relating to the themes. Find more at www.bathandwells.org.uk/news/join-with-us-this-lent.php.

Big Bath Sleep-Out

Julian House is challenging you to join in on Friday 4 March in Alice Park, or sleep-out at your own home, to help raise vital funds and awareness for people forced to sleep out every night. Last year Julian House provided life-changing support to over 1,900 vulnerable individuals who were experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness across Bath, Bristol, and the South West. Sign up, and find fundraising tips and resources, at www.bigbathsleepout.co.uk.



God calls everyone

In February, everyone is invited to join the Diocese of Bath and Wells for a week of exploring the many and varied ways in which God calls us during our lives.

On Sunday 6 February there is an online launch service at 3pm with Bishop Ruth, and from Monday to Friday in the following week there will be on-demand video content featuring people across the diocese talking about how God calls them wherever they are. The week will close on the Saturday with online gatherings to reflect and celebrate all that the week has held.

Julia Hill, the Diocese's discipleship team leader, explains: “God has given each and every one of us our own personal gifts. We hope that sharing the stories of how people have recognised their gifts, and responded to God's call to use them, will help others reflect on what their gifts are and how God might be calling them.”

Find out more at www.bathandwells.org.uk/god-calls-everyone-everywhere.

From the Christ Church Environment Group

Sarah Jones writes:

The Christ Church Environment Group is using resources from A Rocha UK to support our work and we would like to give some background about what we have been doing. A Rocha is a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world. One of their projects is the Eco Church programme which Christ Church is participating in as part of our response to our climate emergency declaration, made in November 2021.

Participation in the Eco Church programme is based around responding to a carefully designed survey tool which asks about how we as a church community care for God's earth in different areas of our life and work. Do ask Rebekah Cunningham or one of the other members of the Environment Group if you would like to know more. You can also read much more detail about the Eco Survey via the website <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/how-eco-church-works>.

If we are able to give enough positive answers to the survey, we will be able to apply for a Bronze, Silver or (eventually) Gold Eco Church award but the idea is not that we can achieve this straight away, rather that the survey helps support our decision making to make small but steady steps to becoming more environmentally friendly.

We thought that it might be helpful to provide some occasional articles in the *Link* to outline the steps we are taking in each of the five areas covered by the Eco Church survey: Worship and teaching; Management of church buildings; Management of church land; Community and global engagement and Lifestyle. This first article concentrates on church land.

Morny Davison and Sarah Jones have volunteered to take a lead on this topic, and although our church land is not extensive, there are definitely things we can do to support its biodiversity and environmental impact. Questions from the Eco Church survey in this category include things such as providing bird feeders, bat boxes and other measures designed to support local wildlife.

It also asks us to think about whether we have space to grow vegetables or produce compost. We are looking at possible options for our small garden spaces, and are hoping to have enthusiastic support for projects such as a bug hotel from some of our young people. As part of our church-wide commitment to Eco Church, you might like to consider if there are things you can do with your own green spaces at home to encourage wildlife and biodiversity. Organisations such as the Royal Horticultural Society or the National Trust have good webpages with tips, and the topic quite often features in newspapers and on TV gardening shows too.

As the winter turns to spring we are looking forward to doing more in the outdoor spaces that Christ Church is lucky enough to have and we will keep you updated with our progress.

Charities for 2022

To facilitate giving practical support to deserving causes, we nominate a Charity of the Month each month, and the money collected for this is kept completely separate from Christ Church funds.

These are the Charities of the Month for the rest of 2022. They are a mix of local, national and international causes, and we are continuing our long-term support for USPG's Malawi project.

February: USPG/Malawi

March: Churches Housing Trust

April: Open Doors

May: USPG/Malawi

June: New Bridge Foundation

July: Woodland Trust

August: USPG/Malawi

September: TBC (to be nominated by our children/young people)

October: Water Aid UK

November: USPG/Malawi

December: Genesis Trust / Julian House

Bishop's Message for February

A signpost to God



**From the Rt Revd Rob Martin,
Hon Assistant Bishop, Bath & Wells**

2022 has begun, with all its potential for joy and for sorrow. What lies ahead, I wonder? Will Covid define us, as it continues to exert its baleful influence and disrupt our plans? Or will the joy of faith-filled lives trump the gloom? *Rejoice in the Lord always*, begins our key passage from Philippians. Amen!

New Year resolutions – have you made any? They are rooted in a godly desire to improve our lives. They say 60% of us make them, but only 8% stick with them! I'm part of the 92% who try, but usually give up. Sometimes something sticks.

Two years ago, following a diocesan initiative to encourage more prayer, I resolved to get the Lectio 365 app. It has helped me ever since. I'm guided to sit, read, reflect and prepare for my day's activities. It's a form of Lectio Divina, similar to Dwelling in the Word, used in Bath and Wells, which encourages us to mull over God's word, in our own personal time and in the company of others, allowing God to speak to us.

Lectio 365 ends in this prayer:
Father, help me to live this day to the

full, being true to you in every way. Jesus, help me to give myself away to others, being kind to all I meet. Spirit, help me to love the lost, proclaiming Christ in all I do and say.

Our pioneers [see story below] reach out to those around them, building relationships and using ever more creative ways to point people to God. Cocktail bars, art work, pizza evenings, outdoor activities, pilgrim walkways... the list is gloriously endless! The Lectio prayer reminds us that everyone is a channel for God's grace, a signpost to God. By encouraging others to grow in spiritual awareness, we can all be pioneers in our own situation.

Bishop Rob

21st-century church

In 2018 a project was launched to help us reimagine what it means to be church in the 21st century. The Pioneer Project aimed to encourage a culture shift by appointing pioneer ministers to explore appropriate ways of sharing the good news of Jesus with different groups of people and in different places.

As a result there are nine full-time pioneers doing life alongside the inhabitants of nine different towns and villages across the Diocese, outside existing church congregations and often on the margins of society.

Tina Hodgett, who led the Pioneer Project in the diocese until late 2021, said: "Society is changing rapidly and the people have flowed away from the church door. Jesus spoke our language and pioneered a whole new way of being in fellowship with God, and today's pioneers follow in His footsteps."

Find out more and read the report at bathandwells.org.uk/pioneering-report.

This month's charity: USPG Malawi project

The loose collection in the plate on the second and fourth Sunday of the month – 13 and 27 February – will go to the USPG Malawi project. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.)

Rebekah Cunningham writes:

This month we are again supporting USPG's programme in Malawi, which focuses on these key areas:

- 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.

In Malawi, nearly two years into the Covid pandemic, only 7% of the population has been vaccinated against the coronavirus, one of the lowest rates in Africa. Village chiefs are trying to change that by urging people to take the jab from mobile vaccination clinics.

To find out more about USPG's work in Malawi, visit <http://bit.ly/uspg-malawi>. To donate, visit <https://donations.uspg.org.uk/>, specify it is for Partners in Mission, and then choose Malawi. Mention that you are from Christ Church Bath, and USPG can send us a yearly total of what we all have donated.



USPG⁺ PARTNERS IN
GLOBAL MISSION

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 permitted to sing, but it will show care for others to remain masked as you do so. This service is live streamed at 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 for anyone local who wants to drop in.

An informal reflective service is held on the fourth Sunday of each month at 5pm. This is led by members of the congregation and uses 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.

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

Do send prayer requests – by e-mail to 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.

Council announcement

We are very grateful to David Rawlings, who has agreed to be appointed to Christ Church Council to fill the vacancy created by Sharon Rawlings' death. David has, in the past, been Chair of Council.

Christ Church calendar Feb. 2022

	3	Thu	11am Eucharist
	4	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
	6	Sun	<i>The Fourth Sunday before Lent</i> <i>Accession of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, 1952</i> 10am Eucharist
	10	Thu	11am Eucharist Pilgrim Group meeting
	11	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
	13	Sun	<i>The Third Sunday before Lent</i> 8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Eucharist
	17	Thu	11am Eucharist
	18	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
	20	Sun	<i>The Second Sunday before Lent</i> 10am Eucharist 4:30pm Choral Evensong
	24	Thu	11am Eucharist
	25	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
	27	Sun	<i>The Sunday next before Lent</i> 10am Eucharist 5pm Contemplative Service (Iona)
Mar	1	Tue	<i>David, patron of Wales</i>
	2	Wed	<i>Ash Wednesday</i> 7pm Eucharist with Ashing
	3	Thu	11am Eucharist
	4	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
	6	Sun	<i>The First Sunday of Lent</i> 10am Eucharist

Our Sunday 10am Eucharist, and other services as advertised, continue to be 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 2022

Tuesday	1	We give thanks for artists, poets and musicians
Wednesday	2	For our flower arrangers and those who look after the church
Thursday	3	For our link Dioceses in Zambia
Friday	4	For the unemployed
Saturday	5	That we may be good stewards of creation
Sunday	6	For Kara our curate
Monday	7	For those who work in the hospitality industry
Tuesday	8	For the chaplaincies at Bath's Universities
Wednesday	9	For the lonely and depressed
Thursday	10	We give thanks for beauty in the world around us
Friday	11	For those who are unable to keep warm
Saturday	12	For our charity of the month, USPG's work in Malawi
Sunday	13	For those who organise and attend events at Christ Church
Monday	14	For those who work in medicine
Tuesday	15	For victims of natural disasters
Wednesday	16	For good relationships between different faiths
Thursday	17	That we may work for the kingdom of heaven
Friday	18	For the ministry of the Cedar Tree
Saturday	19	For the mentally ill
Sunday	20	For Mark our Lay Reader
Monday	21	For those who work in financial services
Tuesday	22	For the elderly

Wednesday	23	For the work of Julian House
Thursday	24	For our Church Council
Friday	25	For those in slavery or bonded labour
Saturday	26	That we may have the gift of kindness
Sunday	27	For our Archbishop, bishops and clergy
Monday	28	For those who teach

Long-term Prayer List

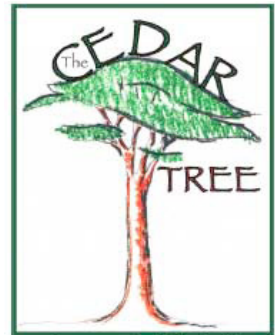
Please remember those we've been asked to pray for...

Jean
 Joyce K
 Revd John
 Amber
 David
 Nick Johnson
 Joyce W
 Hannah
 Dillon
 Evelyn
 Tom
 Tilly
 Patrick

Want to add a name to the prayer list, long-term or short-term, or remove one? Please use the lists at the back of the church, or speak to Lore, the Verger or one of the Churchwardens.

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, do consider dropping in for a cup of tea, home-made cake and a chat, to support this important part of our out-reach to the local community. If you can help on a Friday or make a cake we can sell, please contact Janet Mahto.



"Under it every kind of bird will live"

Bath
Julian Road

Rotas for February 2022

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel	Intercessions
6 Feb 4th before Lent	Janet Mahto Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]	Kara Maylor 1 Corinthians 15:1-11	David Bishop Luke 5:1-11	Beryl Bowes
13 Feb 3rd before Lent	Emma Elliott Jeremiah 17:5-10	Malcolm Wall 1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Robin Kerr Luke 6:17-26	Mark Elliott
20 Feb 2nd before Lent	Morny Davison Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25	Virginia Knight Revelation 4	Brenda Wall Luke 8:22-25	Simon Tatton- Brown
27 Feb Sun. be- fore Lent	Sylvia Ayers Exodus 34:29-35	Rebekah Cunningham 2 Cor. 3:12 - 4:2	Isaac Elliott Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]	Nick Wells
6 March 1st Sun. of Lent	Judith Anderson Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Peter Bowes Romans 10:8b-13	Clive Tilling Luke 4:1-13	Rebekah Cunningham

Who's who at Christ Church

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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. 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*
- 4:30pm Choral Evensong – *Usually on the third Sunday of every month – also streamed*
- 5pm Contemplative Quiet Service (Iona) – *On the fourth Sunday of every month*

Baptisms, marriages and funerals by arrangement – please contact us!



Contacting us

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