



Seeds of hope

From the priest-in-charge...

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

As the invasion of Ukraine lengthens into what looks to be a long-term war, and those of us not directly affected worry about its implications for our fragile world peace, it's hard to reconcile the destruction and suffering in Ukraine, the famine in Afghanistan and the devastating floods in Australia with the astonishing beauty of spring in England and in particular April in Bath. The city parks are blossoming, and kitchen gardens and allotments are beginning to show green. The "Apse Garden" behind the church has been prepared by the Eco Group and sown with wildflower seeds, which should produce a glorious display of bee-friendly flowers in the summer.

In Tuckers Meadow just off the A4 near Newbridge, Bath, last year's wheat field is becoming a buzzing eco community. Three young men have set up a new community allotment site there, planting an orchard and setting out beehives. The plots are designed to be "No Dig" in order to keep carbon fixed in the soil while growing beautiful flowers and vegetables.

Gardening is good for body and soul, and green plants aren't just beautiful, they are God's way of fixing carbon. They take water and carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and turn it into oxygen, using the energy released to grow and to make food for us. So every seed we plant and nurture is helping (a little bit) to cool the planet and reduce our carbon footprint.

But still we worry about the health of our planet and the political and ecological future of our world. As we look towards Holy Week and Easter we can hear a whisper of hope and a rumour of salvation. God is creator and nurturer, lord of life and eternity. Alone, none of us can save the planet or stop violence or solve the housing needs of refugees, but we can plant seeds one at a time, sign up as members of charities such as Bath Welcomes Refugees, join our prayers for peace to those of the Church and, as we will recognise on Easter Sunday, live in hope and celebration as people of the Resurrection.



Churches across Bath and Wells have been praying for Ukraine and for peace. Some have been holding prayer vigils, and many are open for those who wish to light a candle or to have a quiet moment of prayer, including Christ Church, which is open in Lent 2:30–3:30pm on Wednesday afternoons as we pray for peace in Ukraine and in the world. Bath Abbey showed a very visible sign of support, lighting up in blue and yellow.

Christ Church ACM

The Annual General Church Meeting of the Christ Church congregation will be held on Sunday 8 May after the 10am service – so starting at about 11:15am. Come along to elect Churchwardens and members of Church Council, 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. Please check the printout of the current roll at the back of the church (or if you can't do so, contact Lore, one of the Churchwardens or Judith Anderson, our Electoral Roll Officer). If you're on the roll, no further action is needed. If you've recently joined us and wish to add your name, or if you need to change any details, forms are available from the Churchwardens or from Judith, and will need to be returned before Saturday 23 April.



Work is under way to repair the fallen spire of St Thomas', Wells. The church hit the headlines when two and a half metres of the spire plus its weathervane (a further two and a half metres long) came down during Storm Eunice on 18 February. A local resident happened to film the event, and the footage was seen on the national news.

Restrictions relaxed

We are progressing towards the return of the church building to something like its normal state over the next few weeks and months. For the time being, alternate rows of pews remain cordoned off to encourage distancing, but the advisory notices have been removed. The one-way system is no longer in operation, and we rely on individuals to be respectful of each other's personal space.

Thinking of personal space, we suggest that in general you continue to exchange the Peace in a distanced way with those whom you don't know well. The wearing of masks is now optional, and the choir are singing without masks. Over time we hope the choir will return to processing at the beginning and end of services.

In line with the latest Church of England guidance we have cautiously re-introduced the common cup at Communion. At Christ Church we have agreed that we will ensure the wine has a higher alcohol content than usual, and also clean the rim of the chalice with alcohol (not alcohol gel!) between communicants. Receiving the wine is entirely optional – theologically, there is no requirement to take the wine in order to receive both the body and the blood of Christ. They are both fully present in the bread.

While there is no fixed timetable yet, you will continue to see small changes over the next few weeks.

Choral Requiem

Join us in Christ Church at 3pm on Saturday 9 April for the first performance of Richard Gabe's Requiem, sung by the combined choirs of Christ Church Choir and Canzona. This newly-written piece is a response both to personal loss and to the losses we have all experienced over the past two years.

This first performance will be dedicated to the memory of Sharon Rawlings, a lifelong member of Christ Church choir who died in November 2021.

Services live and online

Our weekly 10am Sunday Eucharist is open to all in person. For the time being, we will continue to cordon off alternate pews to help us to distance from each other. Masks are optional and the choir will now be singing without masks. This service is live streamed at www.facebook.com/christchurchbath.

Our weekly Thursday 11am Eucharist takes place live in the church, and is not broadcast.

The church is open in Lent from 2:30pm till 3:30pm on Wednesday afternoons as we pray for peace in Ukraine and in the world.

Our choir will sing BCP Evensong on the third Sunday of each month except August at 4:30pm. This service will be live streamed.

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. There is also a short service of silent contemplation on alternate Sundays – contact Kara Maylor for information on this.

For anyone concerned about the health risks of congregational singing, we will not sing at the weekly 11am Thursday Eucharist or at the 8am BCP Communion on the second Sunday of each month.

Do add prayer requests to the list in church or post to Christ Church, Julian Road, Bath BA1 2RH. Bear in mind that some services will be online, so be mindful of the privacy of friends and loved ones. We will not use full names in any public prayers that are live streamed.

Every weekday morning at 8am a group of us are saying Morning Prayer together on Zoom. If you would like to join us, please request an invitation from Lore.

■ **For services at Christ Church in Holy Week and Easter, see pages 6–7**

Support for Ukraine

Did you know that there is a Christ Church in Kyiv? Born out of a small prayer group, it opened on Easter Day 1999 to provide an English-speaking Anglican community in Kyiv, and since 2001 has been meeting in the German Lutheran Church of St Katherina in central Kyiv. With the support of the Church of England Diocese in Europe, the congregation has relied on locum priests, although it has been hoping for a more permanent solution.

This small Christian community forms part of those whom USPG and the Diocese in Europe are seeking to support through an emergency appeal to aid people in desperate need because of the invasion. The Diocese of Bath and Wells has called attention to this appeal and, of course, USPG is one of the charities we regularly support at Christ Church.

Funds raised by the appeal will support Christian charities and churches carrying out humanitarian work in Ukraine and responding to the arrival of refugees in neighbouring countries. Partners on the ground are providing food, medicine, shelter and care for children and people displaced within Ukraine.

Please support them with your prayers and, if you feel able to do so, give to this appeal at <https://ukraine-emergency-appeal.raisely.com/>

To find out more about how you can help those fleeing Ukraine, visit the St Michael Chapel in Christ Church or see <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/community-action/war-ukraine-responding>



The congregation of Christ Church, Kyiv. Photo courtesy of the Church of England.

Christ Church Eco Group report

Rebekah Cunningham writes on behalf of the Eco Group:

Last November Christ Church made a declaration that we, recognising the climate and environment emergency, were setting out actions we proposed to undertake.

One of these undertakings was: **Bringing forward by April 2022 an action plan to minimise our negative corporate impact on the environment and climate and to help restoration where possible.**

We've realised that we were optimistic in setting April as a goal, what with Christmas intervening and the challenges of our own bureaucracy, but we want to update you on what aims we're focusing on, and what progress has been made.

The biggest impact we can have is reducing our own carbon footprint as a church, and we are looking hard at ways that could make a significant impact, perhaps even a 20% reduction. These involve looking at our energy use and suppliers, ways of preventing heat loss and possibly "greener" ways of sourcing energy. The current rapidly rising cost of energy means that it is unwise to make changes at present in our suppliers, but we are looking at various ways of tackling these issues.

We continue to work on A Rocha's "Eco Church," which helps us assess how environmentally friendly we are and offers certificates to encourage our progress. We are aiming to achieve a Bronze Certificate this

year. For more information on this scheme, visit <https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/how-eco-church-works/>.

(You can undertake a similar assessment at home on <https://creationcare.org.uk/> and get your own certificate – please let us know if you succeed! And there are other useful websites for assessing your own carbon footprint – look on the notice board in Christ Church to see a list.)

We have already started work on the Apse Garden to make this a space attractive to wildlife. A mini wildflower meadow has been dug and seeded just a couple of weeks ago – pictures to come in due course – and there are further plans to be implemented this year in that space.

The Lent study group has been looking at a very thought-provoking course on Caring for Creation, which has already led us to start making changes particularly in the content of our accompanying brunch, aiming to be as **LOAF** as possible (**L**ocally sourced, **O**rganic, **A**nimal friendly and **F**airtrade.)

And Christ Church now has sets of recycling bins in both the church and Lower Mews kitchens.

We will continue to keep you updated on progress.



The garden to the north of the apse.

Coming events

Pilgrim Group

The Pilgrim Group will meet on Thursday 7 April at 7:30pm in the Lower Mews and online, then again on Thursday 28 April. All are welcome! If you'd like to come in person or would like a Zoom invitation, please contact Lore, lore.chumbley@me.com.

Passover Meal & Agape

There will be a "Passover meal" and Agape in Christ Church at 6:30pm on Maundy Thursday, 14 April. It will end around 7:30pm with the opportunity to pray at the altar of repose in Christ Church after that.

Bishop's Message for April

Hope in a turbulent world



**From the Rt Revd Ruth Worsley,
Bishop of Taunton**

I write this on Ash Wednesday, a day when we begin a period of reflection and penitence, and remember our mortality. Those of us receiving the ash crosses on our foreheads today will hear these words: “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return...”

Faced with our death, we consider how we might live. Are there things we need to change? What might we need to seek forgiveness for and from whom? “Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ” are the words that follow.

Our Archbishops and the Pope have invited us to set this particular Ash Wednesday aside to pray for peace in Ukraine. It would be easy for us to point the finger at those we hold responsible for such atrocity against brothers and sisters. And yet we need to recognise that all of us carry responsibility for our own failures to live as peacemakers and reconcilers. Not one of us is perfect and Lent offers us an opportunity for honest realism and a chance to repent and seek forgiveness.

As you read this we will be approaching the end of Lent, and Easter will be in sight. Much will have happened in the world since I wrote it. Two years ago

I was praying for the world caught up in the early throes of a pandemic and lockdown. Who could have known that we would still be living with the virus and how much life would have changed for us? Today I am joining in the prayer and fasting for countries at war. Where will we be as we enter Holy Week and approach Easter? What might be the outcome for Ukraine, Russia, ourselves?

And yet that is the very heart of faith. We do not know what the future holds but we do know the One who holds us. The fact is that God so loved the world that when He sees us in our greatest need, at our most threatened, fragile, He comes to be with us, to share the pain and give Himself fully, even to the point of death. And the story of Easter tells us that death is not the end, that life is found through the death of the Saviour.

I don't know what your experience of these last couple of years has been. What deaths you might have faced. I expect many of us carry the scars and wounds of loss. Pain and death are not things we can avoid. And neither did Christ. The hope He offers us is that they are not the end of the story but rather the beginning. Hope can be ignited and life restored through the faithful following in the footsteps of the One who loves us.

It does not mean that all will be wonderful and our journey smooth. It won't stop wars from taking place or people from hurting one another. But it does mean that hope, forgiveness and new starts can be found as we look to follow Christ's example.

With thankfulness for you, and His love

+Ruth Taunton

Christ Church calendar April 2022

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

7 Thu 11am Eucharist
Pilgrim Group meeting, 7:30pm

8 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

9 Sat Richard Gabe's Choral Requiem, 3pm

10 Sun *Palm Sunday*
8am Holy Communion (BCP)
10am Eucharist

11 Mon 8pm Compline at Christ Church

12 Tue 8pm Compline at St Stephen's

13 Wed 8pm Compline at Christ Church

14 Thu *Maundy Thursday*
11am Eucharist with stripping of the altar
6:30pm Agape at Christ Church

15 Fri *Good Friday*
10am Prayer Walk at Christ Church
12 noon All Age Service
1pm Prayer Stations
2pm Eucharist

16 Sat 8pm Easter Vigil

17 Sun *Easter Sunday*
5:45am Dawn Service, St Mary's, Charlcombe
8am Holy Communion (BCP)
10am Eucharist

21 Thu 11am Eucharist

22 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

24 Sun *The Second Sunday of Easter*
10am Eucharist
5pm Contemplative Service (Iona)

25 Mon *Mark the Evangelist*

26 Tue *George, patron of England*

28 Thu 11am Eucharist
Pilgrim Group meeting, 7:30pm

29 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

May 1 Sun *The Third Sunday of Easter*
10am Eucharist

2 Mon *Philip and James, Apostles*

5 Thu 11am Eucharist

6 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

8 Sun *The Fourth Sunday of Easter*
8am Holy Communion (BCP)
10am Eucharist
Christ Church Annual Church Meeting (about 11:15am)

Our Sunday 10am Eucharist, and other services as advertised, continue to be live-streamed at www.facebook.com/christchurchbath

This month's charity: Open Doors

The loose collection in the plate on the second and fourth Sunday of the month – 10 and 24 April – will go to Open Doors. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.)

Rebekah Cunningham writes:

Open Doors is a charity supporting persecuted Christians worldwide. They state: "Our purpose is to strengthen and equip the body of Christ living under or facing restriction and persecution because of their faith in Jesus Christ," and they are driven by the belief that we are all part of the Body of Christ. So in supporting them this month Christ Church can be part of that aim.

The ministry of Open Doors has its origins in one man and one journey. In 1955, a young Dutchman went to Warsaw and discovered the existence of a persecuted church. He became known as Brother Andrew, and from 1955 to 1967 he travelled throughout Eastern Europe, delivering Scriptures, encouraging

persecuted believers, and recruiting others to help him.

Since its beginnings the work of Open Doors has spread all over the world, supporting persecuted Christians in more than 60 countries, working with churches and local partners to provide Bibles, Christian materials, training, livelihood skills and advocacy.

One of the big challenges since the Cold War was the rise of religious nationalism, which continues to be a major factor in persecution.

In the late 1990s, Open Doors also began developing more targeted advocacy work. Since then, speaking to the powerful on behalf of the powerless has become a core part of their work, from speaking to the Prime Minister to equipping the local church to know its legal rights.

Open Doors publishes a list of the countries where Christians are most severely persecuted. Their current top five are Afghanistan, North Korea, Somalia, Libya and Yemen.

Do look at the map which will be on display at the back of church. You can donate at: <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/act/donate/donate-now>



Prayer Cycle for April 2022

Friday **1** For those who live or work in care homes

Saturday **2** For Bible scholars and theologians

Sunday **3** For Mark, David and the choir

Monday **4** For those in the legal profession

Tuesday **5** For peace

Wednesday **6** We give thanks for the fruits of the earth

Thursday **7** For the Trustees of Christ Church, meeting today

Friday **8** For victims of violence

Saturday **9** For good use to be made of this prayer cycle

Sunday **10** For the ministry of our Junior Church

Monday **11** For those who work in social services

Tuesday **12** For Christian unity

Wednesday **13** For those on our long-term prayer list

Thursday **14** For those who live and work in the streets
around Christ Church

Friday **15** For refugees

Saturday **16** For those who mourn

Sunday **17** Thanksgiving for the Resurrection

Monday **18** For architects and designers

Tuesday **19** That we may be open to encounters with God

Wednesday **20** For our bell-ringing team

Thursday **21** For those on holiday

Friday **22** For those who use and run food banks

Saturday	23	For the local Deanery Synod
Sunday	24	For Angela our Verger
Monday	25	For journalists and those who work in the media
Tuesday	26	For our charity of the month, Open Doors
Wednesday	27	For children and their families
Thursday	28	For those preparing for marriage or recently married
Friday	29	For the homeless
Saturday	30	We give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy

Long-term Prayer List

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

Tilly
 Revd John
 Jean
 David G
 Amber
 David
 Joyce W
 Roger and Frances
 Joyce K
 Hannah
 Dillon
 Evelyn
 Mylene

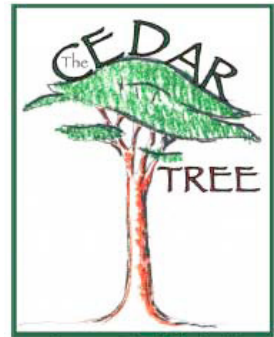
Chris
 Thomas
 David
 Patrick

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 chat, a cup of coffee, home-made cake or a light snack, to support this important part of our outreach to the local community. If you can help on a Friday or make a cake we can sell, then please contact Janet Mahto.

Your offers will be very gratefully received.



'Under it every kind of bird will live'

Bath
Julian Road

Rotas for April 2022

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel	Intercessions
3 April 5th Sun. of Lent	Jane Hoe Isaiah 43:16-21	Georgina Bowman Philippians 3:4b-14	Robin Kerr John 12:1-8	Ian Hay Davison
10 April Palm Sunday	Sylvia Ayers Isaiah 50:4-9a	Zoë Bushell Philippians 2:5-11	(Dramatised reading) Luke 22:14 – 23:56	Jonathan Stead
17 April Easter Day	Richard Gabe Isaiah 65:17-end	Brenda Wall Acts 10:34-43	Jonathan Stead John 20:1-18	Beryl Bowes
24 April 2nd Sun. of Easter	Kara Maylor Acts 5:27-32	Simon Tatton- Brown Revelation 1:4-8	Morny Davison John 20:19-31	Nick Wells
1 May 3rd Sun. of Easter	Rebekah Cunningham Acts 9:1-6	Malcolm Wall Revelation 5:11-14	Virginia Knight John 21:1-19	Peter Bowes

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
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janetmahto@gmail.com

Churchwarden Jane Nicholson
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Vergers Angela Soboslay
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Chair of Trustees Nick Wells
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nicholaswells5@btinternet.com

Treasurer David Bishop
01225 858816
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**Organist and Assistant
Director of Music** David Winters

Safeguarding officer Virginia Knight
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**Event/concert bookings,
weekly notice sheet** Judith Bishop
01225 858816
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Christ Church Link editor Alex Soboslay
07769 655927
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**Tower Captain,
Ringing Master** Will Willans

Tower Secretary Ian Hay Davison
07932 160482
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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



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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(answer phone)
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