



A milestone year

From the priest-in-charge...

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

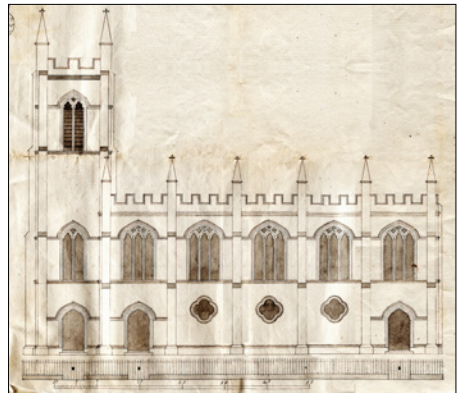
Happy New Year to all of you!

As we enter 2023, congratulations on Christ Church's 225th birthday. Christ Church was consecrated 225 years ago on 7 November 1798 by Charles Moss, Bishop of Bath and Wells. It was the culmination of years of campaigning and fundraising to build a church where the poor of Bath might worship without payment. Pleasingly, the rich and influential also attended Christ Church. It was, from the first, a diverse church. The campaign to build it was supported by the great and the good including John Moore, Archbishop of Canterbury; William Wilberforce; George Pitt, Lord Rivers (for whom Rivers Street is named); and Charles Daubeny, who became Christ Church's first minister.

The building of an Anglican church which would be free to all worshippers was revolutionary. Charles Daubeny, who was a leading light on the fundraising committee, was also a passionate advocate for all that is good in the Church of England. Only the Church of England, he believed, provided worship, liturgy and sacraments which approximated to those of the early church. In a sermon preached in Christ Church he referred to the Church of England as "that excellent church of which you are members" and to Christ Church itself as "built for the pious purpose of preserving many in the Church who might otherwise have gone astray from it, or never been benefited by Communion with it."

While we will be looking back on our legacy of 225 years we will also be celebrating the present and the future. Following Daubeny's lead we will be challenged to raise funds ourselves using our time and talents in the spring. Building on the community event we held two years ago there will be a Julian Road community celebration in the summer bringing the community together with music, food, exhibitions and stalls. In September you are invited to a Ceilidh; and on Sunday 8 November we will hold a service of thanksgiving celebrating the anniversary of our consecration.

In the windowsills of the church are incised the words of the Te Deum: "We praise thee, O God." As worshippers in Christ Church have done for 225 years, we join our praise and thanksgiving with the song of the angels.



The original (1795) design for Christ Church.

New year, new you?

That's a question that's often asked in the new year, and for this year's Everyday Faith event, which takes place from 29 January to 4 February, the diocese will be looking at how it can energise and encourage you and others on your faith journey.

The week will begin with an online launch service on 29 January at 3pm, to which everyone is welcome. Daily videos and resources will be shared throughout the week, which will close with in-person gatherings held in each of our three archdeacons on 4 February at the Blue School, Wells (10am to 11:30),



Taunton Academy (10am to 11:30) and Wells-way School, Keynsham (2pm to 3:30).

Cheryl Govier, one of the team drawn from across Bath and Wells which has organised the Everyday Faith event activities for 2023, says, "Sometimes being a Christian is hard work. We feel stuck in a rut, nothing changes, and we may even feel like we go backwards on our faith journey. At other times, it feels like our relationship with God grows and develops and we learn more about who He is and draw closer to Him. Our Everyday Faith event activities are designed to help people explore what faith growth means and looks like, affirming and encouraging them along the way."

Throughout the week, six themes will be explored: growth; rhythms; others; word; together; and hope. In addition to the daily videos and supporting intergenerational resources, there are resources for small groups, youth groups and schools as well as theological reflections on each of the themes. Find out more about the Everyday Faith event and register at bathandwells.org.uk/everyday-faith-event.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2023

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from 18 to 25 January – the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul – though some areas observe it at other times.

This year we are guided by the churches of Minneapolis as we seek to explore how the work of Christian unity can contribute to the promotion of racial justice across all levels of

society. Through this resource, the Churches Together writers' group also focuses attention on the 30th anniversary of the murder of Stephen Lawrence, which we mark in 2023. The work of restoring hope through justice undertaken in Stephen's memory continues to inspire and change lives for the better.

As we join with other Christians around the world for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity we pray that our hearts will be open to see and hear the many ways in which racism continues to destroy lives, and to discern the steps we can take as individuals and communities to heal the hurts and build a better future for everyone.

You can find resources and further information at ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2023.



Curate's corner

Revd Kara Maylor writes:

Who knew?

As we get to the start of another year

For many of my friends the end of their working life is drawing near... talk of retirement and new places to explore

For some the terror of the thought of getting bored. I give thanks that God disrupted any of my plans that might have even deemed to veer that way as he reveals so much of his ministry in the world day by day.

Who knew when I walked into Christ Church the joy I would encounter...

I step time and time out of my comfort zone... so much new to learn and enthroned above it all our wonderful saviour Jesus Christ reigns tall

In every detail we see... fun, games and laughter, dog walks, tears and the many cups of teas

Who knew the depth of friendships that can be nurtured and explored when we let Jesus in and open the door.

Community of Christ Church, I thank you from the bottom of my heart... for welcoming me, loving me, gently teaching me all the wonders that thou art.

Who knew how much God would enlarge my tent and grow my skill set too. For this and for so many things I give thanks for all of you.

Who Knew

God Knew

God Knows

God will always Know.

Margaret Heath RIP



Above: Margaret pictured recently with friends at Fairfield House in Bath. Photo by Paul Clarke, courtesy of Bath Quakers.

We are sad to report that Margaret Heath died on Boxing Day. Although she had in recent years found her spiritual home with the Quakers, Margaret was a stalwart member of the Christ Church congregation for several decades and served it with great dedication in many different capacities. She died peacefully, at home, with family present. There will be a memorial service at Christ Church at 2pm on Saturday 11 February. Our prayers and condolences to all her family and friends.

Diocese Eco Award

The Diocese of Bath and Wells has received a bronze Eco Diocese award for its commitment to caring for creation. The award reflects the work undertaken by churches in all parts of the diocese to help take better care of God's world.

Bath and Wells Climate Justice & Environment Adviser Sara Emmett said: "The Eco Diocese Award means we have demonstrated our commitment and progress towards Creation Care and Net Zero Carbon as a diocese. In order to progress to a silver award we need to have 30% of churches with an award, 10% of which are silver, so this is our biggest challenge and one which we need everyone to commit to working towards."

Charitable giving 2023

Jonathan Stead writes:

Christ Church Council has approved the Charitable Giving Group recommendations for supporting charities in 2023. This takes in consideration the issues that Council agreed upon at its last meeting, namely to have a new charity every second month (to allow time to advertise the charity to the congregation and to make the donated amount a reasonable sum), and wherever possible to select local charities where Christ Church could visit and be an engaged supporter.

These are the charities we are supporting in 2023:

■ January/February: **Burlington House**, a neighbour in the Julian Road community, is a supported home for people wanting to recover from addiction in a stable environment with workers on hand to support them. It also has a detox suite where people can safely detox from drugs and alcohol in a controlled way with medical support at hand. Burlington House is run by Bath DHI – Developing Health and Independence – and you can find out more at www.dhi-online.org.uk/get-help/housing-provision/bath-north-east-somerset-supported-housing.

■ March/April: a charity to be selected by the Youth Church.

■ May/June: **BEMSCA (Bath Ethnic Minority Senior Citizens Association)** runs a day care centre and outreach programme supporting members who cannot leave their homes, as well as a social space for older members of the Caribbean, Asian and Chinese communities to meet and also access information on health, housing and welfare issues. It is appropriate that we pray for, and financially support, this project in the month when we celebrate Windrush Sunday.

■ July/August: **USPG Malawi Project:** This is a commitment we have made over recent years to support USPG's work among women and girls in developing education,

health and in economic self-sufficiency in poverty-stricken Malawi.

■ September/October: **Bath City Farm** provides a green space close to the city for people and nature to thrive. It works with children, young people and adults living with poor mental health, learning disabilities and other complex needs. Its farm is the venue for a range of projects encouraging people to engage with organic farming and, as a therapy, learn to grow and cook healthy fresh produce.

■ November/December: this would again be split evenly between **Julian House** and **Genesis Trust** (local charities for the homeless and those in need, which we have supported at this time of the year).

Mary Braybrooke RIP



Above: Mary and Marcus Braybrooke visiting Christ Church in June 2021.

We are sorry to report also the death of Mary Braybrooke in December. As the wife of Marcus, officiating minister at Christ Church 1984-1991, she was at the heart of the congregation and will be missed by all who knew her. Our condolences to Marcus and all her friends and family. There will be a memorial service for Mary at 2pm on Monday 27 February in Dorchester Abbey, High Street, Dorchester, Wallingford OX10 7HH.

Bishop's Message for January

Are you looking out for Jesus?



**From the Rt Revd Michael Beasley,
Bishop of Bath and Wells**

In January, our churches enter the season of Epiphany. My dictionary defines an epiphany as “a moment of sudden and great revelation or realisation”. I wonder what your epiphanies have been? When have you seen things for the first time? Experienced the penny dropping? Understood things in a new way?

In our churches, the readings for the Sundays of January are all about moments that revealed who Jesus is. The arrival of the wise men showed that Jesus is for everyone, not just the people of Israel. Jesus’s baptism revealed his relationship with his Father and the Holy Spirit. The production at Cana of enough top-quality red plonk to take several baths in made clear the abundance of God’s love for us. The end of the Epiphany season, the feast of Candlemas (actually 2 February), marks the moment when Jesus was seen as “God’s salvation for all peoples” (Luke 2:31).

The challenge with epiphanies is whether we’re looking out for them. If our eyes are wide shut, we don’t see an awful lot. Sometimes we need to stand in a different place to spot things we haven’t perceived before. So the question I’d like to ask you as our new year begins is: “Where and when are you looking out for the Jesus who has been revealed to us?”

A practical step you might take to help you on your way is to sign up to be part of the “Everyday Faith” events that will be happening around our diocese from 29 January until 4 February [see page 2]. The aim of these events is to help us look at our faith afresh and see things anew from some different perspectives.

I’m going to be taking part in the Everyday Faith events and they’re going to be great. As we enter a new year, why not come and join me? After all, an invitation to an epiphany isn’t something that comes your way every day!

A very happy New Year to you all!

+Michael



Photo courtesy of the Diocese of Bath and Wells.

Christians now under 50%, Census finds

For the first time ever, less than half the population of England and Wales describe themselves as Christian, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has revealed.

At the end of 2022, the ONS said that 27.5 million people, just 46.2% of the population, described themselves as Christian in the 2021 Census. This is the first time this figure has fallen below 50%. In the 2011 Census, it was 59.3% (33.3 million). In 2001, it was 71.7% (37.3 million).

Despite this long-term decline, “Christian” remains the most common response to the

religion question. “No religion” was the second most common response, rising from 25.2% (14.1 million) in the 2011 Census to 37.2% (22.2 million) in 2021.

There were increases in the number of people who described themselves as Muslim (3.9 million, 6.5% in 2021, up from 2.7 million, 4.9% in 2011) and Hindu (1.0 million, 1.7% in 2021, up from 818,000, 1.5% in 2011).

Answering the religion question was voluntary, but 94% of respondents did so, about the same as in 2011 (92.9%).

Responding to the census findings, the Archbishop of York, the Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, said: “It’s not a great surprise that the Census shows fewer people in this country identifying as Christian than in the past, but it still throws down a challenge to us not only to trust that God will build his kingdom on Earth but also to play our part in making Christ known.

“We have left behind the era when many people almost automatically identified as Christian, but other surveys consistently show how the same people still seek spiritual truth and wisdom and a set of values to live by.

“This winter – perhaps more so than for a long time – people right across the country, some in desperate need, will be turning to their local church, not only for spiritual hope but practical help.

“We will be there for them, in many cases providing food and warmth. And at Christmas millions of people will still come to our services.

“At the same time, we will be looking beyond our immediate surroundings, remembering we are part of a global faith, the largest movement on Earth and its greatest hope for a peaceful, sustainable future.

“The Christian church exists to share the good news of Jesus Christ, serve our neighbour and bring hope to a troubled world. That’s what we’ve done for 2,000 years – in times of war and peace, hardship and plenty, revival and decline – and it’s what we must do now more than ever.”

A unique gift of thanks from a Ukrainian guest



A Ukrainian guest staying in Somerton who regularly attends St Michael’s Church with her hosts has used her artistic talents to present the church with a unique gift, an icon of St Michael, who is also the patron saint of Kyiv. She produced the painting to say thank-you to all those who have helped her, and her six-year-old daughter, settle in Somerset.

Christ Church calendar Jan. 2023

6 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

8 Sun *The Epiphany*
8am Holy Communion (BCP)
10am Eucharist

9 Mon *The Baptism of Christ*

12 Thu 11am Eucharist
Christ Church Council meeting, 7:30pm

13 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

15 Sun *The Second Sunday of Epiphany*
10am Eucharist
4:30pm Choral Evensong

18 Wed *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins (ends Weds 25th)*

19 Thu 11am Eucharist
Christ Church Trustees meeting, 7:30pm

20 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

22 Sun *The Third Sunday of Epiphany*
10am Eucharist
5pm Contemplative Service (Iona)

25 Wed *The Conversion of Paul*

26 Thu *Timothy and Titus, companions of Paul*
11am Eucharist
Pilgrim Group meeting, 7:30pm

27 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

29 Sun *The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany*
10am Eucharist

Feb 2 Thu *The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)*
11am Eucharist

3 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

5 Sun *The Third Sunday before Lent*
10am Eucharist

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

Prayer Cycle for January 2023

Sunday	1	For our bell-ringing team
Monday	2	For scientists and engineers
Tuesday	3	For those who live or work in care homes
Wednesday	4	For our Local Ministry Group partners
Thursday	5	We give thanks for beauty in the world around us
Friday	6	For all who face tragedy
Saturday	7	For peace
Sunday	8	For Mark, David, Will and the choir
Monday	9	For our armed forces and police
Tuesday	10	For our own personal witness
Wednesday	11	For Julian House
Thursday	12	For all in hospital
Friday	13	For the homeless
Saturday	14	We give thanks for artists, poets and musicians
Sunday	15	For Lore and Colin
Monday	16	For Bible scholars and theologians
Tuesday	17	For those who mourn
Wednesday	18	For our charity of the month, Burlington House
Thursday	19	For our Pilgrim Group
Friday	20	For those who are persecuted for their faith
Saturday	21	For Christian unity
Sunday	22	For our Diocese of Bath and Wells
Monday	23	For architects and designers

Tuesday	24	For those on our long-term prayer list
Wednesday	25	For our Church Council
Thursday	26	That we may be peacemakers
Friday	27	For those who have been forced to flee their homes
Saturday	28	For those who have been baptised, confirmed or married at Christ Church
Sunday	29	For our servers and others who assist at the altar
Monday	30	For those who work in local government
Tuesday	31	We give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy

Long-term Prayer List

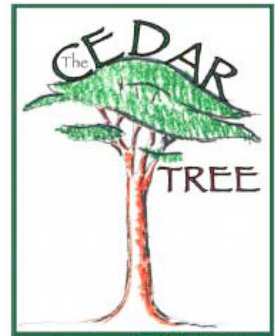
Please remember those we've been asked to pray for...

Chris
David
Hui Tao Ling
Jean and John
Joyce K
John K
Kat

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 Jenny Hesketh. Your offers will be very gratefully received.



"Under it every kind of bird will live"

Bath
Julian Road

Rotas for January 2023

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
1 Jan. Naming of Jesus	Jane Hoe Numbers 6:22-end	Brenda Wall Galatians 4:4-7	Jonathan Stead Luke 2:15-21
	Intercessions: Simon Tatton-Brown		
8 Jan. Epiphany	Ben Elliott Isaiah 60:1-6	Kara Maylor Ephesians 3:1-12	Simon Tatton-Brown Matthew 2:1-12
	Intercessions: Jonathan Stead		
15 Jan. Epiphany 2	Rachel Preston Isaiah 49:1-7	Zoë Bushell 1 Corinthians 1:1-9	Robin Kerr John 1:29-42
	Intercessions: Beryl Bowes		
22 Jan. Epiphany 3	Malcolm Wall Isaiah 9:1-4	Sylvia Ayers 1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Rosanne Gabe Matthew 4:12-23
	Intercessions: Kara Maylor		
29 Jan. Epiphany 4	Tim Jones 1 Kings 17:8-16	Beryl Bowes 1 Corinthians 1:18-end	Morny Davison John 2:1-11
	Intercessions: Peter Bowes		
5 Feb. 3rd before Lent	Angela Soboslay Isaiah 58:1-9a	Judith Anderson 1 Corinthians 2:1-12	Nick Wells Matthew 5:13-20
	Intercessions: Mark Elliott		

Who's who at Christ Church

Priest-in-charge	Revd Lore Chumbley 07595 294146 lore.chumbley@me.com	Organist and Assistant Director of Music	David Winters david.winters@christchurchbath.org
Curate	Revd Kara Maylor	Event/concert bookings, weekly notice sheet	Judith Bishop 01225 858816 concerts@christchurchbath.org notices@christchurchbath.org
Supporting clergy	Revd Canon Simon Tatton-Brown 01225 835404 simon@tattonbrown.myzen.co.uk	Christ Church Link editor	Alex Soboslay 07769 655927 alexs@christchurchbath.org
	Revd Beryl Bowes Revd Dr Peter Bowes	Tower Captain, Ringing Master	Will Willans
Reader, Director of Music	Mark Elliott 01225 445360 mark.elliott@christchurchbath.org	Steeple Keeper	David Kelly
Churchwarden	Janet Mahto 01225 424860 janetmahto@gmail.com	Cedar Tree café organiser	Jenny Hesketh jenny.hesketh@me.com
Churchwarden	Jane Nicholson 07990 552413 jane@janemicholson.com	Junior Church	Emma Elliott
Verger	Angela Soboslay 01225 333297 angela.soboslay@christchurchbath.org	Laity rotas	Judith Bishop
Chair of Trustees	Nick Wells 07774 104584 nicholaswells5@btinternet.com	Prayer cycle	Virginia Knight
Treasurer	David Bishop 01225 858816 david.bishop@christchurchbath.org	Charitable Giving co-ordinator	Jonathan Stead
Deanery Synod Reps	Brenda Wall Pauline Swaby-Wallace	Mission to Seafarers	Sylvia Ayers
Safeguarding officer	Virginia Knight 07896 916840 safeguarding@christchurchbath.org		

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 do not sing at the 8am BCP Communion or 5pm Quiet Service.

As well as worship on Sundays and Thursdays, there are many other activities going on in our community, including our weekly community café every Friday. Our ecumenical Pilgrim Group provides a space for exploration and discussion of faith in an open and non-judgemental setting. 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 each month*
- 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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