



## Surrounded by love and hope

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

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

I write this on a day of rain in Passion-tide hoping that many of you will read it in the joyful spring sunlight of Easter-tide. March was brutal as we came to terms with the untimely death of Charles Rice, former chair of the Christ Church Trustees. Charles moved to Dartmouth to enjoy sailing and travelling but died just months after retirement from his final post.

It is a consolation to us that Charles had requested Carol bring him back to Christ Church for the funeral. With only two weeks of notice, the choir learnt French and German (songs) while our flower arrangers overcame illness and their crowded schedules to install beautiful arrangements in his honour. The “Harry” bell which Charles and Carol gave in memory of his father tolled beforehand, and our ringers the Christ Church Youths toasted Charles in ginger wine after the funeral. Carol and the family were surrounded by love and hope.

I was reminded of words my mother wrote before she died at a good age.

*I was in love with life and now with death*

*But not in thrall*

*For love goes on, and that*

*I leave you all.*

Love isn't a given; not every church generates it. I am grateful for the love and generosity that well up in the Christ Church family. They are a precious manifestation of the Holy Spirit. But the church is finite. Our

memories fade or fail and finally we die. Only God's love is infinite. As Lord of time and of eternity, God's love for each of us, individually created in God's image, is eternal and unchanging.

On Easter Sunday as we celebrate the Resurrection we are not just celebrating the confirmation of everything Jesus said and did, saying with the Roman centurion, “Surely this man was the son of God.” We are also rejoicing in our own future resurrection. Jesus told us he came that we might have life and have it in all its fullness. That life is for us, now, as the gift of the Holy Spirit. But the Resurrection confirms that even death cannot overcome our life with God. We are children of eternal life.

As we will say on Easter Sunday, Christ is risen, alleluia!



*One of the flower displays honouring Charles.*

# Christ Church ACM

The Annual General Church Meeting of the Christ Church congregation will be held on Sunday 14 May after the 10am service – so starting at about 11:15am. Come along to elect Churchwardens, Deanery Synod representatives 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 take part. To be on the Electoral Roll you need to be baptised and 16 years old or older. If you have any questions or need any help with this, please talk to Lore. 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 Monday 1 May.

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## Celebrating the Coronation

The Coronation ceremony for His Majesty King Charles III will take place on Saturday 6 May at Westminster Abbey. Plans have been announced for a special weekend of events, celebrations and activities that will include shared community lunches and activities to help inspire community spirit. Find out how you can join in and find Church of England resources for the celebration at [bathandwells.org.uk/coronation](http://bathandwells.org.uk/coronation)



# Caring for creation

It's been three years since Bath and Wells declared a climate emergency and committed to Net Zero by 2030. In that time church communities have been making changes in a host of ways, all doing their bit to care for creation, and in November Bath and Wells achieved A Rocha's Bronze Eco Diocese status. (Christ Church has earned its own Bronze Eco Church award.)

One initiative popular with churches and their communities is the Wilder Churches initiative run in partnership with the Somerset Wildlife Trust. More than 200 people attended the online launch of Wilder Churches in March 2021 and since then have met to share progress and ideas. There are also regular sessions for those keen to learn how to make their churchyard more biodiverse.

Pippa Rayner of the Somerset Wildlife Trust says: "Local people are best placed to understand their local churchyard. The Wilder Churches training is designed to empower them to take effective action for wildlife in a way that also works for their community."

Sara Emmett, Environment Adviser for Bath and Wells, says: "We've been so delighted by the positive response across the diocese to Wilder Churches, but also that so many churches are engaging with Eco Church. It's a lot easier to become an Eco Church than many think and together we can make small changes that combine to make a real difference."

For more about Wilder Churches and Eco Church visit [bathandwells.org.uk/environment](http://bathandwells.org.uk/environment).



Priddy churchyard. Photo: Diocese of Bath & Wells.

## A gift of stamps

### **Sylvia Ayers writes:**

As you will know, for several years I have been asking our congregation for used postage stamps, which I send on to the Mission to Seafarers, who can sell them to collectors. Therefore, last Sunday I was extremely pleased to find two large parcels of used stamps in my pigeonhole. Until now, I have never received so many at any one time.

On looking at these lovely foreign stamps, I realised that they had been the property of Margaret Heath, whose husband was for many years a roving Government Ambassador. They obviously received post from all over the world, and when Sir Mark died, she must have kept the postcards and letters. Margaret was always very good at passing on her collection of used stamps to me, so it was good of her family to remember me when they sorted her belongings. I do thank them very much indeed for this bounty.

I will continue to ask for the used stamps – and not only at Christmas, although the response is now very limited. People don't seem to write letters any more now – e-mails are all everyone seems to use! Anyway, very many thanks for all you do give me.

## Last month...



*On 22 March we held the funeral of Charles Rice, much-loved former member of our community and former Chair of Trustees. Deepest condolences to Carol and all their family and friends.*

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## Time and Talent 2023

This year's Time and Talent Challenge has now launched. The idea is to use the many and varied gifts we have all received, giving God the glory as we share them and raising money, which will be divided between Christ Church and Mentoring Plus, a local charity that supports young people who are struggling at school or at home. You can post what you are offering or what you would like on the board at the back of the church, and also look beyond the congregation – you could for example make marmalade, jam or cakes and sell them to neighbours. The project will run until 21 May and conclude with a mini-fete in the Lower Mews. For more information, talk to Lore, Jonathan Stead or Jude Bishop.



*If you're parking at the back of the church this month, please take extra care. Scaffolding is to go up shortly to effect some repairs and maintenance to the roof of the Mews building (shown here being inspected in mid March).*

# Curate's corner

## **Revd Kara Maylor writes:**

Inspired by a wonderful prayer-driven vision of Carol's, "Lighthouse" is the name decided upon for the Young Adults group. Already there have been many evenings of fun, companionship, and prayer. I am privileged to be hosting them for a celebration meal at my house next week before a number of them head back to their families for Easter.

As the clocks go forward and we enjoy lighter evenings, I am hoping to begin the Agape group again. Do let me know if you would be interested in joining me to walk, talk, pray, ponder and enjoy the wonders of God's creation in our local area.

Lent is a time to reorient ourselves, clarify our minds, slow down, and focus on the values of God's kingdom. In spending time reflecting on this, I found myself moved by this poem by Mary Oliver.

Mary Oliver, often described as "the Jesuits' favourite poet" due to her exquisite flair of finding God in all things, here shows explicitly the gentle fusion of nature with the spiritual. Oliver declared that her poems "absolutely" are meant as prayers – prayers made of grass and roses and keenly gathered words.

## **Gethsemane by Mary Oliver**

*The grass never sleeps.*

*Or the roses.*

*Nor does the lily have a secret eye that shuts  
until morning.*

*Jesus said, wait with me. But the disciples slept.*

*The cricket has such splendid fringe on its feet,  
and it sings, have you noticed, with its whole body,  
and heaven knows if it ever sleeps.*

*Jesus said, wait with me. And maybe the stars  
did, maybe the wind wound itself  
into a silver tree, and didn't move, maybe  
the lake far away, where once he walked as on a  
blue pavement,  
lay still and waited, wild awake.*

*Oh the dear bodies, slumped and eye-shut, that  
could not*

*keep that vigil, how they must have wept,  
so utterly human, knowing this too  
must be a part of the story.*

May you all have a peaceful and blessed Eastertide.

## This month's charity: Spafford Children's Center

The Junior Church are raising money in March and April for the Spafford Children's Center in Jerusalem, which has been serving children and their families since 1925. The Center works to support child health and empowerment by providing psychological, social, and educational support for children who live under difficult socio-economic conditions. If you would like to donate to the charity, please give money to Sarah J, Sarah C or Emma, or give via the collection plate on Sunday 9 or 23 April. The loose collection in the plate on these dates will go to the Spafford Children's Center. (Donations in

collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.) If you'd prefer to give online (with the option of a Gift Aid declaration) visit <https://spaffordcenter.org/support-us/donating-from-the-uk>.

To promote the Charity of the Month, the Junior Church have put together a quiz for you to enjoy. Please ask for a copy if you don't have one. You will need to exercise your detective skills, to find clues around the church building! Please give your completed answer sheets to Sarah J, Sarah C or Emma by the end of coffee time on Sunday 23 April. Don't forget your name/contact number on the bottom of your sheets. The winner will receive a home-baked prize made by our very own Domestic Goddess, Sarah J!



THE SPAFFORD CHILDREN'S CENTER  
مركز سبافورد للاطفال

# Bishop's Message for April

## *The joy of Easter*



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

As April begins, we mark it with the Palm Sunday procession, the welcoming of Jesus into Jerusalem amongst much jubilation and a sense of impending revolution. There were those who expected Jesus to be the next rebel leader who would rouse the local people to turn against their Roman overlords. Political populism at its height! In their enthusiasm, limbs of trees were broken to pave the way for this new hero.

However, it didn't take much for the crowd to turn around and change its tune. Those palm leaves torn from branches to throw in his path have become the palm crosses we hold today, symbolising for us the way in which the week ends. Fronds of living trees now dried and woven to form the cruel instrument of death on which Christ suffered.

Many of our churches are now engaged with rewilding their church grounds; many are seeking to gain awards with Eco Church and are looking for new ways of reducing or capturing carbon. There would be horror at the thought of denuding our trees! In fact, parishes are discovering opportunities to partner with others to

plant new trees on spare glebe land.

Sometimes, though, it can feel to us that the environmental crisis is too great a one to solve. Yet the message of Easter shows us that when things seem nigh-on impossible, it is then that we glimpse the grace of God at work. God's way of overcoming evil was not to fight a small act of resistance against a Roman invasion but rather to combat sin itself. The death of Jesus was the ultimate battle to overcome that which has separated humanity from knowing the extent of God's love for each and every one of us.

The natural world around us is a wonderful illustration of how death is not the end. The environment can be devastated by flood, fire and human carelessness, and yet new life can begin again. The joy of Easter is that the story doesn't end in death but opens a new beginning for us all through the resurrection of Christ.

May you know the life and love of Christ this Easter!

**+Ruth Taunton**

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## Coming events

### **Passover Meal & Agape**

There's a "Passover meal" and Agape in Christ Church at 6:30pm on Maundy Thursday, 6 April. Watch for the chance to sign up to attend and/or help with providing the meal.

### **Pilgrimage to Iona**

Canon Angela Berners-Wilson, formerly an associate minister at Christ Church, is leading a pilgrimage to Iona from Monday 22 to Saturday 28 October 2023. Price from £1,349 pp, plus return travel to Glasgow. To find out more or sign up: [info@mccabe-travel.co.uk](mailto:info@mccabe-travel.co.uk).

# Christ Church calendar April 2023

**2 Sun** *Palm Sunday*  
10am Eucharist

3 Mon 8pm Sung Compline

4 Tue 8pm Sung Compline

5 Wed 8pm Sung Compline

**6 Thu** *Maundy Thursday*  
11am Eucharist  
6:30pm Agape at Christ Church

**7 Fri** *Good Friday*  
12 noon Family Service  
1pm Music and Readings for Good Friday  
2pm Good Friday Eucharist

8 Sat 7:30pm Easter Vigil, St Mary's, Charlcombe

**9 Sun** *Easter Sunday*  
6am Dawn Service, St Mary's, Charlcombe  
8am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10am Eucharist *followed by Easter Egg Hunt*

13 Thu 11am Eucharist

14 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

**16 Sun** *The Second Sunday of Easter*  
10am Eucharist  
4:30pm Choral Evensong (TBC)

20 Thu 11am Eucharist

21 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

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

24 Mon *George, patron of England*

25 Tue *Mark the Evangelist*

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

28 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

**30 Sun** *The Fourth Sunday of Easter*  
10am Eucharist

<b>May</b>	1	Mon	<i>Philip and James, Apostles</i>
	4	Thu	11am Eucharist
	5	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
	6	Sat	Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III

**7** Sun *The Fifth Sunday of Easter*  
10am Eucharist

11 Thu 11am Eucharist

12 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

**14** Sun *The Sixth 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](http://www.facebook.com/christchurchbath)**

## Traditionalists protest at same-sex blessings

A group of Anglican leaders from around the world have rejected the Archbishop of Canterbury as their leader after General Synod backed prayers of blessing for same-sex couples, the BBC reports.

Archbishops representing 10 of the 42 provinces in the Anglican Communion have signed a statement saying they are “no longer able to recognise the present Archbishop of Canterbury as the first among equals leader of the global communion.

“The Church of England has chosen to break communion with those provinces who remain faithful to the historic biblical faith,” the statement said.

The 10 archbishops make up part of the membership of a group called the Global South Fellowship of Anglican Churches (GSFA), which claims to represent 75% of Anglicans around world, particularly across Asia and Africa.

The signatories include the GSFA’s chair, Archbishop Justin Badi of South Sudan, along

with the archbishops of Chile, the Indian Ocean, Congo, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Uganda, Sudan, Alexandria and Melanesia.

Ironically, Archbishop Justin had said that while he was “extremely joyfully celebratory of these new resources,” he himself would not use them “because of my pastoral care and responsibility of being a focus of unity for the whole communion.”

A spokesperson for Lambeth Palace said it “fully appreciates” the GSFA’s stance but added that the “deep disagreements” among Anglicans over sexuality and marriage are long-standing, and that reforms in one province do not affect rules in the others.

“In a world of conflict, suffering and uncertainty, we must remember that more unites us than divides us,” they said. “Despite our differences, we must find ways to continue walking and working together as followers of Jesus Christ to serve those in need.”

■ Read Lore’s sermon saying Synod did not go far enough: <https://bit.ly/same-sex-sermon>.

# Prayer Cycle for April 2023

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>1</b>	For peace
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2</b>	For our Diocese of Bath and Wells
<b>Monday</b>	<b>3</b>	For those who work in the emergency services
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>4</b>	For those who produce publicity for Christ Church
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>5</b>	For our own personal ministry
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>6</b>	For Mark, David and the choir
<b>Friday</b>	<b>7</b>	For those who have lost their faith
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>8</b>	For prisoners and prison workers
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9</b>	Thanksgiving for the Resurrection
<b>Monday</b>	<b>10</b>	For journalists and those who work in the media
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>11</b>	For those on holiday
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>12</b>	For our Lighthouse Group
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>13</b>	For the lonely and depressed
<b>Friday</b>	<b>14</b>	For the homeless
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>15</b>	We give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>16</b>	For Lore and Colin
<b>Monday</b>	<b>17</b>	For those in the legal profession
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>18</b>	For those preparing for marriage or recently married
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>19</b>	For those on our long-term prayer list
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>20</b>	That we may have the gift of faithfulness
<b>Friday</b>	<b>21</b>	For those who use and run food banks
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>22</b>	For those who live and work in the streets around Christ Church
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23</b>	For our Church Council



<b>Monday</b>	<b>24</b>	For those who work in the transport industry
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>25</b>	For our charity of the month, the Spafford Children's Centre
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>26</b>	We give thanks for beauty in creation
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>27</b>	For countries with economic problems
<b>Friday</b>	<b>28</b>	For the sick and suffering
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>29</b>	For those on our Church rotas
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>30</b>	For churches, Cathedrals and communities named Christ Church

## Long-term Prayer List

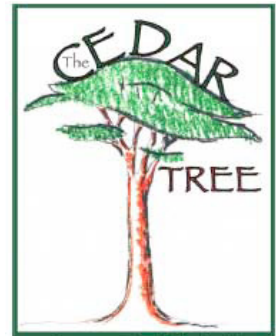
*Please remember those we've been asked to pray for...*

Chris  
David  
Hui Tao Ling  
Jean and John  
Joyce K  
John K  
Kat  
A J Kninchi  
Roger and Francis  
Evelyn  
Mary Elizabeth Bull  
Natalia Bull

**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 except Good 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.



Julian Road Bath

# Rotas for April 2023

*Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist*

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
<b>2 April</b> Palm Sunday	<b>Bob Siderfin</b> Isaiah 50:4-9a	–	Dramatised reading Matthew 26:14 – 27:end
	Intercessions: <b>Georgina Bowman</b>		
<b>9 April</b> Easter Sunday	<b>Simon Tatton- Brown</b> Acts 10:34-43	<b>Tim Jones</b> Colossians 3:1-4	<b>Peter Bowes</b> John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10
	Intercessions: <b>Jonathan Stead</b>		
<b>16 April</b> 2nd Sunday of Easter	<b>Brenda Wall</b> Acts 2:14a,22-32	<b>Ben Elliott</b> 1 Peter 1:3-9	<b>Robin Kerr</b> John 20:19-31
	Intercessions: <b>Mark Elliott</b>		
<b>23 April</b> 3rd Sunday of Easter	<b>Zoë Bushell</b> Acts 2:14a,36-41	<b>Malcolm Wall</b> 1 Peter 1:17-23	<b>Rachel Preston</b> Luke 24:13-35
	Intercessions: <b>Simon Tatton-Brown</b>		
<b>30 April</b> 4th Sunday of Easter	<b>Kara Maylor</b> Acts 2:42-47	<b>Judith Anderson</b> 1 Peter 2:19-25	<b>Jane Hoe</b> John 10:1-10
	Intercessions: <b>Beryl Bowes</b>		
<b>7 May</b> 5th Sunday of Easter	<b>Carol Hussey</b> Acts 7:55-60	<b>Beryl Bowes</b> 1 Peter 2:2-10	<b>Morny Davison</b> John 14:1-14
	Intercessions: <b>Peter Bowes</b>		

# Who's who at Christ Church

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