



Journeying together

From the priest-in-charge...

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

On Sunday 11 February, after eight very happy years journeying with you all, Colin and I will join you for our final service in Christ Church. Thank you for the outpouring of love and support for both of us over the past few months. Thank you for everything you have taught us about how to be an inclusive church defending liberal values with passion and integrity.

As some of you explained when we arrived, Julian Road, on which Christ Church is built, follows the route of the old Roman road which the Romans called Road 14. I like to imagine the Romans overseeing the building of the road some time after 43 AD. Had the labourers heard the rumours from Jerusalem – rumours of the Jewish believers who taught that Jesus Christ, a Galilean rabbi, was the Son of God and in proof of that had been raised from the dead?

Rumours of God continued to swirl along Julian Road. In the 18th century Charles Daubeney's conviction that a church should be built in which the poor could worship without paying pew rents came to fruition. He encouraged the rich and powerful to donate funds, and preached a sermon which raised several thousand pounds so Christ Church could be built on Julian Road. The church stood as a solid witness to the welcome Jesus extends to the poor, the disadvantaged and the overlooked. Two hundred and twenty five years after its consecration, Christ Church has

stayed true to its founding convictions. Right up to the present we have aimed to offer a warm welcome to everyone who comes through our doors. We are proud that the Rainbow Steel Band still see Christ Church as "their" church, and that the local community come to our weekly community café. I truly believe that Christ Church's unique history, its music and you the worshippers make it the best church in the Church of England.

Colin and I will no longer be walking with you but you have our love, our gratitude for what we have shared, and our prayers for you all as you travel the next part of the Christ Church journey.



At the heart of the Candlemas liturgy is the Nunc Dimittis, touchingly repeating the words of Simeon: "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word."

Curate's Corner

Revd Kara Maylor writes:

Whilst out running with Barney dog this morning, I saw the first daffodils of the year – aren't they beautiful, nestled with the snowdrops and heralding the wonder of new life and Spring! This year it is especially poignant for us as a family as we eagerly await the arrival of our first grandchild.

Even when all our hearts ache with the thought of Lore leaving, we must rejoice for her and Colin at the time they will now have together. As we lean into this journey together as a church community, we must trust in God's plan for us. Walking with him at our core brings a continual spring of new growth for our souls even when shifting winds shake our world. Threads of hardship and victory go in and out of our lives. Fluctuations weave into the whole of our being. Sometimes I'm wrapped up in a tornado of emotions swirling between them all. What do we do when our lives hold more than one season? How do we lean into what's growing and lovely when life's trials carry on?

We choose to see the One who holds it all. We find the barometer of the Holy Spirit to steady our hearts through the ups and downs. Through his work in our lives and communities we come to know the powerful provision of God through all this change. His goodness radiates in the now and the not-yet.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need to walk, talk, have a cuppa and have someone to pray with at this time.



An invitation from the Christ Church Trustees

Lore's last Sunday service with us on 11 February is not far off and we want this to be a memorable occasion. You are warmly invited to attend the 10am service on that day and to stay for a reception immediately afterwards, when we plan to say goodbye to Lore and Colin in style.

We know some people would like to contribute to the purchase of leaving gifts for Lore and Colin on behalf of the congregation. Should you wish to make a contribution, this should be in cash only (no cheques or direct payments please) and placed in a sealed envelope marked *Farewell Gift*. This can be dropped into the secure box provided on the table at the back of the church where the service sheets are returned. If you wish to contribute but won't be able to do so in person, please contact one of the churchwardens – contact details are on page 11.

Managing the Vacancy

The Trustees have set up a Vacancy Management Group, chaired by Nick Wells, the chair of Trustees. The group is responsible for planning, preparing and making recommendations on a wide range of matters associated with our Priest-in-Charge vacancy. The group is not a decision-making body; decisions remain with Trustees. The group is not responsible for selection of the successful candidate. Decisions have yet to be made about who might sit on any selection panel for the next Priest-in-Charge. Members of the group are not precluded from being invited by Trustees to sit on such a panel.

Judith Bishop, Sarah Jones and Jonathan Stead have kindly agreed to join the group, following an invitation from Trustees, in view of their skills and experience. Trustees and Jane Nicholson will be kept closely informed about progress. If you have any questions or comments please do talk to any member of the Group.

Parking at Christ Church – an important update

Last month's notice about parking left out an important detail: parking space 10, the one nearest the steps up to the Museum of Bath at Work, is rented out to the tenant of Cottage No. 2 and is **not available** for parking at any time, *including Sundays*. Below is an updated summary. Apologies for the omission.

When you come to church **on Sunday**, feel free to park in any available space **except**

- (1) the space on the ramp to the left of the Lower Mews,
- (2) space 10, the space nearest the steps up to the Museum of Bath at Work, and
- (3) the spaces to the right of the Lower Mews kitchen and behind it.

If you think your car might be in the way of others, particularly (1) above, then please leave your details on your dashboard so that you can be contacted in an emergency.

Monday to Saturday, Christ Church rents out most of the car parking spaces, and the only spaces *available* for church use are:

- (1) the two marked spaces behind the church, adjacent to the Lower Mews kitchen, and
- (2) three spaces in front of the main church doors, *excluding* the space nearest Julian Road. Bear in mind that the top space (marked with a disabled symbol) is for those who need level access to the building – please respect this at all times.

From Monday to Saturday, if you have been given a Christ Church parking permit, please remember to display it to verify that you are parking with permission.

Ash Wednesday

There will be a celebration of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes at 7:30pm on Ash Wednesday, 14 February. There is a tradition that the ashes are made from the previous year's Palm Crosses. If you would like to contribute your Palm Cross please bring it to church on Sunday 4 or 11 February.

Last month



On Sunday 7 January, the feast of the Epiphany and the Baptism of Christ, we fittingly also celebrated the baptism of Perla, welcoming her into the family of the Church.

Stamps for Seafarers

Sylvia Ayers writes:

May I thank those members of the congregation who have generously given me the used postage stamps from their Christmas cards. These will be welcomed by the Mission for Seafarers, who will be able to sell them, depending on their condition, to stamp dealers.

My request for used stamps does continue throughout the year, so if you get any unusual picture stamps in your post, I will be pleased to receive them from you at any time. Please cut *around* the used stamps, leaving a 2cm frame, and either pass them to me or leave them for me in the marked box on the table at the back of the church with cards for sale.

Lent theme 2024: “Watch and Pray”

The Church of England’s Lent theme for 2024 is *Watch and Pray: Wisdom and hope for Lent and life*. On the night he was betrayed, Jesus knelt in darkness in the Garden of Gethsemane. Though he pleaded with his disciples “Stay here with me... Watch and pray;” they all fell asleep, leaving him alone in his hour of deepest suffering.

This Lent we are encouraged to wait expectantly for God

to meet us and sustain us through the storms and trials we all face. This year’s resources have been inspired and informed by



the Archbishop of Canterbury’s 2024 Lent book, *Tarry Awhile: Wisdom from Black Spirituality for people of faith* by Selina Stone (SPCK).

Watch and Pray invites us to seek God in both familiar and unfamiliar places this Lent: in darkness and in quiet; in movement and migration; in the healing and transforming work of the Spirit; in the weeping of Holy Week and in the joy of Easter morning.

There are resources available for churches, schools and individuals – details are at <https://bit.ly/watch-and-pray-2024>. You can sign up at www.churchofengland.org/node/41651 to get free daily Lent reflection e-mails (except Sundays) delivered straight to your inbox from Ash Wednesday to Easter Day. The e-mails will offer Bible readings, short reflections and a practical challenge, as well as prayers linked to weekly themes. A free Watch and Pray app for both iOS and Android will be released in early February.

News from Spafford Children’s Center

Christ Church is a supporter of the Spafford Children’s Center in East Jerusalem, which aids children and families. Djemila Cope writes: In a recent update from the Center’s CEO, Shahd Souri, she talks about conditions in East Jerusalem being very tense with occasional clashes affecting movement within the Old City. Security measures remain stringent, impacting travel, especially between East Jerusalem and the West Bank. Checkpoints between these areas are intermittently closed, making it challenging some days for our West Bank staff to reach Jerusalem.

The Spafford Children’s Center has managed to keep staff and patients safe by adapting schedules and using alternative routes

whenever possible. Shopping on the streets is affected due to the heavily armed Israeli Military patrols in East Jerusalem as they search people and demand identity cards with many questions related to why the individual Palestinian needs to be in the area.

Most shops are closed due to this security situation. Anxiety and genuine fear amongst families and the population in general have led to a huge demand for the new Youth Leadership Programme/Trauma Course that the Center is running for teenagers together with Trauma Therapy for children and mothers.

Sustaining the vital education and health-care programmes at the Spafford Center is very important. These programmes directly impact the lives of East Jerusalem children by increasing their confidence and giving them the tools to survive in a hostile area with an uncertain future.

Thanks to all at Christ Church who have supported this work. It is much appreciated.



Bishop's Message for February

Caring for Creation



**From the Rt Revd Dr Alastair Redfern,
Assistant Bishop for the Diocese of
Bath and Wells**

As Christians, while we may look to reduce our own carbon footprint, we are called to be stewards and witnesses of a much more radical resource. The clue is in the word “ecology”.

“Eco” comes from the Greek word *oikos*, meaning house or dwelling place. Ecology is partly about our responsibility to recognise the precious gift of the Earth, as our dwelling place – to be thankful, and play our part. God made humankind to care for the earthly world; Jesus amplifies the call, as He uses “nature” as the sign of how we can live in order to flourish and to fulfil God’s will.

“Logy” comes from the Greek word *logos*, interpreted as reason, the ordering of knowledge, logic. In John’s Gospel, Logos is a word to describe Jesus – through whom all things are made and from whom all true knowledge comes. Logos is the Word, the source of all goodness and grace, for every human life, and for all of creation.

It is the Logos, the Word, who inhabits our lives, our creation – inviting us to recognise His light and allow it

to overcome the darkness of our own limited concerns and agendas. We meet the Logos in scripture, in worship, in prayer, and in deeper reflection.

In Jesus, as Logos, we can find the wisdom, the resources and the commitment to play our part in caring for creation. We are able to invite others to recognise the deeper truths about Eco, our common dwelling place, and to see more clearly how we join with others to work out what to do, how to live, and honour the gift of life that we receive through Him. The Logos is the possibility of good news for humankind and for the Earth.

What a responsibility each Christian disciple is called to bear! And what grace can be ours to enable us to fulfil our calling, and help all of God’s children become caught up in the praise and prayer that gives true life to our dwelling place, and to exercise our stewardship appropriately.

Read John 1:1-14. Become an ECO-warrior – committed to our common dwelling place – through celebrating the power and presence of the LOGOS.

ECOLOGY: we know it makes sense.

+Alastair

Praying together in Lent

From Ash Wednesday, 14 February, to Thursday 28 March, Christians from around Bath are invited to join daily together in prayer between noon and 2pm. This could either be wherever you are or at the Seventh Day Adventist chapel Prayer Room behind the Abbey, to pray with others. This Prayer Room will be open to those invited through the church and people passing by. Wherever we are, let’s join together to pray for God’s Kingdom to come.

Pictures by Rachel

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

Over the Christmas period some of us were lucky enough to receive the gift of a painting from Rachel Preston. She has been painting for years and loves in particular to paint cats and landscapes. Here are a couple of samples for you to enjoy. At this time of the year her

landscapes are often appropriately wintry.

If you would like to buy a landscape from her or a picture of one of her five cats – or perhaps a picture of your own cat painted from a photograph – you can contact her on the Christ Church Facebook page or by e-mail at pudsy4@gmail.com.



This month's charity: Jessie May Hospice

The loose collection on the second and fourth Sundays of the month – 11 and 25 February – will go to the Jessie May Trust. (Donations in collection envelopes will go to Christ Church.)

Specialist Jessie May nurses provide at-home nursing and respite care for children and young people throughout the South West that have a terminal or life-limiting condition. Every child has a small dedicated team of

Jessie May nurses to be there for them and their family throughout their journey, from diagnosis, during day-to-day life, at times of crisis and through bereavement, in the comfort and familiarity of their own homes. They offer end-of-life care and bereavement support, as well as vital respite sessions and emotional support to the children's families.

The charity has been providing free specialist at-home support since 1996, and has supported more than 300 children and their families across Bristol, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset, Bath & North East Somerset, and Swindon & Wiltshire. Find out more at <https://jessiemay.org.uk>.



Christ Church calendar Feb. 2024

	1	Thu	11am Eucharist Pilgrim Group meeting, 7:30pm
	2	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
	4	Sun	<i>The Second Sunday before Lent</i> 10am Eucharist
	8	Thu	11am Eucharist
	9	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
	11	Sun	<i>The Sunday next before Lent</i> 8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Eucharist
	14	Wed	<i>Ash Wednesday</i> 7:30pm Eucharist with Ashing
	15	Thu	11am Eucharist Pilgrim Group meeting, 7:30pm
	16	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
	18	Sun	<i>The First Sunday of Lent</i> 10am Eucharist 4:30pm Choral Evensong
	22	Thu	11am Eucharist
	23	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
	25	Sun	<i>The Second Sunday of Lent</i> 10am Eucharist 5pm Iona Contemplative Service
	29	Thu	11am Eucharist Pilgrim Group meeting, 7:30pm
Mar	1	Fri	<i>David, patron of Wales</i> Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
	3	Sun	<i>The Third 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/live
and www.youtube.com/@ChristChurchBath1798/streams

Prayer Cycle for February 2024

Thursday	1	For the chaplaincies at Bath's Universities
Friday	2	For those who work in dangerous conditions
Saturday	3	For peace
Sunday	4	For Angela our Verger
Monday	5	For our armed forces and police
Tuesday	6	For our Lighthouse group
Wednesday	7	For countries in conflict
Thursday	8	We give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy
Friday	9	For the homeless
Saturday	10	For our link Dioceses in Zambia
Sunday	11	For Lore and Colin
Monday	12	For those who work in financial services
Tuesday	13	For those on our long-term prayer list
Wednesday	14	That we may have a spirit of penitence
Thursday	15	For our Charity of the Month, the Jessie May Trust
Friday	16	For those who have been forced to flee their homes
Saturday	17	For our bell-ringing team
Sunday	18	For our Archbishop, bishops and clergy
Monday	19	For journalists and those who work in the media
Tuesday	20	We give thanks for those who enrich our lives
Wednesday	21	For children and their families
Thursday	22	For our flower arrangers and those who look after the church

Friday	23	For those who mourn
Saturday	24	That we may have grace to love
Sunday	25	For Kara our curate
Monday	26	For shopkeepers and shop workers
Tuesday	27	For our plans for the appointment of a new incumbent
Wednesday	28	For the lonely and depressed
Thursday	29	We give thanks for beauty in the world around us

Long-term Prayer List

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

Chris
David
Jean and John
Joyce K
John and Sheila
Kat
A J Kninchi
Roger and Francis
Mary Elizabeth Bull
Natalia Bull
Sheila
Win
Jon and family
Margaret

Doug
Jason
Frankie
The Allen family
Margaret and family
The Brown family
The Jones family
The Tapper family
Peter and Margaret
Geoff

It is time to review our prayer lists. If you want a name to remain on either prayer list, long-term or short-term, or want to add a name to either, please use the paper lists at the back of the church, or speak to the Verger or one of the Churchwardens.

Rotas for February 2024

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
4 Feb. 2nd Sunday before Lent	Robin Kerr Proverbs 8:1,22-31	Brenda Wall Colossians 1:15-20	Mark Elliott John 1:1-14
	Intercessions: Kara Maylor		
11 Feb. Sunday next before Lent	David Bishop 2 Kings 1:1-12	Morny Davison 2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Tim Jones Mark 9:2-9
	Intercessions: Mark Elliott		
18 Feb. First Sunday of Lent	Jonathan Stead Genesis 9:8-17	Georgina Bowman 1 Peter 3:18-22	Rachel Preston Mark 1:9-15
	Intercessions: Simon Tatton-Brown		
25 Feb. 2nd Sunday of Lent	Marcus Bull Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Beryl Bowes Romans 4:13-25	Ben Elliott Mark 8:31-38
	Intercessions: Jonathan Stead		
3 March 3rd Sunday of Lent	Carole Hussey Exodus 20:1-17	Zoë Bushell 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25	Malcolm Wall John 2:13-22
	Intercessions: Georgina Bowman		

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	Deanery Synod Reps	Brenda Wall Pauline Swaby-Wallace
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	Tower Secretary	Maggie Willans 07773 244024 maggiewillans@hotmail.com
Churchwarden	Jane Nicholson 07990 552413 jane@janemnicholson.com	Steeple Keeper	David Kelly
Churchwarden	Jonathan Stead jonathanstead20@gmail.com	Cedar Tree café organiser	Jenny Hesketh jenny.hesketh@me.com
Verger	Angela Soboslay 01225 333297 angela.soboslay@christchurchbath.org	Junior Church	Emma Elliott
Chair of Trustees	Nick Wells 07774 104584 chair@christchurchbath.org	Laity rotas	Judith Bishop
Treasurer	Zoë Bushell zoe.bushell@christchurchbath.org	Prayer cycle	Virginia Knight
Event/concert bookings, weekly notice sheet	Judith Bishop 01225 858816 concerts@christchurchbath.org notices@christchurchbath.org	Charitable Giving co-ordinator	Jonathan Stead
Safeguarding officer	Virginia Knight 07896 916840 christchbathsafeguarding@gmail.com	Mission to Seafarers	Sylvia Ayers

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, Archbishop of Canterbury, and William Wilberforce, the great evangelical and campaigner against slavery. We must recognise, however, that much of Bath's wealth at the time derived, directly or indirectly, from the trafficking and exploitation of enslaved human beings, so that inevitably some of the funds donated ultimately derived from this source.

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.

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 the 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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Phone: 01225 338869
(answer phone)

Email: admin@christchurchbath.org
Website: www.christchurchbath.org

